1. The third tranche of relief under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan focuses on agriculture and allied activities.

a. Funds worth ₹ 1 lakh crore to be given to agricultural cooperative societies, farmer producer organisations and start ups to boost farm gate infrastructure.
b. ₹ 10,000 crore for micro food enterprises
c. ₹ 20,000 crore for fishermen under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana
d. ₹ 13,000 crore to achieve 100% vaccination of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs.
e. ₹ 15,000 crore for boosting animal husbandry.
f. ₹ 4000 crore for herbal cultivation.
g. Essential Commodities Act 1955 to be amended to deregulate cereals, edible oil, oil seeds, pulses, onion and potatoe.
h. Market reforms to be brought in so that farmers will have the choice to sell their produce at a price of their choice.
i. ₹ 1 lakh crore to be given by NABARD for farmers infrastructure.

2. Lockdown likely to be extended upto May 30 with relaxation's in green and orange zone.
3. INDIA surpasses COVID 19 tally of China.
4. Starting May 18 government staff in Tamil Nadu will work 6 days a week with office strength increased to 50% from the current 33%.
5. There is no consensus between the Centre and States with regard to the number of days the immigrants coming from other states or countries must be quarantined.
6. Supreme Court asked the government not to take coercive action against private firm owners for not paying salary for their employees.
7. Centre has borrowed an additional $ 1 billion from World Bank to fight COVID taking the total amount borrowed from World Bank to $ 2 billion.

Yakshagana

It is a rare and unique traditional theatre of Karnataka state in India and has a recorded history of more than 5 centuries.
It is a rich artistic blend of music, dance, speech, and costumes, this art combines the features of opera as well as drama, the characteristics of moral education and mass entertainment.
Yakshagana is strongly influenced by the Bhakti movement.

Analysis of Declared Economic Package

Inclusion of RBIs' Expenditure in Fiscal Package:
The declared package is considered to be substantially less because it includes the actions of RBI as part of the government's "fiscal" package, even though only the government controls the fiscal policy and not the RBI (which controls the 'monetary' policy).
Thus, the Government expenditure and RBI's actions are neither the same nor can they be added in this manner. And thus nowhere in the world fiscal packages are declared in this manner.
For instance, when the US announced a relief package of $3 trillion (Rs 225 lakh crore), it only refers to the money that will be spent by the government – and does not include the expenditure of the Federal Reserve (US central bank).
Implication of Inclusion of RBIs' Expenditure :
If the government is including RBI's liquidity decisions in the calculation, then the actual fresh spending by the government could be considerably lower.
That's because RBI has been coming out with Long Term Repo Operation (LTRO), to infuse liquidity into the banking system worth Rs 1 lakh crore at a time. If RBI launches another LTRO of Rs 1 lakh crore, then the overall fiscal help falls by the same amount.
The direct expenditure by a government usually includes wage subsidy or direct benefit transfer or payment of salaries, etc – immediately and necessarily stimulates the economy. In other words, that money necessarily reaches the people – either as through salary or purchase.
But measures from RBI include credit easing– that is, making more money available to the banks so that they can lend to the broader economy – is not like government expenditure.
In times of crisis, banks may take that money from RBI and, instead of lending it, may park it back with the RBI.
Recently, Indian banks have parked Rs 8.5 lakh crores with the central bank. So in terms of calculations, RBI has given a stimulus of Rs 6 lakh crore. But in reality, RBI has received an even bigger amount back from the banks.
Thus, the declared amount is 10% of GDP, but less than 5% cash outgo is expected.

The NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017 passed in 2018:

Amendment in Act enabled Union Government to increase the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore.
Increase in capital of NABARD: Under the 1981 Act, NABARD may have a capital of Rs 100 crore. This capital can be further increased to Rs 5,000 crore by the central government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Bill allows the central government to increase this capital to Rs 30,000 crore.
Transfer of the RBI's share to the central government: Under the 1981 Act, the central government and the RBI together must hold at least 51% of the share capital of NABARD. The Bill provides that the central government alone must hold at least 51% of the share capital of NABARD. The Bill transfers the share capital held by the RBI and valued at Rs 20 crore to the central government. The central government will give an equal amount to the RBI.
Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME): Under the 1981 Act, NABARD was responsible for providing credit and other facilities to industries having an investment of upto Rs 20 lakh in machinery and plant. The Bill extends this to apply to enterprises with investment upto Rs 10 crore in the manufacturing sector and Rs five crore in the services sector.
Under the 1981 Act, experts from small-scale industries are included in the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council of NABARD. Further, banks providing loans to small-scale, tiny and decentralised sector industries are eligible to receive financial assistance from NABARD. The Bill extends these provisions to the micro, small, and medium enterprises.
NABARD and RBI

Reserve Bank of India is the central bank of the country with sole right to regulate the banking industry and supervise the various institutions/banks that also include NABARD defined under Banking Regulation Act of 1949.
Many developmental and regulatory works are done by RBI and NABARD in co-operation.
RBI provides 3 directors to NABARD's Board of Directors.
NABARD provides recommendations to Reserve Bank of India on issue of licenses to Cooperative Banks, opening of new branches by State Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

Contribution

The NABARD has touched almost every aspect of rural economy in terms of Financial, Developmental and Supervision functions

Financial Contribution

Refinance - Short Term Loans: Crop loans are extended to farmers for crop production by financial institutions, which support in ensuring food security in the country.
Long Term Loans: NABARD's long-term refinance provides credit to financial institutions for a wide gamut of activities encompassing farm and non-farm activities with tenors of 18 months to more than 5 years.
Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF): It was set up with NABARD in 1995-96 by the RBI out of the shortfall in lending to priority sector by scheduled commercial banks for supporting rural infrastructure projects.
Long-Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF): The LTIF in NABARD was setup with an initial corpus of Rs 20,000 crore for funding 99 irrigation projects during 2016-17 following announcement in the Union Budget.
Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Grameen (PMAY-G).
NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA): NIDA has been designed to complement RIDF.
Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF): Union government created WIF in the year 2013- 14 with NABARD with a corpus of Rs 5,000 crore for providing loans to meet the requirements for scientific warehousing infrastructure for agricultural commodities in the country.
Food Processing Fund
Direct Lending to Cooperative Banks
Credit Facility to Marketing Federations (CFF):
Producer Organizations Development Fund (PODF) for POs & PACS:
NABARD set up Producer Organizations Development Fund (PODF) with an initial corpus of Rs 50 crore to support and finance Producer Organizations (POs) and Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) to operate as Multi Service Centres.
Producer Organisation (PO): it is a legal entity formed by primary producers, viz. farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen. A PO can be a producer company, a cooperative society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members.
Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) is a basic unit and smallest co-operative credit institution in India. It works on the grassroots level (gram panchayat and village level). It provides credit to farmers in the form of term loans and recovers the amount after harvesting of crop from the cultivator.
Developmental Contribution

Kisan Credit Card Scheme for Farmers: The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was designed by NABARD in association with the RBI in August 1998 for providing crop loans.
RuPayKisan Cards (RKCs): NABARD has been at the forefront of technology revolution by helping rural financial institutions in providing RuPayKisan Cards (RKCs) to all their farmer clients.
Tribal Development: the Tribal Development Programme
Climate Resilient Agriculture
Umbrella Programme on Natural Resource Management (UPNRM):
The UPNRM started in 2007, works at enhancing investments in rural areas, creating business opportunities and enabling rural communities to sustainably utilise their natural resources.
Microfinance Sector:
NABARD had launched the Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) in 1992. Over 23 lakh SHGs were credit-linked during 2017-18 financial year.

EShakti: In a bid to digitise SHGs, project EShakti was launched on 15 March 2015.
Skill Development: Promoting an entrepreneurial culture among the rural youth and encouraging them to start enterprises in the rural off-farm sector has been NABARD's strategy for over three decades.
Marketing Initiatives: For providing marketing opportunities to rural artisans and producers, NABARD has traditionally facilitated their participation in exhibitions across the country.
Incubation Centres

To commercialise innovations and to shape agricultural entrepreneurship in the country, NABARD extended support to Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai for establishing Agri Incubation Centres with a total financial commitment of Rs 23.99 crore.
Challenges

As an offspring of the RBI, NABARD shares the work culture, ethos and development orientation of its parent institution. Snapping of this link (the transfers of 0.4 per cent equity of RBI in NABARD to the Union Government under NABARD Act 2017) has led to a great disadvantage for both the RBI and NABARD.
This has weakened any role or participation RBI can have over its activities.
A strong relationship between the central bank and the development institution will help the cause of agriculture and rural development at a critical juncture when the country is faced with a serious agrarian crisis.
Cost of financing has gone up since market borrowings of NABARD add up to 80 per cent of its resources. Member-driven and de-bureaucratised cooperative structures have to fill-in the gaps of institutional credit left open by commercial banks.
The north-eastern states has been getting little share of the NABARD's credit funds. The northeast gets 1% of the credit, leading to farmers trapping in the net of money-lenders.
The penetration of banks in insurgency-hit state is less and it should be stepped up.
Conclusion

More than 75 per cent people of India depend on agriculture. Rural infrastructure investments help in raising the socio-economic status of the rural people through increased income levels and quality of life.

NABARD being an apex institution for providing credit facilities and capacity building to Indian rural economy, it has great a opportunity for poverty reduction and socio-economic empowerment of rural India.