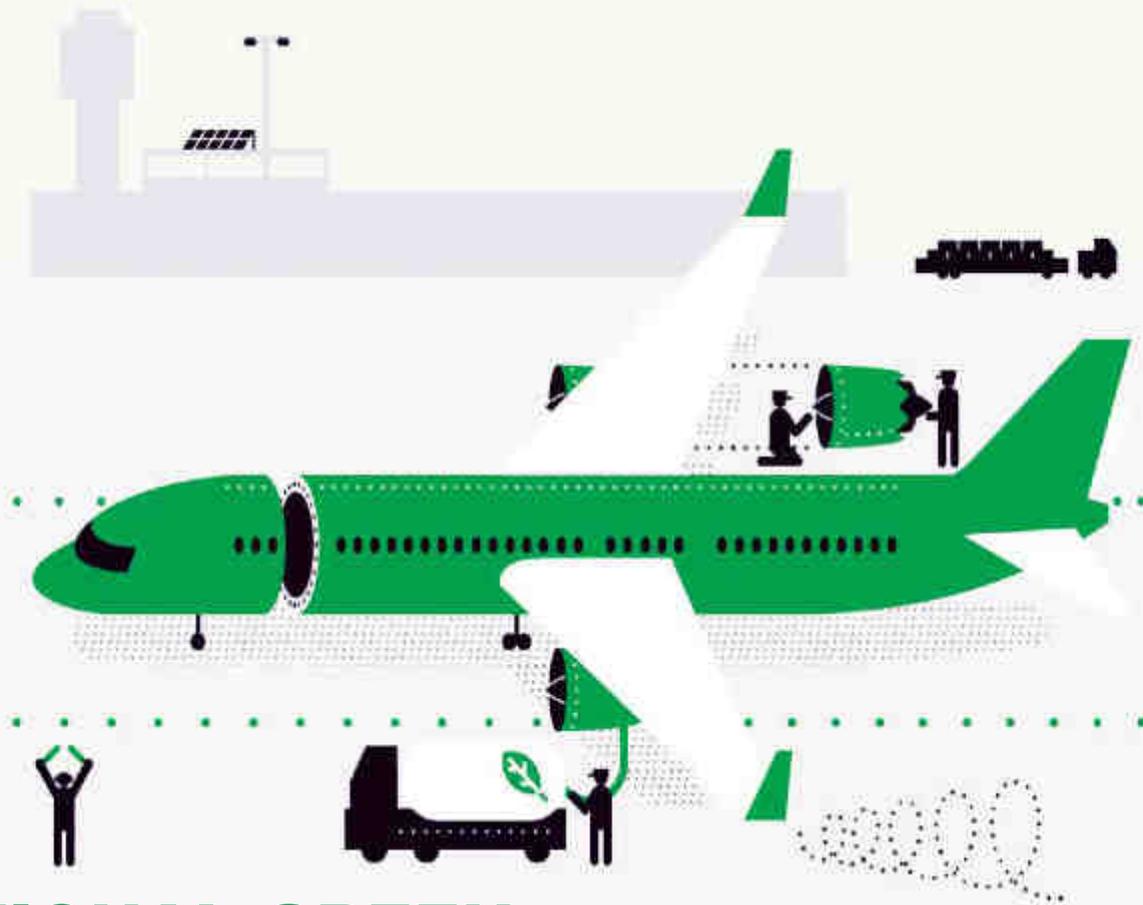


PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

April: 2019 / Issue 03



NATIONAL GREEN AVIATION POLICY

Towards Green Growth of Air Transportation

- National Mineral Policy, 2019 : An Overview
- Major Economic Policies of Independent India : A Brief Analysis
- Infectious Diseases in Children : India's Progress & Challenges
- Golan Heights : Zone of Contention
- Corporate Governance : Miles to Go
- Community Radio in India : Journey So Far

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AIR 1**



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AHMED
AIR 3**

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and wish them a successful and bright future ahead*



ANURAJ JAIN
AIR-24



DEEPAK KUMAR DUBEY
AIR-46



RENJINA MARY VARGHESE
AIR-49



RANGASHREE
AIR-50



GIRDHAR
AIR-61



AYUSHI SINGH
AIR-86



SAWAN KUMAR
AIR-89



VEER PRATAP SINGH
AIR-92



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AIR-112



RANJEETA SHARMA
AIR-130



CHITTYREDDY SRIPAL
AIR-131



SHIV NARAYAN SHARMA
AIR-149



SHAKTI MOHAN AVASTHY
AIR-154



SIDDHARTH GOYAL
AIR-163



GUNDALA REDDY RAGHAVENDRA
AIR-180



GAUTAM GOYAL
AIR-223



SHIVAM SHARMA
AIR-251



INDERVEER SINGH
AIR-259



GAURAV GUNJAN
AIR-262



MD JAWED HUSSAIN
AIR-280



DEEPTI BAGGA
AIR-297



ARPIT GUPTA
AIR-300



HIMANSHU GUPTA
AIR-304



POORVI GARG
AIR-317



NAVEEN KUMAR
AIR-324



ADITYA KUMAR JHA
AIR-339



SACHIN BANSAL
AIR-349



CHIRAG JAIN
AIR-355



LAKSHMAN KUMAR
AIR-362



SAHIL GARG
AIR-376



YOGITA
AIR-384



ANIMESH GARG
AIR-387



KIRTI PANDEY
AIR-389



KUMAR BISWARANJAN
AIR-391



GARIMA
AIR-394

and many more...

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 an 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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Content

Seven Important Issues1-20

- National Green Aviation Policy : Towards Green Growth of Air Transportation
- National Mineral Policy, 2019 : An Overview
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- Infectious Diseases in Children : India's Progress & Challenges
- Golan Heights : Zone of Contention
- Corporate Governance : Miles to Go
- Community Radio in India : Journey So Far

Seven Subjective Questions with Model Answers 21-23

Seven Important News24-26

Seven Brain Boosters & Seven MCQs Based on Them27-35

Seven Important Facts for Prelims36

Seven Important Highlights from PIB37-40

Seven Important Concepts through Graphics.....41-44

Our other initiative



Hindi & English
Current Affairs
Monthly
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. NATIONAL GREEN AVIATION POLICY: TOWARDS GREEN GROWTH OF AIR TRANSPORTATION

Why in News?

The Ministry of Civil Aviation released White Paper on National Green Aviation for inclusive and sustainable growth of the civil aviation sector in the country while mitigating its negative impacts on environment at the same time. It comprehends the key environmental issues of the sector and emphasizes the Government's approach towards environment protection.

Introduction

India is one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets and is projected to become the world's third largest air passenger market in 10 years. Air transport brings substantial social and economic benefits and underpins the global economy, but it also has a local and global impact on the environment. For nearly five decades air transport has provided significant public benefits. It has brought work, prosperity, increased trade and new travel and tourism opportunities under the concept of liberalization, privatisation and globalization. Air transport is now a massive and economically vital business, encompassing the manufacturers and operators of engines and aircraft, fuel suppliers, airports and air traffic control systems.

The relative importance of environmental issues in aviation sector has grown considerably as has the complexity and evolving nature of environmental problems associated

with aviation. Airlines and Airports are interlinked and form a strong mesh that encompasses all critical aspects relating to climate and environment. As the number of people travelling increases, the use of jet fuel for aviation grows and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increase. This threatens to destabilize the world's climatic systems, the consequence of which will cost the global economy billions of dollars.

Although figures vary, a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that aircraft currently "contribute about 3.5 percent of the total radiative forcing (a measure of change in climate) by all human activities." It is widely accepted that this figure will rise, and the IPCC has predicted that it could rise to as much as 15 per cent by 2050. Carbon dioxide emissions from aviation were expected to grow by 176 per cent between 1990 and 2050; however, newer studies suggest growth in the order of 300 per cent.

What is Green Aviation?

According to NASA, green aviation is the pursuit of reductions in noise, greenhouse gas emissions and fuel usage. It involves activities to improve aircraft fuel efficiency, develop the next generation of efficient air traffic control, and develop new technologies and systems engineering processes to reach the future of carbon-neutral air transportation.

National Green Civil Aviation Policy

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is committed to inclusive and sustainable growth of the civil aviation sector in the country while mitigating its negative impacts on environment at the same time. The White Paper on National Green Aviation sets out a strategic framework to address the major environmental challenges of the aviation industry. It comprehends the key environmental issues of the sector and emphasizes the Government's approach towards environment protection.

Objectives of Aviation Policy

- ◆ To support sustainable and inclusive growth of the Indian civil aviation sector and align it with ICAO's Vision and Mission.
- ◆ To make Indian aviation one of the most resource efficient sectors without compromising environment and ecological protection while considering the need of water, energy & fuel conservation by implementing environment friendly measures etc.
- ◆ To enable and promote development and maximum usage of solar and other renewable energy in the civil aviation ecosystem of India.
- ◆ To ensure implementation of Environmental Management System (EMS) approach across aviation units to provide a foundation for enhancing the

integration of environmental sustainability and regulatory requirements into the planning, decision-making, approvals and operations of Airports, Airlines, Air Navigation Services, Ground Support System etc.

- ◆ Enhance the aviation systems from conventional to advanced environment friendly, resource efficient infrastructure/system with reliable and sustainable alternatives such as green building concept, etc.
- ◆ To reduce GHG and other gaseous emissions in line with national and global frameworks by considering use of fuel efficient fleets, advanced air navigation system with flexible use of airspace, integrated A-CDMs, emission free ground support equipment, use renewable energy and other sustainable fuels like bio fuels etc.
- ◆ Enhance competency on environmental sustainability for all aviation professionals with dedicated functions, roles and responsibilities in each individual aviation units such as Airports, Airlines, Air Navigation Services, Ground Support System etc.
- ◆ Create a favorable regulatory regime for clearances of aviation projects to meet the anticipated growth of Indian Civil Aviation, with due care to environment sustainability.

Environmental Concerns

- ◆ Aviation is one of the fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions globally and currently it contributes to 2% of overall anthropogenic Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2004). The International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) 2016 Environmental Report states that changes to the atmosphere, brought about by rising global temperatures caused by greenhouse gas emissions,

will affect airplane's ability to fly, while rising sea levels will affect airports. ICAO has warned that the aviation industry needs to prepare for severe disruptions as a result of climate change and that it needs to make full use of clean technology and policy tools in order to reduce its carbon footprint along with other environmental impacts.

- ◆ Aircraft noise near airports poses major health and environmental risk raising public concerns and is likely to impact future operations, as well as expansion and development of airports.
- ◆ The development and operation of an airport causes gaseous and particulate emissions from different sources including aircraft operations, ground support equipment, airport infrastructure and landside access traffic. Increased level of air pollution in certain states of India may result in operational constraints and reduced international travels and tourism; it may also lead to low visibility situations around the airport.
- ◆ Increased infrastructure development supported by growth of civil aviation in India has raised a growing concern on resource consumption by the aviation sector.
- ◆ Waste Management by municipal bodies around the airports is also one of the concern areas for airport & aircraft operation. Improper waste management leads to bird attraction which is a threat for aircraft operation at airport.
- ◆ The lengthy and complex process of obtaining Environment clearance of airport projects (new and expansion) sets back the developmental activities which are required to cater to the needs of the rapidly growing aviation sector of the country.

Mitigation Measures

- ◆ **Noise Preferential Routs (NPR)** is a measure to mitigate noise pollution

especially around airports. Such routes are chosen because the direct aircrafts where possible are used, over less densely populated areas such as farmlands.

- ◆ **Greener airports:** Highlighting the operational examples that airports have acquired plans to make airports greener; in the year 2008 Paris Orly Airport, France became the first ever airport in Europe to have declared the use of earth's geothermal energy. Not lagging behind, In India the Cochin International Airport, the country's first private airport built under PPP model has become the first solar powered airport in the world that completely operates on solar power.
- ◆ **Land Use Planning:** Control of land use near airports is vital if the noise reduction already achieved are not be of offset by people moving closer to airports and the noise. Future improvements will depend to a great extent on keeping populations a certain distance away from airports and maintaining a quiet buffer zone which is kept free of residential, or other noise-sensitive development. This type of land use planning should be part of an airport master plan from the outset to avoid problems in the future.
- ◆ **Levy of Environmental taxes (Green Tax):** It is another measure to mitigate pollution. These environmental taxes can be classified into various types. Four subsets of environmental taxes are distinguished. These are:
 - ◆ Energy taxes (E.g. Carbon taxes on the use of fossil fuels);
 - ◆ Transport taxes (E.g. Carbon taxes on old aircrafts, aircraft emissions etc.);
 - ◆ Pollution taxes (E.g. Steering taxes on effluents, pollution and other hazardous wastes);
 - ◆ Resources taxes (E.g. Severance taxes on the extraction of mineral,

energy and forestry products, license fees for camping, hiking fishing and hunting and associated equipment).

Way Forward

To conclude, the airlines must rely on airport infrastructure and air navigation services that the industry neither owns nor controls. Supply in the form of infrastructure capacity has not kept pace with aviation's growth. The resultant capacity limitations have

led to increased congestion, both on the ground and in the skies. This causes delays, system inefficiencies and unreliability and produces considerable additional energy consumption and emissions.

Recognizing the fact that Indian aviation sector would have exponential growth, addressing the environment and sustainability concerns are very important. To overcome concerns of the aviation sector, the need for a Green Civil Aviation Policy has been

envisaged with a clear objective of achieving sustainable growth of the civil aviation.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

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



2. NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY, 2019: AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

In compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Mines constituted a committee in 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr. K Rajeswara Rao to review National Mineral Policy (NMP), 2008. Based on the deliberations held at Committee meetings and stakeholders' comments/ suggestions, committee report was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Mines. In February 2019, Union Cabinet, has approved National Mineral Policy, 2019 that replaced the earlier policy.

Introduction

A recent news report suggested that India has a mineral trade deficit of Rs. 3.2 lakh crores per annum currently. Ironically, mineral imports are mostly for commodities like coal, gold, diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, lead, copper, silver and manganese and the deficit accounts for 3 to 95% of the supply. At the end of 2016-17, the country produced major metallic and non-metallic minerals valued at Rs. 474.31 billion. Imports, however, were of the order of Rs. 3,458.11 billion. Gold and diamond topped the import chart, accounting for more than 80 per cent of the value of imported minerals. The country also imports ores and concentrates of copper, lead, nickel and zinc and the Platinum Group of Metals (PGE). Whereas, for most

of these minerals, India has excellent geological potential.

Since 1970s very few effective Greenfield exploration programme have been carried out in India leading to mineable discoveries, except during the phase between 1998–2008, when private sector exploration resulted in discoveries of diamonds, precious metals, base metals, rare earth elements and other potentially mineable targets.

Globally, after the economic depression of 1973-75, foreign direct investments (FDI) and domestic private sector investments led to a boom in mineral discoveries. India, however, showed a reverse trend during this period. Only the exploration window, opened between 1998-2008, resulted in the discovery of three world class deposits viz. the Bunder diamond deposit through greenfield exploration by Rio Tinto and the brownfield extension discoveries at Rampura Agucha (zinc-lead) and Sindesar Khurd (zinc-lead) by HZL-Vedanta. These successes generated significant interests in India's pre-2015 mineral permitting regime.

In 2015, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 has been passed by the Parliament. The new Act aims to legalize the system of auctions of mines to enhance transparency in mineral

allocations in India. Though since 12th January, 2015, when India moved into the current mineral permitting regime, over 66,000 applications to explore or mine were waiting at various statutory gates of the states and the Centre, most of which got cancelled automatically.

National Mineral Policy, 2019

The New National Mineral Policy (NMP, 2019) will ensure more effective regulation in the sector. It will lead to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas.

The aim of NMP 2019 is to have a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.

Key Proposals of the Policy

- ◆ Proposes to increase the production of major minerals by 200 per cent in seven years and reduce trade deficit in mineral sector by 50 per cent in seven years.
- ◆ Aims to attract private investment through incentives like financial package, right of first refusal at the time of auction etc. or any other appropriate incentive according to international practices.

- ◆ Introduces the concept of 'Exclusive Mining Zones'. These 'zones' will come with approved, in-principle clearances to "curtail delay in commencement of mining operations".
 - ◆ Emphasises on simplifying the clearance process and making it time-bound for mineral development and commencement of mining operations.
 - ◆ Proposes to identify critically fragile ecosystems and declare such areas as "no-go areas"/ "inviolable areas".
 - ◆ Encourages merger and acquisition of mining entities and transfer of mining leases that have been granted in a transparent manner to ensure seamless supply of ores and scaling up of business.
 - ◆ Focuses on a long term export-import policy for the mineral sector to provide stability for investing in large scale commercial mining activity.
 - ◆ Proposes harmonising royalty and all other levies and taxes with mining jurisdiction across the world.
 - ◆ Emphasises on ensuring welfare of mining-affected people / communities and ensuring rehabilitation and resettlement, by suitable implementation of all relevant Acts / Rules.
 - ◆ Introduces the concept of 'Inter-Generational Equity' in mineral resource exploitation.
 - ◆ Proposes development of an overarching inter-ministerial body, under the aegis of the Ministry of Mines, to institutionalise mechanisms of sustainable mining. The body will also advise the government on rates of royalty, dead rent etc.
- only of the present generation but also of the generations to come and also proposes to constitute an inter-ministerial body to institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.
- ◆ Among the changes introduced in the NMP, 2019 include the focus on 'Make in India' initiative and gender sensitivity in terms of the vision.
 - ◆ In so far as the regulation in minerals is concerned, e-Governance, IT enabled systems, awareness and Information campaigns have been incorporated.
 - ◆ Regarding the role of state in mineral development online public portal with provision for generating triggers at higher level in the event of delay of clearances has been put in place.
 - ◆ NMP, 2019 aims to attract private investment through incentives while the efforts would be made to maintain a database of mineral resources and tenements under mining tenement systems.
 - ◆ The new policy focusses on use coastal waterways and inland shipping for evacuation and transportation of minerals and encourages dedicated mineral corridors to facilitate the transportation of minerals.
 - ◆ The utilization of the district mineral fund for equitable development of project affected persons and areas.
 - ◆ NMP, 2019 proposes a long term export import policy for the mineral sector to provide stability and as an incentive for investing in large scale commercial mining activity.

Mineral Belts of India

Conventional wisdom and geological evidence suggest that India is richly endowed with mineral resources. Explorations have found over 20,000 known mineral deposits and recoverable reserves of more than 60 minerals.

The most striking feature of the Indian minerals is their uneven distribution. Some areas are very rich in minerals while some others are completely devoid of these valuable assets. 11 states account for 90 % of the total number of operational mines (Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka). If India's forests, mineral-bearing areas, regions of tribal habitation and watersheds are all mapped together, a startling fact emerges – the country's major mineral reserves lie under its richest forests and in the watersheds of its key rivers. These lands are also the homes of India's poorest people, its tribals.

Our rich mineralised zone with relatively sizeable quantities is confined to the old, crystalline rock structures of plateaus and low hills of peninsular India. This has resulted in the emergence of well defined mineral belts which are briefly described as under:

Eastern Belt

Eastern belt stretch over the Northeastern part of the Peninsula. It consists of mineral rich Chhotanagpur and Odisha plateau in 3 states i.e. Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. This belt is the richest mineral belt in India and it is also known as Iron and steel belt of India. Many minerals are found in this belt - coal, iron ore, manganese, chromite, PGE, nickel, gold, mica, limestone, bauxite, copper and china clay.

Central Belt

The Central Belt consists of states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. This belt hosts deposits of bauxite, manganese, iron ore, copper, zinc, gold, diamond, barite, limestone, dolomite, marble, uranium, coal, gemstones and mica. This is the second largest mineral belt in the country.

Significance of NMP, 2019

The 2019 Policy also introduces the concept of 'Inter-Generational Equity' that deals with the well-being not

Southern Belt

The states of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala comprises the Southern Belt. The main fertile greenstone belts, meta volcano-sedimentary sequences with iron-manganese, mafic-ultramafic suite of rocks hosting chromite & PGE, mica belt, kimberlite-lamproite fields are the vital constituents of this area. This region is endowed with the minerals such as gold, iron ore, manganese, PGE, molybdenum, chromite, bauxite, copper, tungsten, graphite, dunite, magnesite, limestone, lignite, garnet, clay etc.

North Western Belt

Rajasthan and Gujarat constitutes the North Western Belt and consist of non-ferrous minerals uranium, lead, zinc, copper, gold, mica, salt, natural gas, petroleum, fertilizer minerals, marble, limestone etc.

The Indian Ocean & Arabian Sea

Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea (Indian Territorial Water and Exclusive Economic Zone) is also a good source of minerals. Besides the availability of petroleum and natural gas in the off shore areas along the Western and the Eastern coasts, the seabed contains many minerals like nodules of manganese, phosphorite, clay, sand, & a host of still untapped mineral commodities.

Lacuna in NMP, 2019

While the NMP, 2019 mentions that mining should be environmentally sustainable and equitable, there remain serious questions on how effective this Policy will be to ensure environmental protection, ecological conservation and protect people's rights in the mining areas.

- ◆ The proposal of 'Exclusive Mining Zones' arise serious concerns about the impact of this proposal on forest ecology, wildlife corridors and forest-dependent communities.

- ◆ Though the environmental clearance and forest clearance process over the past five years has been streamlined and simplified (making it single-window) for the convenience of the project proponents. But what has not been done is making the clearance process robust and comprehensive to improve the quality of assessment before projects are cleared. Neither has post-clearance monitoring been strengthened. The clearance mechanism continues to suffer from a fragmented approach. The process has largely become a bureaucratic paperwork, with little focus on protecting environment and community.

- ◆ Air, water and soil pollution problems in almost all key mining districts of India have severely affected people's health and their livelihood. However, the Policy provides little effective guidance to improve this.

- ◆ The Policy also falls short in providing necessary guidance to ensure effective mine closure practices. A key impediment for proper mine closure in India is that the current financial assurance for this is insufficient. For instance, as per the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (2017), it is just Rs 3 lakh per hectare for 'category A' mines and 2 lakh per hectare for 'category B' mines, which have been granted on a non-auction basis. This is very low in global comparison, where the costs are at least five to six times higher. However, the Policy does not give any clear guidance to improve this.

- ◆ Given the penchant for easing mining and attracting investments, ensuring the welfare of communities can only become postscripts of such activities. If the government is serious about ensuring welfare of people in mining areas and securing their rights, it must improve mechanisms of giving clearances, management

of environmental pollution and preservation of natural resources, with which the lives and livelihoods of these people are intricately related.

Conclusion

The mineral resources of a country and the extent of its utilization are important determinants of growth and prosperity of a nation and its people. Though the actual value of mineral production accounts for only a small percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country, it plays a vital role in world economy, as it has a direct bearing to the industrial growth and developments in the frontiers of science and technology.

Under the 'Make in India' initiative, the government of India aims to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the economy. This national initiative requires a holistic development of the mineral sector on a sustainable basis in order to fulfil the demand of downstream industries dependent on mineral/ore supply. The outcomes expected from these policy proposals are, an increase in the production of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR) minerals (in value terms) by 200 % in 7 years; and on the other hand reduce the trade deficit in minerals sector by 50% in 7 years.

The success of this national mineral policy will be critical in propelling India on to a loftier development trajectory. Successful implementation of this policy and shall be ensured by achieving a national consensus among various key stakeholders and their commitments to fulfil its underlying principles and objectives.

General Studies Paper- II

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



3. MAJOR ECONOMIC POLICIES OF INDEPENDENT INDIA: A BRIEF ANALYSIS

Context

Post independence, the elected representatives of India focused on the holistic development of the nation. India with its huge diversity has always posed tough challenge to the policy and law makers. Here in this article we will try to glean through various decades starting from 1950s to cherry pick a policy, reform or initiative that left indelible mark over the polity and the society as a whole. The criteria of selection include public welfare, financial inclusion, jobs creation, daily economics of an average household and the vision behind the move.

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

In a labour surplus economy like India wages couldn't be left to be determined entirely by forces of demand and supply as it would lead to the fixation of wages at a very low level resulting in exploitation of less privileged class. Keeping this in view, the Government of India enacted the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The purpose of the Act is to provide that no employer shall pay to workers in certain categories of employments wages at a rate less than the minimum wage prescribed by notification under the Act. In fact the sole purpose of this act is to prevent exploitation of sweated and unorganised labour, working in competitive market.

The Act provides for fixation / periodic revision of minimum wages in employments where the labour is vulnerable to exploitation. Under the Act, the appropriate Government, both Central and State can fix / revise the minimum wages in such scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction. The act is legally non-

binding, but statutory. Payment of wages below the minimum wage rate amounts to forced labour. Wage boards are set up to review the industry's capacity to pay and fix minimum wages such that they at least cover a family (of four members) requirements of calories, shelter, clothing, education, medical assistance, and entertainment.

42% of all wage earners in India receive wages below the national minimum wage floor rate. The data used for these statistics includes half of casual labourers and 1/4th of those salaried. Female workers and those in rural areas are more likely to be paid below a minimum wage. Those who are illiterate or have no mid-level education are most likely to be paid below a minimum wage. For Salaried workers, it is more likely that they are paid higher than the minimum wage; whereas casual workers (in construction and unionised workers; in production and manufacturing) are likely to receive wages at the minimum wage rate. In sum, the implementation and enforcement of minimum wages is dismal and marginalised groups and communities suffer the most. The government has announced that many amendments are underway to improve enforcement such as penal action against violations and mandatory revision of minimum wages every 5 years.

Nationalization of Banks in India

After independence the Government of India (GoI) adopted planned economic development for the country. This economic planning basically aimed at social ownership of the means of production. However, commercial banks were in the private sector is those

days. These commercial banks failed helping the government in attaining some social objectives of planning. Thus, the government decided to nationalize 14 major commercial banks on 19th July, 1969. All commercial banks with a deposit base over Rs.50 crores were nationalized. The second dose of nationalisation came in April 1980 when banks were nationalized.

The nationalisation of commercial banks took place with an aim to achieve following major objectives:

- 1. Social Welfare:** It was the need of the hour to direct the funds for the needy and required sectors of the Indian economy. Sector such as agriculture, small and village industries were in need of funds for their expansion and further economic development.
- 2. Controlling Private Monopolies:** Prior to nationalisation many banks were controlled by private business houses and corporate families. It was necessary to check these monopolies in order to ensure a smooth supply of credit to socially desirable sections.
- 3. Expansion of Banking:** In a large country like India the numbers of banks existing those days were certainly inadequate. It was necessary to spread banking across the country. It could be done through expanding banking network (by opening new bank branches) in the un-banked areas.
- 4. Reducing Regional Imbalance, Priority Sector Lending, Developing Banking Habits etc** are some other objectives behind this move.

Though the nationalisation of commercial banks was undertaken with tall objectives, in many senses it failed

in attaining them. In fact it converted many of the banking institutions in the loss making entities. The reasons were obvious lethargic working, lack of accountability, lack of profit motive, political interference, etc. But after Economic Reform of 1991, the Indian banking industry has entered into the new horizons of competitiveness, efficiency and productivity. It has made Indian banks more vibrant and professional organizations, removing the bad days of bank nationalisation. Again in contemporary times Public Sector Banks are facing the problem of Non-Performing Assets owing to Subprime Crisis, 2008 and resulting Global slowdown.

Economic Liberalization of 1991

Indian economic policy after independence was influenced by the colonial experience and by those leaders' exposure to Fabian socialism. Policy tended towards protectionism, with a strong emphasis on import substitution industrialization under state monitoring, state intervention at the micro level in all businesses especially in labour and financial markets, a large public sector, business regulation, and central planning. Elaborate licences, regulations and the accompanying red tape, commonly referred to as Licence Raj, were required to set up business in India between 1947 and 1990.

By 1991, India still had a fixed exchange rate system, where the rupee was pegged to the value of a basket of currencies of major trading partners. India started having balance of payments problems since 1985, and by the end of 1990, the state of India was in a serious economic crisis. The government was close to default, its central bank had refused new credit and foreign exchange reserves had reduced to the point that India could barely finance three weeks' worth of imports.

With the goal of making the economy more market- and service-oriented, and expanding the role of private and foreign investment, economic liberalization also called LPG reforms was done in India. Most of these changes were made as part of the conditions laid out by the World Bank and the IMF as a condition for a \$500 million bailout to the Indian government in December 1991. Specific changes include a reduction in import tariffs, deregulation of markets, reduction of taxes, and greater foreign investment.

The economic liberalization of India had a multitude of impacts, some of which were positive and others negative for its people. The foreign investment in the country increased from a minuscule US\$132 million in 1991–92 to \$5.3 billion in 1995–96. The fruits of liberalisation reached their peak in 2006, when India recorded its highest GDP growth rate of 9.6%. With this, India became the second fastest growing major economy in the world, next only to China. Currently it is on first position surpassing the slowing Chinese economy.

Growth of GDP has primarily been triggered by the growth of secondary and tertiary sectors. Agricultural sector has suffered a serious neglect and its growth rate has depleted to a miserably low level (2-3 per cent per annum). LPG policies have resulted in the concentration of growth process in urban areas. Accordingly, India is witnessing a widening gulf between the rural and urban economies. Therefore it is strongly recommended that LPG policies are pursued with guarded precautions. We must see to it that we do not surrender to big players in the international markets.

Special Economic Zones

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are geographically delineated 'enclaves' in which regulations and practices related to business and trade differ from the

rest of the country and therefore all the units therein enjoy special privileges.

The basic idea of SEZs emerges from the fact that, while it might be very difficult to dramatically improve infrastructure and business environment of the overall economy 'overnight', SEZs can be built in a much shorter time, and they can work as efficient enclaves to solve these problems.

SEZs were introduced to India in 2000, following the already successful SEZ model used in China. Prior to their introduction, India relied on export processing zones (EPZs) which failed to make an impact on foreign investors. By 2005, all EPZs had been converted to SEZs. The SEZ Act, 2005, provides the legal framework for establishment of SEZs and also for units operating in such zones. As of 2017, there are 221 SEZs in operation, with a further 194 approved for 2018.

For developers to establish an SEZ in India, applications can be made to the Indian Board of Approval. Companies, partner firms, and individuals may also apply by completing Form-A which is available on the Department of Commerce's website. There are four types of SEZs in India, which are categorised according to size: Multi-sector (1,000+ hectares); Sector-specific (100+ hectares); Free Trade & Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) (40+ hectares); and Tech, handicraft, non-conventional energy, gems & jewellery (10+ hectares).

India's special economic zones (SEZs) are faced with numerous challenges, including over 25,000 hectares of land lying unutilised in these preferential treatment industrial enclaves, lack of flexibility to utilise land for different sectors, multiple models of operation, domestic sales by the SEZs facing a disadvantage due to payment of full customs duty, and lack of support from state governments for an effective single-window system.

Pradhan Mantri Jan - Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Financial inclusion as defined by Government of India is “the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely adequate credit when needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost”. Dimensions of financial inclusion are bank penetration, credit penetration, deposit penetration for which Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a major initiative.

PMJDY is a National Mission on Financial Inclusion which encompasses an integrated approach to bring about comprehensive financial inclusion of all the households in the country. It ensures financial inclusion by providing universal access to banking facilities, Facilitating people to get used to banking services and furthering credit penetration.

According to World Bank’s Index Report, 2018, 80% adult Indians have bank accounts compared to 53% in 2014 and 35% in 2011 and also 36% of account holders use their accounts to make or receive digital payments.

Though opening more than 1.5 crore bank accounts were opened on the first day itself speaks of its success, World Bank study points to the fact that more than 43% of bank account in Indian Banking system are dormant and during the recent demonitisation initiative they have been used as hiding place for the black money. There is low deposit penetration as well.

Thus along with opening of accounts, there is need to ensure that such accounts don’t become dormant with the time. Ensuring DBT through Jan-dhan account, promoting cashless payment system, increasing financial literacy, promoting awareness through civil society participation to inculcate banking habits, would help in achieving the desired outcome of PMJDY.

Conclusion

While the first wave of economic reforms has led to GDP growth, the real challenge now is to make the growth more broad-based to cover sectors like agriculture, education, and healthcare. Policy makers and industry should now focus more on the execution of plans and addressing structural issues than merely announcing incentives and sops to encourage economic growth in India.

While the basic philosophy behind the first wave of reforms was to ensure the share of manufacturing in GDP grew substantially, which in turn created more jobs, the real problem is being faced by the agricultural sector in terms of remunerative pricing for farmers. We are spending too much time solving the problems of the rich.

The software industry, which we are all proud of, employs 3-4 million people, but there are 35 million weavers who have no voice.

To focus on start-ups is good as it indicates the shift in thought from looking for a job to creating jobs. The focus should shift from start-up to scale up to fundamentally change the ecosystem. We need to build capabilities that deliver on a plan. Otherwise, we have money chasing start-up and not scale-ups due to which capital productivity is low. We also have to start thinking in terms of return on labour just as much as we think about return on capital.

It is a fact that the reform process will not be able to achieve its socio-economic objectives because of excessive private participation in the economy and the private sector is solely guided by the objective of profit maximisation. No doubt the liberalisation process has reduced the role of public sector investment.

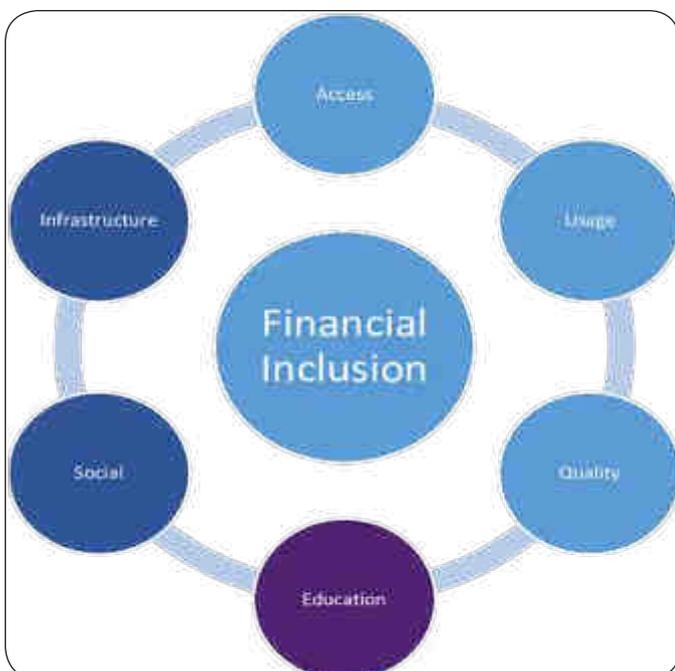
But it has failed to fill the vacuum created by the withdrawal of public sector investment in infrastructure, more so in the backward states. Obviously, this calls for a review of the reform process and taking corrective measures. The true challenge before us is to combine the economies of growth with the economies of equity and social justice.

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: Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.



4. INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN CHILDREN: INDIA'S PROGRESS & CHALLENGES

Why in News?

Recently, Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with International Vaccine Access Centre and Global Health strategies has released a special report named, "Reducing Infectious Diseases in Children: Tracking India's Progress and Outlining the Challenges".

Introduction

In the last two decades, India has made significant progress in improving health indicators, particularly those related to child health. Between 1990 and 2016, under-five mortality in India decreased from 126 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births. The country was certified polio-free in 2014 and it eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus in 2015. India's commitment to improving access to vaccines has been a particularly important intervention in reducing child mortality and morbidity and immunisation remains a priority amongst decision-makers at the highest levels of government.

In India, nearly one million children die before their fifth birthday. About one of every four of these deaths are caused by pneumonia and diarrhoea, two leading infectious causes of child deaths worldwide, even though many of them can be saved by interventions such as breastfeeding, immunisation and access to treatment. Recently, India took steps to increase access to interventions such as immunisation through schemes like 'Mission Indradhanush' and the introduction of new vaccines, including the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and rotavirus vaccine (RVV). Despite progress, however, infectious diseases continue to contribute to a significant proportion of child

mortality and morbidity in India. Some of the new challenges to achieving full immunisation coverage are increasing costs, and misinformation on social media.

What are Infectious Diseases?

Infectious diseases are illnesses caused by germs (microbes). It is important to realize that not all germs (bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites) cause disease. In fact, a host of bacteria normally live on the skin, eyelids, nose and mouth and in the gut. These bacteria are called normal flora and are considered normal inhabitants.

Factors in bacteria, viruses and fungi include genes that determine how harmful (virulent) the microbe can be. Some germs make toxins that cause illness by themselves or contribute to infections caused by the germ. Examples include enterotoxins, which cause diarrhea; tetanus toxin, which causes lock jaw; and toxic shock toxin, which leads to low blood pressure and collapse (shock).

Infections are a normal part of childhood. Most children will have at least 6 to 8 respiratory (breathing tract) infections each year. These include colds, ear infections, sinus infections, bronchitis and pneumonia. Infections of the bowels also are common. Infections are sometimes so mild that there are few or no symptoms. Other infections cause more severe illness. Infections cause harm by damaging a person's body parts (cells and organs) and causing inflammation. Not all infections are contagious (able to spread from person to person). Ear and bladder infections are not spread from child to child, while diarrhea and colds are easily spread.

Newborns are at risk because their protective systems are not yet tested and are not always mature. Infants are at risk because they tend to put everything into their mouths and rarely clean their hands. Older children are less at risk because their hygiene is better and they have become immune through prior infection or carriage of bacteria.

Importance of Vaccination

Vaccination is a proven and one of the most cost effective child survival interventions. All countries in the world have an immunization programme to deliver selected vaccines to the targeted beneficiaries, specially focusing on pregnant women, infants and children, who are at a high risk of diseases preventable by vaccines.

Though a proven cost-effective preventive intervention, the benefits of immunization is not reaching many children who are at the maximum risk of the diseases preventable by these vaccines. Majority of the children who do not receive these vaccines live in developing countries. For example, India records 5 lakh child deaths annually due to vaccine preventable diseases.

In India, despite high childhood mortality rates due to vaccine preventable diseases, 30 percent of Indian children miss the benefits of full immunization every year. That is, an estimated 89 lakhs children across the country that either get only a few vaccines or no vaccines at all. One out of every 3 children in India does not receive all vaccines that are available under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). Five percent of children in urban areas and 8 percent in rural areas are unimmunized.

Universal Immunization Programme

India first introduced the 'Expanded Programme of Immunization' (EPI) in 1978. In 1985, the programme was renamed 'Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)' and is today recognised as the largest such health programme in the world. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides different vaccines to infants, children and pregnant women via the UIP, making vaccines available free of cost to India's annual birth cohort of over 27 million children. However, in 2015-16, the average national full immunisation coverage was a low 62 percent, with only a few states achieving and sustaining coverage of more than 90 percent.

To further boost the programme, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) in October 2017. Through IMI, the government aims to reach every child up to two years of age and all pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme/UIP. The programme provides protection against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. The special drive will focus on improving immunisation coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunisation coverage of more than 90 percent by 2020, a goal that was then advanced to 2018.

Under UIP, government of India is providing vaccination free of cost against ten vaccine preventable diseases i.e. Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B across the country; Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in JE endemic districts and Rotavirus diarrhoea in selected states.

Recent Achievements

- ◆ According to the Pneumonia and Diarrhea Progress Report 2018, despite significant reductions in disease burdens in recent years with improvements in access to and use of health interventions, nearly half a million pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths were recorded in 2016 in two countries – India and Nigeria. Though with an exclusive-breastfeeding rate of 55 percent, India already meets the target set by the Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea.
- ◆ National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has helped reduce inequalities in maternal and child health across geographical areas, socioeconomic status, and gender. It has also led to better uptake in rural areas of services like ORS administration for diarrhoea and immunisation among 12 female children.
- ◆ The nationwide campaign that was started in 2014—the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to clean up streets, roads and cities—has had a remarkable impact at the community level. An analysis has shown that 300,000 deaths due to diarrhoea could be averted by 2019, with the accelerated coverage of safe sanitation services and the promotion of awareness against the practice of 14 open defecation.
- ◆ The rolling out of rotavirus vaccine has reduced hospitalisation and diarrhoea-related deaths, and ORS and zinc use to prevent diarrhoea have also improved in past decades.
- ◆ According to the National Family Health Survey 4 (2015-16), 62 percent of children age 12-23 months has been fully immunized.

Emerging Challenges

- ◆ The challenges, however, remain in terms of availability of the vaccines,

capacity building and training of healthcare providers.

- ◆ Another major problem in India and other similarly high-burden countries is the inequality in vaccine administration amongst vulnerable children.
- ◆ Although there is progress in the health system in terms of supply chain, there is lack of confidence and skills amongst healthcare providers in administering vaccines to infants below six months.
- ◆ An analysis of the IMI has found that the lack of skills and inadequate time are the key limiting factors on the capabilities of community health workers in providing effective counseling.
- ◆ Missing or inadequate data restrict attempts to produce accurate estimates and is one of the reasons for inequality in vaccine administration. There is a need to collect high-quality data on access and uptake of interventions to protect children and prevent and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea—from exclusive breastfeeding rates and immunisation coverage to Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and antibiotic administration—and ensure the public gets correct information.
- ◆ Further, better communication and counselling skills tailored to local beliefs are needed to deal with barriers to seeking vaccinations. Debunking myths by providing clear, accurate information from trusted voices can be an effective way to counter misinformation and fake news to gain the trust of the target populations.

Building a Sustainable System using Experience from IMI

IMI has contributed to significant increases in fully immunised children

(from 50.5% to 69.0%) in 190 of the lowest performing districts in India, a 37% increase in coverage over baseline. It was financed solely by the government, using existing staff and governance systems. IMI showed that cross-sectoral participation can be effective in vaccinating those children at highest risk.

However, a number of system and practice changes, particularly in communication, are needed for this approach to be even more effective. Four areas need strengthening. Firstly, sustained high level political support, advocacy and supervision across sectors and the flexibility to allocate finance and people where needed, is essential. Secondly, all districts must strengthen staff capacity to list household beneficiaries, add additional vaccination sites to improve access, and invest in the transportation required for both. Thirdly, better communication and counselling skills, tailored to local beliefs, are needed by community providers in health and partner sectors. Fourthly, districts and primary care facilities must work more effectively with non-health stakeholders across sectors by involving them early in planning and communication strategies.

To meet sustainable development goals, there is strong political commitment to health in India, including the vaccination system. Investments in new vaccines and universal healthcare are imminent. IMI will play a role in reaching vulnerable populations in the short to medium term. Repeat IMI rounds in 75 lagging districts are planned from October 2018 onwards, incorporating experience from the early rounds. A campaign focused on village empowerment and development (Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan), led by the Ministry of Rural

Development, will also introduce IMI as one component of a multisectoral development effort.

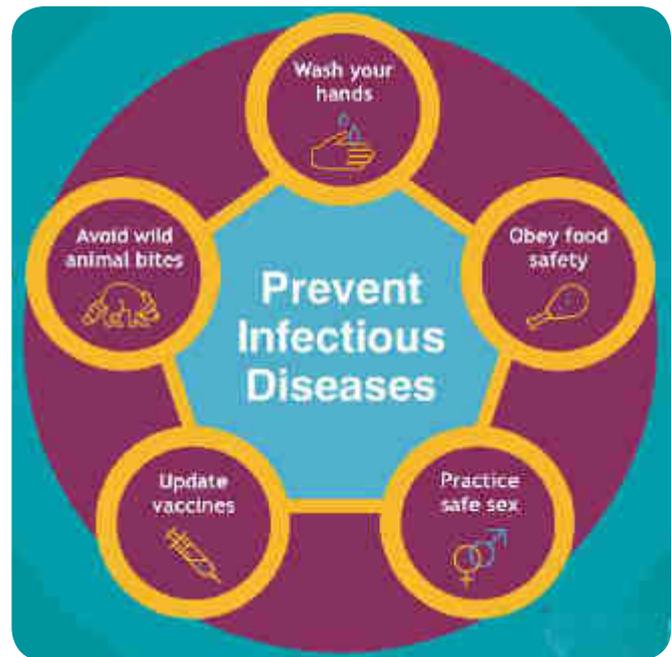
In the longer term, it is hoped that the lessons learnt from IMI will be incorporated into routine programming and overall development, with cross-sectoral participation leading to a people's movement (Jan Andolan), for reducing vaccination inequities through social change.

Way Forward

India needs to take serious steps to achieve full immunisation coverage by 2020 and global targets on good health and well-being by 2030. Greater efforts to communicate the benefits and risks of vaccines and address issues with evidence-based information will help improve and sustain public trust in 18 vaccines and health systems worldwide.

Furthermore, equity is critical in protecting children against vaccine preventable diseases. India must learn from its neighbour, Bangladesh, about how valid vaccination coverage is possible in tribal and rural areas. A study from Tanzania has concluded that improving quality of vaccination services, promoting health education and sensitising community on health facility delivery will improve child vaccination completion. An equity approach requires more resources and higher granularity to identify unreached children and define effective strategies.

Equally important is for India to learn from its own successes. After all, the country achieved polio eradication



through, amongst other efforts, revising its strategies for communication and mobilisation. There is an urgent need for revising communication and mobilisation strategies for strengthening immunisation services in India. Culturally appropriate social marketing messages in targeted settings—such as among urban low-income communities—can increase awareness amongst parents and promote the merits of immunisation. The use of various media in the vernacular, like street plays and storytelling, can be effective in bringing awareness and change in behaviour. The campaigns can be conducted in schools to involve teachers, and the children themselves who make for effective advocates. It is important to move from social mobilisation to social accountability, so that there is a push from the communities themselves to seek the services.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/ Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.



5. GOLAN HEIGHTS: ZONE OF CONTENTION

Why in News?

US President Donald Trump in March has signed a presidential proclamation officially recognising the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. However, the United Nations (UN) said the Golan's legal status would remain unchanged despite Trump's announcement and would still be considered an "occupied territory" under international law.

Introduction

Trump's latest proclamation regarding official recognition of Golan Heights as Israeli territory marked a reversal of decades of US policy, which has refused to condone the Israeli occupation of Golan and urged that the dispute must be resolved diplomatically. The President has earlier recognised the disputed city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, moved the American Embassy there from Tel Aviv and stopped aid to Palestinian refugees. However, the US came under sharp criticism from the 14 other Security Council nations for its decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights in violation of council resolutions.

Indications of a shift in the US policy was observed on 16 November 2018 as the US voted against a UN General Assembly Resolution condemning Israel's occupation in Golan Heights, and claiming the resolution to be biased against the Jewish state. Subsequently, on 13 March 2019, the US State Department in its annual 2018 global human rights report, replaced the term 'Israeli-occupied' to 'Israeli-controlled', raising international attention over the change in language. The US decision has been widely evaluated due to its political timing which is likely to provide a political boost to Netanyahu ahead of an election in Israel in April

2019. Several analysts have argued that proclamation also serves as a distraction in the domestic situation in both the US and Israel.

Eventually, on 25 March 2019, President Trump signed the presidential proclamation recognizing the territory as part of Israel. It is seen as a departure from the US policy as it had earlier maintained that Israel's borders would be decided through a negotiated settlement.

What are Golan Heights?

The Golan Heights are a fertile plateau of around 1,300 sq km area lying to the North and East of the Sea of Galilee, which Israel seized from Syria during the Six-Day War of 1967 and has occupied ever since. The Golan overlooks both Israel and Syria and offers a commanding military vantage. Syrian forces made an abortive bid to take it back during the Yom Kippur War of 1973; the 1974 ceasefire agreement, however, left most of the area in Israeli

hands. In 1981, Israel passed the Golan Heights Law, which extended Israel's "laws, jurisdiction and administration" to the area, in effect annexing it. A UNSC resolution declaring the imposition of Israel's law "in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights... null and void and without international legal effect" has not changed the situation on the ground, although the frontier has not seen major hostilities for more than 40 years.

After Israel and Syria signed an armistice in 1974 and the Golan had been relatively quiet since.

Between the Israeli and Syrian armies is a 400-square-km (155-square-mile) "Area of Separation" – often called a demilitarized zone – in which the two countries' military forces are not permitted under the ceasefire arrangement. The Separation of Forces Agreement of May 31, 1974 created an Alpha Line to the West of the area of separation, behind which Israeli military



forces must remain and a Bravo Line to the East behind which Syrian military forces must remain. There is one crossing point between the Israeli and Syrian sides, which until the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011 was used mainly by United Nations forces, a limited number of Druze civilians and for the transportation of agricultural produce. A United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is stationed in camps and observation posts along the Golan, supported by military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

In 2000, Israel and Syria held their highest-level talks over a possible return of the Golan and a peace agreement. But the negotiations collapsed and subsequent talks also failed.

The Syrian side remained under rebel control until the summer of 2018, when Assad's forces returned to the largely ruined city of Quneitra and the surrounding area following a Russian-backed offensive and a deal that allowed rebels to withdraw. The rebels forced Assad's forces to withdraw and also turned on US forces in the area, forcing them to pull back from some of their positions. Assad's forces are now back in control of the Syrian side of the Quneitra crossing, which reopened in October 2018, while United Nations forces are still carrying out refurbishment works to positions they were forced to leave years ago.

Who Lives there?

Around 50,000 people are estimated to live on the Golan, divided almost equally between Israeli Jewish settlers and Arabic-speaking Druze people of Syrian origin, who follow a monotheistic Abrahamic religion related to Ismaili Shia Islam. The Druze have remained loyal to the regimes of Bashar al-Assad and his father Hafez

al-Assad over the decades, and refused Israeli citizenship. About another 20,000 Israeli settlers also live there, many of them working in farming and tourism.

Strategic Importance

Israel's Interest

From Israel's perspective, strategic significance of the mountainous region lies in its high altitude which serves as a crucial vantage point to monitor Syria's military movement and serves as a natural buffer against military aggression. The region also provides one-third of Israel's fresh water supply that feeds into the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee. Moreover, the land is highly fertile with numerous orchards, vineyards and is suitable for cattle-rearing. Therefore, the dispute in Golan is largely driven by control over resources.

It provides a natural buffer against any military thrust from Syria. Israel has long wanted to reach bilateral political settlements with some of its Arab neighbours and one of its strategies was to occupy territory and return it through negotiation. In the vernacular of Arab-Israeli relations, this is known as "land for peace". Israel hopes it can use Golan Heights to initiate a negotiation process that implicitly legitimises it as a state. This is something Arab leaders have struggled to deal with; any potential concession to Israel's claim to statehood could undermine their own legitimacy and popularity with their own populations.

Iran's Interest

Iran's investment in the Golan Heights is more symbolic than material. The Israeli occupation provides fodder for the Iranian government's furious anti-Israeli rhetoric, which is meant to generate and reinforce wider

support across the Middle East. In reality, Iran wants to avoid a direct military confrontation with Israel over the Golan Heights, as it knows Israel comfortably outweighs it on technical military might. That's why Iran prefers to exploit forces as Hezbollah in the south of Lebanon and Bashar al-Assad's military in Syria as proxies between them and Israel.

The US's Interest

The close relationship between the US and Israel has been one of the most salient features in US foreign policy. There are several strategic reasons for continuing US support. Some of them are:

- ◆ Israel has successfully prevented victories by radical nationalist movements in Lebanon and Jordan, as well as in Palestine.
- ◆ Israel has kept Syria, for many years an ally of the Soviet Union, in check.
- ◆ Israel's air force is predominant throughout the region.
- ◆ Israel's frequent wars have provided battlefield testing for American arms, often against Soviet weapons.
- ◆ Israel's intelligence service has assisted the US in intelligence gathering and covert operations.
- ◆ Israel has missiles capable of reaching as far as the former Soviet Union, it possesses a nuclear arsenal of hundreds of weapons, and it has cooperated with the US military-industrial complex with research and development for new jet fighters and anti-missile defense systems.

Criticism of the US Move

The United States came under sharp criticism from the 14 other UN Security Council nations for its decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the

Golan Heights in violation of council resolutions. There are two resolutions, which are:

1. UN Security Council Resolution 242, known more commonly as the “land for peace” resolution, has been in place since the end of the Six-Day War. It has formed the backbone of the decades-long peace process between Israel and Arab states mainly because it affirms that regional countries can’t take land from others.
2. There’s UN Security Council Resolution 497, adopted in December 1981, which notes that “the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible” and, more to the point, “the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction, and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void.”

South Africa criticised US and said that “this unilateral action does nothing to assist in finding a long-term peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East.”

Syria’s closest ally Russia also condemned the US decision to recognise Israel’s territorial claim to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Russia said, it is “a colossal strike” at the international legal basis.

Arab leaders also would seek a U.N. Security Council resolution against the US decision to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and promised to support Palestinians in their bid for statehood.

The decision to recognize territory is likely to set a problematic precedent. Several political commentators have drawn a parallel between the US’ recognition for Israeli annexation with the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. Moreover, China could also utilize the Golan precedent to legitimize its

island building projects in the South China Sea. Therefore, the visible violation of international law that prohibits taking over territory by force could be utilized by other states to seek claim over territories by annexing and declaring sovereignty.

The US decision has dismantled the prospect of a two-state solution and has made the possibility of contiguous Palestinian state harder. In the present context, if the word ‘occupied’ is in fact omitted, then Israel does not have any legal basis to prosecute Palestinians living in West Bank in military courts and would be obliged to provide civil and political rights, which is unlikely to happen due to the Jewish nature of the state. The UNDOF, at the same time, has been posted in the buffer zone after the 1974 Disengagement Agreement between both states. It has played a key role in diluting the tensions over the years. However, in the new reality, questions have emerged over the validity of the UN force in the disputed territory.

Why US Move should Worry India?

By ignoring the United Nations charter pledge to refrain from “the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state,” Trump is putting the future of other long-disputed territory in jeopardy. It sets a terrible precedent.

The Kashmir region between India and Pakistan has been disputed for more than 70 years, a legacy of the partition that accompanied Britain’s withdrawal from India in 1947. Tensions rose in the volatile region in recent weeks, after India conducted a “pre-emptive strike” in Pakistan-controlled territory and Pakistan captured an Indian fighter pilot. The mostly Muslim residents of the India-administered Kashmir Valley view the national government as an

occupying force and Pakistan officials support their self-government.

Also, these developments have put India in a tough spot. New Delhi has tried hard to maintain good relationships with both Israel and its rivals in the region. In 2017, it voted against the US move to recognise Jerusalem as the Israeli capital in the United Nations. If forced to take a stand again, Israel may yet again be disappointed with the outcome.

Way Forward

The move to recognize Golan as part of Israel is short-sighted and driven by domestic and strategic interests for both the US and Israel. From Prime Minister Netanyahu’s perspective, US recognition is likely to become a crucial factor in the upcoming elections. However, going beyond strategic interests, the decision has overlooked the voices and concerns of the local community that continues to view its homeland as part of Syria and despite persistent efforts by the government; the integration process with the Israeli state has been incomplete. The Presidential proclamation has set a dangerous precedent that has legitimized acquisition of territory by force, raised the scope of animosity against Israel and the US, could increase the geo-strategic footprint of Iran and its allies, and push for complete annexation of other occupied territories.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.



6. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: MILES TO GO

Why in News?

Chanda Kochhar, who was the CEO of ICICI Bank for nearly a decade, and her husband Deepak are facing investigations on several fronts for alleged corrupt practices in sanctioning of loans by the bank as well as payments by businessmen to Deepak's business. These payments were allegedly made for loans sanctioned by ICICI Bank. Board members were also stumped by Chanda Kochhar's explanation of the events and her reasons for not acknowledging the business dealings.

Introduction

Improving corporate governance standards has been a matter of priority for Indian policymakers over the past two decades. While scandals heightened awareness of corporate governance issues and public outcry forced the government to protect public interest and restore confidence in the market, the continuing impetus for corporate governance has been economic growth, the desire to remain competitive, international capital flow and growth of global financial market. Laws have been strengthened and regulation deepened to prevent further corporate misdeeds. The compliance regime has been tightened, and criminal and administrative penalties have been toughened. It can be stated that awareness of the importance of good corporate governance practices is now reasonably widespread.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved sweeping changes proposed by the Uday Kotak panel on improving corporate governance standards. SEBI had constituted the Committee in June 2017, under the Chairmanship of Shri Uday Kotak to make recommendations to SEBI for improving standards of corporate governance of listed

entities in India. The Committee was represented by different stakeholders including the Government, industry, stock exchanges, academicians, proxy advisors, professional bodies, lawyers, etc. The Committee submitted its report detailing several recommendations on October 5, 2017.

2018 was an eventful year for the corporate governance regulatory framework in India. The Securities and Exchange Board of India not only approved a host of recommendations made by the Kotak committee on corporate governance, but also gave these recommendations the required regulatory impetus by notifying the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 [SEBI LODR].

From April 1, 2019, a slew of these amendments came into effect and all listed entities are required to ensure their readiness in terms of implementation and compliance. Broadly, the amendments have four intended targets: the board of directors, the listed company, the investors and the promoters.

Corporate Governance

Corporate governance is the set of processes, customs, policies, laws, and institutions affecting the way a corporation (or company) is directed, administered or controlled. Corporate governance is a process that aims to allocate corporate resources in a manner that maximizes value for all stakeholders – shareholders, investors, employees, customers, suppliers, environment and the community at large and holds those at the helms to account by evaluating their decisions on transparency, inclusivity, equity and responsibility.

Models of Corporate Governance

Across the world, there are several different models of corporate governance in practice. It is the reflection of the ways organizations are funded and secondly reveals the control imposed by legislation or an external regulator. Some of them are:

- ◆ **Anglo Saxon Model (Anglo American):** This model is based on the corporate objectives set by the owners of the organization. It applies to the United Kingdom and United States.
- ◆ **Continental model (Franco German Model):** This model views a firm as a collective entity that has responsibilities and duties towards key stakeholders, with shareholders perceived to be only one group of such stake holders. It applies to Germany and other Continental countries.
- ◆ **Japanese Model:** Japanese industrial structure is based on a network of supplier and buyer companies ("Keiretsu"). Keiretsu are known for their extensive cross shareholding among members and their main banks. Organizations have long term and stable relationship among firms and the banks that finance them.
- ◆ **The Family Owned Company Model:** Another type of corporate governance model run by family owned business, this is prevalent in Asian and Latin American countries, where companies owned by families often dominate the market. In these countries, it is not unusual for a small number of powerful families to control a majority of public companies.

Principles of Corporate Governance

The fundamental principles of Corporate Governance

- (i) **Transparency:** Transparency means the quality of something which enables one to understand the truth easily. In fact, transparency is the foundation of corporate governance; which helps to develop a high level of public confidence in the corporate sector. For ensuring transparency in corporate administration, a company should publish relevant information about corporate affairs in leading newspapers, e.g., on a quarterly or half yearly or annual basis.
- (ii) **Accountability:** Accountability is a liability to explain the results of one's decisions taken in the interest of others. In the context of corporate governance, accountability implies the responsibility of the Chairman, the Board of Directors and the chief executive for the use of company's resources in the best interest of company and its stakeholders.
- (iii) **Independence:** Good corporate governance requires independence on the part of the top management of the corporation i.e. the Board of Directors must be strong non-partisan body; so that it can take all corporate decisions based on business prudence. Without the top management of the company being independent; good corporate governance is only a mere dream.

Benefits of Strong Corporate Governance For Emerging Economies

There are enormous benefits of corporate governance these days. Some of the very vital benefits corporate governance are:-

- ◆ Good corporate governance assures corporate success and economic growth.
- ◆ Corporate governance keeps investors' confidence, as a result of which, the company can raise capital efficiently and productively.
- ◆ It lowers the capital cost.
- ◆ Corporate governance also helps in ensuring that there is a positive influence on the share price.
- ◆ Corporate governance provides a proper incentive to the owners as well as managers to achieve objectives that are in interests of the shareholders and the organization.
- ◆ Good corporate governance also reduces wastages, corruption, risks, and mismanagement.
- ◆ Corporate governance helps a corporate world in the brand formation and development.
- ◆ Corporate governance also ensures that organization is managed in a manner that fits the best interests of all.

Challenges to Effective Corporate Governance

Although, there exists many guidelines about corporate governance but still many issues are arising about the compliance. The major challenges to effective corporate governance are:

- ◆ Non-coverage of unlisted corporate - The applicability of rules and regulations are restricted to the listed entities only as per the clause 49 of the listing agreement which leads to small and mid-sized firms to perform activities which are legal in nature but are not ethical.
- ◆ Disclosure of off-balance sheet transactions - There are many transactions which cannot be disclosed in the balance sheet and even if they can be they cannot be displayed in monetary terms.
- ◆ Family owned business - In India, the majority of the businesses are family owned which means there is no provision regarding the dilution of powers. Ranging from directors to employees all key positions are held by family members.

- ◆ Multiplicity of regulations - In India there are many regulatory bodies such as Companies act 2013, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Reserve Bank of India, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority, etc. and they have no coordination with each other which leads to multiple provisions for a single type of event/transaction
- ◆ Corporate social responsibility - The small and the mid-sized firms do not have the resources to allocate separate funds to CSR from its profit.

Amendments to SEBI LODR, 2015

Recommendations that SEBI has brought through the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 on the recommendation of the Uday Kotak Committee can be summed up in two broad headings.

The Board of Directors – Emphasis On Independence, Diversity And Transparency

The majority of the amendments are dedicated to boards and their machinations, and not without reason – in their essence, boards are the bedrock of corporate governance, presumed at all times to be acting in the best interests of the company and the shareholders.

To achieve the twin objectives of stopping directors dividing their attention and time amongst too many stakeholders, and increasing the diversity of each board, the amendments will now place restrictions on the maximum number of directorships (independent and otherwise) that each director can hold in a listed entity (listco). An additional layer of scrutiny has been added for independent directors, which requires such directors to make declarations to the board on an ongoing basis regarding their independence, and the board

to formulate a policy for evaluating the performance of all independent directors.

On the issue of managerial remuneration, the amendment said that for every year in which the annual remuneration payable to a single non-executive director exceeds 50 percent of the total remuneration payable to all non-executive directors, shareholders' approval will be required.

Further the amendment had expanded the scope of 'senior manager', which will now ensure that tools of corporate governance such as succession planning and code of conduct govern a wider array of employees.

Shareholder Information Rights – More Power To The People

Annual reports will need to be e-mailed to shareholders' registered IDs, and shall mandatorily include, amongst other matters, disclosures in relation to utilisation of funds, transactions with promoter/promoter groups, details of changes in key financial ratios, details of other directorships, a competence matrix of the board, credit ratings, and auditor fees. Thus, post-amendments, the shareholders will be afforded a wider and deeper view into the workings of their investee companies.

Analysis of Amendments

The recommendations accepted by SEBI can make a material difference to public shareholders in critical areas of governance. But their efficacy will be tested in practise. The mandatory separation of the positions of Chairperson of the Board and CEO in listed companies, for instance, is a significant move to reduce concentration of powers and root out conflicted decisions such as over-the-top managerial pay. But then, whether the Chairperson truly reins in top managers would depend on who appoints him/her and whether

he/she is free of promoter influence. Cosy related party deals have been the bane of India Inc. Therefore, requiring companies to seek shareholder approvals in all material deals with specific approvals for royalty payments of over 2 per cent of sales, is welcome. But whether shareholders really manage to vote out transactions that are inimical to their interests, will depend on ownership patterns and their ability to rally institutional support in crucial meetings. Having said this, the new disclosure requirements on auditor resignations, related party deals and consolidated quarterly results will certainly improve the flow of material information to public investors. Some of SEBI's decisions to water down the committee's proposals are, however, contentious. It isn't clear, for instance, why the Chairperson-CEO separation, quorum for Board meetings or deadlines for holding Annual General Meetings (AGMs) must apply only to the top 100, 500 or 1000 listed companies by market value. The intent may be to reduce the compliance burden on smaller firms. But then, in the Indian context, retail portfolios are dominated by mid- and small-cap firms. It is also smaller sized firms that feature low levels of analyst scrutiny and thus are at greater risk of mis-governance.

SEBI has also remained silent on some of the critical recommendations which would have expanded its own regulatory ambit — powers to prosecute auditors and scrutinise qualified accounts. Perhaps these are some areas where SEBI has lobbed the ball to 'other agencies' for review. Given the seriousness of the issue, it would have been useful if SEBI has elaborated on its reasons for cherry-picking proposals. But overall, Indian investors may be more keen to see prompt enforcement actions on governance that bring the many perpetrators of recent scams to book.

Way Forward

Gone are the days when board members could put their feet up once they had directed a company to financial success. Today, businesses are under constant pressure by shareholders to achieve more. Scandals involving data breaches, corporate fraud and misconduct swirled in 2018, proving a strong corporate governance structure is an essential element to any successful business.

Corporate governance has been proving a very efficient and effective system for our economy and to save the interest of shareholders but some more efficient monitoring and transparent internal audit system, efficient board and management can lead it to effective corporate governance. Focus on corporate governance should broaden to encourage emerging market companies to bolster strategic management of sustainability issues and enhance public disclosure on sustainability performance.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

General Studies Paper- IV

Topic: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.



7. COMMUNITY RADIO IN INDIA: JOURNEY SO FAR

Why in News?

For the first time, 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.

Introduction

Broadcast radio today reaches a staggering 99% of the Indian population. Rural India relies on it overwhelmingly for information. It also remains the most inexpensive and portable medium. Community Radio is an effective tool for achieving plurality in the media, particularly by ensuring participation of the marginalised sections of the society in the media and addressing information poverty. Democratising the usage of airwaves, Community Radio provides citizens a platform for exercising their right to freedom of expression and securing easy access to media.

A medium like Community Radio is an important instrument for creation of knowledge communities and also making a government aware of the concerns of its citizens. At the same time, an enabling policy environment that facilitates single window clearance and time bound processing of Community Radio applications, allocation of spectrum, and promotion and digitalisation of radio signals to accommodate more frequencies further encourages organisations to apply for Community Radio licences.

History of Community Radio in India

In 1923, Bombay Presidency Radio Club started broadcasting covering a radius of less than 500 meters. Two privately-owned transmitters were set up at Bombay and Calcutta by Broadcasting Services in 1927. Government took

over broadcasting services in 1930 and It was renamed as Indian Broadcasting Service.

Over a century later, in 1995, The Indian Telegraph Act 1885 was questioned by the Supreme Court of India which gave a historic judgement in February 1995, stating that airwaves constitute public property and must be utilised for advancing public good. It took seven years for the Government of India to laid out policy guidelines for community radio in 2005 when it approved a policy for grant of licenses for setting up community radio stations. Initially, only educational institutions were allowed to set up campus radio stations within a range of 10 to 15 Kms. In 2006 government allowed non-profit organizations, Agricultural research institutes, and schools to set up community radio stations to engage local communities.

What is Community Radio?

Community radio is a radio service offering a third model of radio broadcasting in addition to commercial and public broadcasting. Community stations serve geographic communities and communities of interest. They broadcast content that is popular and relevant to a local, specific audience but is often overlooked by commercial or mass-media broadcasters. Community radio stations are operated, owned, and influenced by the communities they serve.

They are generally non profit and provide a mechanism for enabling individuals, groups, and communities to tell their own stories, to share experiences and, in a media-rich world, to become creators and contributors of media. In many parts of the world, community radio acts as a vehicle for the community and voluntary sector, civil society, agencies, NGOs

and citizens to work in partnership to further community development aims, in addition to broadcasting.

Functions of Community Radio

- ◆ To reflect and promote local identity, character and culture by focusing principally on local content.
- ◆ To create a diversity of voices and opinions on the air through its openness to participation from all sectors.
- ◆ To encourage open dialogue and democratic process by providing an independent platform for interactive discussion about matters and decisions of importance to the community.
- ◆ To promote social change and development. In marginalized communities people all have their individual perceptions about their situation, but what is required for change and development is a collective perception of the local reality and of the options for improving it.
- ◆ It create a pressure from community and civil representatives through dialogues, talk shows, discussion programs and magazine programs so as to state, market and society can always play the pro people role.

Some other functions of community radio include: sharing of information and innovation; giving a voice to the voiceless, especially to women and young people in some societies; and providing a social service as a replacement for the telephone

Current Status of Community Radio in India

There are about 180 active community radio stations in India. A large number of applications submitted

for community radio station numbers signify the potential for growth of Community radio in India. The only matter of concern is that most of the community radio stations are centered around educational institutes and non-profit organizations. Due to this factor, very few community radio stations fulfill the responsibility of serving communities in the true sense. To make community radio stations more inclusive, the government needs to make the licensing process less tedious and hassle free.

In 2013, government announced 1 billion rupees for community radio stations under the 12th Five-Year Plan besides setting up 500 new stations. However, five years down the line, the number of community stations remains far less than the target.

Community Radio Facilitation Centre

The Community Radio Facilitation Centre (CRFC) was set up by Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) in 2011 with support from the Ford Foundation with the purpose of providing guidance to Community Radio licence applicants, evolve guidelines and toolkits, support capacity building of Community Radio stations etc.

CRFC will work closely with Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to facilitates close coordination among key ministries for expediting inter-ministerial clearances and is in the process of sensitising various ministries and departments related to social welfare on tapping the

potential of Community Radio. The one of the major objectives of CRFC will be to enhance the outreach of Community Radio itself. This will be achieved by conducting workshops with the ministries and departments of the government of India charged with social welfare in order to promote Community Radio.

CRFC facilitates Community Radio applicants through various stages of licensing, coordinates and liaises with different ministries to expedite clearances, and creates and enhances support systems and mechanisms.

One World – an international not-for-profit organisation that promotes Information Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) – has taken over the management of Community Radio Facilitation Centre beginning September 2013.

Community Radios In India: Voice to the Voiceless

1. Radio FTII 90.4 FM, Maharashtra

Radio FTII, aired on FM 90.4, travels from one community to another explaining the marvels of this platform and how, individuals, as well as community groups, can use it to communicate their issues, without any burden or a trail of cumbersome formalities. Having launched in 2006, at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune, Radio FTII, soon emerged as one of the most prominent community radio stations in the state, highlighting several health-related issues that were ailing the communities.

2. Radio Udaan, Punjab

Born out of the desire to reach out to individuals with visual impairment, Radio Udaan began its flight in February 2014. Today, after five years of continuous hard work, Radio Udaan boasts a reach of more than 100 countries to over 20,000 listeners every month. An online community radio station, the primary objective was to bring together people from all over the world to form an inclusive and empowering community which is free from all stereotypes.

3. Apno Radio, 90.4 MHz, Rajasthan

Operating at the frequency of 90.4 MHz, under Banasthali Vidyapith, Apno Radio is Rajasthan's first community radio station. Launched in 2005, with an objective to promote self-reliance and women empowerment, it focuses on several social issues ailing the rural communities of the state.

4. Vidyavani, 107.4 FM, Maharashtra

Based out of the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Vidyavani is a prominent community radio broadcasting in Marathi, English and Hindi, since 2005. As Pune's first community radio, it has been reaching out to communities in and around the city, airing programmes related to civic issues, education, health, etc. As a campus radio station, it also caters to students of 650 colleges, affiliated to the university. "All our shows concentrate on being informative and are mostly student-centric.

5. Vasundhara Vahini, 90.4 MHz, Maharashtra

An agro-based radio, located in Baramati it also reaches out to nearby rural areas, and its tagline is—'a tool of social transformation.' With its primary audience consisting of farmers and villagers, Vasundhara Vahini focuses on various farming-related issues, like sustainable farming techniques, organic farming, new varieties of seeds, updates on the commodity market, weather forecast, various pesticides and medicines, etc.

Significance of Community Radio

Community radio has proved itself as a very effective medium of reaching out to the most marginalized communities.

Community radio has played a significant role in connecting people with information on their rights and entitlements as well as in bringing to the fore protagonists of people.

It has great potential of becoming an effective means of making the voice of vulnerable communities heard, and building collective energies around issues that impact people the most.

As community radio derives its strength from its close connect with communities, it has proved itself as an effective and empowering tool for addressing the issues of community such as –

- ◆ Advocating for rights of women,
- ◆ Minorities and Dalit communities;
- ◆ Building the community resilience to disaster,
- ◆ Grounding of secular values of the constitution and building better

understanding within communities in conflict,

- ◆ Mobilizing solidarity support of different social groups, and civil society organisations for ensuring social justice to the vulnerable communities.

In addition to it, Community Radios can play an important role in assisting Election Commission, motivating and mobilising the voters, enlisting the underserved voters into the electoral roll, mobilising them to go to the polling booth, educating them about their rights and responsibilities, and making them an informed and educated voter.

Challenges for Community Radio

Challenges for Community Radio in India create both technical and infrastructural obstruction in the smooth and effective operation as well as development of Community Radio. The most prominent challenges faced by Community Radio in India deal with the technology and financial sustainability. Community Radio usually has the permission to feature five minutes of advertising every hour. In case of good marketing, these advertisements are very helpful to provide the operational costs of running the Community Radio

Station and in paying salaries to the staff of the setup.

However, practically the scenario becomes quite infeasible for the Community Radio Stations. It becomes quite difficult for the operators, who lack in affluent resources, to seek good advertisers with excellent business skills as well as provide great quality content at the same time. In such cases it has been inferred that a central agency for assisting these radio stations by searching advertising on their behalf would be much helpful.

The second governance challenge is to tap into the exciting public private partnerships in rural India underway between local bodies called Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and civil society organizations and find a space and synergy for sensitization through community radio. As constitutionally backed bodies, PRIs are the recipients of untied funds in areas of health, education and social/livelihood protection and also play a central role in implementing the centrally sponsored rural development programmes through tied funds.

Way Forward

Community radio is a process and can not exit on social isolation. It is not

simply about producing programmes to put on air it requires preparing and creating awareness and information of a community radio from the very beginning. . It is about developing a community by using radio. It is important to clearly identify goals in any community radio from the very beginning. At presents it lacks so community radio future.

Despite the huge gap that exists between policy and ground level realities with respect to community radio in India, it can be predicted that it will grow in the future. It appears to be a question of time. The Government of India will adopt rules and potential community radio users will learn together to utilise it to their advantage. It is appropriate to give civil society the time to respond to this opportunity, so that they can appropriate the medium in a more meaningful way, as it is meant to be.

General Studies Paper- II

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



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

National Green Aviation Policy: Towards Green Growth of Air Transportation

Q1. India is the world's fastest growing domestic aviation market. Regional connectivity is critical if this high growth is to be sustained in inclusive and sustainable way. In this context, discuss the role National Green Aviation Policy to address the major environmental challenges of the aviation industry.

Hint.

- ◆ India is one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets and is projected to become the world's third largest air passenger market in 10 years. Air transport brings substantial social and economic benefits and underpins the global economy, but it also has a local and global impact on the environment.
- ◆ Airlines and Airports are interlinked and form a strong mesh that encompasses all critical aspects relating to climate and environment. As the number of people travelling increases, the use of jet fuel for aviation grows and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increase. This threatens to destabilize the world's climatic systems, the consequence of which will cost the global economy billions of dollars.
- ◆ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that aircraft currently "contribute about 3.5 percent of the total radiative forcing (a measure of change in climate) by all human activities." It is widely accepted that this figure will rise, and the IPCC has predicted that it could rise to as much as 15 per cent by 2050. Carbon dioxide emissions from aviation were expected to grow by 176 per cent between 1990 and 2050; however, newer studies suggest growth in the order of 300 per cent.
- ◆ The Ministry of Civil Aviation sets out a strategic framework to address the major environmental challenges of the aviation industry. It comprehends the key environmental issues of the sector and emphasizes the Government's approach towards environment protection.
- ◆ White Paper on National Green Aviation for inclusive and sustainable growth of the civil aviation sector in

the country while mitigating its negative impacts on environment at the same time It comprehends the key environmental issues of the sector and emphasizes the Government's approach towards environment protection.

National Mineral Policy, 2019: An Overview

Q2. NMP 2019, misses out on providing necessary guidance on some of the fundamental things that would have made it a strong guiding document to ensure environmentally and socially responsible mining. Discuss

Hint.

- ◆ In compliance of the directions of the apex Court, Union Cabinet, in March 2019, has approved National Mineral Policy 2019 that replaced the earlier 2008 Policy.
- ◆ The aim of National Mineral Policy 2019 is to have a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices. It will ensure more effective regulation leading to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas. The 2019 Policy also introduces the concept of Inter-Generational Equity that deals with the well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come.
- ◆ The environmental clearance (EC) and forest clearance (FC) mechanism continues to suffer from a fragmented approach. The process has largely become a bureaucratic paperwork, with little focus on protecting environment and community.
- ◆ Environmental pollution from mining activities is a major problem in most mining areas. However, the Policy only mentions to use "renewable sources of energy at mining sites" to reduce pollution, carbon footprint and operational costs.

Major Economic Policies of Independent India: A Brief Analysis

Q3. India with its huge diversity has always posed tough challenge to the policy and law makers. Discuss some of the major policies and reforms taken in economic sector in post independence India.

Hint

- ◆ Post independence, the elected representatives of India focused on the holistic development of the nation. India with its huge diversity has always posed tough challenge to the policy and law makers. Some of the major policies and reforms taken in economic sector in post independence India are as follows:
- ◆ Minimum Wages Act, 1948: Government of India enacted the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to provide that no employer shall pay to workers in certain categories of employments wages at a rate less than the minimum wage prescribed by notification under the Act. Payment of wages below the minimum wage rate amounts to forced labour. Wage boards are set up to review the industry's capacity to pay and fix minimum wages
- ◆ Nationalisation of Commercial banks: To achieve Social Welfare, Controlling Private Monopolies, Reducing Regional Imbalance, Priority Sector Lending, Developing Banking Habits etc
- ◆ LPG Reforms: With the goal of making the economy more market- and service-oriented, and expanding the role of private and foreign investment
- ◆ PradhanMantri Jan-DhanYojana, Special Economic Zone are some of the other major interventions. The true challenge before us is to combine the economies of growth with the economies of equity and social justice.

Infectious Diseases in Children: India's Progress & Challenges

Q4. The Government of India recognizes immunization as one of the most cost effective interventions to prevent child deaths. Discuss the various government intervention in reducing child mortality and morbidity.

Hint.

- ◆ In the last two decades, India has made significant progress in improving health indicators, particularly those related to child health. Between 1990 and 2016, under-five mortality in India decreased from 126 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births. The Government of India recognizes immunization as one of the most cost effective interventions to prevent child deaths.

- ◆ India first introduced the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) in 1978. In 1985, the programme was renamed Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), and is today recognised as the largest such health programme in the world. To further boost the programme, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India launched the "Intensified Mission Indradhanush" (IMI) in October 2017.
- ◆ The challenges, however, remain in terms of availability of the vaccines, capacity building, and training of healthcare providers. Another major problem in India and other similarly high-burden countries is the inequality in vaccine administration amongst vulnerable children. Debunking myths by providing clear, accurate information from trusted voices can be an effective way to counter misinformation and fake news to gain the trust of the target populations.
- ◆ India needs to take serious steps to achieve full immunisation coverage by 2020 and global targets on good health and well-being by 2030. Greater efforts to communicate the benefits and risks of vaccines and address issues with evidence-based information will help improve and sustain public trust in vaccines and health systems worldwide.
- ◆ However, a number of system and practice changes, particularly in communication, are needed for this approach to be even more effective. Sustained high level political support, advocacy, and supervision across sectors, and the flexibility to allocate finance and people where needed, is essential.

Golan Heights: Zone of Contention

Q5. What are 'Golan Heights'? Discuss the geopolitical implications of USA proclamation, regarding official recognition of Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

Hint

- ◆ The Golan Heights are a fertile plateau of around 1,300 sq km area lying to the North and East of the Sea of Galilee, which Israel seized from Syria during the Six-Day War of 1967 and has occupied ever since. The Golan overlooks both Israel and Syria and offers a commanding military vantage.
- ◆ A UNSC resolution declaring the imposition of Israel's law "in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights... null and void and without international legal effect" has not changed the situation on the ground, although the frontier has not seen major hostilities for more than 40 years.
- ◆ The region also provides one-third of Israel's fresh water supply that feeds into the Jordan River and

the Sea of Galilee. Moreover, the land is highly fertile with numerous orchards, vineyards and is suitable for cattle-rearing. Therefore, the dispute in Golan is largely driven by control over resources.

- ◆ The United States came under sharp criticism from the 14 other Security Council nations for its decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights in violation of council resolutions.
- ◆ Syria's closest ally Russia also condemned the US decision to recognise Israel's territorial claim to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Russia said, it is "a colossal strike" at the international legal basis.
- ◆ Arab leaders also would seek a U.N. Security Council resolution against the US decision to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and promised to support Palestinians in their bid for statehood.
- ◆ The decision to recognize territory is likely to set a problematic precedent. Several political commentators have drawn a parallel between the US' recognition for Israeli annexation with the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. Moreover, China could also utilize the Golan precedent to legitimize its island building projects in the South China Sea.

Corporate Governance: Miles to Go

Q6. What do you mean by 'corporate governance'? Discuss the issues, challenges and measures taken by government to improve transparency, accountability and independence in corporate governance.

Hint

- ◆ Corporate governance is the set of processes, customs, policies, laws, and institutions affecting the way a corporation (or company) is directed, administered or controlled.
- ◆ Issues and challenge for effective corporate governance is to find outside directors who are sufficiently independent but still knowledgeable about and engaged in the business of the company on whose board they will sit. Independence reflects qualities of objectivity, experience, insight, and force of character.
- ◆ Gatekeepers such as auditors, accountants, legal and financial advisors, and underwriters, among others, play an important role in corporate governance. Past scandals have consistently raised questions regarding the extent to which gatekeepers are fulfilling their promised functions.
- ◆ Government has taken several measures like fixing role of independent directors, continuous assessment of the independence criteria, enhanced role of

audit committee, enhanced disclosures regarding credentials, Separation of chief executive officer/ managing director and chairperson, provision of one independent woman director etc

- ◆ Focus on corporate governance should broaden to encourage emerging market companies to bolster strategic management of sustainability issues and enhance public disclosure on sustainability performance. Some more efficient monitoring and transparent internal audit system, efficient board and management can lead it to effective corporate governance.

Community Radio in India: Journey So Far

Q7. What are community radio stations? Discuss how community radio can play a vital role in motivating and mobilising people, educating them about their rights and responsibilities, and making them an informed and educated.

Hint

- ◆ Community radio is a radio service offering a third model of radio broadcasting in addition to commercial and public broadcasting. Community stations serve geographic communities and communities of interest. They broadcast content that is popular and relevant to a local, specific audience but is often overlooked by commercial or mass-media broadcasters. Community radio stations are operated, owned, and influenced by the communities they serve.
- ◆ Community Radio is an effective tool for achieving plurality in the media, particularly by ensuring participation of the marginalised sections of the society in the media and addressing information poverty. Democratising the usage of airwaves, Community Radio provides citizens a platform for exercising their right to freedom of expression and securing easy access to media.
- ◆ There are about 180 active community radio stations in India. It has proved itself as a very effective medium of reaching out to the most marginalized communities. Community radio has played a significant role in connecting people with information on their rights and entitlements as well as in bringing to the fore protagonists of people.
- ◆ It has great potential of becoming an effective means of making the voice of vulnerable communities heard thus acting as an empowering tool for addressing the issues of community.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. State of Global Air-2019

Recently, the US based institutes Health Effects Institute (HEI) and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) have released a detailed report on quality of the global air with title, "State of Global Air-2019".

Key Highlights

It estimates that average life expectancy worldwide is reduced by about a year and eight months due to exposure to current levels of global air pollution.

Air pollution is the fifth leading risk factor for mortality worldwide. It is responsible for more deaths than many better-known risk factors such as malnutrition, alcohol use, and physical inactivity. Each year, more people die from air pollution-related disease

than from road traffic injuries or malaria. It indicated that air pollution contributes to development of type 2 diabetes. Type 2 Diabetes represents a substantial, growing, and costly health burden. In 2017, the disease accounted for more than 1 million deaths globally and burdens have increased by 175% and 141%, respectively, since 1990.

In 2017, annual PM2.5 exposures were highest in South Asia, where Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan had the highest exposures. Bhutan's exposure level was the lowest in the region but was still above WHO's first interim target.

The 10 countries with the lowest national PM2.5 exposure levels were the Maldives, the United States, Norway, Estonia, Iceland, Canada,

Sweden, New Zealand, Brunei, and Finland. Ozone pollution is a continuing challenge in more developed countries and is increasing in less developed areas, posing new air quality concerns.

The report found that major PM2.5 sources in India include household burning of solid fuels; dust from construction, roads, and other activities; industrial and power plant burning of coal; brick production; transportation; and diesel-powered equipment.

China and India together were responsible for over half of the total global attributable deaths, with each country witnessing over 1.2 million deaths from all air pollution in 2017. ■

2. New Species of Spider has been Discovered

A group of jumping spiders that mostly occur in Eurasia and Africa, has been spotted for the first time in Ernakulam's Illithodu forests by arachnologists from Kochi's Sacred Heart College, Thevara. The team also found that the spider belonging to the genus (a taxonomic classification above species) Habrocestum is a species new to science.

Key Features

The team came across the different-looking spiders — six of them, predominantly brownish-black in colour with white and creamy-yellow patches.

Comparisons with studies of European Habrocestum spiders revealed that the spiders from Illithode

are a new species altogether, for they had distinctly different reproductive organs.

The discovery also lends support to the continental drift theory that suggests that the world's continents were one large, contiguous landmass where these creatures thrived many millions of years ago. ■

3. India's Deepest Shaft Cave

A five-member team of cavers of the Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA) have discovered India's deepest shaft at Krem Um Ladaw. The discovery was made during the 28th edition of

the annual 'Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition' that took place between February 3 and 28. Though located on the valley floor, Krem Um Ladaw yielded an astonishing 105m

deep shaft entrance passage. With all these discoveries, Meghalaya has become one of the top caving regions of the world. Till date the whereabouts of about 1,700 caves and cave locations

are known in Meghalaya of which over 1000 have been explored or partially explored. Most of the caves that have been explored and mapped in Meghalaya over the last 28 years consists of impressive river cave mixed with massive and often richly decorated relic passage. These caves have magnificent clean washed shafts

that create cave systems equal in size and beauty to those found elsewhere in the world.

Other Findings

Krem Puri, in Mawsynram region of Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, which at 24,583 metres, is acknowledged as the longest

sandstone cave in the world, has now been further extended by another 459 m to top the cave at 25,042 metres.

The other major caves explored and mapped are Retdung Khur 3724m, Tui Khur Lut 2185m and Kellung Puk 788m. Overall the 2019 expedition explored and mapped 12.3 kms of new cave passage. ■

4. China Issued a White Paper on Tibet

China has released a White Paper on the 60th anniversary of Tibet, titled 'Democratic Reform in Tibet – Sixty Years On'. It claimed that China has introduced "democracy" in Tibet by ending centuries' old serfdom.

In a White Paper released on the 50th anniversary in 2009 under then President Hu Jintao, Beijing had noted the "central government has opened and will always keep its door open for the 14th Dalai Lama to return to a patriotic stand." However, the current White Paper made no mention of engagement, focusing instead on how Beijing's policies have expanded the region's economy through rapid development in agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

This paper is penned by the Chinese Communist Party also claimed that

Beijing had further institutionalised the reincarnation process of "living Buddhas" signalling a major say in the choice of next Dalai Lama. However, last week, the current and 14th Dalai Lama, said it was possible that once he passed away his incarnation could be found in India, putting Xi Jinping government on the back foot.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Tibet's GDP in 2018 reached 147.76 billion yuan (USD 22 billion), about 191 times more than the 1959 figure calculated at comparable prices.
- ◆ The life expectancy of the people in Tibet increased from 35.5 years before 1959 to 68.2 years now.
- ◆ The living condition of people in Tibet has improved, noting that

in 2018, the average per capita disposal income of urban residents was 33,797 yuan (USD 5,035) and that of rural residents was 11,450 yuan.

- ◆ The white paper also criticised the Dalai Lama for attempting to maintain feudal serfdom.
- ◆ The child birth mortality rate of people in Tibet fell from 50 per 1,000 at the beginning of the reform to 1.02 per 1,000 in 2017, and the infant mortality rate from 430 per 1,000 to 10.38 per 1,000.
- ◆ Currently, Tibet has 1,787 sites for the practice of Tibetan Buddhism, over 46,000 resident monks and nuns, and 358 Living Buddhas. ■

5. US Named Iran's Revolutionary Guards a Terrorist Group

The US would designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including its Qods Force, as a foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) in accordance with Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The designation would take effect on April 15.

About IRGC and Qods Force

The IRGC was set up in 1979 after Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution as an ideologically-driven

branch of the armed forces of Iran, to protect the newly established Islamic system from hostile foreign powers and internal dissensions. The IRGC is today a 125,000-strong force with ground, naval, and air wings, tasked with internal and border security, law enforcement, and protection of Iran's missiles. The elite Qods Force or Qods Corps is an elite wing of the IRGC, reporting directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Why FTO?

According to the State Department of the US: The IRGC has been directly involved in terrorist plotting; its support for terrorism is foundational and institutional and it has killed US citizens. It is also responsible for taking hostages and wrongfully detaining numerous US persons, several of whom remain in captivity in Iran today.

In recent years, IRGC Qods Force terrorist planning has been uncovered

and disrupted in many countries, including Germany, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Kenya, Bahrain and Turkey.

It accounts for 17% of all deaths of US personnel in Iraq from 2003 to 2011 and is in addition to the many thousands of Iraqis killed by the IRGC's

proxies.

Section 219 of INA

Section 219 of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act authorises the Secretary of State to "designate an organization as a foreign

terrorist organization, if the Secretary finds that the organization is a foreign organization; the organization engages in terrorist activity or terrorism; threatens the security of United States nationals or the national security of the United States. ■

6. European Union Banned Single-Use Plastic

European Union legislators have voted to ban single-use plastic cutlery, cotton buds, straws and stirrers as part of a sweeping law against plastic waste that despoils beaches and pollutes oceans.

Key Highlights

The 10 products affected include plates, balloon sticks, food and beverage containers, cutlery, straws, and stirrers.

The legislation, approved will take effect in 2021 in all EU member states. The UK would have to follow the rules if it took part in and extended the Brexit transition period because of delays in finding a new arrangement with the EU.

EU member states will have to introduce measures to reduce the

use of plastic food containers and plastic lids for hot drinks. By 2025, plastic bottles should be made of 25% recycled content, and by 2029 90% of them should be recycled.

The directive will ban single-use polystyrene cups and those made from oxo-degradable plastics that disintegrate into tiny fragments.

Need for Legislation

The legislation was introduced after the European Commission found that 85% of marine litter is plastic. Plastic has been found in species such as fish, turtles, and shellfish, and by extension also has ended up in food consumed by people.

Every year, Europeans generate 25m tonnes of plastic waste, but less

than 30% is collected for recycling. More than 80% of marine litter is plastic.

Curbing plastic pollution could avoid nearly \$25 billion-worth of environmental damages by 2030.

According to the European Commission, only just under a third of plastic waste is collected and recycled. Most of the remaining plastic waste ends up in our seas and oceans. It proves hazardous to fish and other marine animals, which consume the waste or get caught in it. A study has shown that microplastics, which take ages to degrade, have even entered the human food chain. ■

7. First Ever Image of Black Hole Revealed

Using data from six telescopes located across the world, the scientists involved in the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) project have imaged the Sagittarius A* -- the black hole located at the centre of the Milky Way galaxy -- and another massive black hole 53.5 million light-years away in galaxy M87.



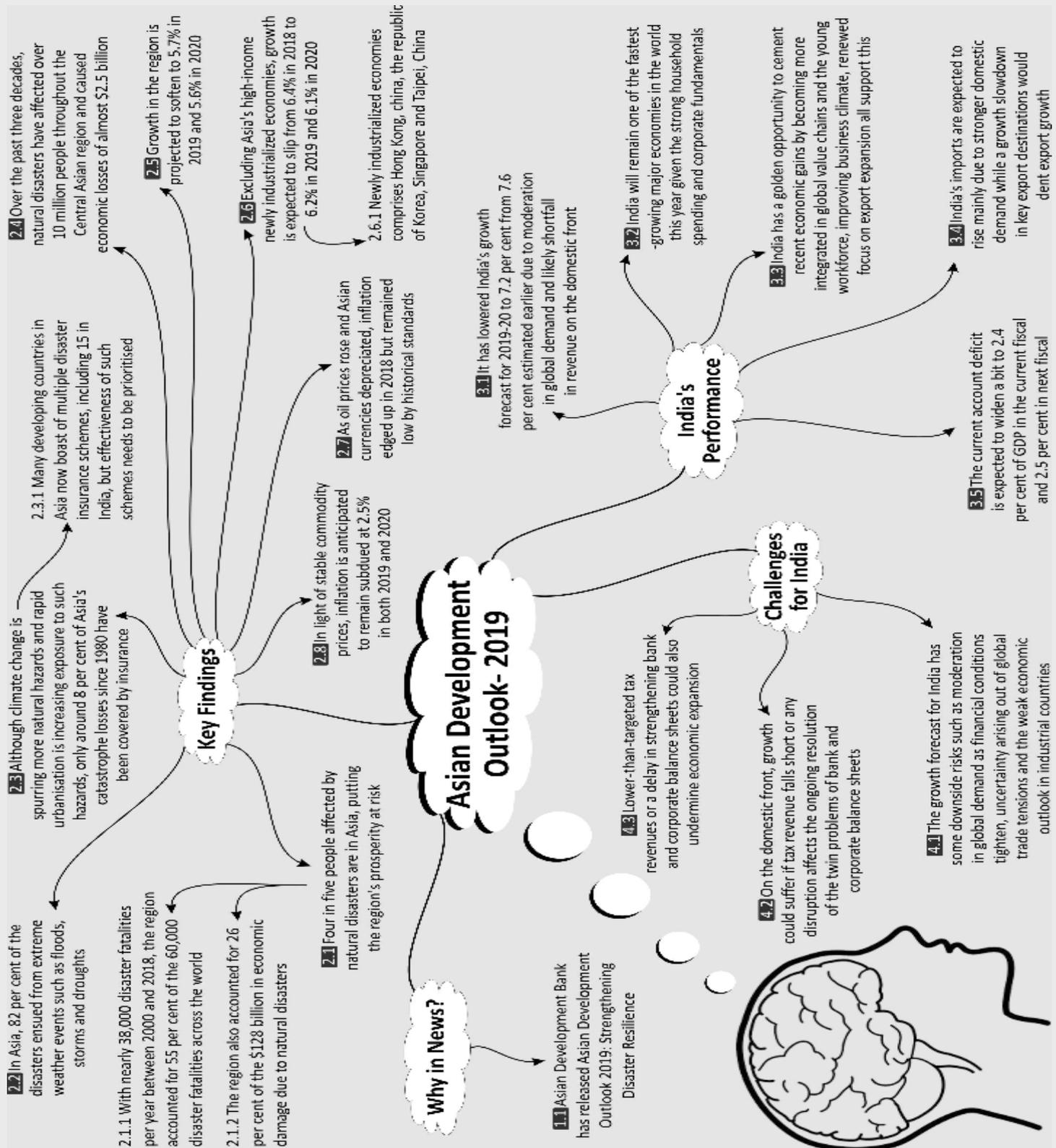
Black holes swallow the surrounding gas, which swirls around in a flattened disk, spiralling into it at speeds close to light. The radiation from this hot whirlpool, however, can be seen. Sagittarius A* has a mass approximately four million times that of the Sun, but it only looks like a tiny dot from Earth, 26 000 light-years away. The idea of a body so massive that even light could not escape was briefly proposed by astronomical pioneer and English clergyman John Michell in a letter published in November 1784. In

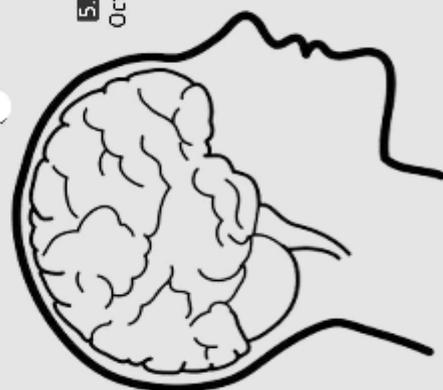
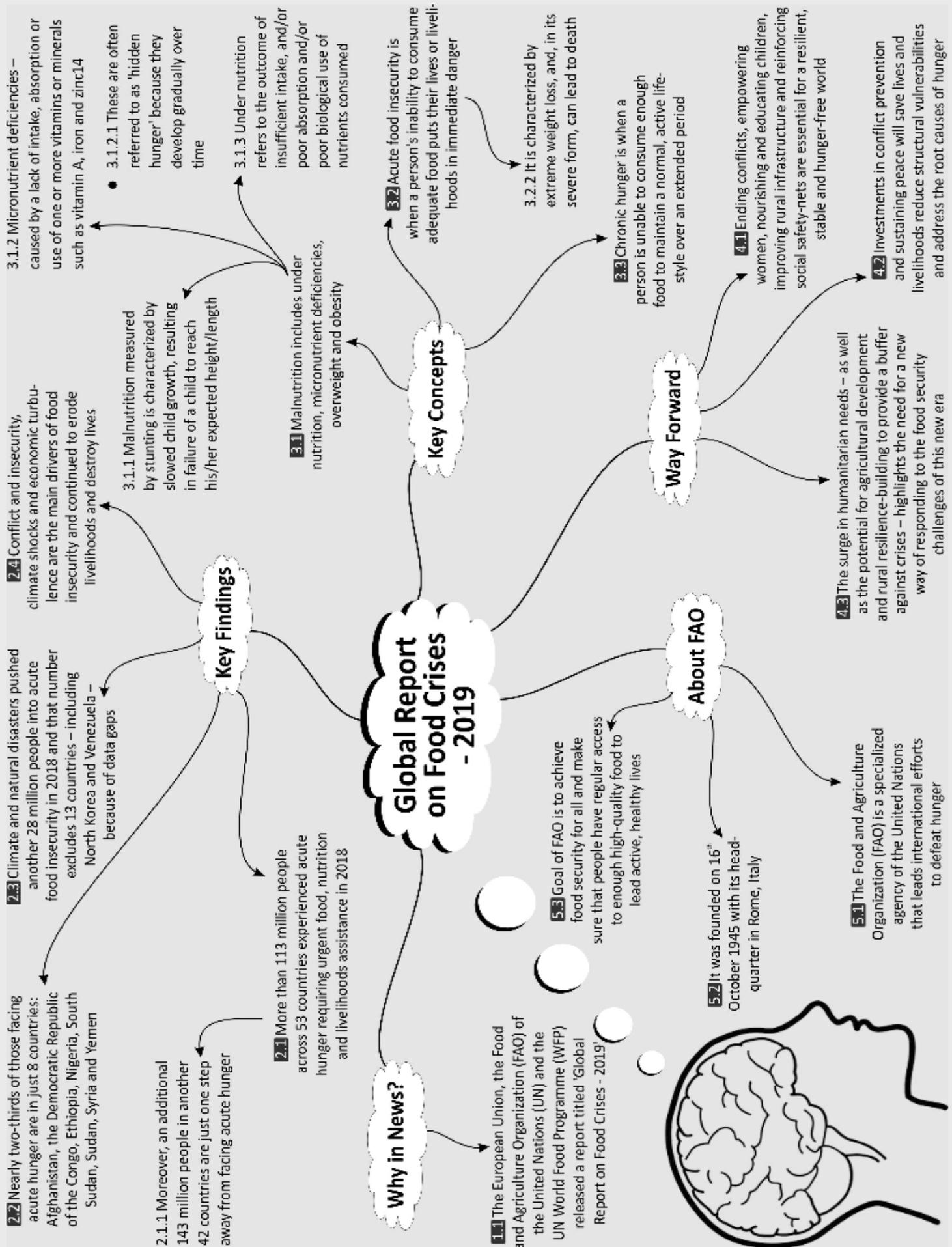
1915, German scientist Albert Einstein developed his theory of general relativity, having earlier shown that gravity does influence light's motion. In 1974, Hawking for the first time predicted the existence of Hawking radiation which are released by black holes.

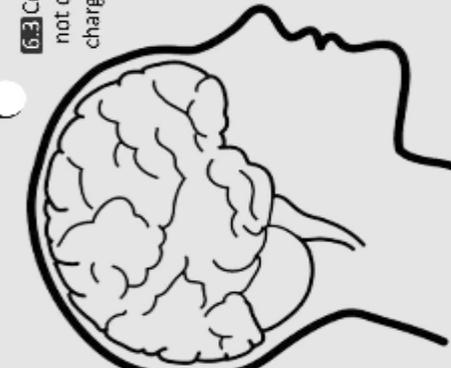
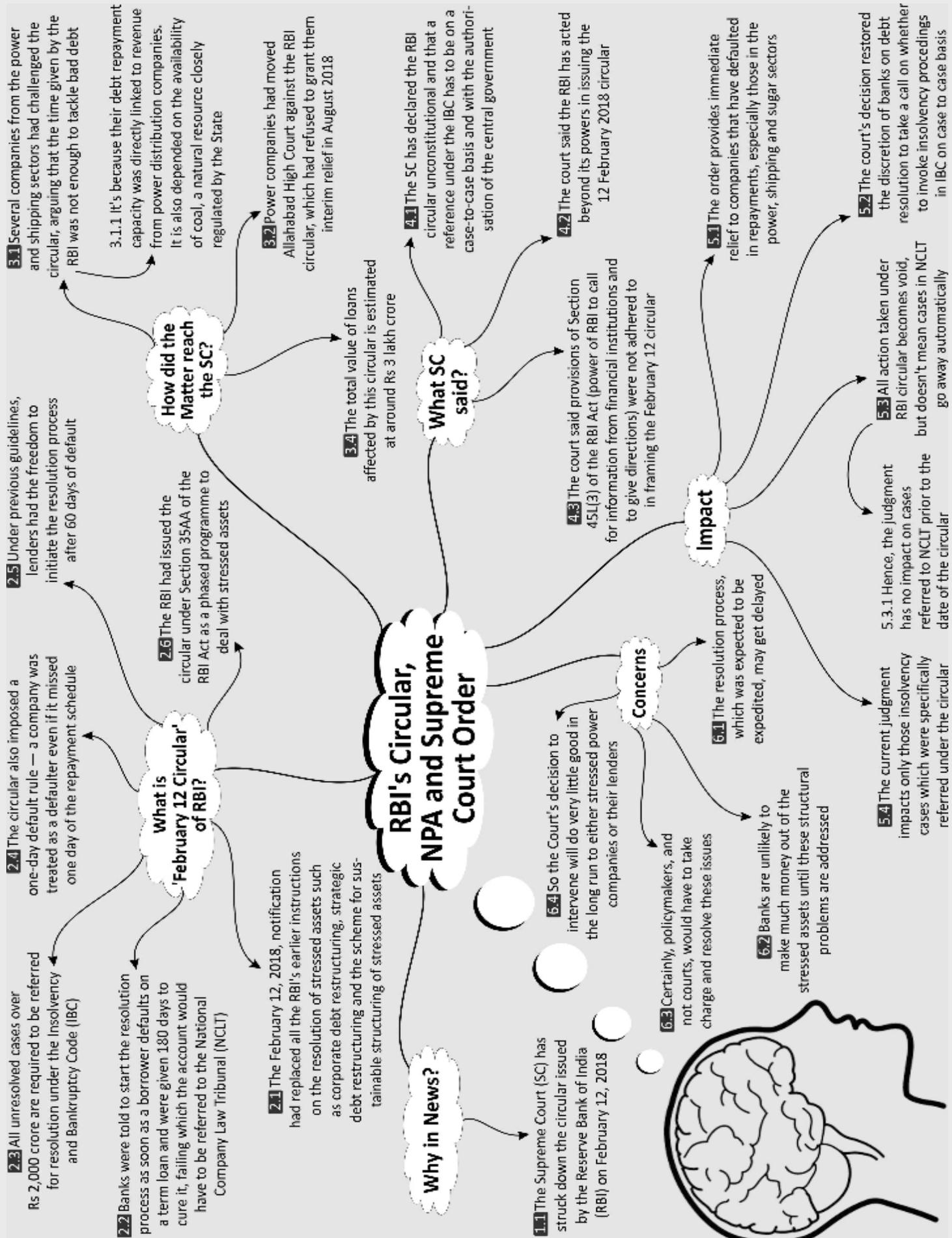
The discovery will be important not just for its status as a scientific first, but also for its place as a signpost, an inflection point where new avenues for study of the cosmos were revealed. ■

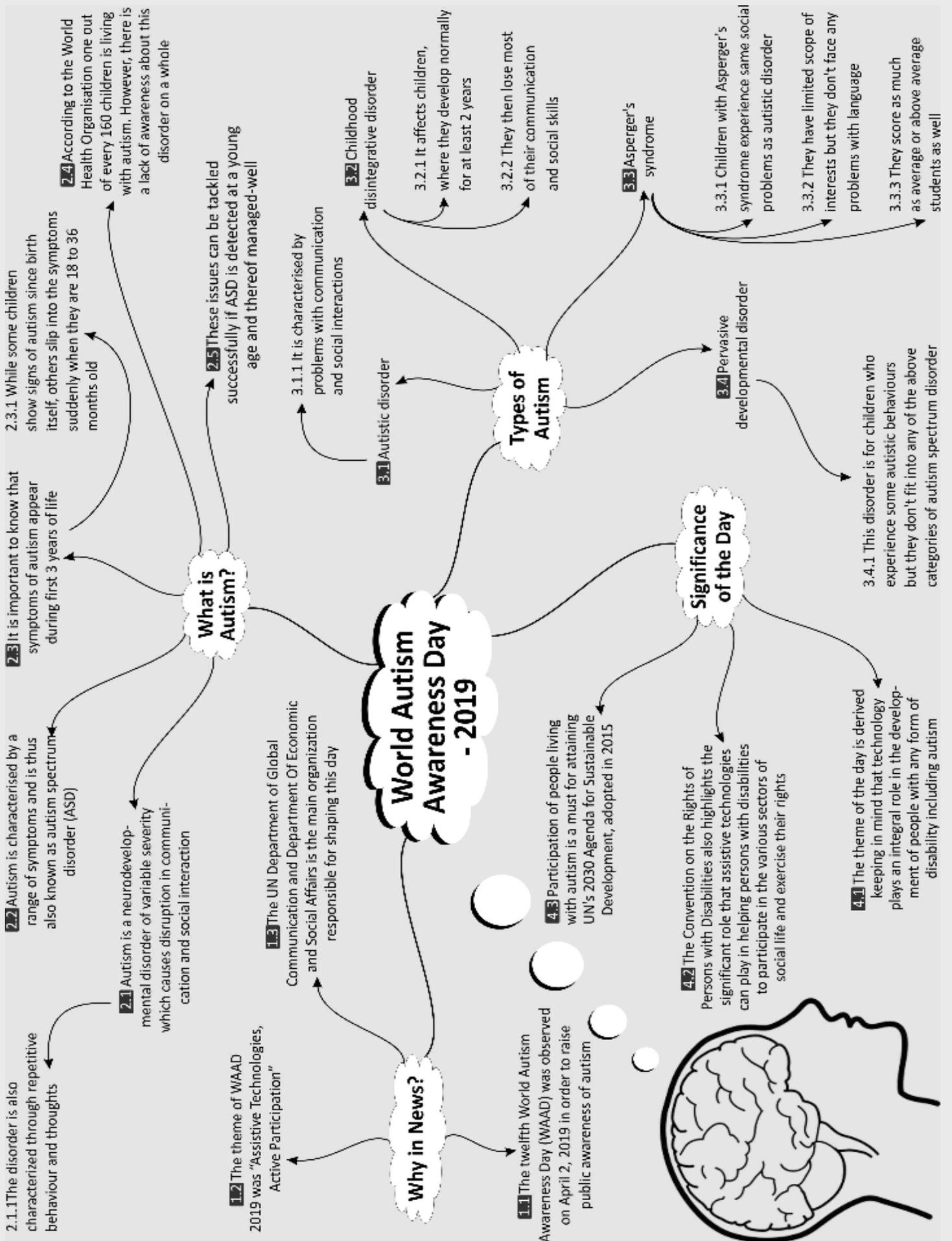


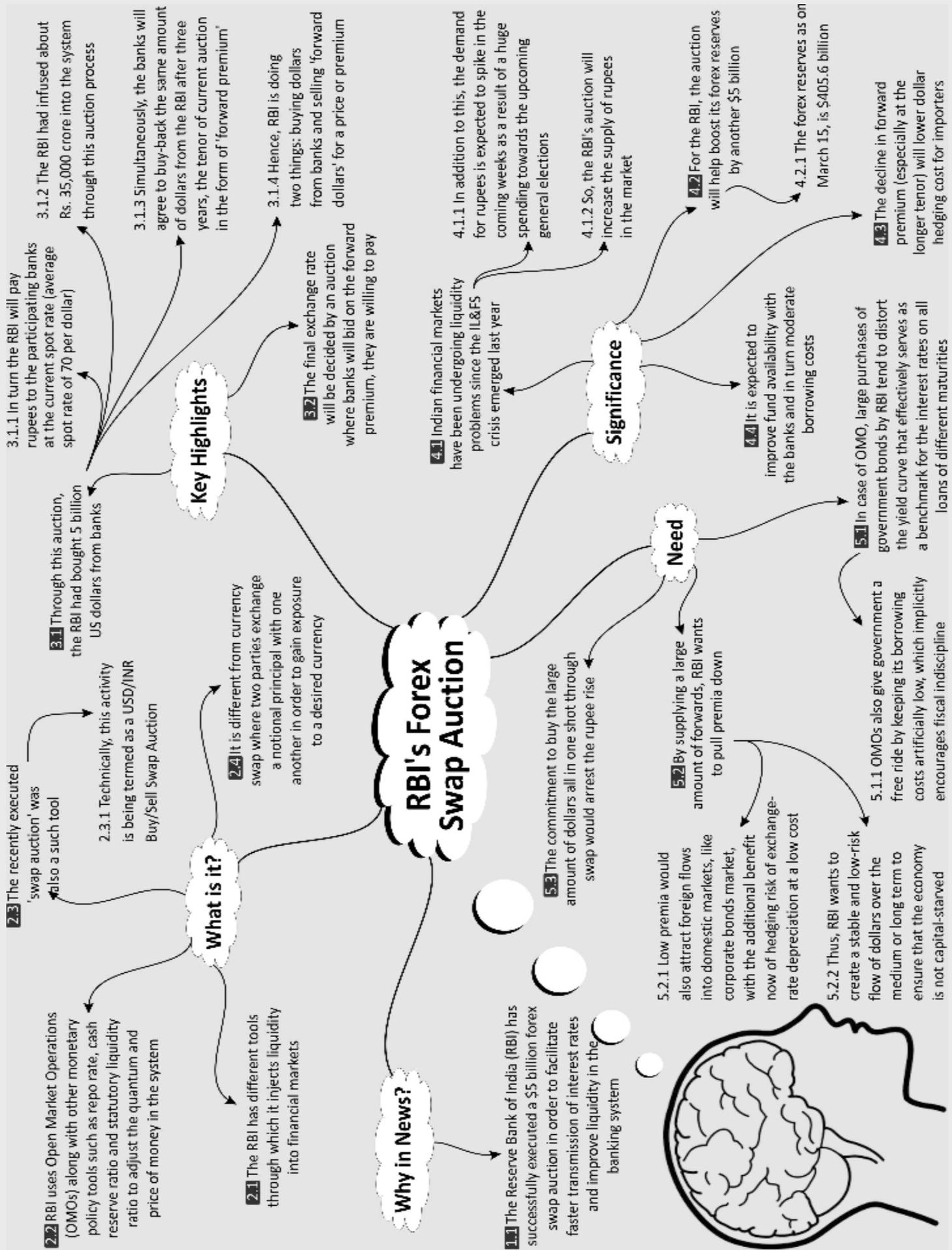
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

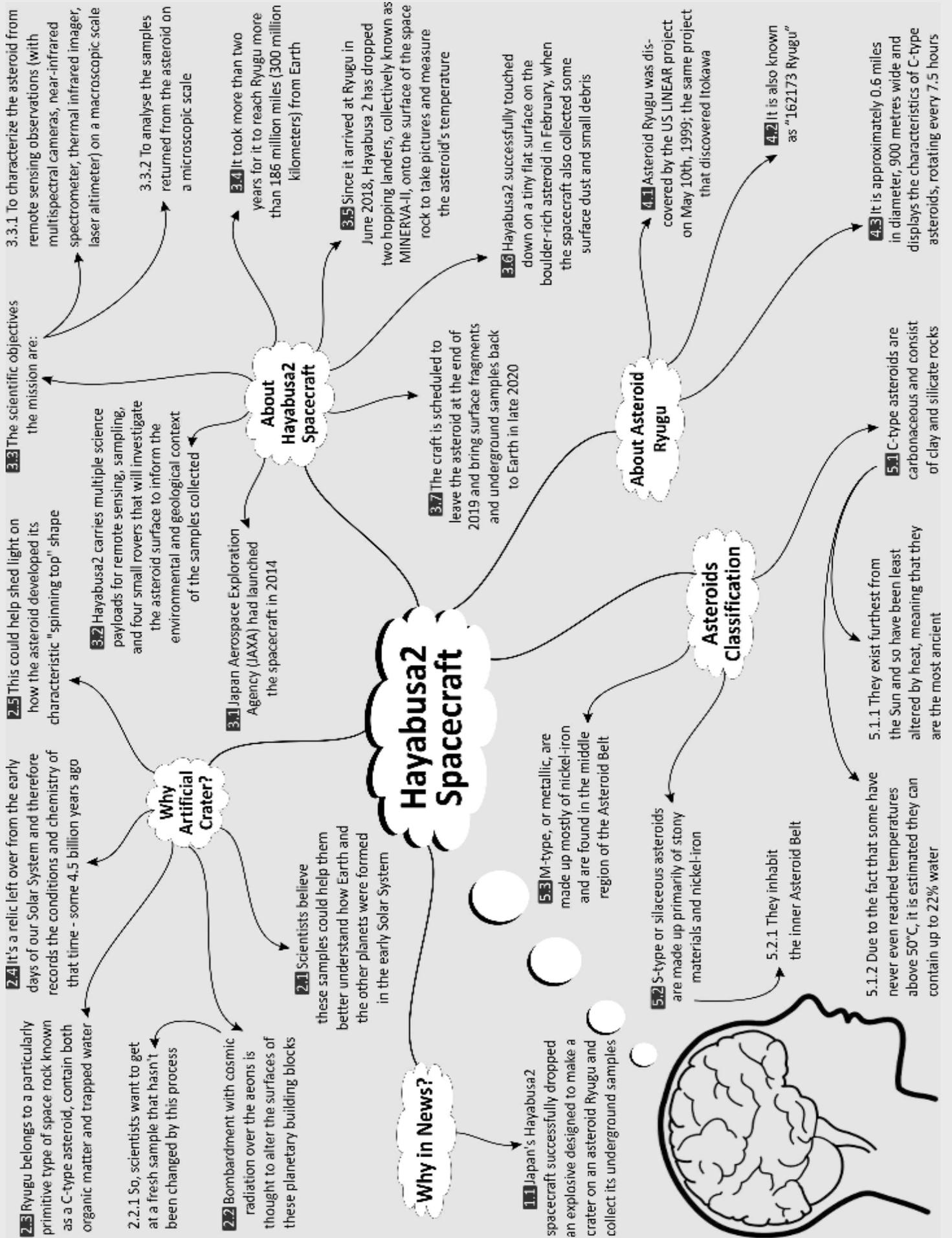


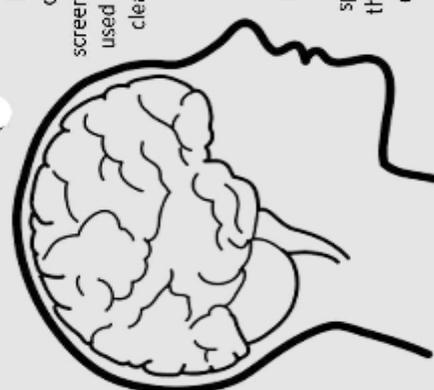
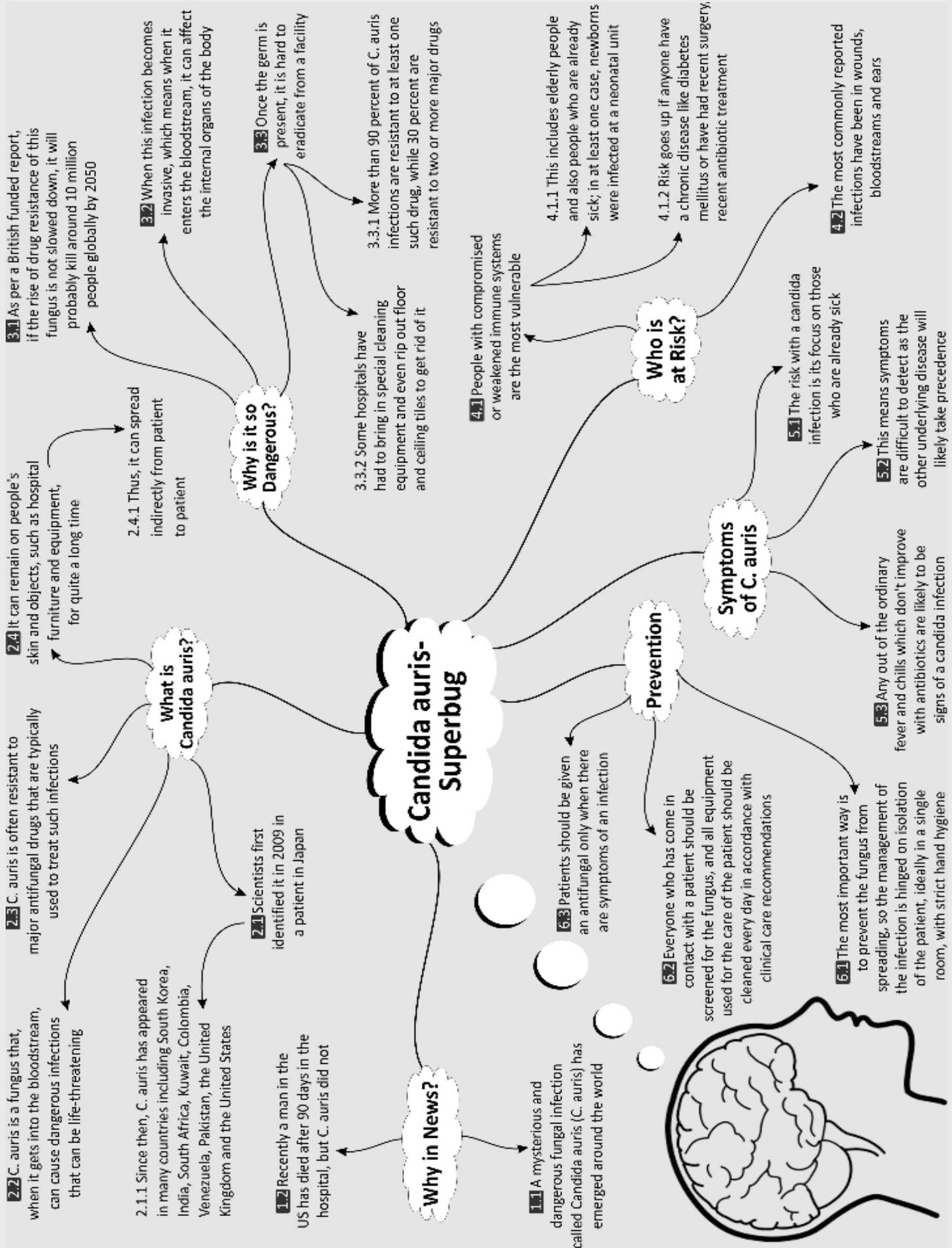












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS (Based on Brain Boosters)

Asian Development Outlook- 2019

Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Asian Development Outlook - 2019':

1. Asian Development Bank has released 'Asian Development Outlook 2019: Strengthening Disaster Resilience.'
2. It has lowered India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7.2 per cent from 7.6 per cent.

Which of the statement 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. Asian Development Bank has released 'Asian Development Outlook 2019: Strengthening Disaster Resilience.' It is projected 5.7% growth rate in 2019 and 5.6% growth rate in 2020 for the region.

It has lowered India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7.2 per cent from 7.6 per cent estimated earlier due to moderation in global demand and likely shortfall in revenue on the domestic front.

Global Report on Food Crises - 2019

Q2. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Global Report on Food Crises - 2019':

1. It has been released by the World bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP).
2. More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance in 2018.

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 European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) released a report titled 'Global Report on Food Crises - 2019'.

Statement 2 is correct. More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance in 2018. Nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger are in just 8 countries: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

RBI's Circular, NPA and Supreme Court Order

Q3. With reference to the supreme court's judgment on RBI's 12 February circular, consider the following statements:

1. The SC has declared the RBI's 'February 12 Circular' on the resolution of stressed assets constitutional.
2. The February 2018 circular had directed lenders to refer any loan account over Rs 2,000 crore to the bankruptcy process if it wasn't resolved within 180 days of default.

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 Supreme Court has struck down the RBI's February 12, 2018 circular by which the central bank promulgated a revised framework for resolution of stressed assets was ultra vires of Section 35AA of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Statement 2 is correct. The February 2018 circular had directed lenders to refer any loan account over Rs 2,000 crore to the bankruptcy process if it wasn't resolved within 180 days of default. The circular also imposed a one-day default rule — a company was treated as a defaulter even if it missed one day of the repayment schedule.

World Autism Awareness Day - 2019

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'World Autism Awareness Day':

1. The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2019 was "Assistive Technologies, Active Participation".
2. The UN Department of Global Communication and Department Of Economic and Social Affairs is the main organization responsible for shaping this day.

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. The twelfth World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) was observed on April 2, 2019 in order to raise public awareness of autism. The theme of WAAD 2019 was "Assistive Technologies, Active Participation". The UN Department of Global Communication and Department Of Economic and Social Affairs is the main organization responsible for shaping this day.

RBI's Forex Swap Auction

Q5. Consider the following statements in respect of 'RBI's forex swap auction':

1. It is a type of Open Market Operations (OMOs) of RBI, which is used to adjust the quantum and price of money in the system.
2. It is very similar to currency swap where two parties exchange a notional principal with one another in order to gain exposure to a desired currency.

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: (d)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. In Open Market Operation (OMO), RBI buys back specific bonds from banks in lieu of cash. While under this new swap, RBI wants to buy dollars from banks instead of bonds, but wants to return these dollars at the end of three years for a 'forward' premium. This premium would be determined through an auction.

In short, RBI is doing two things: buying dollars from banks, and selling 'forward dollars' for a price or premium.

It is different from currency swap where two parties exchange a notional principal with one another in order to gain exposure to a desired currency.

Hayabusa2 Spacecraft

Q6. With reference to the 'Hayabusa2', consider the following statements:

1. The Hayabusa 2 mission was launched in 2014 for the study of Ryugu asteroid.
2. The mission is scheduled to leave the asteroid at the end of 2019 and bring the surface fragments and underground samples back to Earth in late 2020.

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. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) had launched the spacecraft in 2014 for the study of Ryugu asteroid. It took more than two years for it to reach Ryugu more than 186 million miles from Earth.

The craft is scheduled to leave the asteroid at the end of 2019 and bring surface fragments and underground samples back to Earth in late 2020.

Candida auris- Superbug Fungus

Q7. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Candida auris':

1. Candida auris is a bacterial infection.
2. It is often resistant to major antibacterial drugs that are typically used to treat such infections.

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: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. Candida auris is a fungus that, when it gets into the bloodstream, can cause dangerous infections that can be life-threatening. It is often resistant to major antifungal drugs that are typically used to treat such infections. It can remain on people's skin and objects, such as hospital furniture and equipment, for quite a long time. Thus, it can spread indirectly from patient to patient.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Who has been selected as 13th President of the World Bank Group recently?

–David Malpass

2. Which institute discovered a new enzyme 'Murein Peptidase' which helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria?

–Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB)

3. Which country has awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi its highest civilian award 'Zayed Medal'?

–United Arab Emirates

4. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country for accessing lithium reserves of that country?

–Bolivia

5. Who has been appointed as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)?

–Vikram Kirloskar

6. Which theory of Stephen Hawking is ruled out by a group of scientists recently?

–Theory on dark matter

7. India conducted 6th edition of joint military exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI' recently with which country?

–Sri Lanka



SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. NUGEN MOBILITY SUMMIT - 2019

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) has organized a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at Manesar, from 27th to 29th November 2019. The objective of the Summit was to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.

Key Highlights

The event aimed to bring together the automotive Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEMs), professionals, researchers, academic experts, vehicle system suppliers, test equipment supplier, quality managers, product planners, component developers, SAE members and students from all over the world.

Experts working with leading international scientific and research organizations and testing laboratories from various countries like USA, Europe, Japan and other Asian countries have participated in the event and share their experiences and knowledge on development of smart and green technologies and the challenges that the industry

needs to overcome.

Track demonstrations, drive-touch-feel activity and lab demonstrations on upcoming vehicle technologies like connected mobility, autonomous vehicles, electric mobility, alternate fuels, intelligent transportation system, hydrogen fuel cell, hydrogen IC engine, vehicle dynamics, advance materials and lightweighting, end of life vehicles and recycling were uniqueness of this event.

Significance

This event will help in building a platform for bringing together all stakeholders in the automotive industry to understand global advancements in technologies.

About ICAT

ICAT was established in 2006 at Manesar, Haryana, India. ICAT is providing quality services to the industry in all the domains of automotive and non automotive development, such as Powertrain, Noise Vibration and Harshness, Component, Fatigue, Photometry, Tyre & Wheel, Passive Safety, etc.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON WORLD HOMOEOPATHY DAY

A two day convention was organised on 9-10th April 2019 by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous research organisation, Ministry of AYUSH on the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

The World Homoeopathy Day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann. With an aim to recognise exemplary work in Homoeopathy, AYUSH awards relating to Homoeopathy for Life Time Achievement, Best Teacher, Young Scientist and Best Research paper was conferred on this occasion.

A wide range of topics was covered in the convention like Linking education and clinical practice with research,

Homoeopathic Education: Research component, Utilisation of existing research by clinicians, Drug Development & Validation, Research initiatives by students under Studentship & MD Scholarship schemes. Round table discussions are also planned on the topics 'Drug Regulations in Homoeopathy: Current scenario and way ahead.

The Council is taking this as an opportunity to review the path trodden so far, taking stock of the challenges faced and to formulate future strategies for development of Homoeopathy. There is an imminent need to focus on improving the quality of education and enhancing the success rate of an average practitioner. There is also a need to ensure the production and availability of high quality homeopathic drugs in the market.

3. PLATINUM JUBILEE COMMEMORATION OF BATTLE OF KANGLA TONGBI

The Army Ordnance Corps celebrated the platinum jubilee of the Battle of Kangla Tongbi on April 7 at Kangla Tongbi War Memorial near Imphal by honouring the brave hearts of the 221 Advance Ordnance Depot who made supreme sacrifice on the intervening night of April 6 and 7th, 1944.

About Battle of Kangla Tongbi

It is considered one of the fiercest battles of World War II. It was fought by Ordnance personnel of 221 Advance Ordnance Depot (AOD) on the night of 6/7 April 1944. Japanese forces had planned a three pronged offensive to capture Imphal and the surrounding areas. In their attempt to extend their line of communication to Imphal, the 33rd Japanese Division cut in behind the 17th Indian Division at Tiddim (Mynmar)



and establishing themselves firmly on the main Kohima – Manipur highway, started advancing towards Kangla Tongbi. Here at Kangla Tongbi, a small but determined detachment of 221 AOD put up stiff resistance against the advancing Japanese forces.

On 6th Apr 1944, orders were received to evacuate 4,000 tons of ammunition, armaments and other warlike stores. On the night of 6/7 Apr 1944, the Japanese mounted a heavy attack on the Depot, rushing downhill into a deep nallah which was used as a covered approach to the Depot. A very well camouflaged bunker had been sited by the Depot on this approach. The Bren Gun Section in this bunker having spotted an enemy section within range, opened fire. This shook the enemy and forced the Japanese to withdraw leaving many dead.

Significance

The Kangla Tongbi War Memorial is a mute testimony to this battle and the unflinching devotion to duty of the Ordnance personnel of 221 AOD, 19 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. It conveys to the world at large that Ordnance personnel, apart from being professional logisticians, are second to none in combat, being equally proficient soldiers, should the occasion demand.

4. SOLIDARITY HUMAN CHAIN FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with World Health Organization (WHO) today formed a Solidarity Human Chain as part of the World Health Day celebrations to reaffirm their commitment to bridging gaps and working collaboratively towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The theme of World Health Day 2019 is "Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere".

Most cited flagship scheme of Union government 'Ayushman Bharat' has two components - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) for Primary Health Care and

the major challenges of ensuring continuum of care, two-way referral system and gatekeeping.

The government is committed to strengthening 1,50,000 health facilities as Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) which will deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care closer to where people live in the rural and urban areas. As of today, more than 17,000 HWCs are operational across the country and are providing services for non-communicable diseases in addition to existing services for reproductive and child health, communicable diseases etc.



Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) for secondary and tertiary care. These components are linked to address

A well-equipped primary health care delivery system is the key to achieving universal health coverage. This will require bringing quality care closer to people; strengthening peripheral health centres with linkages to secondary and tertiary care; and equipping primary health care providers to effectively deliver a package of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services.

5. MOU BETWEEN INDIAN NAVY AND CSIR

The Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy. This will be a collaborative arrangement between labs of CSIR, the Indian Navy and Indian industry.



The MoU provides a formal framework for interaction between Indian Navy and CSIR. It would facilitate joint R&D activities in diverse fields of Mechanical, Electronics, Communication, Computer Science, Propulsion systems, Metallurgy and Nanotechnology.

Some of the immediate projects to be progressed under this MoU include development of alternative desalination technologies, installation of wireless MEMS based sensors for remote operation, Residual Life Assessment studies of Gas Turbine Generator blades to improve reliability.

Such partnerships between the armed forces and world class National Institutions like CSIR which would allow Indian Navy to leapfrog towards latest technologies as well as jointly engage under 'Make in India', and other innovative programmes of our Government. It would form the foundation for exchange of ideas and development of new technologies in the future.

6. ADVANCE PRICING AGREEMENT REGIME MOVES FORWARD

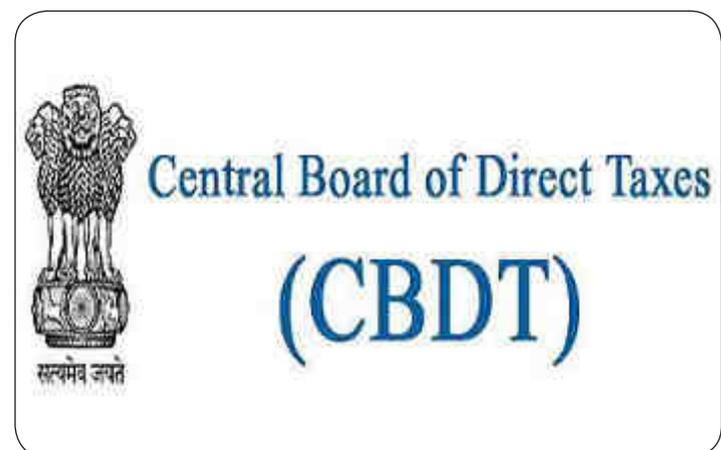
The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 18 APAs in the month of March 2019, which includes 03 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs). The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT as of now stands at 271, which inter alia includes 31 BAPAs, the latest addition being Australia, Netherlands and USA.

The BAPAs and Unilateral APAs (UAPAs) entered pertain to various sectors and sub-sectors of the economy like anti-friction bearings, risk management solutions platforms, BPO, IT/ITes, ATMs, industrial and institutional cleaning and hygiene products, etc.

The International Transactions covered in all these Agreements, inter alia, includes contract manufacturing, provision of software development services, back office engineering support service, provision of back office (ITes) support services, provision of marketing support services, payment of royalty for use of technology and brand, trading and payment of interest.

Advance Pricing Agreement

An advance pricing agreement (APA) is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority on an



appropriate transfer pricing methodology (TPM) for a set of transactions at issue over a fixed period of time (called "Covered Transactions").

The progress of the APA scheme strengthens the Government's resolve of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime. The Indian APA programme has been appreciated nationally and internationally for being able to address complex transfer pricing issues in a fair and transparent manner.

7. INDIA-RUSSIA COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF MEDIA

A Russian Delegation led by the Russian Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media, Mr. Alexey Volin and other delegates met Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

It was mutually agreed during the meeting that an Annual Indo-Russian Forum for Media Cooperation be organized alternately in India and Russia in order to institutionalize the process of cooperation between the two countries in the media and entertainment sector. Television, news agencies, digital distribution platforms, new media, news gathering, co-production of programmes, sharing of content and exchange of professionals were identified as possible areas of collaboration.

The Golden Jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India scheduled to be held later this year offers an opportunity to countries to showcase their creativity

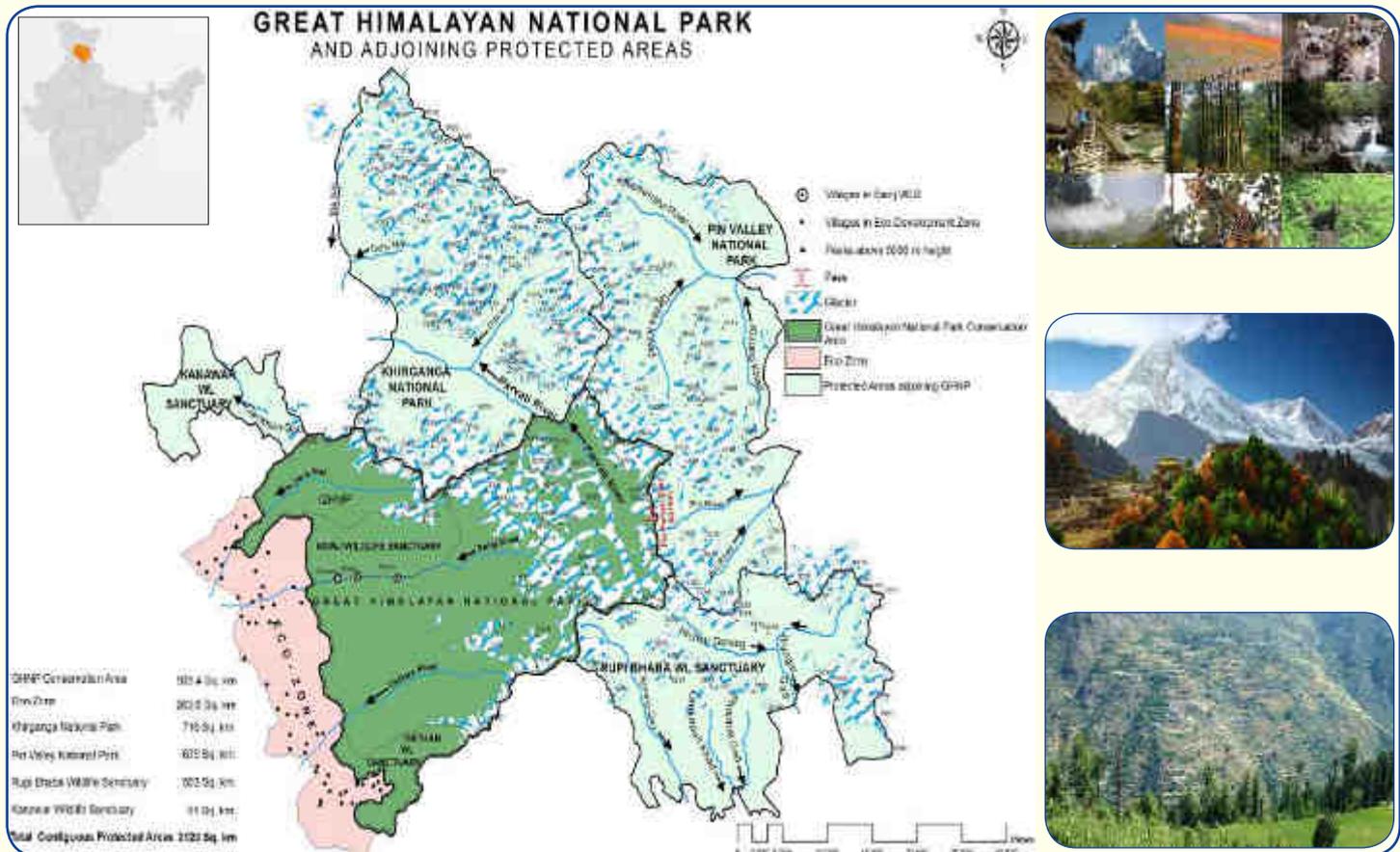


and cinematic excellence on a global platform. Russian Delegation is invited to participate in the Festival. The need to forge strong connections between the young journalists of the two countries was also highlighted in the meeting.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area



Key Facts

- It is located in the Seraj Forest Division of Kullu District in Himachal Pradesh. It is bounded by Rupi Bhaba Sanctuary in the southeast, Pin Valley National Park in the east and Kanwar Wildlife Sanctuary in the North.
- It includes the Upper Mountain glacial and snow melt water source origins of the westerly flowing Jiwa Nal, Sainj and Tirthan Rivers and the north-westerly flowing Parvati River which are all headwater tributaries to the River Beas and subsequently, the Indus River.
- It lies within the ecologically distinct Western Himalayas at the junction between two of the world's major biogeographic realms, the Palearctic and Indomalayan Realms.
- It protects part of Conservation International's Himalaya "biodiversity hot spot" and is part of the BirdLife International's Western Himalaya Endemic Bird Area.
- The park vegetation is a diverse mix of Ban Oak Forest, Moist Deodar Forest, Western Mixed Coniferous Forest, Moist Temperate Deciduous Forest, Himalayan Alpine Pastures, and Rhododendron Scrub Forest.
- The park has largest remaining population of Himalayan Tahr in Himachal Pradesh. Major wildlife species found in the park are Snow Leopard, musk Deer, Blue Sheep, Ibex, Wolf, Leopard, Rhesus macaque (*Macacamulatta*), common langur (*Presbytis entellus*), Himalayan black bear, goral, muntjac, and serow.
- It was awarded World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2014 under natural site category.

2. Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim



Key Facts

- It has been declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2016.
- It is the first Indian destination, which has been under the Mixed criteria of UNESCO's heritage sites list, thus recognising the outstanding universal values for its both natural and cultural significance.
- It comprises world's third highest peak, Mt. Khangchendzonga, numerous lakes and glaciers, including the 26 km long Zemu Glacier, dot the barren high altitudes.
- A remarkable six cat species have been confirmed (Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jungle Cat, Golden Cat, Leopard Cat) within the park.
- Flagship species include Snow Leopard as the largest Himalayan predator, Jackal, Tibetan Wolf, large Indian Civet, Red Panda, Goral, Blue Sheep, Himalayan Tahr, Mainland Serow, two species of Musk Deer, two primates, four species of pika and several rodent species, including the parti-coloured Flying Squirrel.
- The region surrounding the Mount Khangchendzonga being revered as Mayel Lyang by the indigenous peoples of Sikkim and as a beyul (sacred hidden land) in Tibetan Buddhism.

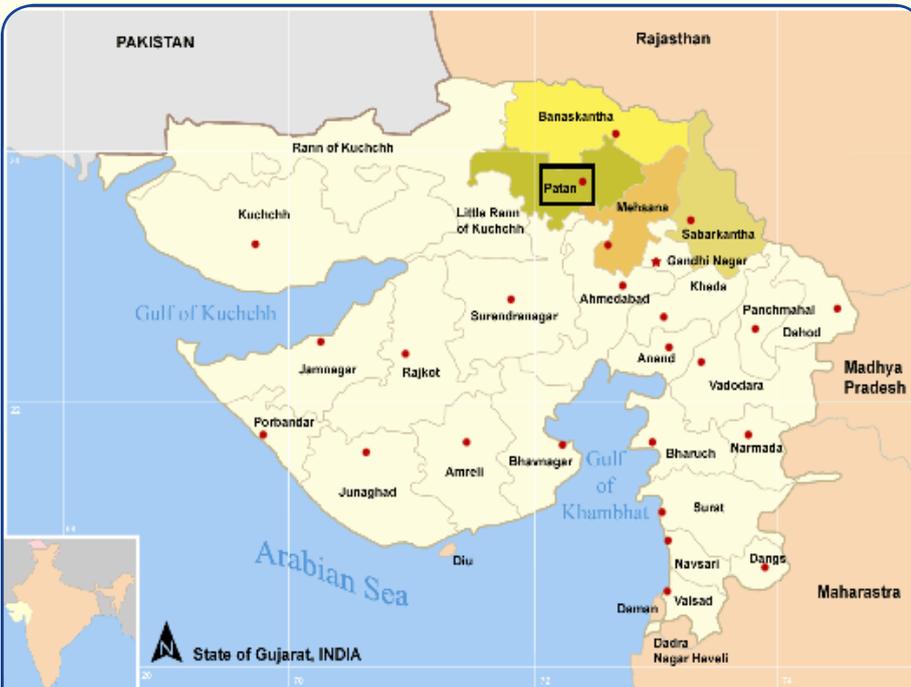
3. Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai

Key Facts

- It is India's 37th World UNESCO World Heritage Site and is included in the list in 2018.
- The declaration also makes Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
- The Ensemble comprises of two architectural styles, the 19th century collection of Victorian structures and the 20th century Art Deco buildings along the sea, conjoined by means of the historical open space of the Oval Maidan (94 buildings).
- The Victorian ensemble includes Indian elements suited to the climate, including balconies and verandas.
- The Art Deco edifices, with their cinemas and residential buildings, blend Indian design with Art Deco imagery, creating a unique style that has been described as Indo-Deco.
- The public buildings include the Old Secretariat (1857-74), University Library and Convention Hall (1874-78), the Bombay High Court (1878), the Public Works Department Office (1872), Watson's Hotel (1869), David Sassoon Library (1870), the Elphinstone College (1888), etc.



4. Rani-ki-Vav, Gujarat



Key Facts

- It is located on the banks of River Saraswati.
- Rani ki Vav was built by Rani Udayamati as a memorial to her husband, the 11th century-king Bhima I of the Chaulukya or Solanki dynasty, who ruled parts of present-day Gujarat.
- Rani-ki-Vav was built at the height of craftsmens’ ability in stepwell construction and the Maru-Gurjara architectural style, reflecting mastery of this complex technique and great beauty of detail and proportions.
- Designed as an inverted temple highlighting the sanctity of water, it is divided into seven levels of stairs with sculptural panels of high artistic quality; more than 500 principle sculptures and over a thousand minor ones combine religious, mythological and secular imagery, often referencing literary works.
- The well is located at the westernmost end of the Vav.
- Rani-ki-Vav is a very complete example of the stepwell tradition, even though after geotectonic changes in the 13th century it does no longer function as a water well as a result of the change to the Saraswati River bed.
- It was included in UNESCO’s World Heritage Site list in 2014.

5. Hill Forts of Rajasthan



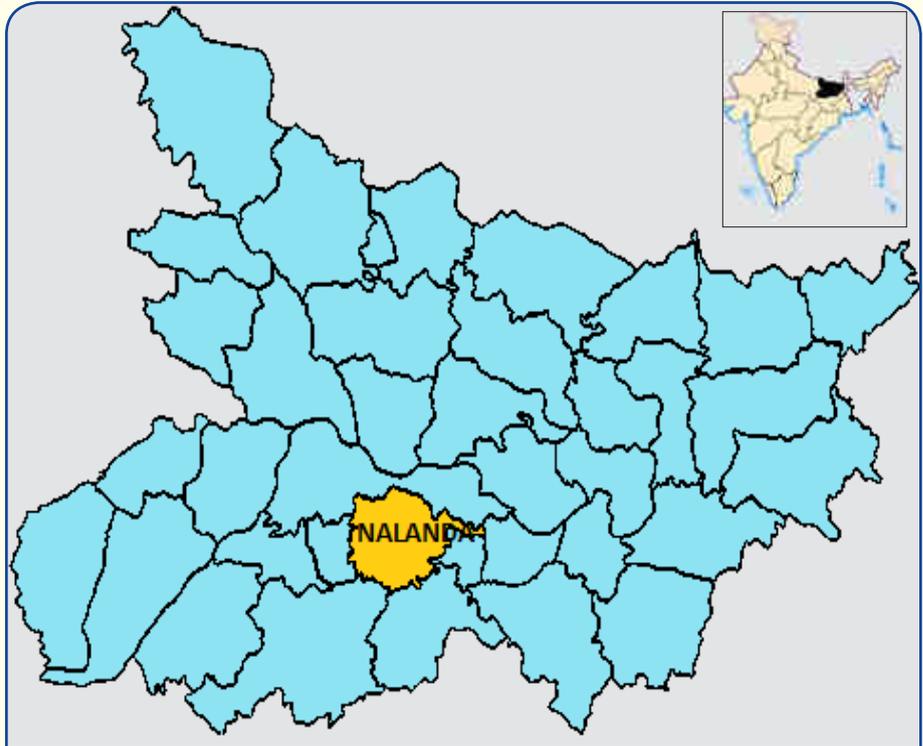
Key Facts

- The serial site, situated in the state of Rajasthan, includes six majestic forts in Chittorgarh; Kumbhalgarh; Sawai Madhopur; Jhalawar; Jaipur and Jaisalmer.
- The eclectic architecture of the forts, some up to 20 kilometres in circumference, bears testimony to the power of the Rajput princely states that flourished in the region from the 8th to the 18th centuries.
- It shares much common ground with other regional styles, such as Sultanate and Mughal architecture. Rajput style was not ‘unique’, but the particular manner in which Rajput architecture was eclectic (drawing inspiration from antecedents and neighbours) together with its degree of influence over later regional styles (such as Maratha architecture) do make it distinctive.
- They were included in UNESCO’s World Heritage Site list in the year 2013.

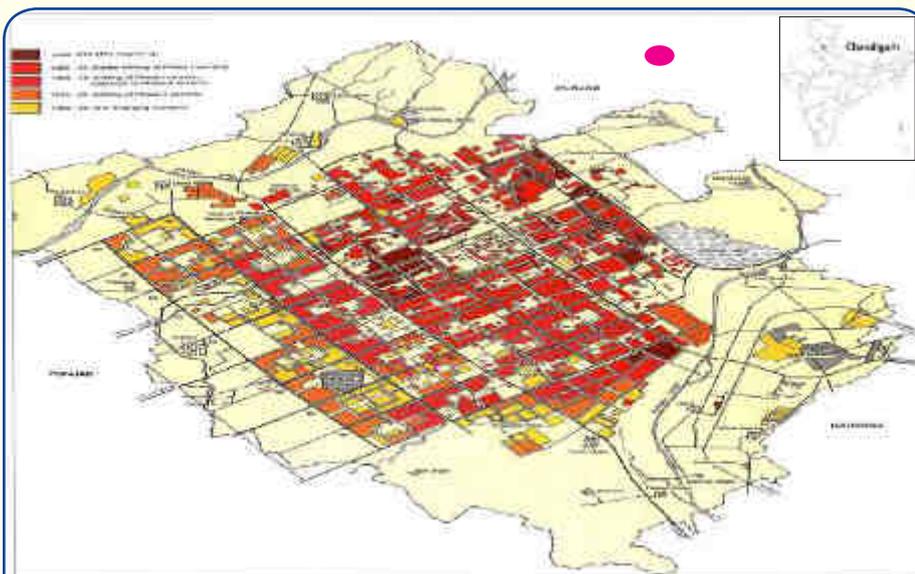
6. Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar

Key Facts

- The Nalanda Mahavihara site is in the State of Bihar. It comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE.
- Nalanda Mahavihara was founded by Kumargupta I of the Gupta dynasty in 5th century CE. It was patronized by various rulers including King Harshavardhana of Kannauj (7th century CE) and the Pala rulers (8th – 12th century CE) as well as various scholars.
- It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.
- Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university of the Indian Subcontinent.
- It engaged in the organized transmission of knowledge over an uninterrupted period of 800 years. The historical development of the site testifies to the development of Buddhism into a religion and the flourishing of monastic and educational traditions.
- While Nalanda stucco influenced practices in Thailand, its metal art influenced art of the Malayan archipelago, Nepal, Myanmar and Tibet travelling out through scholars.
- It was included in UNESCO's World Heritage Site list in 2016.



7. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, Chandigarh



Key Facts

- The 17 sites of Le Corbusier are spread over seven countries, includes Complexe du Capitole in Chandigarh (India), the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo (Japan), the House of Dr Curutchet in La Plata (Argentina) and the Unité' habitation in Marseille (France), etc.
- The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier marks the birth of three major trends in modern architecture: Purism, Brutalism and sculptural architecture.
- Chandigarh Capitol Complex is located in the sector-1 of Chandigarh city in India. It is a government compound.
- In the Capitol Complex, concern for natural air-conditioning and energy saving led to the use of sunscreens, double-skinned roofs, and reflecting pools for the catchment of rainwater and air cooling.
- It was included in UNESCO's World Heritage Site list in 2016.





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STUDENT PORTAL

AN INTRODUCTION

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Civil Services Exam requires knowledge base of specified subjects. These subjects though taught in schools and colleges are not necessarily oriented towards the exam approach. Coaching classes at Dhyeya IAS are different from classes conducted in schools and colleges with respect to their orientation. Classes are targeted towards the particular exam. Classroom guidance at Dhyeya IAS is about improving the individual's capacity to focus, learn and innovate as we are comfortably aware of the fact that you can't teach a person anything you can only help him find it within himself.

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