

PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

April: 2019 | Issue: 02

★ Mission Shakti : India's Successful Kill

- ★ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- ★ Changing Land Use Pattern and Climate Change
- ★ Urban Employment Guarantee : Hope Kindles at Last
- ★ Island Protection Zone : Towards Holistic Development of Islands
- ★ Relevance of Bhagat Singh in Contemporary Society
- ★ World Happiness Report-2019 : An Overview

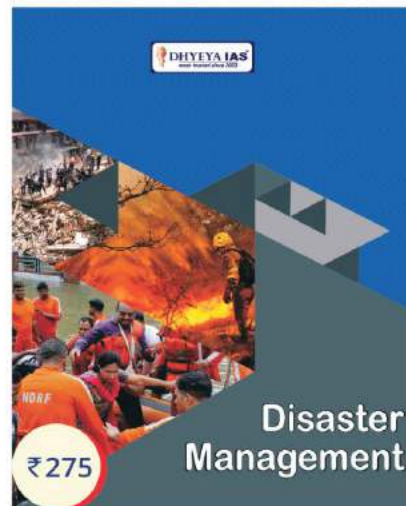


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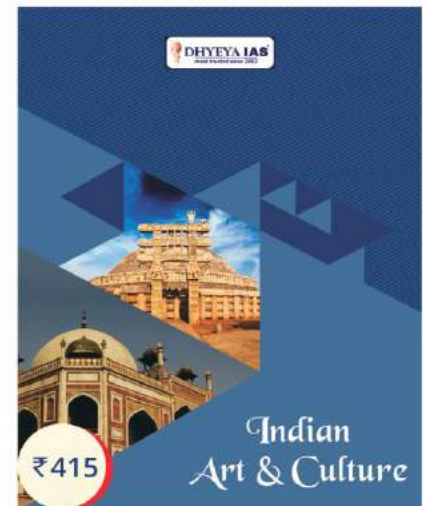
INTERNAL SECURITY



DISASTER MANAGEMENT



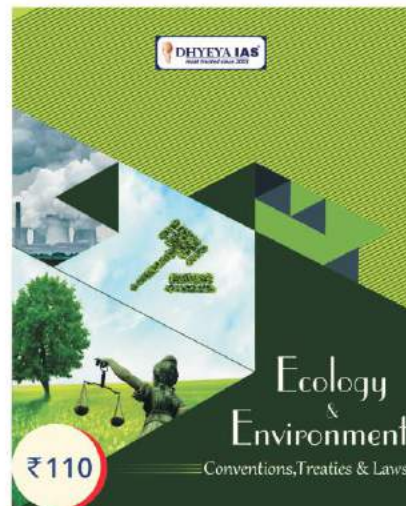
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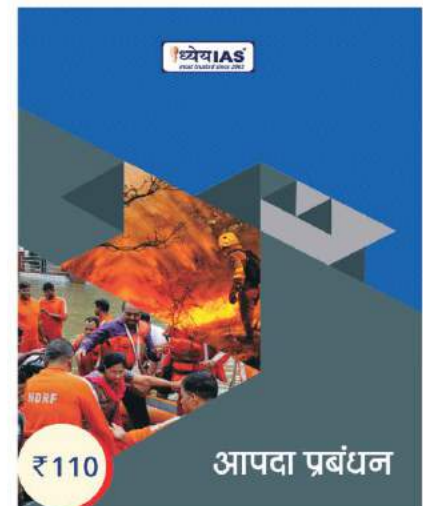
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Fundamentals)



ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT (Conventions, Treaties & Laws)



आपदा प्रबंधन



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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



The guiding philosophy of the institute, throughout, has been creation of knowledge base. Dhyeya IAS inculcates human values and professional ethics in the students, which help them make decisions and create path that are good not only for them, but also for the society, for the nation, and for the world as whole. To fulfill its mission in new and powerful ways, each student is motivated to strive towards achieving excellence in every endeavor. It is done by making continuous improvements in curricula and pedagogical tools.

The rigorous syllabi not only instills in them, a passion for knowledge but also attempts to teach them how to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. The programmes lay emphasis on well-rounded personality development of the students and also in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity in them.

Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder
Dhyeya IAS



Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the student. Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multi-disciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material.

Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into stalwarts of tomorrow's society.

Q H Khan
Managing Director
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



With immense pleasure and gratitude I want to inform you that the new version of 'Perfect-7', from the Dhyeya IAS, is coming with more information in a very attractive manner. Heartily congratulations to the editorial team. The 'Perfect-7' invites a wider readership in the Institute. The name and fame of an institute depends on the caliber and achievements of the students and teachers. The role of the teacher is to nurture the skills and talents of the students as a facilitator. This magazine is going to showcase the strength of our Institute. Let this be a forum to exhibit the potential of faculties, eminent writers, authors and students with their literary skills and innovative ideas.

I extend best wishes for the success of this endeavor.

Qurban Ali

Chief Editor

Dhyeya IAS

(Ex Editor- Rajya Sabha TV)



We have not only given the name 'Perfect 7' to our magazine, but also left no stone unturned to keep it 'near to perfect'. We all know that beginning of a task is most challenging as well as most important thing. So we met the same fate.

Publishing 'Perfect 7' provided us various challenges because from the beginning itself we kept our bar too high to ensure the quality. Right from the very first issue we had a daunting task to save aspirants from the 'overdose of information'. Focusing on civil services exams 'Perfect 7' embodies in itself rightful friend and guide in your preparation. This weapon is built to be precise yet comprehensive. It is not about bombardment of mindless facts rather an analysis of various facets of the issues, selected in a systematic manner. We adopted the 'Multi Filter' and 'Six Sigma' approach, in which a subject or an issue is selected after diligent discussion on various levels so that the questions in the examination could be covered with high probability.

Being a weekly magazine there is a constant challenge to provide qualitative study material in a time bound approach. It is our humble achievement that we feel proud to make delivered our promise of quality consistently without missing any issue since its inception.

The new 'avatar' of 'Perfect 7' is a result of your love and affection. We feel inspired to continue our efforts to deliver effective and valuable content in interesting manner. Our promise of quality has reached you in around 100 issues and more are yet to come.

Ashutosh Singh

Managing Editor

Dhyeya IAS



PREFACE

Dhyeya family feels honoured to present you a pandora box 'Perfect 7'. 'Perfect7' is an outstanding compilation of current affairs topics as per the new pattern of Civil Service examination (CSE). It presents weekly analysis of information and issues (national and international) in the form of articles, news analysis, brain boosters, PIB highlights and graphical information, which helps to understand and retain the information comprehensively. Hence, 'Perfect 7' will build in-depth understanding of various issues in different facets.

'Perfect7' is our genuine effort to provide correct, concise and concrete information, which helps students to crack the civil service examination. This magazine is the result of the efforts of the eminent scholars and the experts from different fields.

'Perfect 7' is surely a force multiplier in your effort and plugs the loopholes in the preparation.

We believe in environment of continuous improvement and learning. Your constructive suggestions and comments are always welcome, which could guide us in further revision of this magazine.

Omveer Singh Chaudhary
Editor
Dhyeya IAS

Perfect 7

The Weekly Issue

Perfect 7

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News Paper



DHYEYA TV
Current Affairs Programmes hosted
by Mr. Qurban Ali
(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

1. MISSION SHAKTI : INDIA'S SUCCESSFUL KILL

Why in News?

On March 27, 2019 India conducted 'Mission Shakti', an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test, from the Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Island, formerly Wheeler Island, in Odisha. This was a technological mission carried out by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The test was fully successful and achieved all parameters as per plans. The test required an extremely high degree of precision and technical capability.

Introduction

Anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons are missile-based systems to attack moving satellites. So far the United States, China and Russia were the only ones who've reported the ability to shoot down space objects from ground or airborne sources.

The development of such systems has a long history — fuelled by the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union. There are different kinds of systems — those that can be launched from the ground or those vaulted from planes.

In the Cold War/Space Race era, 1985 was the last time that the United States had used an anti-satellite system to destroy its P-781 satellite that had instruments aboard to study solar radiation.

Anti-satellite weapons came back into popular currency after China conducted an anti-satellite missile test on January 11, 2007. The target was a Chinese weather satellite — the FY-

1C — that sailed at an altitude of 865 kilometres. A year later, the United States launched 'Operation Burnt Frost,' the code name to intercept and destroy a non-functioning U.S. National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) satellite named USA-193.

After the successful Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile test, India has become the fourth nation, after US, China and Russia, to attain the capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space.

Technology Involved

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) satellite shot down by an anti-satellite missile as part of 'Mission Shakti' was already decommissioned. The satellite was orbiting at an altitude of 300 kilometers (km) above Earth. A Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite was chosen to ensure that the debris is pulled down by the Earth's gravity and burnt as it enters the Earth's atmosphere within the next few weeks because of the scorching temperatures.

The DRDO chose a ballistic missile defence (BMD) interceptor missile that was indigenously developed by it under its ongoing ballistic missile defence programme. It was a three-stage interceptor missile with two solid rocket boosters.

An interceptor is launched on the basis of information received from the radars about the speed, altitude and flight path of the target. When the interceptor closes in on the target, a radar seeker searches for the satellite

and guides the missile to intercept it. The targeted satellite was moving at 25,200 km per hour at an altitude of 300 km.

It is significant that the missile engaged the satellite in a hit to kill mode. Within three minutes of its take-off from the island, the missile locked in on the target and fragmented it.

There are other ways, such as fly-by tests and jamming, to demonstrate anti-satellite capabilities. However, 'Mission Shakti' used the technology of kinetic kill, the final missile stage of an interceptor.

Alternative ASAT Technology

According to the Massachusetts based Union of Concerned Scientists, the following technologies are being actively pursued by the world's leading nations:

Satellite Jamming: This involves interfering with radio communications between a satellite and users on the ground. Both the United States and Russia have this capability.

Manoeuvring Satellites: These are satellites that could approach an enemy satellite and fry its electronics by firing a burst of radiation in its direction. A number of countries, including Japan and the European Union are developing 'close-proximity manoeuvring technology'.

Ground-based Lasers: Lasers can interfere with satellite sensors or damage a satellite's body through heat. They can either temporarily blind

the satellite or permanently damage its sensors. In 2006, China blinded a US satellite with a ground-based laser.

Low-Earth Orbit Satellites

Low Earth Orbit (LEO) refers to an altitude up to 2,000 km. A satellite in the LEO can monitor activities on the ground and water surfaces. Such a satellite can be used for espionage and pose serious threat to the country's security in the instances of war. A database from the Union of Concerned Scientists, a non government organisation based in the United States, says that there are at least 5 known Indian satellites in LEO: India PiSat, Resourcesat 2, Radar Imaging Satellites 1 and 2 and SRMsat.

Need

Space is an area in which India has world class indigenous capability. However, only in recent years has the country's large constellation of satellites been tapped for military use. As of now the total number of ISRO satellites that can be used for military purposes stands at 14. (In comparison, China has 25 purely military satellites.) These satellites have surveillance and mapping capabilities and can be used to keep an eye on India's adversaries along the land and sea borders.

In 2013 the Indian Navy received its sole dedicated military satellite, the GSAT-7, which allows secure, real-time communications among its warships, submarines, aircraft and land systems. In 2018, the Indian Air Force (IAF) got its exclusive spacecraft GSAT-7A which enables the service to interlink different ground radar stations, airbases and Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) aircraft. It also boosts the IAF's network centric warfare capabilities and enhances its global ambitions.

India's future war plans include a satellite-based dedicated Defence Communications Network (DCN), which will provide secure and reliable inter-service communications. In the meantime, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) will

provide military-grade accuracy to the navigation and targeting capabilities of airborne platforms, thus multiplying their effectiveness.

The flip side to the deployment of satellites for dominance is that it opens up a window of vulnerability. If adversary is able to shoot down some of India's military satellites, it would partially degrade India's war fighting capabilities in a networked sensor-fused battlefield. This was best illustrated during joint exercises in 2007 between the US Air Force in which outdated MiG-21 jets defeated advanced American F-15s when the latter were deprived of support from satellite and AWACS systems.

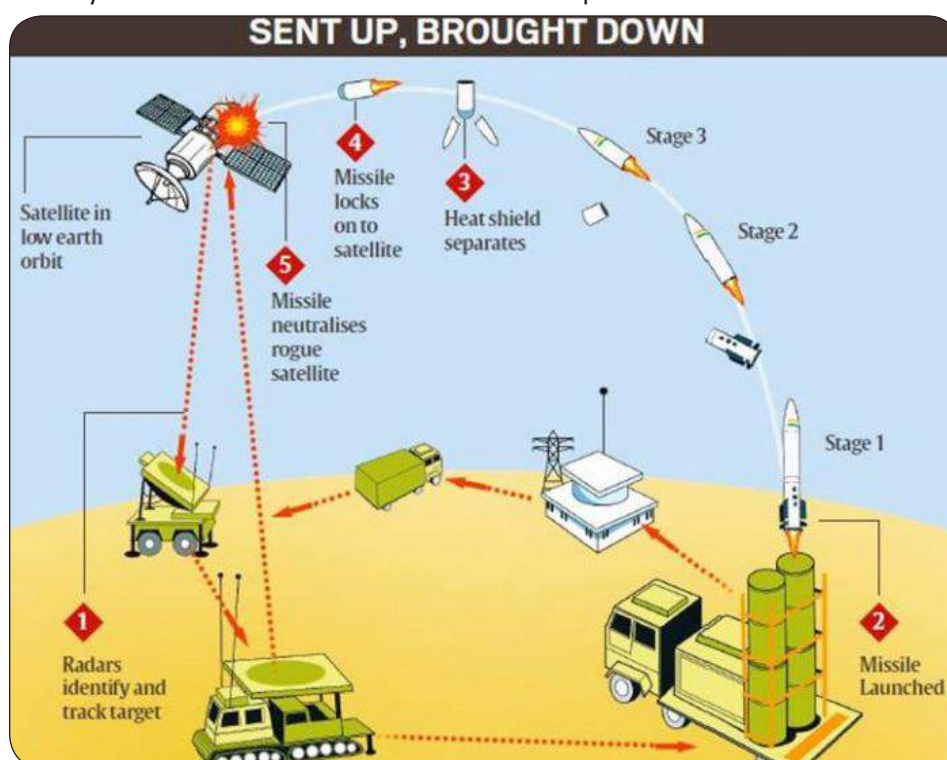
Having a robust ASAT capability would act as a deterrent so the adversary doesn't take a pre-emptive shot at India's space-based assets. As well as having the ability to target the enemy's space-based assets such as satellites, space shuttles and space stations, ASAT delivery systems can also manoeuvre in space to defeat the enemy's ASAT weapons - for instance, by providing a protective ring around friendly satellites.

Concerns

Destroying a satellite in orbit comes with a major risk - space debris, which can hurtle around the Earth at 17,000 kph. At such speeds, a metal fragment just 1 cm across will obliterate a spacecraft it collides with. China's ASAT shot in 2007 resulted in a shower of 3,000 fragments that are still troubling spacecraft. Because the Chinese satellite was orbiting in a relatively High Earth Orbit of over 500 km, the debris will defy Earth's gravity for hundreds of years.

Unlike China, India has acted in a responsible manner. The DRDO targeted a micro satellite Microsat-R, in a low 300 km orbit and the debris from the test will re-enter Earth's atmosphere in two-three weeks. However, NASA chief Jim Bridenstine has called India's ASAT missile test as 'terrible thing' as he claimed the test created 400 pieces of orbital and threatened astronauts on the International Space Station.

In addition to it, although India clarifies that India's space capabilities do not threaten any country and nor are, they directed against anyone. But, India's test may initiate arms race in outer space.



Limits of ASAT

While ASAT ground-to-space weapons can easily destroy Low Earth Satellites, they have their limits.

Most spy satellites are located 800 km above Earth and if their orbits are raised tactically, an ASAT missile will veer off the target by a wide margin. Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites usually orbit 20,000 km above Earth and communications satellites are at even higher altitudes of 36,000 km, which makes it impractical to target them.

The US and Russia have plenty of redundancies built into their communication and intelligence gathering systems so that even if an adversary is stupid enough to knock out most of their satellites, enough will survive to ensure a massive retaliation.

Thus, ASAT missiles are therefore not a game changer in military terms.

India and Outer Space

India asserted after the test that there had been no violation of the '1967 Outer Space Treaty' or any other agreement. 'The Outer Space Treaty' prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons.

As per Article IV of the '1967 Outer Space Treaty', formally called

'The Treaty on Principles Governing Activities of States' in Exploration and Use of Outer Space, state parties are committed "not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner." India ratified the agreement in 1982.

In addition to it, India is already implementing provisions of several treaties that include "registering space objects with UN register, pre-launch notifications, measures in harmony with the UN Space Mitigation Guidelines, participation in Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination (IADC) activities with regard to space debris management, undertaking Space Object Proximity Awareness (SOPA) and Collision Avoidance Analysis (COLA) and numerous international cooperation activities including hosting the UN affiliated Center for Space and Science Technology Education in Asia and Pacific.

Further, India supports UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 69/32 on No First Placement of Weapons on Outer Space and has called for substantive legal measures to ensure the prevention of an arms race in

outer space. There are a number of international agreements which ban the use of weapons of mass destruction in space but not anti-satellite tests or the use of ground-based lasers to harm satellites.

Conclusion

India wanted to maintain peace rather than indulge in warmongering. And, by targeting a low-orbit satellite, the missile test did the utmost possible to minimize space debris, which is an issue of international concern.

Further, India has never shown any inclination towards space weaponisation and neither does it want to take it up now. But its foundations of peace should rest on strong military capabilities. 'Mission Shakti' is a step towards muscle-building, not muscle-flexing.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Topic: Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.



2. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Why in News?

Almost a week after the killing of 50 people in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, we mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. That horrifying tragedy is yet another reminder that a broad range of people are victims of racism and hatred, and it is unhelpful to define this dangerous threat to society too narrowly.

Introduction

Racism is a reality and it is being perennially practiced and blatantly bloated in all societies across the geo-political spectrum in World Wide Web of equality, liberty and fraternity. Racism attacks all-encompassing normative system and erodes all aspects of human values in life. Primarily, racism is the most callous and conspicuous negation of human

equality ordained by the collective wisdom in divinities, spiritualities and mundanities. However, the citadels of racism are still alive and kicking in every nook and corner of the world and India is not an exception.

Despite the fact, India has been a victim since its existential history of staggering stages of colonialism and imperialism whereunder racism was the inalienable part of governance

trajectory. Though, today Indians in US, UK, Canada, Australia and other parts of the world are being subjected to racial crimes attributable to the emerging trends of far right-wing political discourse in these countries. Even then India is still indulges with this profane practice with impunity. India is blessed with great diversity consisting of 29 States and 7 Union Territories. India promotes "unity in diversity" shibboleth and prides its multi-culturalism and pluralism. As per government record, there are five major races in India such as Australoid, Mongoloid, Europoid, Caucasian, and Negroid who get proportionate representation in all walks of national life in India.

What is Racial Discrimination?

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination defines racial discrimination as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

Racial Discrimination in India

According to the World Values Survey, the second most racist country is India, where people from other countries are treated differently by some Indian people, based both on skin colour and country of origin. African people are especially affected by racism in India, denied living accommodations and even attacked and killed. In India, prejudice is honed in a few quarters and by a few Indians.

Unlike what politicians think racism is not always about the colour factor racism, there are many kinds of racial discrimination practised in India even today like — skin colour, shape of lips,

hair, etc. However, it is also true that skin colour became a dominant factor from the 18th century onwards.

In a country as diverse and varied as India, Awareness about all cultures and regions is not possible at all. This ignorance gives rise to racial discrimination, it can have grave consequences. Private Member Bill introduced in Parliament hopes to get rid of some of this ignorance by raising awareness about the culture, history, and traditions of Northeast India. This bill focuses on the compulsory teaching of North-East culture in Educational Institutions', which was introduced by the Member of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh, Ninong Ering, This bill is a big step towards overcoming the obstacles of racial discrimination by introducing the study of Northeast culture at the school level.

Types of Racial Discrimination in India

- ◆ **Direct discrimination:** This happens when somebody treats you more regrettable than someone else in a comparable circumstance in view of your race.
- ◆ **Indirect discrimination:** This happens when an association has a specific approach or method for working that puts individuals of your racial gathering at a disadvantage.
- ◆ **Harassment:** Harassment happens when somebody makes you feel humiliated, annoyed or corrupted.
- ◆ **Victimisation:** This is the point at which you are treated very badly on the grounds that you have complained about the racial discrimination faced under the Equality To act or likewise happen in the case when you are supporting somebody who has made a protest of race-related separation.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

In 1979, the General Assembly adopted a Programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. On that occasion, the General Assembly decided that a week of solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on 21 March, would be organized annually in all States.

Since then, the apartheid system in South Africa has been dismantled. Racist laws and practices have been abolished in many countries, and we have built an international framework for fighting racism, guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Convention is now nearing universal ratification, yet still, in all regions, too many individuals, communities and societies suffer from the injustice and stigma that racism brings.

Reasons for Racism

People aren't born with racist ideas or attitudes. Racism is something that is learned. There remain a small minority of people who believe that some races are superior to others. For example, while most people in Australia today accept the diversity of Australian society, some also believe racial groups should not mix. A belief in racial superiority or purity can lead to racial hatred.

However, not all racism comes from hatred. Some of it can come from fear and anxiety. People may worry that some groups pose a threat, whether to the safety of the community, or to the national identity. Ignorance can play a part in feeding people's racial attitudes, as can a need to belong to one's own group. Racism isn't always malicious.

Sometimes the harm of racism can be done innocently, because someone may not know better.

Why is Racism a Problem?

Racism causes harm to those who are on the receiving end. It hurts individuals, communities and our society at large. Studies show that experiencing racism has profound effects on people's health and welfare. The effects can include feelings of sadness and anger, even anxiety and depression. The regular experience of racism can lead to people withdrawing from work or study, and diminish their quality of life. It can also hurt people's freedom and dignity. Those who endure racism can be made to feel they have less freedom, or are second-class citizens.

In a diverse country such as India, the effects of racism aren't confined to individuals. It has the potential to affect all of us. Racial hostility creates a society where people don't trust and respect each other. It challenges our society's values of equality and fairness.

Constitutional Provision in India

The Constitution of India is a document of high endowments that bequests civil liberties and human freedoms to all Indians to lead their lives in peace and harmony. Articles 14 and 15 are the most important guarantees ever envisaged by the Constitution of India whereunder Right to Equality that addresses the issues of discrimination and provide equal protection of laws in India and Article 14 further confers the Right to Equality before the law and equal protection of laws throughout the territory of India and Article 15 prohibits the discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. However, the biggest irony against the menace of racism is that these rights are available to

the citizens of India but only against the Indian State and not against the discrimination that is practiced and committed by private individuals. Moreover, Article 16 stipulates the equality of opportunity to all citizens of India. Further, Article 39 (a) gives rights relating to the means of livelihood sans discrimination.

There are slew of other legislations enacted under the Constitution of India exclusively designed to safeguard equality and protection against racial discrimination such as The Criminal law (Removal of Racial Discrimination Act, 1949), Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

In India, the instances of racial discrimination are manifested by resorting to utter some cusswords or swearwords like —Habshi (Carnivorous), —Pagal (Crazy), —Kalia (Black), —Monster, —Chutia (Moron), —Chini-Mini (From China) and —Chinkies (Chinese like) against people from countries of Africa, Afro-Asia and North-East India. Therefore, in 2012 government of India recommended that all states notify the term —Chinki(es) as an offence under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Section 153 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Constitution of India succors the country organize itself as a single geo-political entity wedded with the core principles of human rights, diversity, federalism, pluralism and multi-culturalism.

International Law

Racial and ethnic discrimination occur on a daily basis, hindering

progress for millions of people around the world. From denying individuals the basic principles of equality and non-discrimination to fuelling ethnic hatred that may lead to genocide, racism and intolerance destroy lives and communities. The struggle against racism is a matter of priority for the international community and is at the heart of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The United Nations has been concerned with this issue since its foundation and the prohibition of racial discrimination is enshrined in all core international human rights instruments. Through the work of the United Nations, international laws have been developed which require countries to work towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. These international laws, called treaties or conventions, apply throughout the world. A treaty or convention operates like a contract. When a country, such as India, becomes a party to a convention, it is bound to act in accordance with the rules contained in that convention. India is a party to a number of anti-racism conventions, which impose obligations on India in regard to racism and racial discrimination in schools and other contexts.

In 2001, the World Conference against Racism produced the most authoritative and comprehensive programme for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

STOP RACISM

March 21
 Int'l Day for the Elimination of
 Racial Discrimination



In April 2009, the Durban Review Conference examined global progress made in overcoming racism and concluded that much remained to be achieved. Undoubtedly, the greatest accomplishment of the conference was the renewed international commitment to the anti-racism agenda.

Way Forward

The constitutional construction of constitutionalism on human rights instill a sense of pride among We, the People of India, but constitutionalization thereof is subjected to prejudices in every layer of state set-up, administrative

apparatus and political paraphernalia of the country. Consequently, India has become an ivory tower of iniquitous social orders and Indian society stands stratified today on the ground of being a member of a particular social group or social origin or minority or religion or race or caste or political opinion and so on so forth.

It is well-established fact that India is a land that cannot survive without the democracy of diversity and majesty of multi-culturalism. Since India has become a party to 1965 UN Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1967. Therefore, time has, indeed, come to have an all-compassing Anti-Racial Law to curb the menace of growing racial violence, hate crimes and xenophobia.

General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Topic: Social empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.

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3. CHANGING LAND USE PATTERN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Context

The 'Global Resources Outlook 2019,' a major global report on the status and trends of natural resource use and management, was released during the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4). The report shows that we are ploughing through this planet's finite resources as if there is no tomorrow, causing climate change and biodiversity loss along the way. By 2010, land-use changes had caused a loss of global species of approximately 11 percent. The report calls for an urgent systemic reform of resource use, to go beyond resource efficiency.

Introduction

Land is a crucial natural resource and an important determinant of a country's socioeconomic and ecological health. Given the finite supply of land resource, sustainable use and management of land resources is a necessity for the well-being of people of a country. Land-use change has broad lines of impact, with a potential for influencing economic growth, quality of life, management of environmental resources and national food supply.

Land-use change takes place through human activity in several ways. For example, in Indonesia, about 500 sq km of forest area are cleared each year, much of which is replaced with oil palm plantations. Another pattern of changing land use is seen in expanding cities. In many countries, including India, cities are expanding well beyond their formal limits, either along inter-city corridors or in other directions. The specific patterns of urban growth of a city and its periphery have implications for poverty, food, water, health, jobs and access to services.

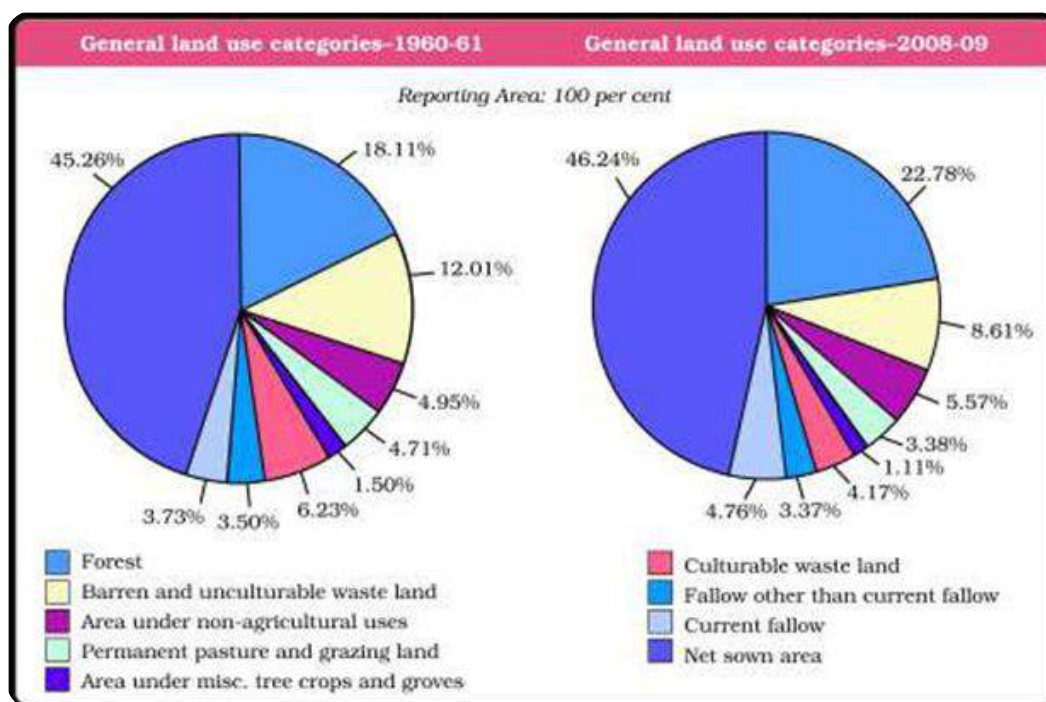
Various forces shape these patterns of urbanisation, transforming land use from agriculture and forests into industry, residential and commercial buildings and associated infrastructure and horticulture. Often the contested spaces of peri-urban areas (outside city limits but not quite part of the rural hinterland) become sites from which groundwater is pumped and transported to the city, where new industrial zones are developed, where urban waste is dumped and where vegetables and other high-value crops are grown for nearby urban centres.

Interventions like converting agricultural land for housing or industry, filling up ponds and building housing complexes on lake beds, etc. impact ecosystem services and climate adaptation. These especially affect the poor who are largely reliant on ecosystems for their livelihoods.

Changing Land use Pattern in India

Land-use in a region, to a large extent, is influenced by the nature of economic activities carried out in the region. However, while economic activities change over time, land, like many other natural resources, is fixed in terms of its area. At this stage, one needs to appreciate three types of changes that an economy undergoes, which affect land-use.

India has undergone major changes within the economy over the past four or five decades and this has influenced the land-use changes in the country, these changes between 1960-61 and 2008-09 have been shown in figure. There are two points that we need to remember before we derive some meaning from this figure. Firstly,



the percentage shown in the figure has been derived with respect to the reporting area. Secondly, since even the reporting area has been relatively constant over the years, a decline in one category usually leads to an increase in some other category.

While some categories have undergone increases, some have registered declines. Share of area under forest, area under non agricultural uses, net sown area and current fallow lands have shown an increase. The following observations can be made about these increases:

1. The rate of increase is the highest in case of area under non-agricultural uses. This is due to the changing structure of Indian economy, which is increasingly depending on the contribution from industrial and services sectors and expansion of related infrastructural facilities. Also, an expansion of area under both urban and rural settlements has added to the increase. Thus, the area under non-agricultural uses is increasing at the expense of wastelands and agricultural land.
2. The increase in the share under forest, can be accounted for by increase in the demarcated area

under forest rather than an actual increase in the forest cover in the country.

3. The trend of current fallow fluctuates a great deal over years, depending on the variability of rainfall and cropping cycles.

The categories that have registered a decline are barren and wasteland, culturable wasteland, area under pastures and tree crops. The possible explanation can be:

As the pressure on land increased, both from the agricultural and non agricultural sectors, the wastelands and culturable wastelands have witnessed decline over time. The decline in land under pastures and grazing lands can be explained by pressure from agricultural land. Illegal encroachment due to expansion of cultivation on common pasture lands is largely responsible for this decline.

Interaction between Land Use Pattern and Climate Change

Land use and land use changes can significantly contribute to overall climate change. Vegetation and soils typically act as a carbon sink, storing carbon dioxide that is absorbed

through photosynthesis. When the land is disturbed, the stored carbon dioxide—along with methane and nitrous oxide—is emitted, re-entering the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming. The clearing of land can result in soil degradation, erosion and the leaching of nutrients; which can also possibly reduce its ability to act as a carbon sink. This reduction in the ability to store carbon can result in additional carbon dioxide remaining in the atmosphere, thereby increasing the total amount of greenhouse gases.

There are two types of land use change: direct anthropogenic (human-caused) changes and indirect changes. Examples of anthropogenic changes include deforestation, reforestation and afforestation, agriculture and urbanization. Indirect changes include those changes in climate or in carbon dioxide concentrations that force changes in vegetation. A 2002 NASA study argued that human-caused land surface changes in areas like North America, Europe and Southeast Asia redistribute heat within the atmosphere both regionally and globally. On a global scale, carbon dioxide emissions from land use changes represent an estimated 18% of total annual emissions; one-third of that from developing countries and over 60% from the lesser developing countries.

The effect of land use on the climate primarily depends on the type of land cover present within an area. For example, if rainforest is removed and replaced by crops, there will be less transpiration (evaporation of water from leaves) leading to warmer temperatures in that area. On the other hand, if irrigation is used on

farmland, more water is transpired and evaporated from moist soils, which cools and moistens the atmosphere. The additional transpiration can also affect levels of precipitation and cloudiness in an area.

In regions with heavy snowfall, reforestation or afforestation would cause the land to reflect less sunlight, resulting in the absorption of more heat on the land. This would, in turn, result in a net warming effect despite the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis during the growing season. Additional reforestation could increase transpiration, leading to more water vapor in the air. In the troposphere, water vapor is considered to be the biggest greenhouse gas contributor to global warming.

Urbanization is another change in land use that can affect the climate, sometimes significantly. Local climates tend to be warmer due to the increased amount of heat released within a densely populated area. Average temperatures in city centers can increase even more due to the high density of construction materials such as pavement and roofing materials since they tend to absorb, rather than reflect, sunlight. The phenomenon of higher urban temperatures, compared to lower temperatures in the surrounding rural areas, is known as the urban heat island effect.

Forestry and land use practices hold considerable potential for counteracting the effect of greenhouse gas emissions, helping to prevent significant climate change. These practices include focusing on planting trees, preserving and properly managing forests and changing cultivation practices to account for increased carbon storage in the soil. Such practices could make it possible to increase carbon sinks while further reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

Low Priority by Government

In December 2018, during the climate summit in Katowice, Poland, the Environment Minister declared that India was on track to meet its climate goals ahead of the deadline. While the efforts in this direction should be appreciated but simultaneously government is also changing laws to dilute environmental protection, facilitate corporate land grabs, disempower local communities and criminalise any dissent against its grand schemes.

For example, Union government proposed amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, that will make this draconian Act even harsher. According to Campaign for Survival and Dignity, "These amendments would give forest officials the power to shoot people without any liability; allow forest officials... to relocate people against their will; to hand over forests to private companies for afforestation, and to grab other forests in the name of 'carbon sequestration'." These amendments are a targeted attack on forest dwellers; if passed, they will criminalise the cultures that hold the key to rebuilding our broken relationship with nature.

Paved surfaces, the hallmark of built-earth economies, disrupt water flows, reduce groundwater recharge and obliterate biodiversity. Such economies impoverish local communities and increase their vulnerability to natural shocks. In places like Chennai, which witnessed disastrous flooding in 2015, paved surfaces increased from 47 sq km in 1980 to 402 sq km in 2010, according to a study by the Chennai-based research group Care Earth. Meanwhile, wetlands dipped from 187 sq km to 71 sq km during the same period.

Urban flooding, though, is not only a third world phenomenon. Hurricane Sandy and the New York

floods of 2015, the European floods of 2016, the 2017 floods in Mumbai and Houston, the 2018 floods in Japan and the ongoing flooding of the Missouri in the U.S. all expose the vulnerabilities of urban areas where climate change meets mindless land use change. In all these instances, land had been paved over, unmindful of the need for water to flow and stay.

Across the country, people are rising up to protest against certain kinds of 'development' — for example, the Mumbai coastal expressway, and the proposed ports in Ennore and Kanyakumari. Farmers are mobilising against the bullet train and indigenous people are fighting against the opening up of forests for mines and dams. Although these fights may have positive consequences for the climate, they have never been explicitly about reducing the kinds of greenhouse gas emissions associated with 'development'. Rather, they are about how we relate to the lands that sustain us and who gets to define 'development'.

India's obsession with 100 GW solar electricity targets may fetch high ratings from the international green energy cheerleaders. But that alone will do nothing to fortify ordinary Indians from the impending disasters. Real resilience will result only from improving the health of the lands they live in and depend on.

Way Forward

In October 2018, UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that without radical course correction, the world will exhaust its carbon budget to keep global temperature increase below 1.5°C by 2030. Any increase above that will trigger runaway changes to global climate that could leave large portions of the planet uninhabitable.

That is not all. In March, UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem

Services warned that human societies are using up nature faster than it can renew itself and compromising its ability to sustain life on the planet.

According to some scientists, unlike carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas whose effects last for hundreds of years, land cover and land management generate drivers in climate systems that influence local and regional weather patterns. This is largely due to changes in aerosols, carbon, nitrogen and other gases along with the moisture in the air, heat and light. While this subject clearly requires more research to provide guidance to policymakers. But we already know that protecting waterbodies, conserving groundwater, reducing our ecological footprint and

living in more compact communities are good ways to address both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

While scientists reassure us, though, that it is still not too late to avert the worst-case scenarios of ecosystem collapse and a climate-run riot. But for that, the world would need to reframe its engagement with climate change and abandon its myopic preoccupation with greenhouse gas emissions and carbon budgets.

What is desperately needed at this moment is a manifesto for the protection of the commons and open lands, and for the re-creation of economies that derive value out of healing wounded landscapes and covering open lands with diverse

vegetation, water and life. For this, we need to defer to the Constitution and ensure that those who are challenging 'development' projects like the bullet train can speak without fear.

General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Role of women and women's organizations, Population and associated issues, Poverty and developmental issues, Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.



4. URBAN EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE : HOPE KINDLES AT LAST

Why in News?

The Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, has proposed an urban employment guarantee scheme along the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). The idea is to strengthen small and medium sized towns by providing guaranteed employment.

Introduction

According to the leaked data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India is in the midst of a massive jobs crisis. The unemployment rate has reached a 45-year high (6.1%) in 2017-18. According to the PLFS report, the unemployment problem is especially aggravated in India's cities and towns, with 18% of the males and 27% of females unemployed. Hovering around the eight per cent mark, the

urban unemployment outdoes the rural one by one percentage point. Aside from unemployment, low wages and precarity continue to be widespread.

These figure signals dire conditions in the urban sector, where a secure livelihood for some remains a genuine concern. The worst affected are the most marginal — the informal sector workers who form 80 per cent of the workforce in the urban area. Living on a bare hand-to-mouth existence, the worker and her/his family fall into extreme vulnerability in case of uncertainties in the labour market or personal losses beyond their control and cannot recover from the ensuing debt cycles. Hence, India cannot ignore the crisis of urban employment.

India's small and medium towns are particularly ignored in the State's urban imagination. As per Census 2011, India has 4,041 cities and towns with an urban local body (ULB) in

the form of a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat. Most ULBs are struggling to carry out basic functions because of a lack of financial and human capacity. Further, with untrammelled urbanisation, they are facing more challenges due to the degradation of urban ecological commons.

Proposed Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme

While the MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of work to any rural household that chooses to avail of it, there is no similar pan-India scheme for urban areas. Hence, we need new ways to promote the sustainable development of India's small and medium towns. In the context of the present employment crises, it is worthwhile considering introducing an employment guarantee programme in urban areas. Along with addressing the concerns of underemployment and unemployment, such a programme

can bring in much-needed public investment in towns to improve the quality of urban infrastructure and services, restoring urban commons, skilling urban youth and increasing the capacity of ULBs.

The researchers from the Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University have also argued that centrally funded programmes like the 'Smart Cities Mission' and 'Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission' (JNNURM) have focussed disproportionately on development of bigger towns and cities. The proposal looks to cover over 4,000 towns in the country with a population of less than 10 lakh and provide benefit to between three and five crore people. It could cost between 1.7% and 2.7% of GDP, per year depending on design and can provide work opportunities to around 30-50 million workers.

The plan recommends that the scheme be administered by the urban local body with the active involvement of ward committees. Wage payments, the proposal argues, should be decentralised and should be carried out through states and urban local bodies, unlike MNREGA.

The new proposal to address the problem envisages a two-pronged approach. While the first category of work is aimed at providing additional employment opportunities and raising incomes for those in low-wage informal work, the second category is to provide educated youth experience and skills that they can build-on further.

Another novel aspect is the creation of a skilling and apprenticeship programme for unemployed youth with higher education who can sign up for a contiguous period of 150 days (five months), at Rs. 13,000 a month for five months to assist with administrative functions in municipal offices, government schools, or public

health centres and for the monitoring, measurement, or evaluation of environmental parameters.

It also proposed a new set of "green jobs" which include the creation, restoration/rejuvenation and maintenance of urban commons such as green spaces and parks, forested or woody areas, degraded or waste land and water bodies. Further, a set of jobs that will cater to the "care deficit" in towns by providing child-care as well as care for the elderly and the disabled to the urban working class have been included.

In light of the 74th Amendment Act, this programme should be administered by the ULB in a participatory manner by involving ward committees.

Kerala Model of Urban Employment Guarantee

The scheme, 'Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS)' which is similar to MGNREGS, is an employment - of - last - resort programme in order to provide minimum livelihood security to the poorest of the poor in the urban areas in absence of enough employment opportunity in the economy. Just like MGNREGS, this is also a demand driven programme - the scheme is implemented by the Directorate of Urban Affairs, Government of Kerala.

By urban areas it does not only mean the cities but, the urban areas would include all municipality and corporation areas. Since, MGNREGS is implemented through Gram Panchayats only, all areas outside the Panchayat areas come under the coverage of the AUEGS scheme in Kerala.

The wage rate in this scheme is equal to wage rate under the MGNREGS (Rs.271 per day in Kerala in 2018). However, since the average cost of living is relatively higher in the urban areas (that is why there are two poverty lines for each state separately for rural and urban areas), the wages under urban employment guarantee programme should also be higher than the MGNREGS wage rates.

Significance

Given the state's relative neglect of small and medium towns and to avoid migration to big cities, such a programme can cover all ULBs with a

population less than 1 million. Since it is an urban programme, it should have a wider scope than the the MGNREGA; this would provide employment for a variety of works for people with a range of skills and education levels. It would not come at the expense of MGNREGA but rather the two would go hand-in-hand.

Urban informal workers with limited formal education would benefit from this programme. They can undertake standard public works such as building and maintenance of roads, footpaths and bridges for a guaranteed 100 days in a year, at Rs. 500 a day.

The proposal will provide strong transparency and accountability structures — proactive disclosure of information based on Section 4 of the RTI Act, proactive measures through mandatory periodic social audits, public hearing and reactive measures through a "Right to Timely Grievance Redressal" for workers.

An urban employment guarantee programme not only improves income of workers but also has multiplier effects on the economy. It will boost local demand in small towns, improve public infrastructure and services, spur entrepreneurship, build skills of workers and create a shared sense of public goods.

Thus, the scheme also fundamentally recognises the vagaries and insecurities present in the urban livelihood opportunities that huge section of our presently invisible city dwellers face.

MGNREGS and Urban Employment Guarantee

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which was launched by then United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, has proved to be a useful countercyclical policy tool in the rural economy. The

rural guarantee scheme works on self-selection. All of the work under the scheme is of the unskilled manual nature such as digging ponds and making link roads in villages. This means that no special skills are required for the job seekers.

The urban employment guarantee scheme needs to be conceived differently from MNREGS to suit the dissimilar contexts. Urban unemployment is not restricted to unskilled manual labour, unlike in the rural side.

The urban employment guarantee scheme, if brought about, must speak for the 'bai' or the 'labourer' that the dominant policy narrative has generally failed to see. This hardworking urban workforce needs support for hard times. The poor labourers need a fallback mechanism to keep their families safe and so that they can continue to contribute as a healthy workforce for our cities.

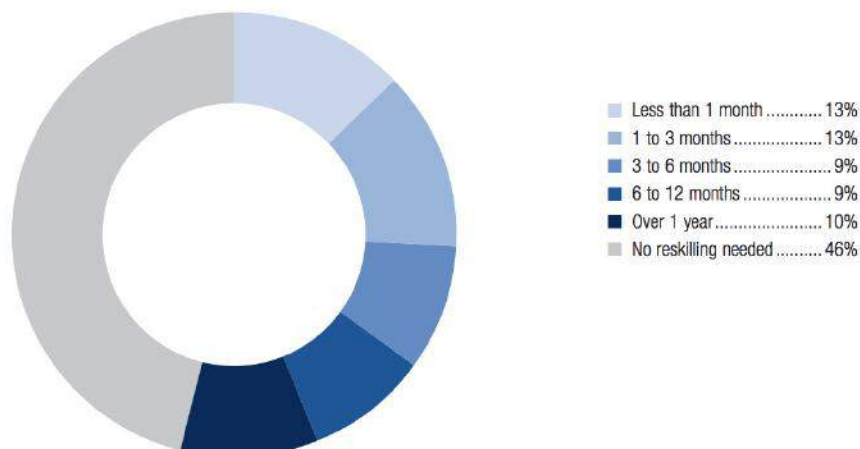
The basic premise of a healthy rural to urban economic transformation is to transfer workers from low-skill and low-productivity professions to high-skill jobs. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for an urban employment guarantee scheme to ensure this. Given the fact that common land — which is where most of the rural guarantee works happen — is more scarce in cities than in villages, even a perverse (and undesirable) unskilled job guarantee would be difficult to implement in cities.

Way Forward

Both central and state governments tend to treat towns as “engines of growth” for the economy rather than spaces where thousands toil to make a living. Programmes such as the

India

Average reskilling needs (share of workforce)



Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (1997) that included an urban wage employment component have made way for those focussed on skilling and entrepreneurship. India's small and medium towns are particularly ignored in the state's urban imagination.

skill training and promise better livelihood opportunities. That way, it will become a means of empowerment and self-reliance to the workers. At the moment, the skills building training has resulted in an abysmal low of 15 per cent placements.

The introduction of the scheme shall lead to such welcome spinoffs as higher investment in public infrastructure in the urban areas, higher wage rates and an increase in women workers' participation.

This is on a line similar to the highly successful programmes on urban livelihoods in China and some developed nations in the West. It is high time that we followed suit.

Other Schemes

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

- It was launched in 1997, to provided employment to the unemployed and underemployed urban poor through self-employment and wage employment.
- It was replaced by the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) in 2013.
- This programme, and its subsequent version, laid more emphasis on self-employment and entrepreneurship than on wage employment.

Yuva Swabhimana Yojana

- The Madhya Pradesh government has recently announced a 100-day urban job guarantee scheme.
- It will provide a wide set of jobs to urban youth with varying educational qualifications.

The scheme can be merged or approached in synchronisation with the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) as also the various skill-building programmes that allow

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.



5. ISLAND PROTECTION ZONE : TOWARDS HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF ISLANDS

Why in News?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 2019 for Andaman and Nicobar, which allows eco-tourism projects 20 metres from the high tide line (HTL) in smaller islands like Baratang, Havelock and Car Nicobar and at 50 metres in larger ones and relaxed other norms, triggering concern among some green activists.

Introduction

Realizing the potential in Andaman and Nicobar and more or less similar potential in Lakshadweep, holistic development of identified Islands has been accorded high priority by the government. NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the process of "Holistic Development of Islands".

Existing situation calls for formulation of suitable strategies for holistic development of identified Islands. Effective implementation of well-planned strategies in tourism and other key economic sectors would lead to creation of more jobs and generation of additional income for the Islanders. However, while planning development interventions, both the ecological concerns and the tribal-related issues need to be fully addressed so as to ensure a sustainable development process. The strategy to replace use of diesel with promotion of non-conventional energy sources such as Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Tidal Energy and Ocean Thermal Energy would contribute significantly to environmental sustainability.

As Islands are located in seismic zone-V (highly vulnerable to earthquakes), suitable measures are required to be put in place for

protection of the Island eco-system. A clean, green and healthy environment has to be maintained to support the desired economic growth. Presently, tourism has the potential to be an efficient driver of high economic growth in the Islands. Development potential also exists in other sectors such as maritime trade, shipping, fisheries, under-sea mining, oil and gas.

Careful planning is required also to ensure no threat to security of the strategically-located Islands. More than 500 islands, islets and coral rocks in Andaman & Nicobar carry strategic importance in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Background

To protect the Indian coastline, a directive was issued in 1981 from the Central government advising all coastal States/UTs to take necessary precautions to keep the beaches clean and regulate developmental activities. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 was issued under Environment (Protection) Act [E(P) A], 1986 to regulate all development activities in coastal areas.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) constituted a committee in June 2009 under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan to consider all the coastal issues and suggest the policy and legal framework for integrated coastal zone management. The Committee submitted its report titled "Final Frontier" in July 2009. Based on the recommendations made in the report the Ministry issued two Notifications superseding the CRZ Notification, 1991: (i) CRZ Notification, 2011 and (ii) IPZ Notification, 2011.

For the very first time an Island Protection Zone Notification, 2011 is

being notified and published covering Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. This notification reconciles three objectives: protection of livelihoods of traditional fisherfolk communities; preservation of coastal ecology; and promotion of economic activity that have necessarily to be located in coastal regions.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a group of picturesque islands at the junction of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, are blessed with pristine sea beaches, attractive marine life and a large extent of forest cover with rich biodiversity. About 82.16 per cent of the total geographical area (6,777 sq km) has been reported under forest and tree cover in Andaman & Nicobar (India State of Forest Report 2017). The Islands possess a mix of natural ecosystems including mangrove forests, tropical rainforests, sandy beaches, rocky shores and coral reefs.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a long coastal length of about 1,912 km. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around these Islands is about 6 lakh sq km constituting 28 per cent of the total EEZ in our country. The Great Nicobar Island is only about 90 km away from the western tip of the Malacca Strait, an important shipping route between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. Being at close aerial/shipping distance to a number of countries (Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand) and the Malacca Strait, the Islands have the potential of enhanced maritime trade, particularly for export of the products made in the Islands.

In addition, interests of various tribes living in the Islands need to be fully protected. Andaman & Nicobar Islands are home to four 'Negrito' tribes namely Andamanese (Strait Island), Onges (Little Andaman), Jarawas (South and Middle Andaman) and Sentinelese (North Sentinel Island) and two 'Mongoloid' tribes namely Shompens (Great Nicobar) and Nicobarese (Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Bampuka, Katchal, Kamorta, Nancowrie, Trinket, Little Nicobar, Kondul, Pilomilo and Great Nicobar). There is a necessity to maintain rich cultural traditions of all these tribes.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The notification relaxes development norms in the islands compared to the IPZ notification of 2011, which stipulated a no-development zone (NDZ) of 200 metres from the HTL for all islands.
- ◆ It allows eco-tourism projects 20 metres from the HTL in smaller islands like Baratang, Havelock and Car Nicobar and at 50 metres in larger ones and relaxed other norms, triggering concern among some green activists.
- ◆ This brings the norms for Andaman and Nicobar at par with CRZ norms for other islands close to the mainland and backwater islands where an NDZ only 20 metres from HTL has been stipulated.
- ◆ It allows for eco-tourism activities like mangrove walks, tree huts and nature trails in island coastal regulation zone IA (classified as the most eco-sensitive region of the islands which includes turtle nesting grounds, marshes, coral reefs etc).
- ◆ It allows for construction of roads, roads on stilts by reclaiming land

in exceptional cases for defence installations, public utilities or strategic purposes in eco-sensitive zones. It states that in case construction of such roads pass through mangroves, a minimum three times the mangrove area destroyed during the construction process shall be taken up for compensatory plantation of mangroves elsewhere.

- ◆ Allows a number of new activities in the inter-tidal zone between low tide line (LTL) and HTL This includes land reclamation and bunding for foreshore facilities like ports, harbours, jetties, wharves, quays, sea links etc, transfer of hazardous substances from ships to ports, manual mining of atomic minerals, and mining of sand for construction purposes with permission from local authorities in non-eco-sensitive sites.

Island Coastal Regulation Zone

The Central government declared certain coastal stretches of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep as the IPZ; under Section 3 of

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The IPZ Notification, 2011 is related to management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, development in coastal areas, eco-tourism, livelihood options and sustainable development of coastal communities etc;

The coastal stretches of the eight bigger oceanic islands in Andaman and Nicobar namely, Middle Andaman, North Andaman, South Andaman, Great Nicobar, Baratang, Havelock, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar Islands and the water area up to territorial water limits of the country, are declared as the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) as under:

- (i) The land area from high tide line to 200 meters on the landward side along the sea front for Group-I Islands and 100 meters on the landward side along the sea front for Group-II Islands.
- (ii) The eight bigger oceanic islands in Andaman and Nicobar (ICRZ Islands) shall be grouped as follows:

- ◆ **Group-I:** Islands with geographical areas >1000 sq.km such as South Andaman, Middle Andaman, North Andaman and Great Nicobar.

- ◆ **Group-II:** Islands with geographical areas >100 sq.km but < 1000 sq.km such as Baratang, Little Andaman, Havelock and Car Nicobar.

(iii) The ICRZ shall apply to the land area between HTL to 20 meters or width of the creek. The distance of the ICRZ along the tidal influence water bodies, thus determined, shall be demarcated accordingly in the Island Coastal Zone Management Plan.



Clearing the coast

A change in rules by the Centre has paved the way for a tourism project in the Andamans

The project
The Aves Island project proposes to set up luxury tents, consisting of 50 rooms

Built-up area:
5,000 sq m

The catch

- The Integrated Island Management Plan for small islands only permits development activity beyond 60 m from the High Tide Line
- The new notification allows development at 20 m and beyond in small islands

New classification

The notification divides the big, or major, Andaman Islands into two groups:

Group-I: Islands with geographical areas of > 1,000 sq km such as South Andaman, Middle Andaman, North Andaman and Great Nicobar

Group-II: Islands with geographical areas > 100 sq km but < 1,000 sq km such as Baratang, Little Andaman, Havelock and Car Nicobar

Photo for representative purpose only

- (iv) The intertidal zone means the land area between the HTL and the LTL.
- (v) The water and the bed area between the LTL to the territorial water limit (12 Nm) in case of sea and the water and the bed area between LTL at the bank to the LTL on the opposite side of the bank, of tidal influenced water bodies.

Classification of the ICRZ

For the purpose of conserving and protecting the coastal areas and marine waters, the ICRZ area shall be classified as follows, namely:-

ICRZ-I areas are environmentally most critical and shall be further classified as under:

ICRZ-IA: (a) The ICRZ-I A constitute the those ecologically sensitive areas and the geo-morphological features which play a role in the maintaining the integrity of the coast viz.: Mangroves, Corals and coral reefs, Sand Dunes, National parks, marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wild life habitats and other protected areas, Salt Marshes, birds /Turtle nesting grounds, sea grass beds, archaeological and heritage sites.

ICRZ-IB: The area between LTL and HTL shall constitute the ICRZ-IB.

ICRZ-II: The ICRZ-II shall constitute the developed land areas up to or close to the shoreline, within the existing municipal limits or in other existing legally designated urban areas.

ICRZ-III: The land areas that are relatively undisturbed (viz. rural areas etc.) and those do not fall under ICRZ-II, shall constitute ICRZ-III.

ICRZ-IV- It shall constitute the water area and shall be further classified as under:

ICRZ- IVA.- The water area and the sea bed area between the LTL up to twelve (12) nautical miles on the seaward side shall constitute ICRZ-IV A.

ICRZ- IVB.- ICRZ-IV B areas shall include the water area and the bed area between LTL at the bank of the tidal influenced water body to the LTL on the opposite side of the bank, extending from the mouth of the water body at the sea up to the influence of tide, i.e., salinity of five parts per thousand (ppt) during the driest season of the year.

Holistic Development of Islands Program

Sustainable development of islands and overall maritime development has been accorded high priority by the government. Island Development Agency (IDA) an apex body, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister, was constituted in June 2017, while NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the holistic development of Islands program, along with the respective UT administration/state governments. Under the said program in the first phase 10 Islands in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep have been taken up for holistic development. These islands include 5 islands in A&N Islands (i.e. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis and Little Andaman) and 5 in Lakshadweep (i.e. Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriya, Suheli).

Issues and Concerns

There are three luxury tourism projects also coming up on Long Island, Smith Island and Aves Island. Obviously these will have an impact on the fragile ecology of this region like our marine biodiversity including corals and turtle nesting sites. While the notification changed the land use in ICRZ areas to bring in tourism, its impact on the livelihood of local communities have not been taken into account. Additionally, there was no public hearing here before this notification was drafted.

Island ecology is volatile, with changing coastline. So, most activities by the traditional communities in these areas are seasonal in nature. Yet, the government has relied on satellite imagery to demarcate ICRZ categories with little or no corroboration on the ground. This will lead to increase in conflicts in the future.

The new notification was in line with the government's plans of opening up the "blue economy." The legal changes in the IPZ are aligned with the NITI Ayog's proposal for holistic development in the Islands which is being taken forward under the guidance of the Island Development Agency. The first phase of this proposal involves creation of jetties and other infrastructure for eco-tourism projects in ecologically fragile islands.

Way Forward

The changes brought about in the ICRZ Notification will further add to creating additional opportunities for affordable housing. This will benefit not only the housing sector but the people at large looking for shelter.

Tourism has been one of the greatest creators of livelihood and jobs. The new notification will boost tourism in terms of more activities, more infrastructure and more opportunities and will certainly go a long way in creating employment opportunities in various aspects of tourism. This will also give boost to people, desirous of seeing and enjoying the beauty of the mighty seas.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.



6. RELEVANCE OF BHAGAT SINGH IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Context

As India celebrates Martyrs' Day to commemorate the 88th death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Bhagat Singh, who was 'hanged to death' on 23 March 1931, let us look back at the heroic deeds of this legend and find out how relevant they are to the problems of modern day India.

Introduction

We remember Bhagat Singh as a brave-heart, who killed Saunders to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai's death and later dared the British by bombing the Assembly in 1929. His martyrdom is venerated, and rightly so. But we seldom ponder over his intellectual legacy- something which sets him apart from most other martyrs. He has left behind a legacy that everyone wants to appropriate, yet most fail to look beyond the romantic image of a young gun-toting nationalist. Perhaps the reason is that this is the image created in the official colonial records, an image we inherited and accepted as truth.

Colonial records told the common people that revolutionary activities were dastardly crimes, committed for the gratification of money and blood lust. In fact, this is clearly reflected in the contemporary consciousness, particularly of the youth, who visualise Bhagat Singh as someone who terrorised the British through his violent deeds. Today he is an icon. His daring spirit lauded; his posters sold on the pavements and his stickers dot windscreens. It may be heartening to see that he is still loved and venerated but the question is: do we have an understanding of his politics and ideas? Even his early faith in violence and terrorism was qualitatively different from the contemporary terrorist violence and he transcended that, to

eventually espouse a revolutionary vision to transform independent India into a secular, socialist and an egalitarian society.

The Intellectual Legacy of Bhagat Singh and its Relevance

Bhagat Singh has left behind a significant intellectual legacy, which we need to engage with. Had he been alive and lived through independent India, he would have been disappointed with the way we built our new nation.

The Vision of a Classless Society

For him *Inquilab Zindabad* was not merely an emotional war cry but was a lofty ideal to end class distinctions and which would give birth to a new state and a new social order. One of his last messages from prison on March 3rd, 1931 was quite explicit saying, "The struggle in India would continue so long as a handful of exploiters go on exploiting the labour of the common people for their own ends. It matters little whether these exploiters are purely British capitalists, or British and Indians in alliance, or even purely Indian". A young man with this vision for his country would surely be disenchanted to see some paths on the trajectory of India's progress.

Caste and Religious Discriminations

On the societal front we are still trying to make sense and grapple with the issues of caste and religious discriminations. Bhagat Singh had definitive views on both casteism and communalism in the 1920s. In his journalistic writings and court statements, he mocked the political leadership for its hypocrisy in dealing with these crucial issues, expressing surprise that we are still debating who

should be allowed into a temple and who should have access to the Vedas.

In 1928, he wrote, "Our country is in a really bad shape; here the strangest questions are asked but the foremost among them concerns the untouchables... For instance, would contact with an untouchable mean defilement of an upper caste? Would the Gods in the temples not get angry by the entry of untouchables there? Would the drinking water of a well not get polluted if untouchables drew their water from the same well? That these questions are being asked in the twentieth century, is a matter which makes us hang our heads in shame." He was aghast that we claimed to be a spiritual country, yet discriminated against fellow human beings while the materialist West had done away with such inhuman obscenities long ago.

Bhagat Singh categorically said that we need to be inclusive without emphasising on shuddhi or recitation of the kalma. According to him, religion should not matter at all and if otherwise, then it was a social evil. Such an unequivocal position on caste and untouchability is rare to find, even amongst radical social reformers today.

A Plural and Inclusive India

The decade of the 1920s saw a rise in communal politics, from both Hindu and Muslim groups. However, Bhagat Singh steadfastly remained committed to the idea of a plural and inclusive India. He founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha in Lahore in 1926, whose manifesto said, "Religious superstitions and bigotry are a great hindrance in our progress. They have proved an obstacle in our way and we must do away with them. 'The thing that cannot bear free thought must perish'."

Bhagat Singh was acutely conscious of the divisiveness of mixing religion with politics. In an article in 1928 he wrote, "If religion is separated from politics, then all of us can jointly initiate political activities, even though in matters of religion we might have many differences with each other. We feel that the true well-wishers of India would follow these principles and save India from the suicidal path it is on at present."

Today we see that religion and communal forces are becoming part of our state politics. Indian society faces communal disharmony, frequent collision of faiths and ideas. In such circumstances, we should learn from the ideas of Bhagat Singh.

Explaining Anarchism

It cannot be denied that Bhagat Singh was a rebel against the foreign despotic rule over the country, not one who took to arms in order to subvert democratic government working according to the rule of law and will of the people. While discussing the political movements in Europe and Russia, he draws our attention to the fact that the revolutionaries who were trying to bring about a political change through peaceful means were compelled to resort to anti-state 'terrorist' actions as it was the state repression that made it impossible to conduct any peaceful and open political activities.

He was aware of international revolutionary struggles as well. In his three-part article on anarchism (1928) Bhagat Singh observed: "Our retrogressive thinking is destroying us. We keep ourselves entangled in futile discussions about God and heaven and remain busy in talking about the soul and God. We are quick to dub Europe as capitalist and don't think about their great ideas or pay any attention to them. We love divinity and remain aloof from the world." This is what

an anarchist stood for. He reaffirmed that he was not a blood-thirsty young man who believed in the bomb and the pistol, as the colonial government labelled all revolutionaries.

Need of Critical and Independent Thinking

Bhagat Singh wanted to free people from the bondage of religion and superstition. He became an atheist, abandoning all his religious philosophies. In his article, 'Why I am an Atheist' he criticised religious beliefs and urged people to question each and every aspect of religion. He also said that any man who stands for progress has to criticise, disbelieve and challenge every item of the old faith.

Bhagat Singh proclaimed that in order to be a revolutionary, one needs to have moral strength, critical and independent thinking. A majority of present day youths in India lack this quality of critical and independent thinking. We see distorted ideologies imposed on our youths by opportunist leaders based on some old age faith. It is good to see that a vast majority of Indian youths celebrate Bhagat Singh as their role model but at the same time it is also sad to see that they selectively adopt the qualities of this legend. It is completely not their fault. It is the post-independence political organisations of our country which had started appropriating the freedom fighters and using them for their personal profit.

Protecting Rights of Minority

The greatest challenge today is to make sure that the country's institutions live up to democratic principles and to beware of the tyranny by the majority. After all the majority that makes the laws, can also break them, is the fear. Along with political



tyranny by the majority there is fear of social and cultural tyranny, with attempts to stifle minority voices and an imposed regimentation of thought and values.

The challenge is how to get the majority to act according to principles so no community in the country is insulated, discriminated against and is deprived of economic opportunities that will only reinforce a sense of social alienation among a large number of young people. It is solace that Bhagat Singh was able to shrug off the influence of religion from his psyche through criticism of the self and deep self-examination. Bhagat Singh's life is inspiring as India today struggles to put into practice the principle that rights of all citizens are respected including those of the majority and of the minority.

The Concept of Universal Brotherhood

Bhagat Singh imagined a world where "all of us being one and none is the other. It will really be a comforting time when the world will have no strangers." All those who are busy "othering" and creating strangers out of their own fellow citizens need to grapple with Bhagat Singh's views, instead of merely glorifying him as a martyr. He emphatically exclaimed that "as long as words like black and white, civilized and uncivilized, ruler and the ruled, rich and poor, touchable and untouchable, etc., are in vogue

there was no scope for universal brotherhood". He went on to say, "We will have to campaign for equality and equity. Will have to punish those who oppose the creation of such a world." Among the heroes of our freedom struggle, he was perhaps the only one who had this vision at such a young age. In today's world with the growing xenophobic, racist and anti-immigrant trend the idea of 'Universal Brotherhood' is what the world is in dire need of.

Conclusion

Bhagat Singh and other revolutionary leaders led a violent socialist revolutionary movement in Northern parts of India. It was not a mass movement, unlike Congress. But, this movement spread deep patriotism, courage, determination, sense of sacrifice and nationalist ideas among Indians.

Bhagat Singh evokes boundless approbation from people who already have a surfeit of heroes, for reasons that are far from simple. When most senior leaders of the country had only one immediate goal — the attainment of freedom, Bhagat Singh, hardly out of his teens, had the prescience to look beyond the immediate. He was no ordinary revolutionary with a passion to die or kill for the cause of freedom. His vision was to establish a classless society and his short life was dedicated to the pursuit of this ideal.

Bhagat Singh: Some Associated Facts

Bhagat Singh (born September 27, 1907, Lyallpur, western Punjab, India (now in Pakistan)—died March 23, 1931, Lahore (now in Pakistan)), was a revolutionary hero of the Indian independence movement.

He attended Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School, which was operated by Arya Samaj (a reform sect of modern Hinduism), and then National College, both located in Lahore. He began to protest British rule in India while still a youth and soon fought for national independence. He also worked as a writer and editor in Amritsar for Punjabi- and Urdu-language newspapers espousing Marxist theories. He is credited with popularizing the catchphrase "Inquilab zindabad".

In 1925, he initiated Naujawan Bharat Sabha and became involved in numerous revolutionary activities. He quickly gained prominence in the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) and became one of its chief leaders. Eventually, the name of the organization was changed to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) in the year 1928.

In 1928 Bhagat Singh plotted with others to kill the police chief responsible for the death of Indian writer and politician Lala Lajpat Rai, one of the founders of National College, during a silent march opposing the Simon Commission. Instead, in a case of mistaken identity, junior officer J.P. Saunders was killed, and Bhagat Singh had to flee Lahore to escape the death penalty. In 1929 he and an associate lobbed a bomb at the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi to protest the implementation of the Defence of India Act and then surrendered. He was hanged at the age of 24 for the murder of Saunders.

The lesson left to humanity by Bhagat Singh's short and sweet life is to never ignore the exploitation of the already poor by the wealthy, influential and the powerful. Young as he was, Bhagat Singh had kept a critical touch with the self. He had encouraged his social and political consciousness to keep transforming for the better. His focus was on the education and enlightenment of the youth for a revolutionary transformation and for political mobilisation against the exploitation of any one person by another.

However, most of his ideals remain elusive. Today, we have moved away from the commitments of Bhagat Singh and his revolutionary organisations – Naujawan Bharat Sabha and the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. Mere valorisation of his nationalism and ultimate sacrifice is true but sadly incomplete. In these rancorous times, his intellectual bequest should be a beacon to build a new India.

General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Topic: Social empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.



7. WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT-2019 : AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

In 2018, India came in 133rd place and has fallen to the 140th of the 156 nations on UN's 2019 World Happiness Report. It is an annual publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) that classifies countries based on variables like income, freedom, trust, healthy

life expectancy, social support and generosity.

Introduction

Humanity has been thinking about happiness for a long time and in several different ways. The Buddha and Aristotle were among the early happiness philosophers. The Buddha's thinking on achieving happiness (which

he thought about in terms of escaping suffering) is summarized in the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path. Aristotle had a different viewpoint, and argued that man is a social animal, with individual happiness secured only within a political community, or polis. The polis should organize itself to promote virtuous behavior. In addition to it, different cultures and languages

ascribe different meaning to happiness too.

Amartya Sen recently drew on linguistic philosophy to make a key distinction between two quite different ways of using the word 'happiness'. One is happiness as an emotion, e.g. 'Are you happy now?', which elicits someone's mood. The other involves a judgmental use of the word, e.g. 'Are you happy with your life as a whole these days?' which asks someone to make a cognitive evaluation of the quality of something.

Though, dictionary definition of happiness is the state of feeling or showing pleasure or contentment, however, this definition is not the end-all, be-all definition of happiness. In fact, the definition of happiness is not a "settled" debate.

World Happiness Report – 2019

The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness that ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be. The 2019 report is the 7th World Happiness Report. The first was released in April 2012 in support of a UN High level meeting on "Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm". That report presented the available global data on national happiness and reviewed related evidence from the emerging science of happiness, showing that the quality of people's lives can be coherently, reliably and validly assessed by a variety of subjective well-being measures, collectively referred to then and in subsequent reports as "happiness." This year's World Happiness Report focuses on happiness and the community: how happiness has evolved over the past dozen years, with a focus on the technologies, social norms, conflicts and government policies that have driven those changes.

The happiness index is a composite index which composed by the level of satisfaction towards 10 essential life aspects. The ten aspects of life substantially and simultaneously reflect the level of happiness which includes satisfaction on health, education, employment, household income, family harmony, leisure time, social relations, housing condition and assets, environmental conditions and security conditions.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Finland has been ranked as the world's happiest country for the second year. The other Nordic countries, as well as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, New Zealand and Austria also made the top ten.
- ◆ Despite being one of the richest countries in the world, the United States holds the 19th rank on the list, clearly suggesting that money is not the strongest key to happiness.
- ◆ According to the report, Pakistan holds 67th rank, Bangladesh 125th and China 93rd. The most unhappy are the people in war-torn South Sudan, which is followed by Central African Republic (155), Afghanistan (154), Tanzania (153) and Rwanda (152).
- ◆ Between countries, large gaps in happiness will continue to create pressure for migration.
- ◆ Among the 20 top gainers since the 2005-2008 average ranking were 10 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, five in sub-Saharan Africa and three in Latin America, while the five that fell the most were Yemen, India, Syria, Botswana and Venezuela.

Finland Experience

For the second year in a row, Finland has been named the happiest country in the world by the World Happiness

Report. Thus, it is important to understand that why Finland is doing so well.

The Northern European country has a strong social safety net, including a progressive, successful approach to ending homelessness. It also has a high-quality education system and its commitment to closing the gender gap is paying off. With a population of just over 5.5 million people, it's the only country in the developed world where fathers spend more time with school-aged children than mothers.

Taking their achievement to the next level, Finland is now inviting people from around the world to come and learn to live like them, with the help of a local Finn. A new tourism campaign was launched on March 18 with the tagline: "Rent your very own Finn. Find your calm."

India and Happiness

India is one of the five countries which have been declining in average life evaluations since 2005-2008, typically due to a poor combination of economics, political and social stresses. It is an unflattering statement that despite India's status as the fastest growing economy with an ever-expanding GDP, its happiness quotient is almost on par with countries that have been battered by war for years or are in financial doldrums.

A sustained drop in India's well-being (now ranked 140th) is responsible for driving the region's well-being decline. In fact, India performed so poorly and its population is so significant that it dragged down the entire global happiness levels.

Economic policies like demonetization and the Goods and Services Tax, which hit the trading community, especially small traders and the rising unemployment levels, have added to the level of unhappiness and found expression in the sinking levels in this year's World Happiness ranking data.

The economic unhappiness is also observed in the Oxfam Report on 'Rise in inequality' and data on unemployment which are some of the considerable yet worrisome examples, highlighting income disparity, rise in poverty and consequent rise in stress in the lives of Indians. As the elections approach, it would be the responsibility of the new government to ensure happiness to its citizens alongside policies and economic prosperity of the nation.

However, the survey found positive statistics related to India, as well. It said Indians reported higher happiness when they reflected on times they have spent money on others versus themselves. Over a quarter of the Indian population—25.9%—said they donated to charitable causes in the last month.

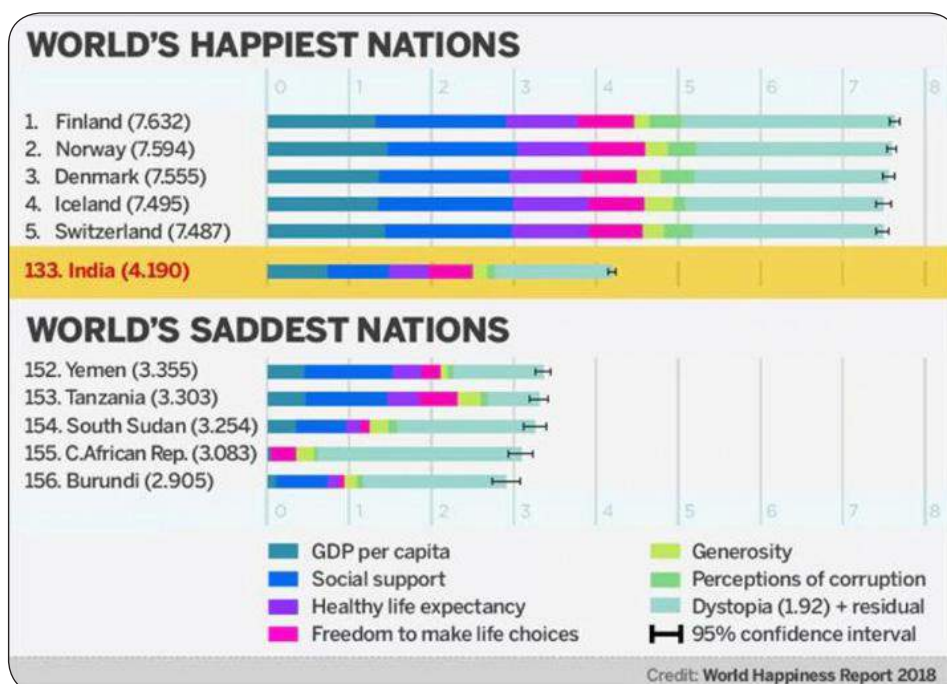
It also found that digital advancements in India are helping to curb corruption. For example, the use of fingerprint and iris recognition technology is allowing the government to directly pay Indians on welfare schemes and stop relying on dishonest middlemen.

Good governance is one of the core variables that this survey is based on. But it works in two ways: government determines public happiness by enacting good policy and citizens create happiness by electing effective governments.

But, more research needs to be done to understand what's going on in India. Indian case is a stark reminder that high economic growth does not necessarily go along with improvements in happiness. Indeed, it can often come at the expense of people's social connections and the happiness of their daily lives.

Human Development and Happiness

At present each and every country has an aim to develop economically whether the country is developed or



developing. All countries try to increase the level of employment and income. Generally increased level of per capita income and national income is the indicator of economic development.

Economic growth is measured by Gross National Product (GNP), Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Happiness (GNH). In the developed nation due to capital formation industrial sector is well settled and employment level, income level, living standard and infrastructure all are in good condition. On the other side in the developing nations due to lack of capital and dependency on agriculture, the level of employment, income and infrastructure is in very terrific condition.

Governments of all countries always try to improve its economic condition by making so many policies. But the question is that how to measure the economic development of a country. From a policy perspective, economic development can be defined as efforts that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community by creating and retaining jobs and supporting or growing incomes. On basis of economic development at global level many indices are given like human

development, human poverty index etc.

Human Development is just the expansion of income and wealth. Human development finds the theories of human capital formation and human resource development inadequate as they view human beings primarily as means rather than ends. Happiness is the ultimate aspiration of human being so the nation needs that their population has happiness. A country with happy population can develop so fast because happy man contributes more than an unhappy man. So, it can be said that HDI and GNH both are the best indicators of economic development of a country.

Economic Growth and Happiness

Philosophers from Aristotle to the Beatles have argued that money does not buy happiness. Since 2005 Gallup, a pollster, has asked a representative sample of adults from countries across the world to rate their life satisfaction on a scale from zero to ten. The headline result is clear: the richer the country, on average, the higher the level of self-reported happiness. The simple correlation suggests that doubling

GDP per person lifts life satisfaction by about 0.7 points.

Yet the prediction that as a country gets richer its mood will improve has a dubious record. In 1974 Richard Easterlin, an economist, discovered that average life satisfaction in America had stagnated between 1946 and 1970 even as GDP per person had grown by 65% over the same period. He went on to find a similar disconnect in other places, too. Although income is correlated with happiness when looking across countries—and although economic downturns are reliable sources of temporary misery—long-term GDP growth does not seem to be enough to turn the average frown upside-down.

The “Easterlin paradox” has been hotly disputed since, with some economists claiming to find a link between growth and rising happiness by using better quality data.

There are important examples of national income and happiness rising and falling together. The most significant—in terms of population—is China, where GDP per person has

doubled over a decade, while average happiness has risen by 0.43 points. Among rich countries Germany enjoys higher incomes and greater cheer than ten years ago. Venezuela, once the fifth-happiest country in the world, has become miserable as its economy has collapsed.

Yet that correlation is very weak. Of the 125 countries for which good data exist, 43 have seen GDP per person and happiness move in opposite directions. Like China, India is a populous developing economy that is growing quickly. But happiness is down by about 1.2 points in the past decade. America, the subject of Easterlin’s initial study, has again seen happiness fall as the economy has grown. In total the world’s population looks roughly equally divided between places where happiness and incomes have moved in the same direction over the past ten years, and places where they have diverged.

Conclusion

Although we all experience happiness, we don’t share an understanding of

what it means, especially on a global scale. What the 2019 World Happiness Report foregrounds is that a better grasp of happiness may help us to understand the changing dynamics of societies and political behavior around the world.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

General Studies Paper- IV

Topic: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Mission Shakti : India's Successful Kill

Q1. "Mission Shakti' is a step towards muscle-building, not muscle-flexing." Discuss its implications in weaponising outer space.

Hints:

- ◆ On March 27, 2019 India conducted Mission Shakti, an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test. Anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons are missile-based systems to attack moving satellites. So far the United States, China and Russia were the only ones who've reported the ability to shoot down space objects from ground or airborne sources.
- ◆ India's future war plans include a satellite-based dedicated Defence Communications Network (DCN), which will provide secure and reliable inter-service communications. In the meantime, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) will provide military-grade accuracy to the navigation and targeting capabilities of airborne platforms, thus multiplying their effectiveness.
- ◆ The flip side to the deployment of satellites for dominance is that it opens up a window of vulnerability. If adversary is able to shoot down some of India's military satellites, it would partially degrade India's war fighting capabilities in a networked sensor-fused battlefield.
- ◆ China's ASAT shot in 2007 resulted in a shower of 3,000 fragments that are still troubling spacecraft. Unlike China, India has acted in a responsible manner. The DRDO targeted a micro satellite in a low 300 km orbit, and the debris from the test will re-enter earth's atmosphere in two-three weeks. But still Mission Shakti may have created 6500 pieces of space debris.
- ◆ India wanted to maintain peace rather than indulge in warmongering. And, by targeting a low-orbit satellite, the missile test did the utmost possible to minimize space debris, which is an issue of international concern.
- ◆ Further, India has never shown any inclination towards space weaponisation and neither does it want to take it up now. But its foundations of peace should rest on strong military capabilities. Mission Shakti is a step towards muscle-building, not muscle-flexing.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Q2. The Constitution of India promises justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to all our citizens. However, discrimination denies these cherished constitutional promises. Cases of discrimination continue to be witnessed in all spheres of social, economic and political life. Critically Examine.

Hints:

- ◆ Racism is the reality that generations of racist attitudes are now woven into our systems and institutions like poisonous threads, hurting us all. They are frequently directed against dalits, muslims, women, persons of different sexual orientations persons with disabilities, persons from North-Eastern States unmarried couples and non-vegetarians, among others.
- ◆ Existing constitutional protections against discrimination under articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 are not sufficient and need to be strengthened with additional statutory protections in order to realize their intended purpose. The constitutional directives under articles 38, 39 and 46, as well as the Fundamental Duty of all citizens under clauses (c) and (e) of article 51A are also intended towards ensuring equality among all.
- ◆ There is a need to protect everyone who are subject to all forms of unfair discrimination under a single comprehensive legislation which should be neutral and free from bias. Although it is normally minorities that are at the receiving end of discrimination, the law, in order to be sound, should encompass all citizens. It must protect both minorities as well as majorities, which is the intention of this Bill.
- ◆ Instead of merely mandating punishment for offences we must simultaneously engender greater understanding and empathy within the system among the individuals who constitute that system. It is also noted that India is at present an exception among liberal democracies for not enacting a comprehensive law against discrimination, covering both the public and the private sectors.
- ◆ It must be recognized that membership of a group should never adversely affect a citizen's life, and that there is a need to protect all groups and citizens

from discrimination in the interests of national unity and diversity. India is amongst the few regimes with a constitutional commitment to a liberal democracy that nevertheless lack a comprehensive, multi-ground, antidiscrimination legislation.

Changing Land Use Pattern and Climate Change

Q3. Discuss the factors influencing land-use pattern in a region. Also examine the impact of changing land use pattern on climate change.

Hints:

- ◆ According to the 'Global Resources Outlook 2019, we are ploughing through this planet's finite resources as if there is no tomorrow, causing climate change and biodiversity loss along the way. By 2010, land-use changes had caused a loss of global species of approximately 11 percent.
- ◆ There are two types of land use change: direct anthropogenic (human-caused) changes and indirect changes. Examples of anthropogenic changes include deforestation, reforestation and afforestation, agriculture, and urbanization. Indirect changes include those changes in climate or in carbon dioxide concentrations that force changes in vegetation.
- ◆ Urbanization is another change in land use that can affect the climate, sometimes significantly. Local climates tend to be warmer due to the increased amount of heat released within a densely populated area.
- ◆ While scientists reassure us, though, that it is still not too late to avert the worst-case scenarios of ecosystem collapse and a climate-run riot. But for that, the world would need to reframe its engagement with climate change.
- ◆ What is desperately needed at this moment is a manifesto for the protection of the commons and open lands, and for the re-creation of economies that derive value out of healing wounded landscapes and covering open lands with diverse vegetation, water and life. For this, we need to defer to the Constitution and ensure that those who are challenging 'development' projects like the bullet train can speak without fear.

Urban Employment Guarantee : Hope Kindles at Last

Q4. 'In the context of the present employment crises, there is a need to introduce an employment guarantee programme in urban areas and promote the new ways for sustainable development of India's small and medium towns.' Critically discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ According to the leaked data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India is in the midst of a massive jobs crisis. The unemployment rate has reached a 45-year high (6.1%) in 2017-18 .
- ◆ While the MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of work to any rural household that chooses to avail of it, there is no similar pan-India scheme for urban areas. Hence, we need new ways to promote the sustainable development of India's small and medium towns.
- ◆ The urban employment guarantee scheme needs to be conceived differently from MNREGS to suit the dissimilar contexts. Urban unemployment is not restricted to unskilled manual labour, unlike in the rural side.
- ◆ The basic premise of a healthy rural to urban economic transformation is to transfer workers from low-skill and low-productivity professions to high-skill jobs. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for an urban employment guarantee scheme to ensure this.
- ◆ The introduction of the scheme shall lead to such welcome spinoffs as higher investment in public infrastructure in the urban areas, higher wage rates and an increase in women workers' participation.

Island Protection Zone : Towards Holistic Development of Islands

Q5. Existing situation calls for formulation of suitable strategies for holistic development of identified Islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The Island Protection Zone is major step to align with the NITI Aayog's proposal for holistic development in the Islands. Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ Realizing the potential in Andaman and Nicobar and more or less similar potential in Lakshadweep, holistic development of identified Islands has been accorded high priority by the Government. NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the process of Holistic Development of Islands. The Central Government declared certain coastal stretches of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep as the Island Protection Zone; under Section 3 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ◆ Existing situation calls for formulation of suitable strategies for holistic development of identified Islands. Effective implementation of well-planned strategies in tourism and other key economic sectors would lead to creation of more jobs and generation of additional income for the Islanders. However, while planning

development interventions, both the ecological concerns and the tribal-related issues need to be fully addressed so as to ensure a sustainable development process.

- ◆ In view of the need to ensure ecological stability and also to safeguard the interests of the tribal population, development projects have to be planned carefully and scientifically. Careful planning is required also to ensure no threat to security of the strategically-located Islands. More than 500 islands, islets and coral rocks in Andaman & Nicobar carry strategic importance in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Relevance of Bhagat Singh in Contemporary Society

Q6. With the growing trend of racialism, communalism and human rights violations of minorities in the contemporary period, the ideas and ideals of Bhagat Singh are very much relevant. Critically Examine.

Hints:

- ◆ India celebrates Martyrs' Day to commemorate the 88th death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Bhagat Singh, who was 'hanged to death' on 23 March 1931.
- ◆ For him Inquilab Zindabad was not merely an emotional war cry but was a lofty ideal to end class distinctions and which would give birth to a new state and a new social order. A young man with this vision for his country would surely be disenchanted to see some paths on the trajectory of India's progress.
- ◆ Bhagat Singh had definitive views on both casteism and communalism in the 1920s. In his journalistic writings and court statements, he mocked the political leadership for its hypocrisy in dealing with these crucial issues, expressing surprise that we are still debating who should be allowed into a temple and who should have access to the Vedas.
- ◆ The greatest challenge today is to make sure that the country's institutions live up to democratic principles and to beware of the tyranny by the majority. Bhagat Singh's life is inspiring as India today struggles to put into practice the principle that rights of all citizens are respected including those of the majority and of the minority.
- ◆ Today we see that religion and communal forces are becoming part of our state politics. Indian society faces communal disharmony, frequent collision of faiths and ideas. In such circumstances, we should learn from the ideas of Bhagat Singh.
- ◆ However, most of his ideals remain elusive. Today, we have moved away from the commitments of Bhagat Singh. Mere valorisation of his nationalism and ultimate sacrifice is true but sadly incomplete. In these rancorous times, his intellectual bequest should be a beacon to build a new India.

World Happiness Report-2019 : An Overview

Q7. Describe the happiness levels of society and the factors that influence happiness. Why government must evaluate, formulate and improve policies continuously related to improve happiness in individual's life.

Hints:

- ◆ In 2018, India came in 133rd place, and has fallen to the 140th of the 156 nations on UN's 2019 World Happiness Report.
- ◆ India is one of the five countries which have been declining in average life evaluations since 2005-2008, typically due to a poor combination of economics, political, and social stresses. It is an unflattering statement that despite India's status as the fastest growing economy with an ever-expanding GDP, its happiness quotient is almost on par with countries that have been battered by war for years or are in financial doldrums.
- ◆ In the developed nation due to capital formation industrial sector is well settled and employment level, income level, living standard and infrastructure all are in good condition. On the other side in the developing nations due to lack of capital and dependency on agriculture, the level of employment, income and infrastructure is in very terrific condition.
- ◆ There are important examples of national income and happiness rising and falling together. The most significant—in terms of population—is China, where GDP per person has doubled over a decade, while average happiness has risen by 0.43 points. Among rich countries Germany enjoys higher incomes and greater cheer than ten years ago. Venezuela, once the fifth-happiest country in the world, has become miserable as its economy has collapsed.
- ◆ Although we all experience happiness, we don't share an understanding of what it means, especially on a global scale. What the 2019 World Happiness Report foregrounds is that a better grasp of happiness may help us to understand the changing dynamics of societies and political behavior around the world.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. IUCN Red List

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has confirmed one of the world's largest and most iconic freshwater fish—the humpbacked mahseer, now critically endangered and on the brink of extinction. The humpback mahseer found only in the Cauvery basin (including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers). The fish is one of the 229 species added to the Red List last November; this update also reveals that the threat status of 12 other Indian species, including great hornbills, has increased.

The inclusion of the mahseer in the Red List, was possible only once the fish got its scientific name —*Tor remadevii* last June. Now, securing the future of the hump-backed mahseer would depend on the strong willingness and

cooperation of a range of stakeholders in three states—Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka—in the Cauvery, one of India's most contested rivers.

Other Species

Five other species have also made it to threatened categories: two wild orchids, the Arabian scad (a marine fish) and two wild coffee species found only in a few localities in the Western Ghats. While 31 species that were already in the Red List have been down-listed (since threats are not as significant as earlier thought or due to conservation efforts), the threat status of 12 species has increased. The great hornbill (found in India and southeast Asia) was earlier categorised as "Near Threatened". It is now "Vulnerable" due to high hunting pressure coupled

with habitat loss and deforestation, while the wreathed hornbill has moved from "Least Concern" to "Vulnerable".

IUCN Red List

Established in 1964, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has evolved to become the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species.

It is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. Far more than a list of species and their status, it is a powerful tool to inform and catalyze action for biodiversity conservation and policy change, critical to protecting the natural resources we need to survive.

2. Fiscal Council

Stressing on the need to have uniform rules for fiscal consolidation of states and Centre, Fifteenth Finance Commission's Chairman N.K. Singh has called for institutional mechanism like a 'Fiscal Council' to enforce fiscal rules and keep a check on Centre's fiscal consolidation. N. K. Singh had earlier headed the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Review Committee, which in its report in 2017, had proposed creation of an autonomous Fiscal Council with representatives from both states and Centre, but the recommendation was not implemented.

Need for Fiscal Council

- ◆ For state government liabilities, Article 293 (3) provides a constitutional check over borrowings. But there is no such restriction on the Centre.
- ◆ Various cesses and surcharges are becoming disproportionate proportion of overall divisible revenue. There should be some mechanism to ensure that the basic spirit of the devolution process should not be undercut by clever financial engineering or taking recourse to traditions.

- ◆ There is a need for coordination between the finance commission as well as the GST Council. GST Council has no clue of what the Finance Commission is doing and Finance Commission has even lesser clue of what the GST Council is doing.
- ◆ Therefore, it is time to have an alternative institutional mechanism like Fiscal Council to enforce fiscal rules and keep a check on Centre's fiscal consolidation.

3. Biomedical Research Career Programme

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP).

Key Highlights

- ◆ BRCP seeks to build and nurture talent of highest global standards in cutting-edge biomedical research in India.
- ◆ It is implemented by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and WellcomeTrust, a UK based biomedical research charity.
- ◆ In over 10 years the Programme has

fulfilled its objectives of building and nurturing talent of highest global standards in cutting-edge biomedical research in India, which has led to important scientific breakthroughs and applications to meet societal needs.

- ◆ BRCP has made it attractive for high quality Indian scientists working abroad to return to India, and has increased the number of locations geographically within India where world-class biomedical research is undertaken.

- ◆ With extension of phase, the Programme would continue to build this capacity as also strengthen clinical research and work towards addressing important health challenges for India.

About Wellcome Trust

It was established in 1936 as an independent charity funding research to improve human and animal health. It is the largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research in the United Kingdom. ■

4. Note Verbale

India has raised with Pakistan the alleged abduction of two minor Hindu girls in that country and their alleged conversion to Islam. The government raised the matter through a note verbale sent to the Pakistan Foreign Ministry.

What is Note Verbale?

A note verbale is a diplomatic communication from one government to another, delivered through each other's diplomatic representatives. Like many other diplomatic terms, note verbale is French term and literally means a verbal note, because

it was meant to be delivered orally to the recipient. In modern times, it is a written note. A note verbale is written on the sending entity's letterhead and stamped with that entity's seal, but not signed. It is written in the third person.

Notes verbale are the commonest method of formal diplomatic communication. They are used to convey information or requests of all kinds.

Other forms of formal diplomatic communication

A demarche is a more formal type of communication of one government's

official position, views, or wishes on a given subject to an appropriate official in another government. According to the US Department of State, "demarches generally seek to persuade, inform, or gather information from a foreign government. Governments may also use a demarche to protest or object to actions by a foreign government".

A demi official (DO) is used only when the addressee and the representative know each other extremely well and occupy high office. ■

5. World Food Programme

Japan has donated 69 million dollars to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide vital aid to 28 countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, with the biggest shares of the money earmarked for Yemen and Iraq. Japan is one of WFP's top donors and has contributed \$958 million to the UN agency since 2014. The Japanese funding will go towards food, nutrition and initiatives to build resilience in vulnerable populations. \$18 million will be used to give continued support

to needy families in war-wracked Yemen where over 20 million people are struggling to get enough to eat each day.

A total of \$3.5 million of life-saving assistance will be given to Malian refugees in Mauritania and to people who have fled their homes due to conflict and food shortages in Mali. Host communities sheltering the Malian refugees and internally displaced persons will also receive aid.

Japan continues to support the Sahel where conflict and climate change have left millions facing hunger and malnutrition, and the funds will also be used to promote children's full growth and the health of pregnant and breastfeeding women, in order to help change lives and break the cycle of poverty.

Need

Today, we are facing a rise in the number of hungry people globally,

reaching 821 million people without peace and stability, we will not achieve our long-term goal of Zero Hunger.

About WFP

It is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing

lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. It is assisting 91.4 million people in around 83 countries each year. WFP's efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and

rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. Two-thirds of WFP's work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict.



6. GRAPES-3

For the first time in the world, researchers at the Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3 (GRAPES-3) muon telescope facility in Ooty have measured the electrical potential, size and height of a thundercloud that passed overhead on December 1, 2014. At 1.3 gigavolts (GV), this cloud had 10 times higher potential than the previous record in a cloud. This is not because clouds with such high potentials are a rarity, but rather, because the methods of detection have not been successful so far.

Clouds have negative charges along their lower side and positive charges on top and can be several kilometres thick. If balloons are used to measure the potential difference between the top and bottom, they will take hours to

traverse the distance. Unfortunately, thunderstorms last only for about 15-20 minutes, and this method fails.

Muons and other particles are produced when cosmic rays bombard air particles surrounding the earth. The muons produced can have positive or negative charge. When a positively charged muon falls through a cloud, it loses energy. If its energy falls below 1 giga electron volt (GeV), which is the threshold of detection of the GRAPES-3 muon telescope, it goes undetected. On the contrary, a negatively charged muon gains energy when falling through the cloud and gets detected. Since there are more positive than negative muons produced in nature, the two effects don't cancel out, and a net change in intensity is detected.

Background

From April 2011 to December 2014, the group studied the variation of muon intensity during 184 thunderstorms. In seven events they came across thunderclouds that corresponded to a large change in muon intensity, of above 0.4%. They also simultaneously monitored the profiles of the clouds using four ground-based electric field monitors.

About GRAPES-3

The GRAPES-3 is a collaboration of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India and the Osaka City University, Osaka, Japan. It is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.



7. India Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy

Quoting data released by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Young Lives – an international study on childhood poverty, said, the prevalence of child marriage amongst 15-19 years old and 20-24 years old is 11.9% and 26.8% respectively for girls in India, highlighting a declining trend in child marriage. Child marriage prevalence in rural and urban India is 14.1% and 6.9% respectively for age group 15-19 years and 31.5% and 17.5% respectively for rural and urban areas for age group 20-24 years.

State Level Analysis

The prevalence of child marriage differs substantially across states. While twelve states in India show a higher prevalence of child marriage

than the national average, other states have a relatively lower prevalence than the national average. Surpassing Rajasthan, Bihar and even Haryana, West Bengal has now topped the charts with the highest number of child marriages in the country.

Tripura occupies the second position with respect to the highest prevalence of child marriages among girls aged 15-19 years at 21.6% which is significantly higher than the national average of 11.9%.

Findings reveal that prevalence of girl child marriage in the age-group 15-19 years is significant in rural areas. However, there are certain states including UTs which have large pockets of child marriage within urban areas. Some of these states are Haryana

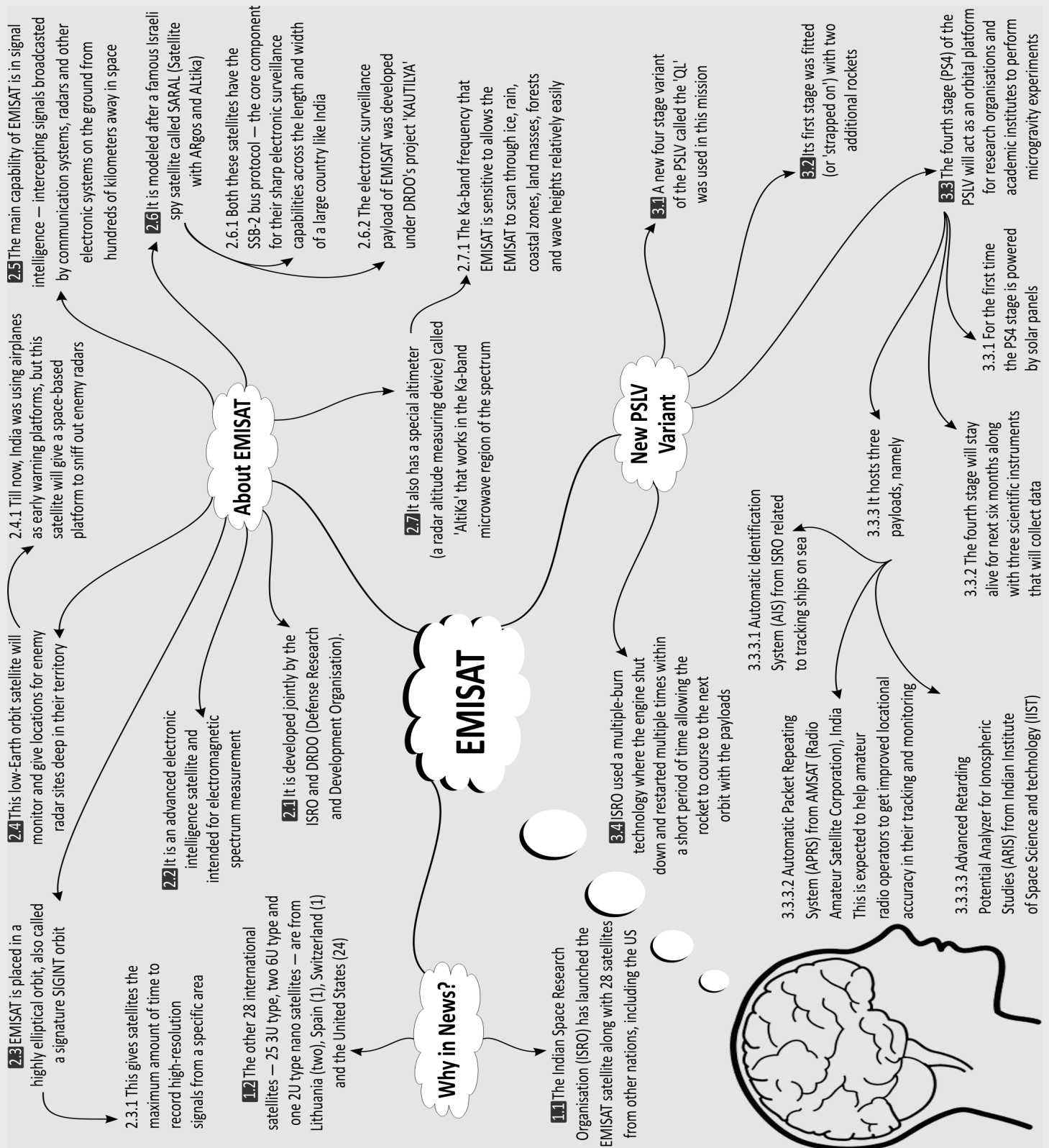
(41%), Tamil Nadu (37%), Maharashtra (33%) and Manipur (32%).

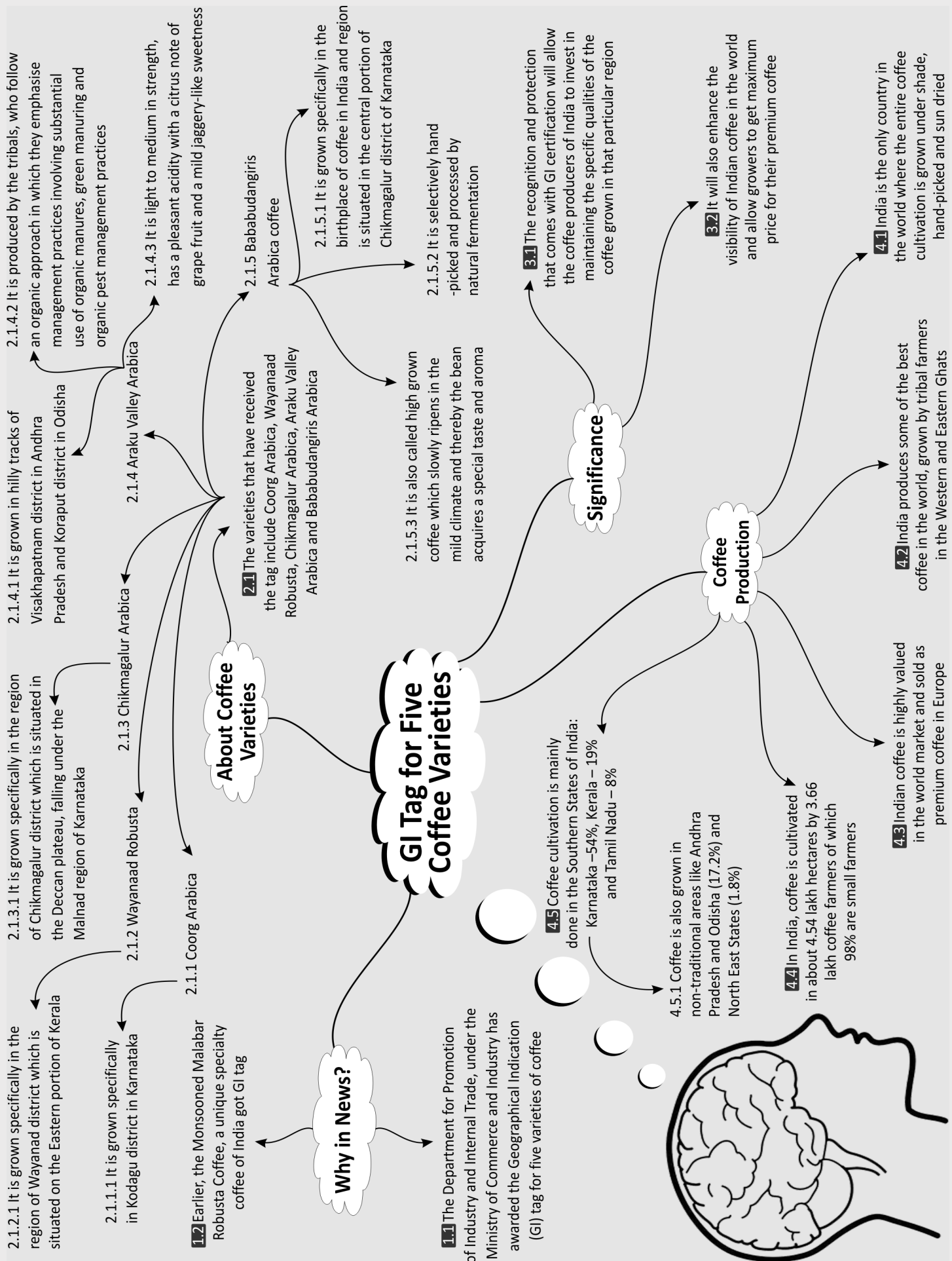
Teenage Pregnancy

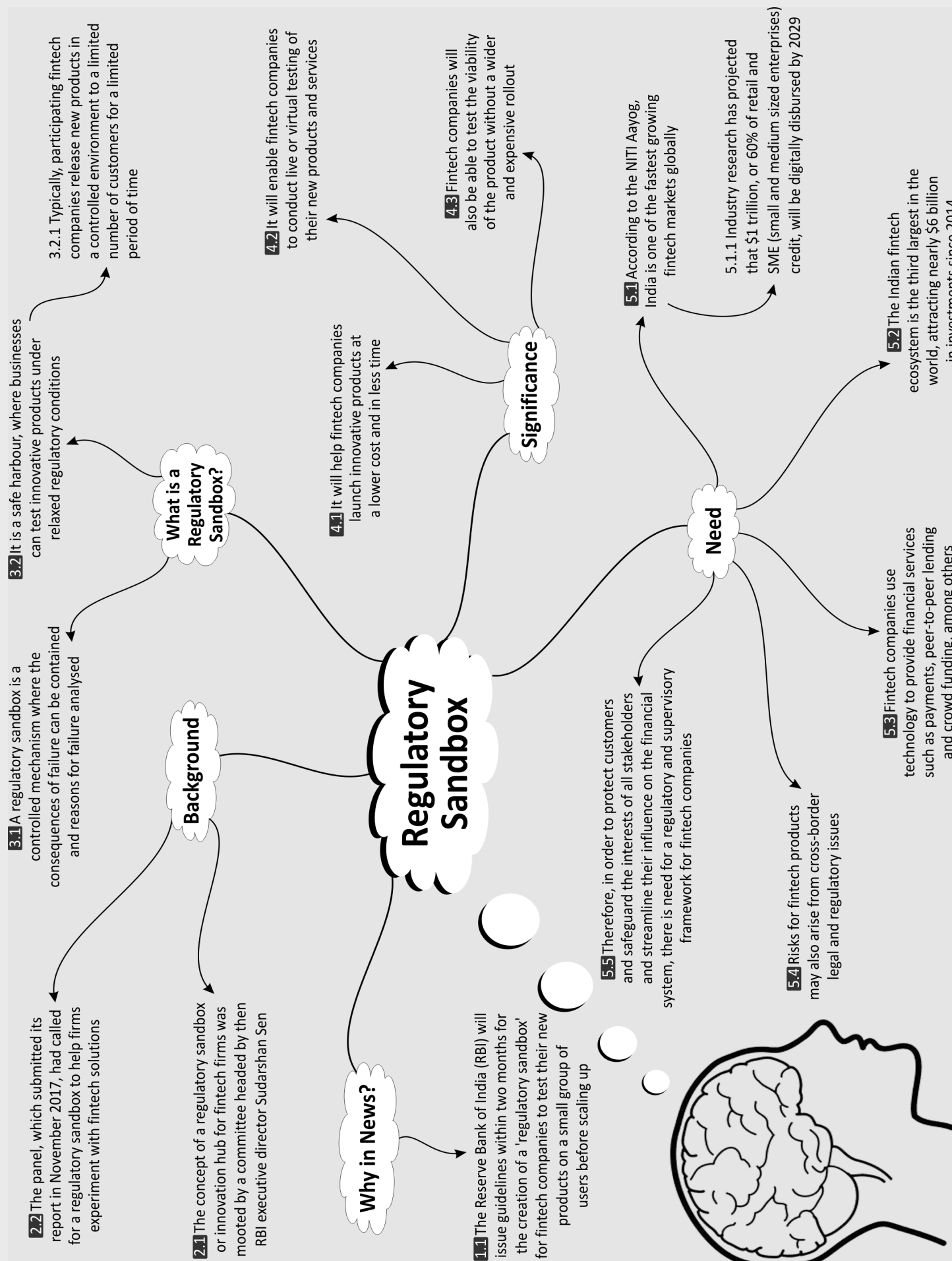
According to the report, 27.3 percent of married teenage girls have given birth to one child while 4.2 percent of married girls have two or more children. The pattern of children ever born amongst these girls differs across different states in India. Findings reveal that there are 12 states where more than 40% of these girls have at least one child or more. Interestingly we find emergence of states such as Goa (64%), Mizoram (61%) and Meghalaya (53%) with the highest prevalence of teenage pregnancy amongst early married girls.

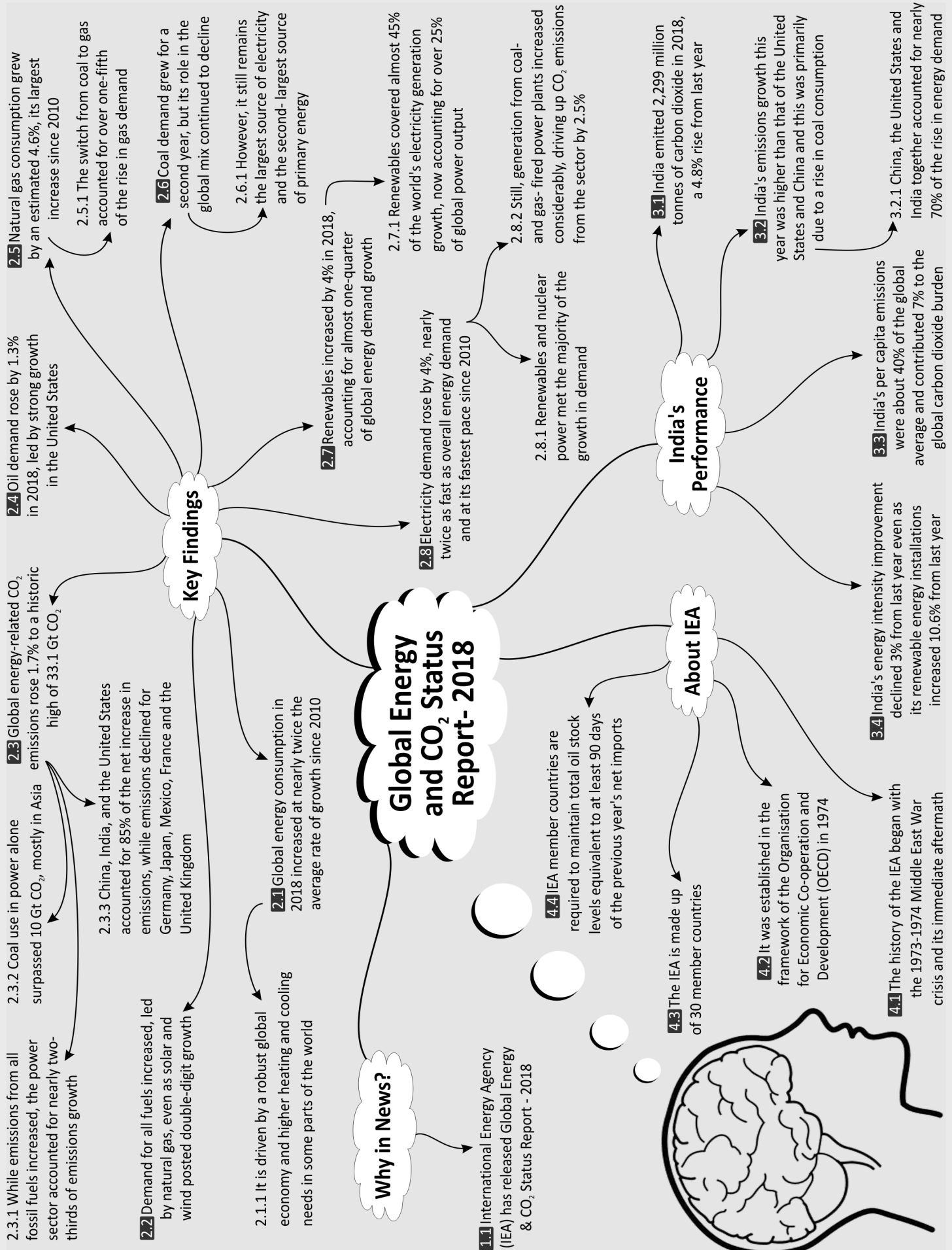


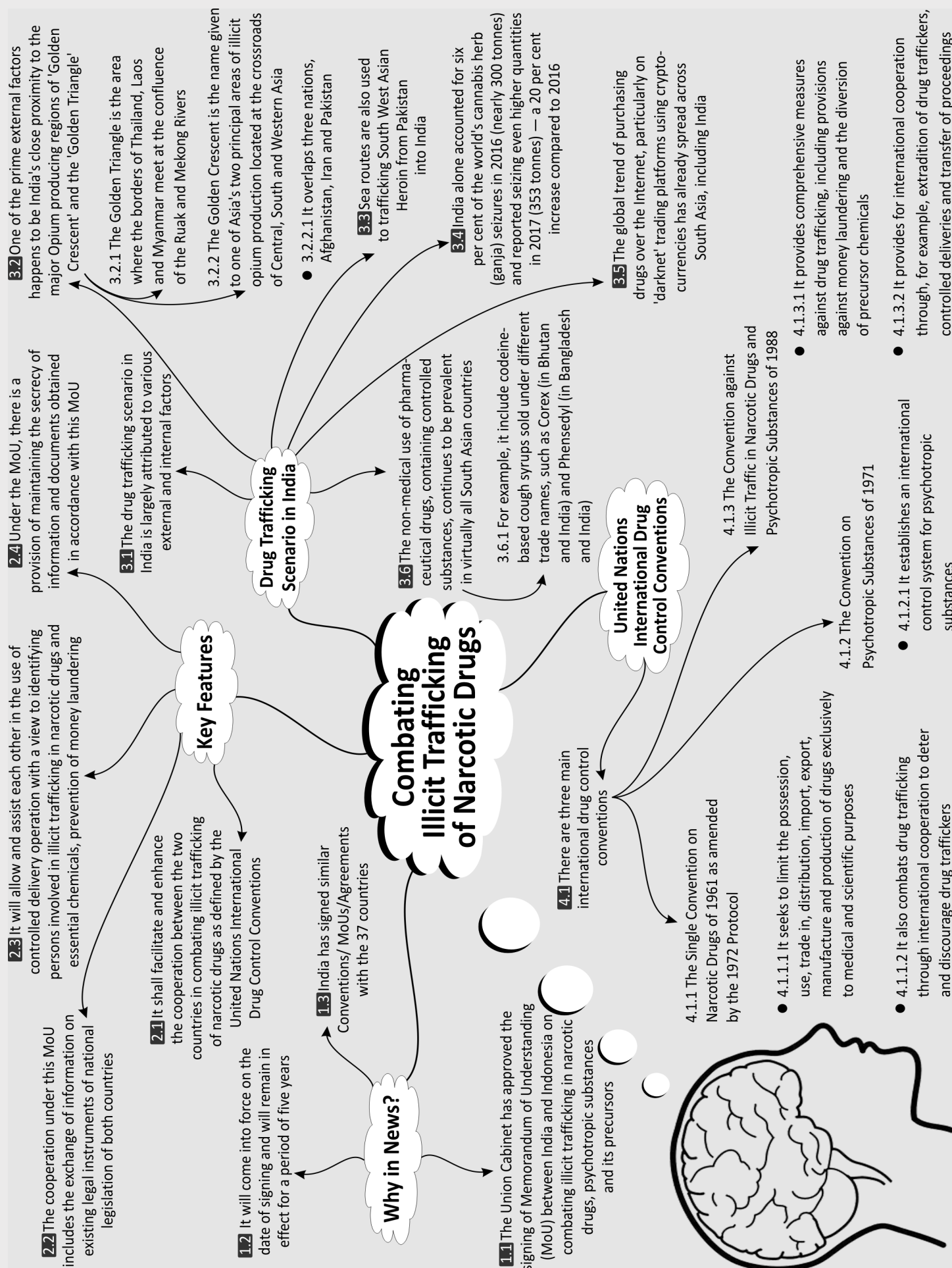
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

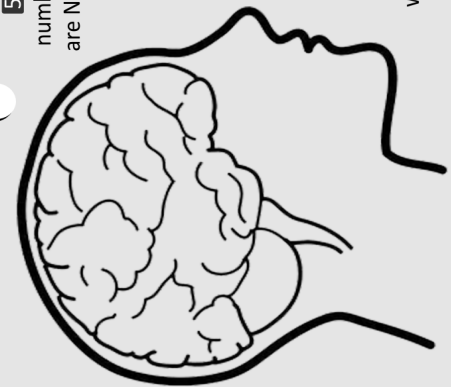
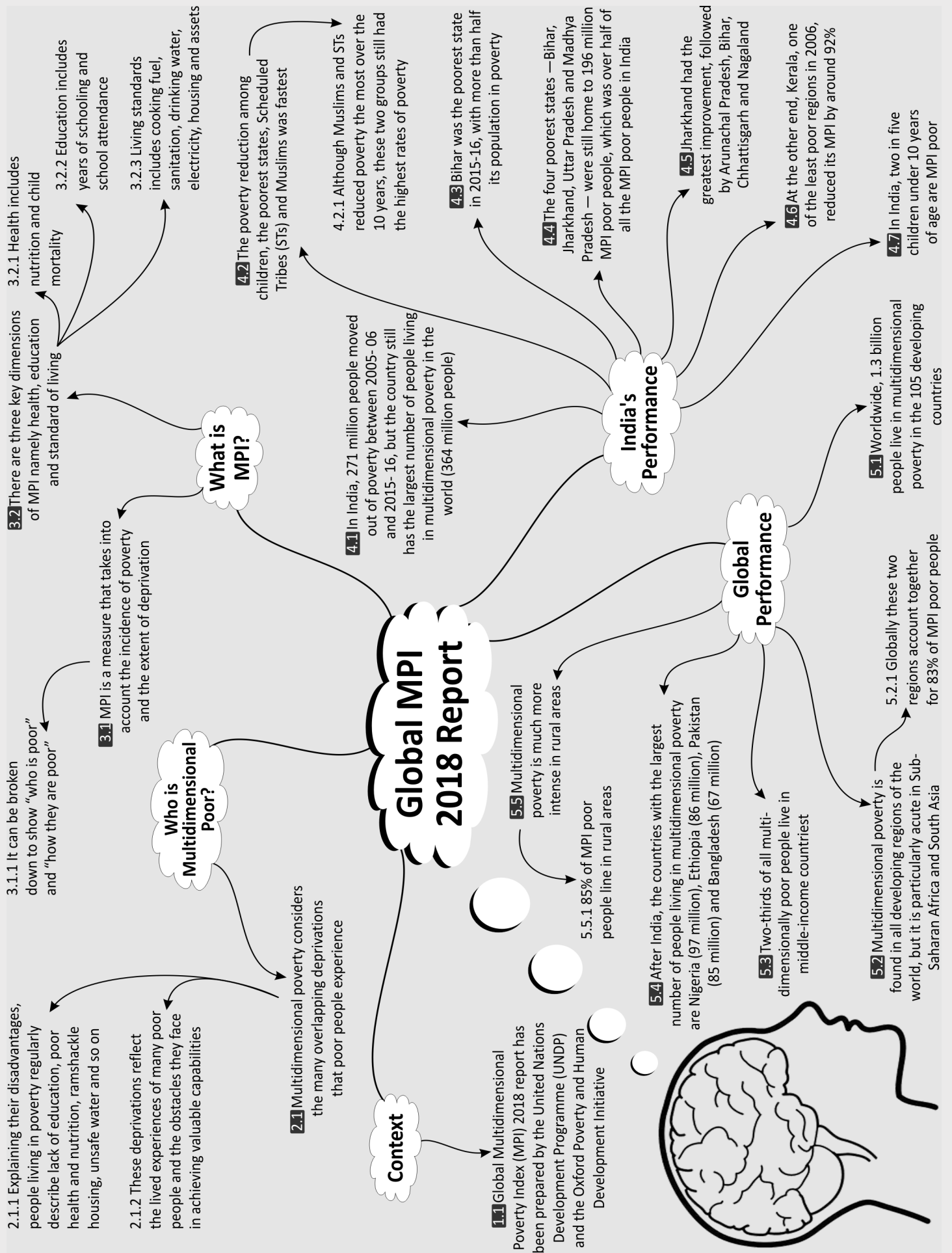


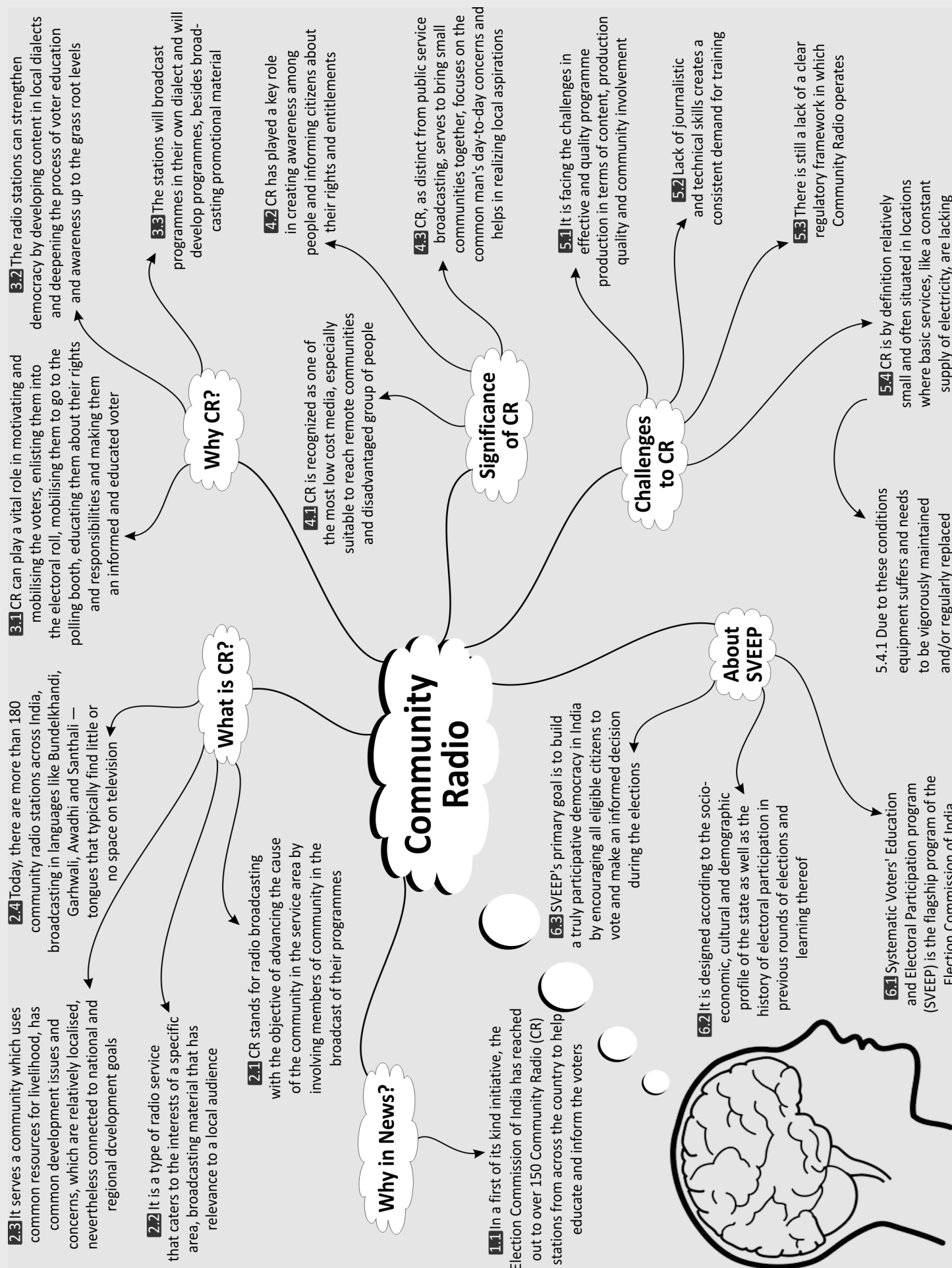












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

EMISAT

Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of 'EMISAT Mission':

1. The main capability of EMISAT is in signal intelligence — intercepting signals broadcasted by communication systems, radars and other electronic systems.
2. It is modeled after a famous Russian spy satellite called SARAL (Satellite with ARGOS and ALTIKA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. It is developed jointly by the ISRO and DRDO. The main capability of EMISAT is in signal intelligence — intercepting signals broadcasted by communication systems, radars and other electronic systems on the ground from hundreds of kilometers away in space.

Statement 2 is not correct. It is modeled after a famous Israeli spy satellite called SARAL (Satellite with ARGOS and ALTIKA).

GI Tag for Five Coffee Varieties

Q2. With reference to the 'GI Tag for five coffee varieties', consider the following statements:

1. The varieties that have received the tag include Coorg Arabica, Wayanaad Robusta, Chikmagalur Arabica, Araku Valley Arabica and Bababudangiris Arabica.
2. Araku Valley Arabica is grown in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka and Koraput district in Odisha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has awarded the GI tag for five varieties of coffee namely Coorg Arabica, Wayanaad Robusta, Chikmagalur Arabica, Araku Valley Arabica and Bababudangiris Arabica.

Statement 2 is not correct. Araku Valley Arabica coffee can be described as coffee from the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region at an elevation of 900-1100 Mt MSL.

Regulatory Sandbox

Q3. Consider the following statements in respect of 'regulatory sandbox':

1. It is a set of guidelines, which was issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, for fintech companies to test their new products on a small group of users before scaling up.
2. A regulatory sandbox is a controlled mechanism where the consequences of failure can be contained and reasons for failure analysed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will issue guidelines within two months for the creation of a 'regulatory sandbox' for fintech companies to test their new products on a small group of users before scaling up.

Statement 2 is correct. A regulatory sandbox is a controlled mechanism where the consequences of failure can be contained and reasons for failure analysed. It is a safe harbour, where businesses can test innovative products under relaxed regulatory conditions.

Global Energy and CO₂ Status Report- 2018

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Global Energy and CO₂ Status Report- 2018':

1. 'Global Energy and CO₂ Status Report- 2018' was prepared by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).
2. India's per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average and contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. International Energy Agency (IEA) has released Global Energy & CO₂ Status Report - 2018.

Statement 2 is correct. According to the report India's per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average and contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden.

Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Golden Crescent' is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers.
2. The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 provides comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, including provisions against money laundering and the diversion of precursor chemicals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The 'Golden Triangle' is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers.

Statement 2 is correct. There are three main international drug control conventions. The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 provides comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, including provisions against money laundering and the diversion of precursor chemicals. It also provides for international cooperation through, for example, extradition of drug traffickers, controlled deliveries and transfer of proceedings.

Global MPI 2018 Report

Q6. With reference to the 'Global MPI 2018', consider the following statements:

1. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2018 report has been prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.
2. Multidimensional poverty is found in all developing regions of the world, but it is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. MPI 2018 report has been prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

Worldwide, 1.3 billion people live in multidimensional poverty in the 105 developing countries. Multidimensional poverty is found in all developing regions of the world, but it is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Community Radio

Q7. Consider the following statements in respect of 'community radio':

1. It is a type of radio service that caters to the interests of a specific area, broadcasting material that has relevance to a local audience.
2. In a first of its kind initiative, the Election Commission of India has reached out to over 150 Community Radio stations to help educate and inform the voters for the Lok Sabha Elections 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. It is a type of radio service that caters to the interests of a specific area, broadcasting material that has relevance to a local audience. Today, there are more than 180 community radio stations across India.

In a first of its kind initiative, the Election Commission of India has reached out to over 150 Community Radio stations from across the country to help educate and inform the voters.

SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Recently, India and Oman have signed a \$3.85 billion deal to build an oil refinery in which country?

–Sri Lanka

2. Wipro and IIT Kharagpur have joined hands to conduct applied research in which fields?

–5G and Artificial Intelligence

3. Recently, the cabinet has approved the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with which bank?

–Bank of Baroda

4. Who has been elected as the first female President of Slovakia?

–Zuzana Caputova

5. Which country has won the Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Tournament - 2019?

–South Korea by beating India in Final

6. Who has written the book 'Gandhi: The Writer'?

–Bhabani Bhattacharya

7. Which international organisation has released 'The State of the Global Climate in 2018' report?

–World Meteorological Organization

○○○

SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. Third Edition of AUSINDEX

The third edition of AUSINDEX an acronym for Australia India Exercise is scheduled from 02 to 14 April 2019. It would involve exercises in all three dimensions with focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW). The bilateral maritime exercise is aimed to strengthen mutual cooperation and enhance interoperability between the Royal Australia Navy (RAN) and Indian Navy (IN) by providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of professional views between the personnel of the two navies.

The increased scale of participation signifies the importance attached to the exercise by both countries while the enhanced complexity is indicative of the interoperability between the two navies. Overall, the exercise underscores India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and shared objectives of the two countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and solidarity with friendly and harmonious countries.

The maiden edition of the exercise was held in September 2015 at Visakhapatnam. Australia hosted the second edition

of the exercise off Freemantle in June 2017, wherein ships of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy (IN) exercised with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships and submarines.

Background

Building on a long history of cooperation – including the shared experiences in the trenches of World War I in Gallipoli and along the Western Front – Australia and India have a positive defence relationship, underpinned by the 2006 Memorandum of Defence Cooperation and 2009 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation. A sign of strengthening of bilateral and defence cooperation between the two countries as envisaged in the Framework for Security Cooperation (FSC) announced by the Australian and Indian Prime Ministers in 2014. However, post the 2014 bilateral FSC the cooperation on defence and security matters between the two countries has gained significant momentum thus, witnessing conscious and focussed enhancements.

2. Create an Ecosystem for Rural Entrepreneurship to Thrive: Vice President

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has called for creating an ecosystem for entrepreneurship to thrive and encourage youth to become job creators instead of job seekers.

Key Highlights

- ◆ India with its huge demographic advantage must reap benefits by harnessing the youth's potential. There is a need to create the relevant infrastructure and impart the right skill sets for them to successfully overcome the challenges posed by the technology-dependent world.
- ◆ There is a need for making agriculture sustainable and profitable, creating market for rural artisans, empowering woman entrepreneurs to sell their crafts byway of online platforms and ensuring access to affordable education and healthcare.
- ◆ MSMEs contribute 6.11 per cent of manufacturing GDP and 24.6 per cent of services GDP. These industries which are often located in rural areas play a vital role in preserving India's traditional skills and products such as handicrafts and handlooms.
- ◆ Empowerment of women is central to achieving the objective of inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Women empowerment should not only be a national goal but a global agenda.
- ◆ Women constitute only 14% of the total entrepreneurship i.e. 8.05 million out of the total 58.5 million entrepreneurs, hence there is an urgent need to encourage more women to embark on the path of entrepreneurship.

3. Indian Railways for Voter Awareness Campaign

As part of Voter Awareness campaign for Lok Sabha Election 2019, Election Commission of India and Indian Railways (IR) have come together to utilize four long distance Trains to carry voter awareness and motivational messages. The Train displays important contact details for the citizens including the Voter Helpline number and the National Voters' Services Portal besides motivational messages



urging them to Vote. As the trains travel across the country, citizens will be encouraged to click a photograph with the train and upload it on social media, for further spreading the message.

The trains have been selected on the longest North-South route and East-West route and cover 19 States in all.

- ◆ Kerala Express is a daily train covering 3035 Kms in 8 States.
- ◆ Himsagar Express is a weekly train covering 3714 Kms in 12 States.
- ◆ Howrah Express is a daily train covering 2087 kms in 6 states.
- ◆ Guwahati Express is a weekly train covering 3237 kms in 7 states.

Why IR?

Indian Railways has one of the largest railway networks in the world. As per the report submitted by the Ministry of Railways, on an average, Indian Railways carry 22.24 million passengers and 3.04 million tonnes of freight each day. This widespread network ensures that communication on this platform has a wide reach in urban as well as rural segments.

4. Trade and Economic Cooperation with European and Oceania Countries

European and Oceania countries are major trading partners and major sources of investments for India and there is huge untapped potential that can be achieved. India has made efforts in the recent past to take economic ties to the next level and have some sort of broad based comprehensive trade agreement.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Bilateral trade between India and Europe crossed the USD 150 billion mark in 2011-12. Global slowdown and commodity price fluctuations adversely impacted the trade, but there are signs of recovery in the recent period. During 2017-18, India's trade with Europe stood at USD 130.1 billion, with both exports and imports registering double digit growth.
- ◆ India is the fifth largest export market for Australia, with coal, education –related travel, vegetable and

gold being some of the major items of imports by India. Major exports from India to Australia include refined petroleum, business services and pharmaceuticals.

- ◆ New Zealand is also an important market for India in the Oceania region, especially for its exports of pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, machinery and textiles and apparel.
- ◆ The extent of investment linkages is evident from the fact that nearly one-fourth of FDI inflows into India are from Europe and around 29.8 percent of India's overseas direct investments and directed towards Europe.
- ◆ Nearly, USD 1034.2 million was invested by companies from Oceania in the Indian market during April 2000 to December 2018. The Oceania region also accounts for nearly 1.7 percent of India's overseas FDI, with Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu being the key investment destinations.

5. AFINDEX-19

The inaugural edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 (AFINDEX-19) was held at the Aundh Military Station, Pune, India. The aim of this joint training exercise is to acquaint the contingents with each other's operational procedures, thus, ensuring better operability and compatibility.

Key Highlights

- ◆ AFINDEX-19 demonstrated the commitment and capabilities of the participating nations in working closely with each other in Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations under the United Nations mandate. The exercise was also attended by observers from three African nations i.e. Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Mozambique.
- ◆ Contingents from 17 African nations - Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe - along with a contingent of the Maratha Light Infantry (JangiPaltan) representing India, have come together for the first edition of this training exercise.
- ◆ As part of its defence cooperation, India, over the years, has extended training to a large number of African military officers in various military institutions.



- ◆ India is one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping in Africa.
- ◆ It has participated in the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa and currently, has sizeable contingents in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.
- ◆ The social interactions between the contingents have also contributed towards developing better interpersonal relations and bonds of friendship across geographical boundaries and the exercise has been a landmark event to promote values of Peace, Prosperity, International Brotherhood and Trust amongst the participating nations.

6. MoU on Antarctic cooperation between India and Argentina

The Union Cabinet has apprised about a MoU signed in February, 2019 between India and Argentina on Antarctic cooperation. The MoU will help scientific cooperation on projects in the fields of Earth sciences, as well as those related to the protection and conservation of the natural environment of Antarctica and the Southern Oceans.

Key Features

- ◆ Scientific co-operation on projects in the fields of - inter alia- Earth sciences and life sciences, as well as those related to the protection and conservation of the natural environment of Antarctica and the Southern Oceans.
- ◆ The exchange of scientific and bibliographical information related to the study of Antarctica, its environment and dependent and associated ecosystems;
- ◆ Exploring opportunities for exchanges of scientists.
- ◆ Participation of scientists and technical experts of the

national Antarctic programme of one country in the national Antarctic programme of the other, if so required.

- ◆ Joint scientific conferences and workshops; hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of major polar forum meetings, where feasible.
- ◆ Joint scientific publications.
- ◆ Training of scientific personnel.

India and Argentine Relations

India-Argentina relations are based on shared principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law, respect for human rights and territorial integrity of States.

India welcomed signature by Argentina of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement noting that the association under ISA would foster cooperation in innovative and cost effective solar technologies.

7. 4th Session of India-Ukraine working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation

The 4th Meeting of India-Ukraine Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IU-WGTEC), under the India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation was held in New Delhi. A protocol was signed at the end of the session. The protocol deals with review of trade, cooperation in the field of small and medium entrepreneurship, cooperation in the field of technical regulation (standardization, metrology, certification, conformity assessment), public-private partnership (PPP) and investment, agriculture, facilitating the access of Ukrainian food products to the market of India, energy sector, finance, granting Ukraine market economy status within the framework of anti-dumping investigations, and banking and cooperation in tourism

India and Ukraine Relations

India and Ukraine have identified potential sectors where both sides could engage in bilateral trade since presently the share of trade between both sides is quite low as compared to total trade made with the rest of the World.

Both sides agreed to share the list of products which they would like to trade.

Bilateral investment relations between the two countries have huge potential. More can be done to faster cooperation in sectors such as railways, aircraft, pharmaceuticals, metallurgy and tourism. In the light of the wide-ranging opportunities and recent initiatives like Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, Start-up India and liberal FDI regime, there is lot of potential for FDI from Ukraine to India.

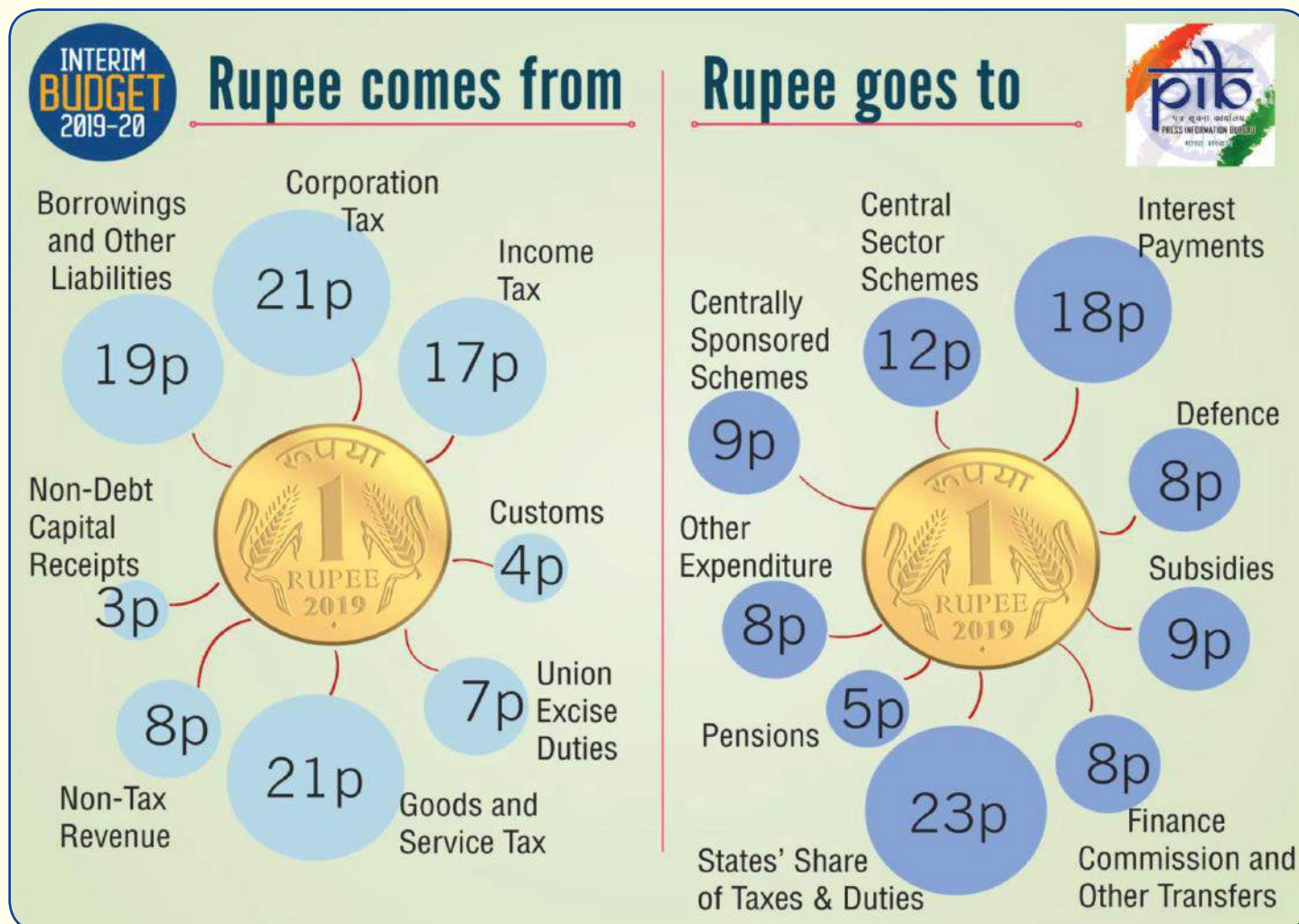
Cooperation in the field of energy sector includes:

- ◆ Preparation of Feasibility Report (FR) / Detailed Project Report (DPR), technical consultancy in Design and Engineering during execution.
- ◆ Training to Ukrainian engineers in the field of Hydropower.
- ◆ Renovation and modernization of aging hydropower plants.
- ◆ Providing Technical Consultancy Services at all stages of Hydropower project development.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

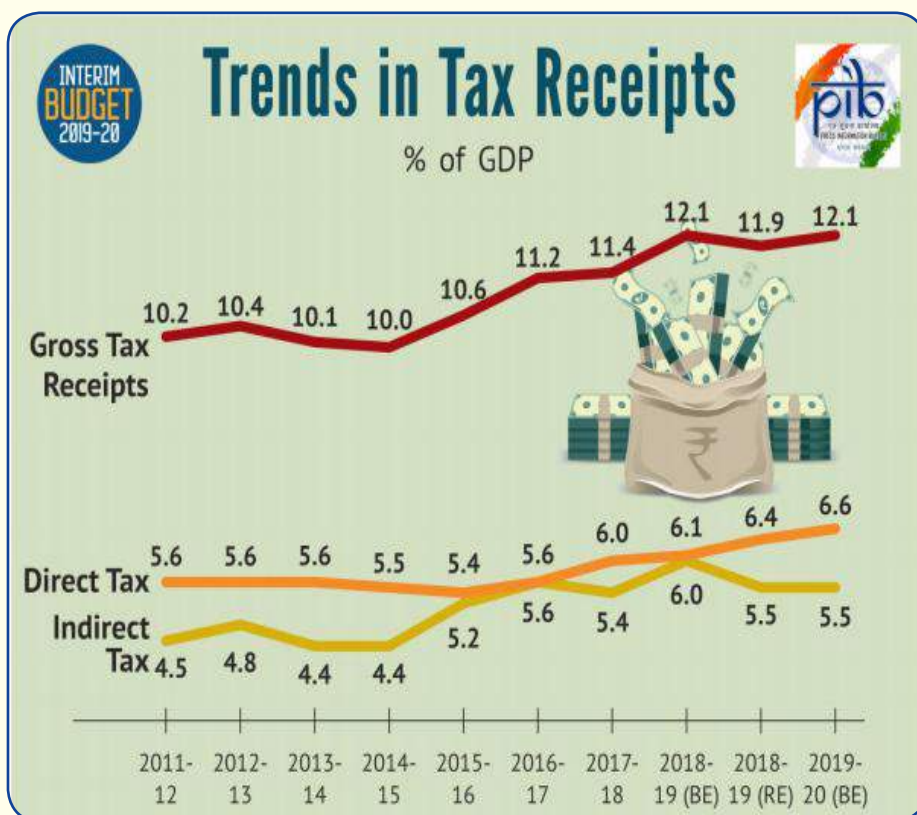
1. Rupee Coming and Going



Key Facts

- For every rupee in the government coffers, 70 paise will come from direct and indirect taxes, while the government will spend 23 paise towards state's share of taxes and duties. According to the Budget 2019-20 for the every rupee earned, the collection from Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been pegged at 21 paise, amounting to the single largest source of revenue.
- Similarly, tax mobilisation from corporation tax has been pegged at 21 paise. Income tax mobilisation for the next fiscal has been estimated as 17 paise. The collection from borrowing and other liabilities will be 19 paise, while mobilisation from Union Excise duty will be 7 paise. The government intends to earn 8 paise from non-tax revenue like disinvestment, while it plans to mobilise 3 paise from non-debt capital receipts.
- On the expenditure side, the biggest component is states' share of taxes and duties at 23 paise and interest payment of 18 paise. Allocation towards defence has been reduced to 8 paise from 9 paise last year. Expenditure on central sector scheme will be 12 paise, while allocation for centrally sponsored scheme will be 9 paise.

2. Tax Receipt Trend



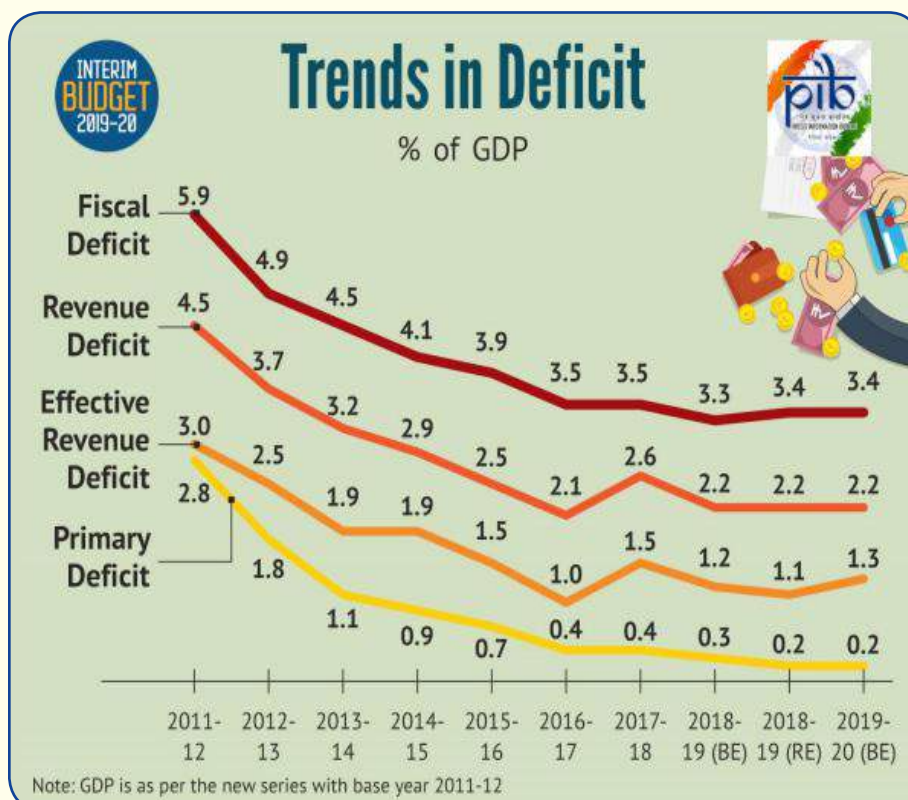
Key Facts

- Gross Tax Receipt has followed an increasing trend on an average from 10.2 % of GDP in 2011-12 to 12.1% of GDP in the recent budget 2019-20 with the exception in the year 2014-15 where it has fallen down by 0.1 % compared to previous financial year.
- Same trend has been followed by the Direct Tax Receipt and Indirect Tax Receipt with few minute exceptions. In the Budget 2019-20, Direct Tax Receipt has been 6.6% of GDP while estimated Indirect Tax Receipt has been at 5.5% of GDP.
- Among the direct tax receipt the highest contribution came from corporation tax followed by Income Tax and Securities Transaction Tax respectively.
- While for the indirect taxes the trend goes as follows: CGST > Union Excise > Customs > GST compensation Cess > IGST.

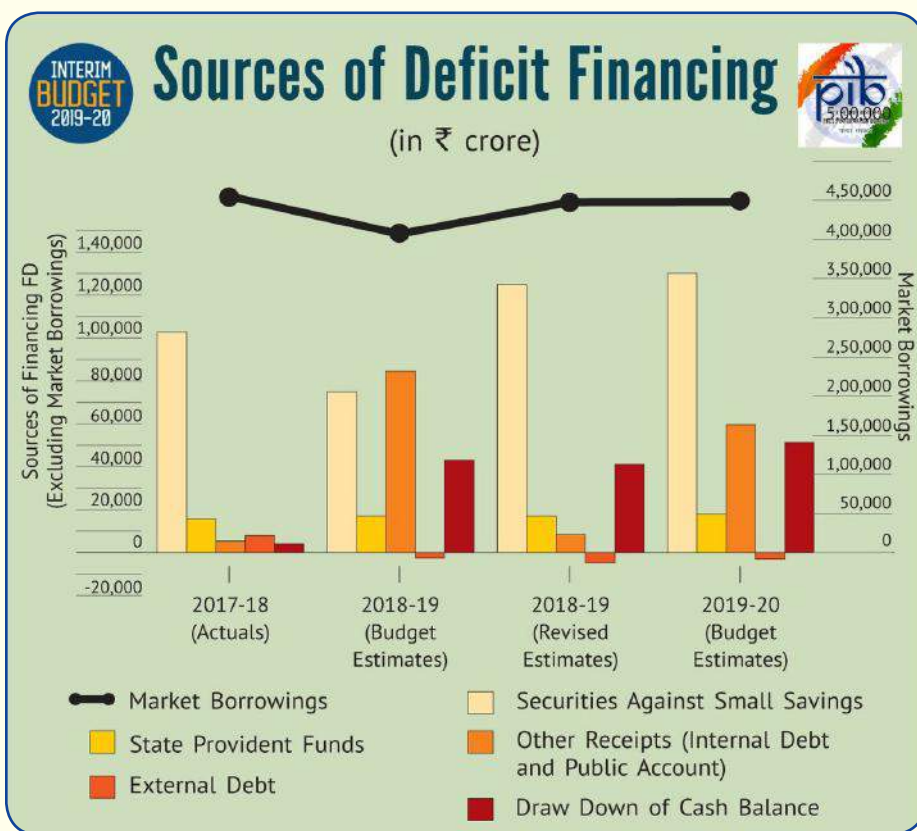
3. Trends in Deficit

Key Facts

- The fiscal deficit is the excess of total budget expenditure over total budget receipts excluding borrowings during a fiscal year. In simple words, it is the amount of borrowing the government has to resort to meet its expenses.
- Revenue deficit is the excess of total revenue expenditure of the government over its total revenue receipts. Alternatively, the shortfall of total revenue receipts compared to total revenue expenditure is defined as revenue deficit.
- Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for the creation of capital assets. In other words, the Effective Revenue Deficit excludes those revenue expenditures which were done in the form of grants for the creation of capital assets. Effective Revenue Deficit was introduced in the Budget of 2011-12 for the first time.
- Primary deficit is defined as the fiscal deficit of current year minus interest payments on previous borrowings.



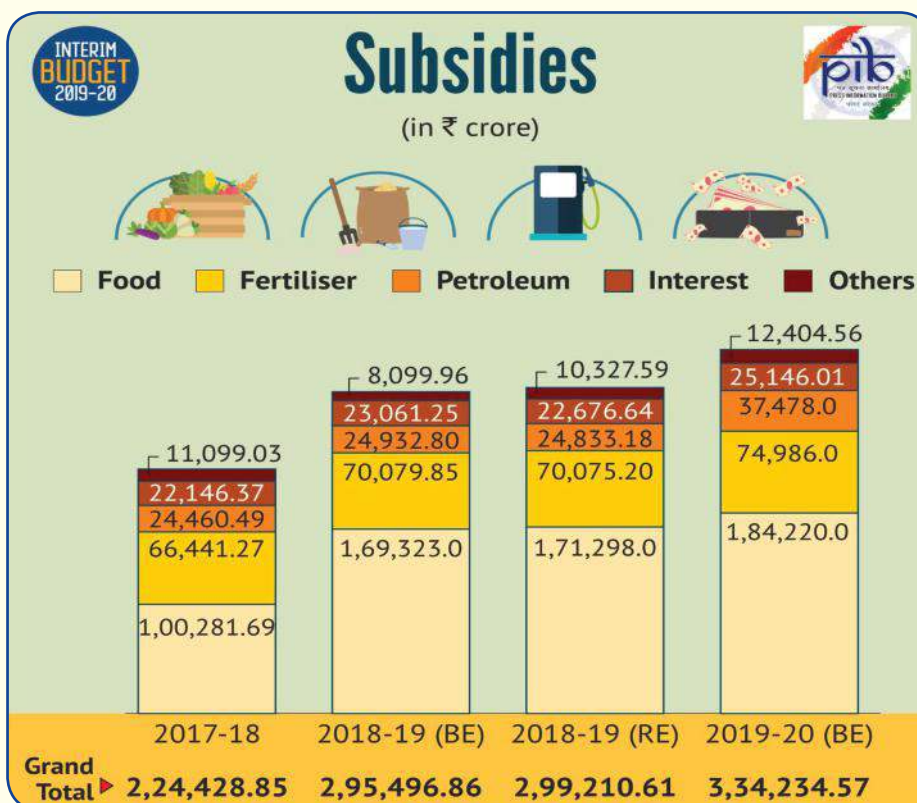
4. Deficit Financing



Key Facts

- When the revenue of the government is shorter than its expenditure then this situation is dealt by printing more currency, buying from public and foreign institution. This temporary arrangement of the money is known as the deficit financing.
- India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 519.8 billion at end-March 2019 as against US\$ 446.3 billion at end-March 2014.
- Notwithstanding the increasing external debt stock during 2014-15, crucial debt indicators such as external debt-GDP ratio and debt service ratio remained in the comfort zone.
- External debt of the country continues to be dominated by the long term borrowings. While securities against small saving is the major source of Deficit Financing among Internal Liabilities.

5. Subsidies



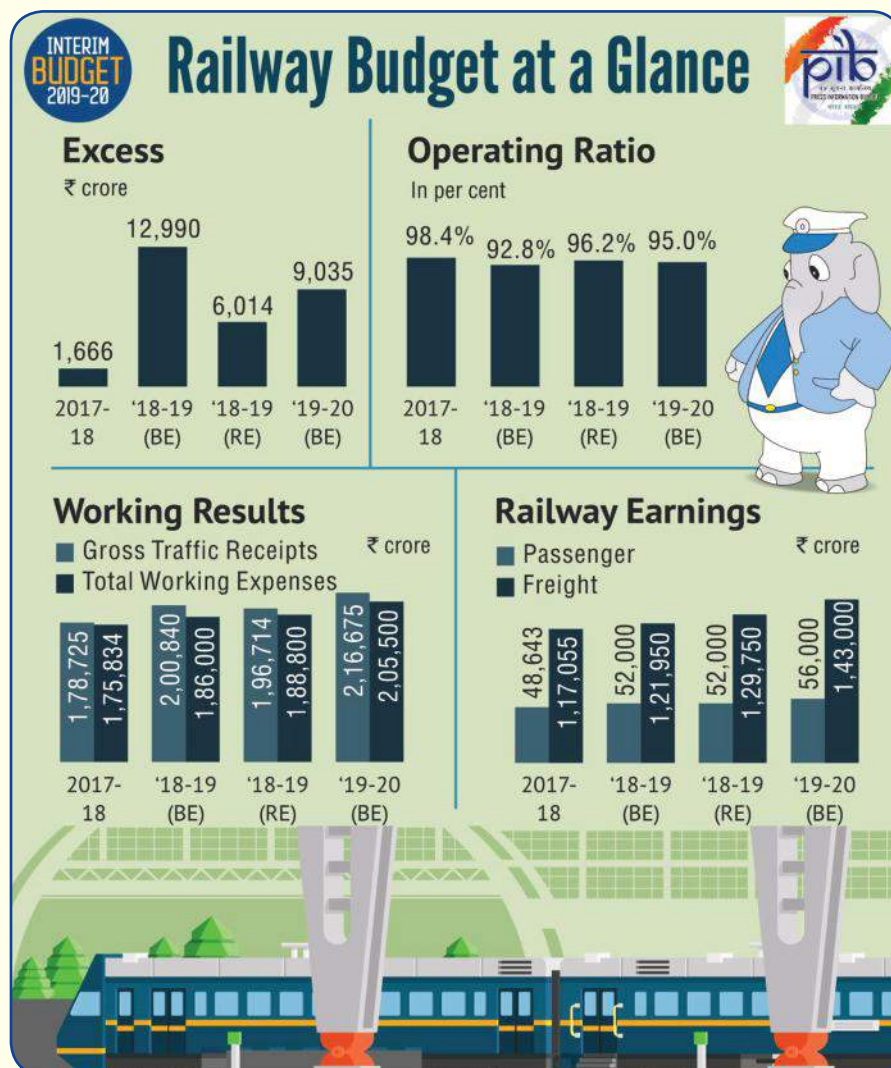
Key Facts

- The Overall subsidies expenditure has been increased from Rs. 2.99 lakh crore in previous budget to Rs. 3.34 lakh crore in Budget 2019-20. The Union government provides subsidies on three major heads: Food subsidy (Rs 1.84 lakh crore), Fertiliser subsidy (Rs 75,000 crore) and subsidy on cooking gas and petroleum (Rs 37,478 crore).
- The government is budgeting for a mammoth 51 per cent jump in overall petroleum subsidy expenditure at Rs 37,458 crore next financial year (2019-20). The subsidies given are highest in food sector followed by Fertilizer, Petroleum, Interest subsidies and others respectively.
- According to the official portal of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, the government has eliminated 4.09 crore bogus LPG connections and over 2.82 crore bogus ration cards for distribution of food under public distribution system. According to the information available on the DBT portal, cumulative saving so far has been pegged at Rs 1.09 lakh crore.

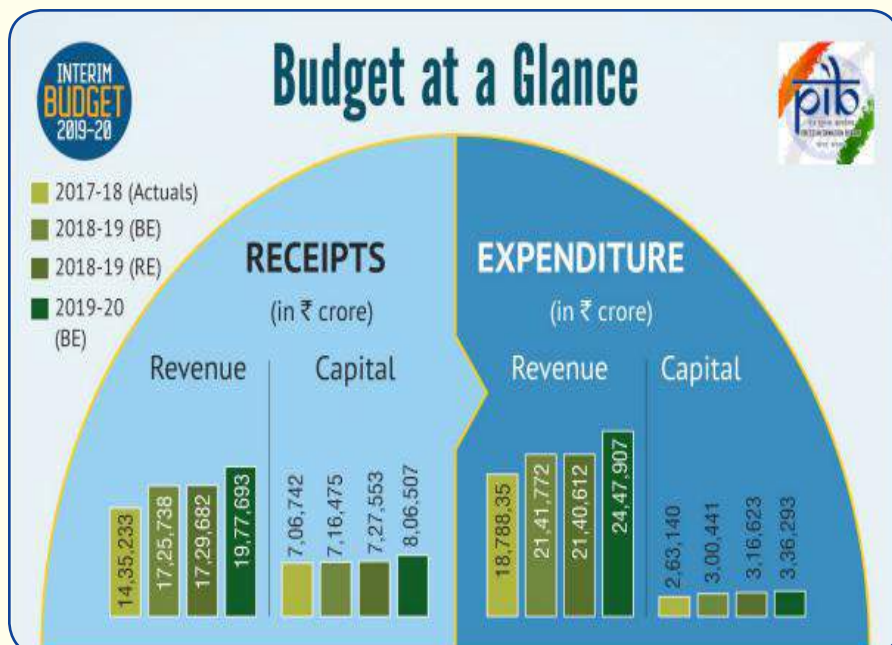
6. Railways

Key Facts

- Capital support from the budget for Indian Railways is proposed at Rs.64,587 crore in 2019-20 Budget Estimates (BE).
- The Railways' overall capital expenditure programme is of Rs. 1,58,658 crore. Operating Ratio is expected to improve from 98.4% in 2017-18 to 96.2% in 2018-19 Revised Estimates (RE) and further to 95% in 2019-20 (BE).
- Operating Ratio:** Operating Ratio indicates how much railway spends to earn a rupee. An Operating Ratio of 90% means that Railway is spending 90 paise to earn 100 paise (i.e. one rupee). A lower figure of Operating Ratio is thus regarded better and is indicative of better financial health of the system.
- While no significant announcements were made, the biggest fact that stood out in the Railway Budget 2019, was that it was the safest year in Indian Railways' history.
- Interestingly the Railway Ministry successfully completed the task of eliminating all the unmanned level crossings, which was a big reason for train accidents.
- From the financial year 2017-2018, the Railway Budget was merged with the General Budget. The decision was based on the recommendations of the committee headed by Member of NITI Aayog, Bibek Debroy.



7. Budget at a glance



Key Facts

- The total expenditure of Union Budget 2019 is of 27.84 lakh crore rupees. It has increased significantly when compared with the Union Budget 2018, where the expenditure figure was 24.42 lakh crore rupees.
- The total revenue expected in the financial year 2019-20 (without considering borrowing) is only Rs. 20.80 lakh crores. Thus the total expenditure is way higher than the receipts. To balance the expenditure and receipts side of the budget, the government needs to borrow money. The Indian government needs to borrow Rs. 7 lakh crore in the financial year 2019-20 to meet its expenditure. Borrowings and other liabilities is known as Fiscal Deficit, which as per budget 2019 is 3.4% of GDP.



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Quite a large number of students desirous of building a career for themselves are absolutely less equipped for the fairly tough competitive tests they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic career, do not know that competitive exams are vastly different from academic examination and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here one single move invariably put one ahead of many others who lag behind. Dhyeya IAS is manned with qualified & experienced faculties besides especially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

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