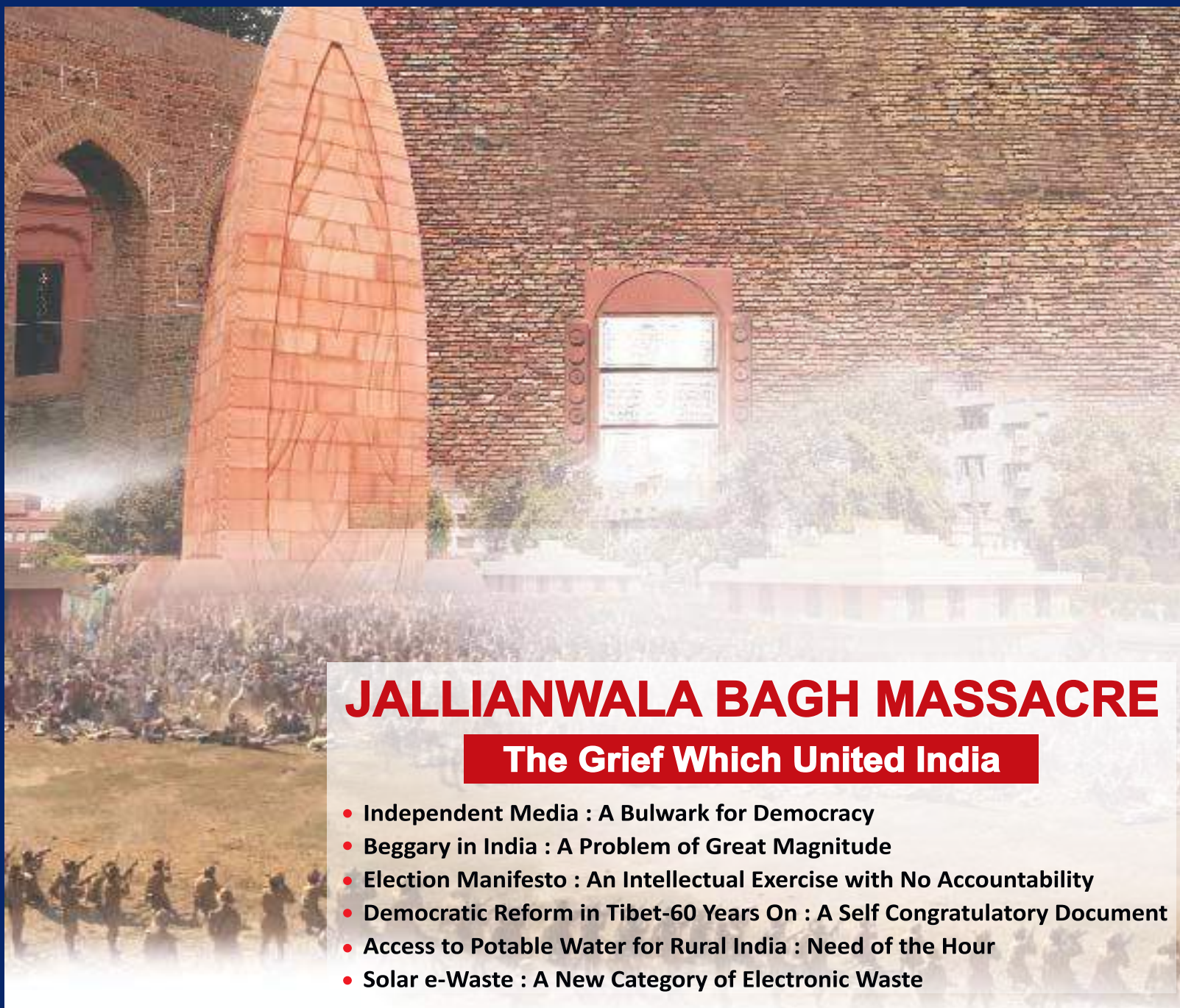


# PERFECT 7

## WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

April: 2019 / Issue 04



## JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

### The Grief Which United India

- Independent Media : A Bulwark for Democracy
- Beggary in India : A Problem of Great Magnitude
- Election Manifesto : An Intellectual Exercise with No Accountability
- Democratic Reform in Tibet-60 Years On : A Self Congratulatory Document
- Access to Potable Water for Rural India : Need of the Hour
- Solar e-Waste : A New Category of Electronic Waste



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AIR-86



SAWAN KUMAR  
AIR-89



VEER PRATAP SINGH  
AIR-92



BRIJESH JYOTI UPADHYAY  
AIR-112



RANJEETA SHARMA  
AIR-130



CHITTIREDDY 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  
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AIR-304



POORVI GARG  
AIR-317



NAVEEN KUMAR  
AIR-324



ADITYA KUMAR JHA  
AIR-339



SACHIN BANSAL  
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CHIRAG JAIN  
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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  
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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  
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# PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



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

I extend best wishes for the success of this endeavor.

**Qurban Ali**

**Chief Editor**

**Dhyeya IAS**

**(Ex Editor- Rajya Sabha TV)**



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

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

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

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

**Ashutosh Singh**

**Managing Editor**

**Dhyeya IAS**



## PREFACE

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

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

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

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

**Omveer Singh Chaudhary**  
**Editor**  
**Dhyeya IAS**

# Perfect 7

The Weekly Issue

Perfect 7

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- Independent Media : A Bulwark for Democracy
- Beggary in India : A Problem of Great Magnitude
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## 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. JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE: THE GRIEF WHICH UNITED INDIA

### Why in News?

India has remembered Jallianwala Bagh massacre victims and paid tribute to those killed in the Amritsar tragedy 100 years ago on April 13, 1919. In another event, British Prime Minister Theresa May had expressed deep regret over the tragedy in a statement in the House of Commons to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy, which she described as a "shameful scar" on British Indian history. However, the i.e. British government has been criticised for not going far enough to make a formal apology.

### Background

Britain was at the height of colonial arrogance then. The Great War (naively assumed to be the war to end all wars) had ended in 1918 after four years of bloodshed. Britain had emerged victorious. The Allies had imposed onerous terms, including reparations, on the defeated Germans, and British administrators were busy carving up territories around the world, drawing new maps and deciding the fate of millions.

Concerned about rebellious natives, the Rowlatt committee in India had recommended a new law in March 1919, called 'The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act'. Popularly known as the 'Rowlatt Act', it empowered the state to detain individuals without trial, imposed stricter controls on the press and permitted warrantless arrests and

in-camera trials where the accused would not know the witnesses or the evidence used against them.

#### Rowlatt Act, 1919

It was passed in March 1919 by the Imperial Legislative Council and officially known as the 'Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919'.

- It was passed as per recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee chaired by Sir Sidney Rowlatt.
- It was passed despite unanimous opposition from the Indian members of the council, all of whom resigned in protest. These included Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Madan Mohan Malviya and Mazhar-ul-Haq.
- In response to this act, a nationwide hartal was called by Gandhiji on 6<sup>th</sup> April. This was called the 'Rowlatt Satyagraha.'
- It authorised the British government to arrest anybody suspected of terrorist activities for a maximum period of two years, without trial.
- It empowered the police to search a place without a warrant.
- It also placed severe restrictions on the freedom of the press.
- The act was widely condemned by Indian leaders and the public. The bills came to be known as 'black bills'

Mohandas Gandhi strongly criticized the Act and called a public strike on 6 April. But the colonial government was taking no chances. It arrested two Congress leaders—Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew—which raised tensions in Punjab. On the day of the Punjabi new year of Baisakhi, (i.e. April 13, 1919), a large crowd gathered at Jallianwala Bagh, in defiance of rules Dyer had announced prohibiting public gathering of more than four persons and banning public

processions. But the warning was not disseminated widely, nor taken seriously. The people at Jallianwala Bagh were in a festive mood. Seeing the gathering as an act of defiance, Dyer decided to act. Soldiers from the Baluchi, Gorkha and Rajput regiments fired a little over 1,650 rounds and killed at least 379 people by official count, wounding perhaps a thousand more.

#### Did You Know?

A 12-year old student of Lahore's DAV school went the next day to the Jallianwala Bagh and collected a sample of blood-stained soil. It would serve as a constant reminder of hurt and humiliation that his people have suffered. His name was Bhagat Singh, who would go down in history as India's foremost revolutionary.

### A Turning Point in India's National Movement

The significance of Jallianwala Bagh largely evaded popular imagination. To most people today, it was another bloody atrocity, the kind one reads about in history lessons. But Jallianwala Bagh was much more. It was actually the turning point in India's national movement after the revolt of 1857—the first nail driven into a coffin that was being readied for the British empire.

One has to understand the provincial, national and global context in which Jallianwala Bagh massacre happened. The British empire was at its high noon by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the ruthless colonialism that

had marked the rise of the British had morphed into what appeared to be enlightened imperialism.

The massacre made headlines worldwide. Rabindranath Tagore, the poet and Nobel laureate, returned his knighthood in protest. Winston Churchill condemned the shooting as “monstrous.” The government was forced to institute an inquiry commission (The Hunter Commission), where the unrepentant general acknowledged that his principal aim was not to disperse the crowd but to produce a “moral effect.” The colonial government of India determined that General Dyer’s actions were unwarranted and dismissed him from service.

#### Who Avenged the Massacre?

On March 13, 1940, at Caxton Hall in London, Uddham Singh, an Indian independence activist from Punjab who had witnessed the events in Amritsar and was himself wounded in Jallianwala Bagh massacre, shot and killed Michael O’ Dwyer (not to be confused with General Dyer who had died in 1927), the British Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab at the time of the massacre, who had approved General Dyer’s action and was believed to be the main planner.

The massacre shocked the conscience of many Indians (including Mahatma Gandhi) who believed in the British idea of rule of law. Many stalwarts of the Indian freedom struggle were lawyers trained in Britain; British imposition of a draconian law and the appalling cruelty of the massacre were enough for them to discard their illusions about the British tradition of fair play. It would still take another three decades before India would become free, but the path could now lead only in one direction.

A year later, Gandhi resumed the struggle against the British. He led India to independence less than three decades later, in 1947, setting into motion a process of decolonization that profoundly shaped the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre marked the beginning of the resistance against the exceptional laws of colonial

governance. Ironically, the postcolonial Indian state retained several of these laws of exception, the very same ones that people in Amritsar had died fighting against.

#### An Apology

Many in India and Britain have called upon the British to express a formal apology, but British political leadership remains reluctant. In 1997, the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India’s independence, on a visit to India, Queen Elizabeth II called it “a difficult episode”, but added that history cannot be rewritten. In 2013, David Cameron became the first serving British prime minister to visit the site, where he laid a wreath and called it “a shameful event in British history”. However, Prime Minister Theresa May statement is perhaps qualitatively a notch stronger from what other British representatives, including Queen Elizabeth II and former Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron, had said, but is far from enough.

Britain acknowledged its culpability in another colonial-era atrocity: the crackdown on the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya in the 1950s, and apologised for the killing of 13 protesters in Northern Ireland by British troops on Bloody Sunday in 1972.

Expressing a genuine apology for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre would be a good first step, but there are many other wrongs of colonization, including the Bengal famine of 1943. An apology can’t make up for the loss and injustice, but it shows remorse, if it is sincere.

#### Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and Contemporary India

Indian outrage over the Jallianwala Bagh massacre is justified. In the same way Indian should expect similar accountability from the Indian state, which continues to uphold and implement colonial-era laws that restrict civil liberties in India.



There have been many instances of security forces using disproportionate force, sometimes against unarmed protesters.

From Partition onwards, India’s history is splattered with violence—often, it is violence between and within communities, where the state is not necessarily the instigator. But equally, there are many examples of state violence against the people, in particular civilians. Sometimes, the state becomes complicit, by doing nothing when one group attacks another—think of mobs massacring in Nellie, Bengal in 1983; the pogrom of Sikhs in Northern India in 1984 after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s assassination; and the Gujarat riots of 2002, after the Godhra incident in which 59 Hindu karsevaks died, among others.

The kind of sweeping powers India’s security forces have, the impunity with which they sometimes act, the immunity they end up enjoying, and the sheer number of incidents that have not reached closure, is profoundly embarrassing for a democracy.

#### Way Forward

What may have stopped the UK government from making a clear and full apology is unknown. It may be in line with rising nationalism and needs of getting through with Brexit. It may be the financial cost, which such an apology entails. It maybe the fear of joining and strengthening the precedent of atonement as established by the Mau Mau case. It may be a decent composition of the above and some other constraints.

Relations between the UK and India today are friendly and constructive. Yet, that does not mean that an apology would not do well. We cannot turn back or erase the past, but we can take steps to recognise what happened and to respond in a way that befits a modern relationship between two countries which today

enjoy normal and positive diplomatic relations.

Neither the queen nor the Theresa May were alive when the atrocity were committed and certainly no British Government of 2019 bears a shred of responsibility for the massacre, but the nation that once allowed it to happen should apologize for its past sins.

### General Studies Paper- I

**Topic:** The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

○○○

## 2. INDEPENDENT MEDIA: A BULWARK FOR DEMOCRACY

### Context

For a country that prides itself on the strength of its democracy, India's record in upholding the freedom of press has been consistently poor. Currently, India ranks an abysmal 138 out of 180 in the Press Freedom Index — the position not having changed much for over a decade. Structural issues have limited the Indian reporter for a long time.

### Introduction

"The Fourth Estate", "Watchdog in a democracy", "Voice of the People", "Pillar of a Democracy" are some of the usual terms associated with the role of media in a working democracy. It plays a pivotal role in influencing mindsets across the country, which makes it essential for us to ensure that we are consuming information from the right channels.

Independent media operates free of any influence from both the government and the corporate sector. Few defining aspects of Independent media can be enlisted as report news in-depth, without opinions; Common interest stories and events; Provide the people with facts and facts alone; Data-driven journalism, that is, use facts and verifiable data; Offer plurality in diversity in voices; Talk about issues that would otherwise be swept under the rug.

When people get information from independent sources, they are encouraged to think critically and form their own opinions, making

independent media vital for any democracy. Independent media channels function without external influence — this means that they can spread word accurately about government policies and happenings, making them responsible for democratizing access to information and mainstream development issues.

Research has shown that there is a clear link between freedom of independent media, low levels of corruption and overall improved delivery of public services.

### Factors Dwindling Independency of Media

It is undisputed that media has the most potent influence on public opinion. It is thus the responsibility of the media to keep the citizens informed of the state of governance. As the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards of the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) also recognizes, media is meant to expose the lapses in the government and to give the public a sense of involvement in the process of governance. But there are many issues which vitiates against this role of media. Some of them are:

### Censorship Begins From Within

Insecurity has become an acute ailment afflicting media professionals. Most journalists starting from editors are employed on contracts of three years or less, with an exit clause that permits them to leave or be fired on a notice

of between one and three months. As a result, journalists have lost the courage to speak up or write about any issue that owners and managements do not want them to, including the issue of their own unstable working conditions. A number of media houses have been arbitrarily closing down editions or retrenching journalist and non-journalist staff while also going against the Majithia Wage Board recommendations but there is little coverage in the media about it.

The unstable working environments dissuade many journalists from speaking up against the management. The Working Journalists Act of 1955 lays down service conditions for journalists, but newspaper managements refuse to follow them.

### Balancing Freedom of Trade and Freedom of Speech

The concentration of media ownership has been a growing concern in the past few years, particularly during the 2014 parliamentary elections when the increasing influence of media was perceived. Shortly after the elections, the corporate giant Reliance took over managerial and editorial control of Network 18, which runs a sizeable portion of news media in India, both English and regional, sparking fear that the Indian media was moving towards the type of concentrated ownership. Before this, in 2011, UTV Software Communication was acquired by the Walt Disney Company, leading to the

ownership of multiple English and Hindi language entertainment channels in India in a single entity.

What does such concentration of media ownership mean for the freedom of speech and expression in the country? Freedom of speech and Expression is embodied as a fundamental right under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution. However, this is subject to reasonable restrictions under certain specified grounds under Article 19(2). The concentration of ownership of media implies that the influence and power which result in distribution of news and culture among other forms of expression and opinion-building in the country is now vested in only a handful of people—those who own or control the media.

Freedom of speech and expression plays a pivotal role in opinion building and consequently political configurations in a representative democracy. But what does this idea of freedom embody and what kinds of claims are accounted for in the legal understanding of such freedom in India? Is the prevention of concentration of media ownership one such claim for freedom of speech and expression? At the other end, the freedom to trade becomes an obvious claim to consider when the issue is that of ownership of media, since ownership is patently a concern of business and trade.

## Who Controls the Indian Media?

The free press is expected to uphold society's civil and political freedom; however, the distribution of information in our country is neither free nor fair. Industrial houses have been investing in media companies and indirectly gaining control over them. This reinforces the view that investors are investing in the media for their access and proximity to power and authority and thereby also indulging in lobbying, rent-seeking behaviour—as brought out during the telecom and coal allocation scams—and even attempting to shape political

and market information by influencing editorial content.

The consequence of 'Big Corporate' strengthening its association with media network is a clear loss of heterogeneity in the dissemination of information and opinions. Media plurality in a multicultural country like India will diminish. In particular, the space for providing factual information as well as expressing views that are not in favour of (or even against the interests of) India's biggest corporate conglomerate will shrink, not just in the traditional mainstream media (print, television and radio) but in the new media (internet and mobile telephony).

For the Indian media, it is unquestionably the best of times and it is also, unfortunately, the worst of times. We have never seen such a flowering of TV channels and such a spreading footprint of newspaper titles, but the market is more consolidated than ever around the top few players. The quality of what we offer to our public has never been better but that same public can see that the ethical foundations of our actions have plummeted to new depths.

## Where are the Legal Safeguards to Protect a Whistleblower?

A journalist is only as good as their source. Thus, maintaining their anonymity must be paramount. India, however, has a patchy record when it comes to protecting whistleblowers.

The stunted development of source protection privilege law in India has meant that newsgatherers' interactions with confidential sources are coloured by ambiguity. Despite two sets of recommendations by the Law Commission of India, neither the government nor the judiciary has displayed an inclination to directly address the issue. Courts have adopted an impressionistic and ad hoc approach in deciding cases bearing

upon source protection. The casualties of the quagmire are newsgatherers, sources, the public and the spirit of a democratic nation.

## Rising Issue of Paid News

According to Press Council of India (PCI), paid news is "any news or analysis appearing in any media (print & electronic) for a price in cash or kind as consideration". It refers to propaganda in favour of a candidate masquerading as news reports or articles for a price in cash or kind as consideration. The news is much like an advertisement, but without the 'ad tag'.

This kind of news has been considered a serious malpractice since it deceives the citizens, not letting them know that the news is, in fact an advertisement and affecting people's rational thinking and opinion. Such news play a significant role in influencing voting tendency of voters as the viewer does not get a correct picture of the personality or performance of the candidate in whose favour or against he decides to cast his vote. This destroys the very essence of the democracy.

## Advent of Social Media Posing New Challenges

Social media has become an important channel for communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is a platform for the people to interact with each other and present their opinions and convey their thoughts via virtual communities and networks like Facebook, Twitter etc. The facts that 1.49 billion people on average log onto Facebook daily; every second, on average, around 6,000 tweets are tweeted on Twitter; and since its inception, over 40 billion photographs have been posted on Instagram shows the prevalence and its impacting potential.

While it has provided the platform to communicate it is prone to be misused by elements which has vested interest. The 'Menace of Fake News' is

one such example of its misuse. Fake news is a huge problem. We live in a kind of half-truth world, where people are using clever half-truths to create narratives. We have seen the reports of at least a dozen people losing their lives because of WhatsApp circulated news. We cannot allow a situation in India where news circulated on WhatsApp can become lethal and fatal. We have incidents of fake news where many people from the Northeastern states of our country living in Bangalore felt threatened and wanted to leave the city.

Fake news has now even slipped into traditional media outlets and is often circulated by prominent individuals. This has contributed to the echo chamber phenomenon. People seek “informed” opinions through filters only from people they trust and look for news that confirms their world view. This results in people cultivating rigid opinions of issues that they would have probably been more willing to discuss in the past.

## Regulation of Media in India

The modern times have seen a huge breakthrough in the reach of media with the rise of new forms, especially of social media. People now have access to information like never before with all news updates from across the world at their fingertips. It thus becomes all the more necessary that the media be responsible and provide credible information to its viewers while reporting.

Media in India is mostly self-regulated. The existing bodies for regulation of media such as the Press Council of India (PCI) which is a statutory body and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), a self-regulatory organization, issue standards which are more in the nature of guidelines.

The PCI was established under the PCI Act of 1978 for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the press

and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The PCI has the power to receive complaints of violation of the journalistic ethics, or professional misconduct by an editor or journalist. The PCI is responsible for enquiring in to complaints received. It may summon witnesses and take evidence under oath, demand copies of public records to be submitted, even issue warnings and admonish the newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist.

The powers of the PCI are restricted in two ways.

1. The PCI has limited powers of enforcing the guidelines issued. It cannot penalize newspapers, news agencies, editors and journalists for violation of the guidelines.
2. The PCI only overviews the functioning of press media. That is, it can enforce standards upon newspapers, journals, magazines and other forms of print media. It does not have the power to review the functioning of the electronic media like radio, television and internet media

Today news channels are governed by mechanisms of self-regulation. One such mechanism has been created by the NBA. The NBA has devised a Code of Ethics to regulate television content. The NBSA, of the NBA, is empowered to warn, admonish, censure, express disapproval and fine the broadcaster a sum upto Rs. 1 lakh for violation of the Code. Another such organization is the Broadcast Editors' Association. The Advertising Standards Council of India has also drawn up guidelines on content of advertisements. These groups govern through agreements and do not have any statutory powers.

## Conclusion

The term “media freedom” is often used alongside, or as an alternative to, the terms “freedom of speech” or “freedom of expression”, but the

protection of media freedom takes a special position due to the media's role as a “public watchdog” as well as its function to disseminate information and ideas, thus guaranteeing the right of the public to receive this information.

Freedom of expression and media freedom are essential foundations for open and democratic societies. The freedom to express one's ideas and form an opinion is an important prerequisite for political processes to function in a democratic way. At a national level, freedom of expression is necessary for good government and, therefore, for economic and social progress. At an individual level, freedom of expression is vital to the development, dignity and fulfillment of every person. Without a broad guarantee of the right to freedom of expression, protected by independent courts, there is no democracy and no free country.

India is at the cusp of both economic and social change and it is vital that we, as citizens, remain informed and aware of the happenings in the country. We need to think critically about events and engage with others who are doing the same. We can begin by paying attention to the source of the information we are consuming. When we consume independent media, we are broadening their circulation and giving them a platform. A platform, that is vital towards sustainable, good governance.

### 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.



### 3. BEGGARY IN INDIA: A PROBLEM OF GREAT MAGNITUDE

#### Why in News?

Providing basic needs (health, shelter, and food) to its citizens is the top most priority of every government. Whenever, a nation fails to provide these necessities, the number of dependent people (beggars) increases. An initiative — ‘Har Hath Kalam’ — by a group of 70-odd youngsters is taking beggars and ragpickers off the streets in Patiala and putting them in schools. They have already transformed 100 lives in past year.

#### Introduction

Associated with the problems of poverty and unemployment is the problem of beggary which is a social problem of great magnitude and grave concern in developing countries. Begging is a problem for society in as much as a large number of beggars means non utilization of available human resources and drag upon the existing resources of the society.

#### Food for Thought

Article 46 of the Constitution of India mandates the state to promote, with special care, the economic interests of the weaker sections of the society and to protect them from social injustices and other forms of exploitations.

The duty under Article 46 coupled with the right of every individual to a dignified life under Article 21, casts an obligation upon all the state institutions to work towards ensuring socially and economically just and equal life to all.

Does that mean fighting the menace of beggary is sole responsibility of the state?

In spite of its rapid economic growth, India is a poverty-driven country, which is also leading to the growth of beggars in the country. It is well settled that the right to life is the right to live with dignity and with necessities of life required for it. The social contract between the citizen and the State is a contract by which in exchange for the citizen ceding her autonomy partially, the State promises her security over her person and a

life with dignity. In our constitutional framework, this is guaranteed by Part III which enjoins the State not only to protect life but also to advance it, and Part IV which mandates that the State shall allocate resources so as to further the common good.

#### Begging Cartel in India

Begging in India has become a big racket in the country. In fact, there are begging cartel in cities like Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Kolkata etc. These gangs have their own gang leaders. Each leader allots a particular territory for a group of beggars and the day's earnings are shared among them. It is very difficult to find out who is a real beggar and who is not because looks are very deceptive. Even the children with their dirty faces with pleading looks are properly trained to beg and look real. Sometimes our heart melts when we see a young woman holding her tiny baby, begging on the streets. In most cases, the baby is found sleeping. This is a scam. Many sting operations have revealed that babies are rented to give credibility to begging. Sometimes, babies are drugged for the entire day so that they look sick and they can be easily carried from one area to another by the young women beggars.

#### Laws Governing Begging in India

In India, there is no central law which penalises begging. Although, 22 states (including few Union Territories) have their anti-begging laws. The Act which functions as the derivative figure for all the state anti-begging law is Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959. The act prescribes penalty of more than 3 years of jail in case of first conviction for begging and person can be ordered to be detained for 10 years in subsequent conviction.

#### Child Beggars in India

According to a conservative estimate, 3 lakh children across India are forced to beg, using everything from addiction to drugs, to threats of violence and actual beatings. They form the foot soldiers of what is a now a multi-million rupee industry led by human trafficking cartels. The Indian National Human Rights Commission reports that 40,000 children are abducted in India every year, over 25% of whom remain untraced. It is often assumed that these children belong to families who push them into begging.

Children are abducted (and even in some cases sold to) by anti-social / terror groups and sold to begging mafia in India. These gangs then deploy these child beggars very far away from their home location so that they are untraceable. These kids then are taught, tortured, drugged and made to beg at traffic signals, near temples, hospitals, and plush restaurants.

Sometimes these child beggars in India are even maimed to make them more likely to receive higher sums of alms. Some doctors in India have even been caught red-handed while taking money against maiming children for these begging mafia lords.

Child trafficking in India is a huge menace and most of the trafficked children are being sold off to drug lords and begging mafias within India. Some female children are being sold off in the international markets for prostitution.

#### Definition of Begging as per Anti-Begging Law

- ◆ Soliciting or receiving money, clothes or other things ordinarily given to a beggar, in a public place whether or not by singing, dancing, fortune telling, performing or offering any article for sale.
- ◆ Entering on any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving money, clothes or other things ordinarily given to a beggar.
- ◆ Exposing or exhibiting, with the object of obtaining or extorting money, clothes or other things ordinarily given to a beggar, any sore, wound injury, deformity of

diseases whether of a human being or animal.

- ◆ Having no visible means of subsistence and wandering, about or remaining in any public place in such condition or manner, as makes it likely that the person doing so exist soliciting or receiving money, clothes or other things ordinarily given to a beggar.
- ◆ Allowing oneself to be used as an exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms.

Provisions of the anti-begging laws are highly arbitrary, the implementation of the law is even more. Anti-begging squads are to raid public places such as railway stations, temples, mosques, bus terminus and arrest anybody who looks poor and homeless. There have been situations where, homeless or disabled people were perceived to be beggars, based simply on the fact of their homelessness or disability.

### Legality of Bagging

According to the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, which criminalize the begging, the provision not only criminalizes the begging in the Mumbai but also in various metropolitan cities such as Delhi.

However, last year, the Delhi High Court in a landmark judgment has held the Act as unconstitutional in Delhi, on grounds that it violates Article 14 and

Article 21 of the Constitution restoring the rights of persons who have no other means of sustenance but to seek alms. The court has acknowledged that the application of the anti-beggary act has largely been arbitrary, leading to the detention the poor who may not be engaged in begging, but could be people who have “fallen through the socially created net” — they could be homeless, poor persons living with disabilities, transgender persons, migrant or sex workers.

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C. Harishankar has noted that it is a state whose duty is to provide a dignified life to its citizens.

About four lakh beggars of India must have heaved a sigh of relief with the Delhi High Court ruling that seeking alms is not a crime, even as blasting the government for turning a blind eye toward the most vulnerable and downtrodden section of society. The unprecedented decision to strike down as many as 25 provisions of a bootless, draconian anti-beggary legislation also means instant freedom for hundreds of panhandlers being prosecuted and dumped into dungeons for months on end.

### Causes of Begging in India

The problem of beggary, like any other social problem, is multidimensional. Its roots are found in the diverse patterns of its intertwined and interlocked social

fabrics. Various factors which are cited as causes of beggary can be grouped into following heads:

#### Physical Factors

In India there is no adequate provision for treatment and social rehabilitation of blind, deaf, dumb or the physically

handicapped. In the absence of any reasonable alternative, such persons are constrained to beg.

#### Economic Factors

Economic factors which generally prompt people to take to begging. Among these factors poverty, unemployment, under-employment and loss of income are important.

#### Social Factors

Among the social factors, hereditary occupation, family disorganization and widowhood are causes of begging.

#### Natural Calamities

Our physical environment may frustrate us drastically at times through famines, earthquakes, drought, cyclones or floods. Sometimes all these natural calamities cause serious damage to property and agriculture and compel people to leave their homes and compel them to take to begging to overcome pangs of hunger.

#### Psychological Factors

Some times, due to bad psychology of the individual cause beggary. Frustration, unwillingness to work and tendency towards isolation are important among these factors.

### Steps Needed to Rehabilitate Beggars

Begging has grown at a significant rate in India. It is estimated that half a million people in India are beggars. The government, varied organizations, activists claim that many measures have been taken to abolish begging and it has been successful to a certain extent. But as the citizens of this country, it is our moral responsibility to stop this menace and the best way is to stop giving alms. Meanwhile, let the government continue with its poverty alleviation schemes and make India a better place to live in.

Following footsteps may be taken to rehabilitate beggars:



- ♦ **Eradicate Poverty:** Priority should be given to eradication of extreme poverty. Though many people take to begging owing to poverty, it has become a menace. Of late, begging has become part of an organised crime.
- ♦ **Rehabilitation:** Small shelters have to be made and they need to be imparted skills that would help them land jobs. They should be made to earn their livelihood by working and not begging. The government and charitable organisations should look after people who are aged and physically challenged.

#### Best Practices to End Menace of Beggary

- In Bihar, Mukhyamantri Bhikshavriti Nivaran Yojna was launched to protect and promote the rights of beggars by ensuring their care, protection, development, socio-economic and cultural empowerment through enabling policies and programmes.
- The government of Odisha has adopted good measure to identify beggars provide them alternative remedy like houses, insurance coverage, aadhar and ration card, healthcare facility, giving them training for vocational skills for wage or self-employment.
- Few municipal corporations in Maharashtra including Pune Corporation had launched 'beggar free city' campaign.

- ♦ **Vocational Training:** The government should provide necessary vocational training to rehabilitate them. The expenses incurred should be borne by the government. A government-funded organisation should be constituted and personnel trained to oversee the rehabilitation programme. Beggars who are willing to work should be trained according to their ability, health and talent. The ill should be given medical care, food and other amenities. Necessary steps should be taken by the government to collect contributions from donors by allowing tax rebate.
- ♦ **Concerted Effort:** Social issues associated with begging are drug

trafficking, criminal activities and sexual exploitation of children. As part of the rehabilitation programme, the corporation has collaborated with a voluntary organisation towards providing food, clothing and medicines. To

reduce the economic burden, the government should seek the aid of voluntary organisations. However, the activities of the voluntary organisations should be monitored and evaluated.

- ♦ **Aid Agency Needed:** The rehabilitated should be provided free medical diagnosis, financial support and ration to the beggars. Slums may come up in cities and rehabilitation should be carried out in a judicious manner.
- ♦ **Create Awareness:** People should discourage beggars. Begging flourishes because people tend to be generous. Awareness programmes need to be conducted for the poor to help them realise how shameful it is to beg.

### Way Forward

Basic needs of man have traditionally been accepted to be three — food, clothing and shelter. The right to life is guaranteed in any civilized society. That would take within its sweep the right to food, the right to clothing, the right to decent environment and a reasonable accommodation to live in.

It remains a hard reality that the State has not been able to ensure even the bare essentials of the right to life to all its citizens. People beg on the

## Beggars of India (as per Census 2011)

|        | INDIA    | DELHI |
|--------|----------|-------|
| Male   | 2,21,673 | 1,343 |
| Female | 1,91,997 | 844   |
| Total  | 4,13,670 | 2,187 |

streets not because they wish to, but because they need to. Begging is their last resort to subsistence, they have no other means to survive. Begging is a symptom of a disease, of the fact that the person has fallen through the socially created net.

As India is a social welfare state, it is the responsibility of the government to develop policies so that all its citizens can achieve that wholesome life. India is also part of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which has a provision for right to living with dignity and the lack of any concrete policies to deal with the issue of beggary and homelessness is inconsistent with that provision.

#### General Studies Paper- II

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

#### General Studies Paper- II

**Topic:** Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

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## 4. ELECTION MANIFESTO: AN INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY

### Why in News?

There is a heated debate going on in the media about the merits and demerits of the manifestos released by the various political parties, particularly the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and the Congress. While each party is involved in a blame game projecting its manifesto superior over others and terming others manifesto as gimmick or even 'Anti-national', let us analyse the essence behind Election Manifesto and how parties are abusing it.

### Introduction

India, the world's largest democracy is truly incredible in its size and stature. In democracy the people are the ultimate source of power and its success and failure depend on their wisdom, consciousness and vigilance. A government "by the people and of the people" should quite naturally deliver ideal governance "for the people", but in reality it is far apart. Basic issue with democracy is that voters do not make rational or truly informed choices. Their political decision making seems to be driven by preconceived criteria plus have a prejudice for instant gratification, thus keeping most democracies focused on the short term growth aspect. Thus, various sops and freebies vitiate the sanctity of elections. Smearing campaigns by candidates have a large bearing on the voter's personality and their choices.

Distribution of freebies and doles in election or pre-election existence is a deeply ingrained tradition which is accustomed to democratic India. Freebies often takes the form of cash, bribes, free rice, saris, or loan waivers and its mandatory practice by parties has predominantly overtaken the centre stage in all election campaigns. Therefore, there is an upsurge trend of doling out freebies to voters in cash

or kind during pre and post elections period. The growing likeliness towards such luring schemes is a factor for their apparent success in garnering votes, creating a vote-bank in process.

### Meaning of Manifesto and its Relevance

Oxford dictionary defines 'manifesto' as a public declaration of the policy and aims, especially one issued before an election by a political party or candidate.

In every election, becoming a necessity of each political party to possess a momentous mutual thing that is called the 'election manifesto', therefore over years gaining a great deal of significance from the political parties and voters. Manifesto has been able to play a crucial character in formation of government at state and centre level. It acts as a medium espoused by political parties, explain their rational, thus politicizing to the voters their policies, idea, promises, reforms, animus, programmes and generation of new ideas with notions of creating a better future so that the voters can choose from a suitable pool of parties which lives up to their expectations, desire, aspirations, ideology and goals.

With the advent of new electronic media and social media over the decade or so, there has been a tremendous down surge in the relevance

of the political manifestos, thereby transforming the whole election scenario altogether. From the centric theme of 'Garibi Hatao' in 1971, laid down by Indira Gandhi, Narendra Modi's 'Modifesto' in 2014 general elections to the recent 'NYAY' of Congress; there has been a remarkable change in the tendency and approach of the manifestos shaped by parties.

### Hyperbole Narratives in Manifesto and Economic Implications

While election manifestos have generated debate around issues such as employment and housing, they have also made frivolous promises like free distribution of cows and laptops. For example parties like DMK and AIDMK promised free gifts like colour TV sets, fans, mixer grinders and laptops in their manifestos, on winning the Assembly Elections of 2006 and 2011 respectively. While the national parties focus on national issues, state parties are essentially confined to local and regional issues. Some of the recent doles recently are:

|  |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| CONGRESS                                                                              | BJP                                           |
| MANIFESTO VS MANIFESTO                                                                |                                               |
| Separate Kisan budget to be introduced                                                | Double farmers' income                        |
| Eliminate abject poverty by 2030 through NYAY                                         | Pension for small, marginal farmers           |
| Review AFSPA, start peace process in Kashmir                                          | Bring down % of BPL families to single digits |
| Creation of 22 lakh jobs by the end of 2020                                           | Abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A     |
|                                                                                       | Push to 22 'Champion Sectors' to boost jobs   |

- ◆ **NYAY Scheme of Congress:** NYAY – or Nyuntam Aay Yojana (Minimum Wage Scheme) – aims to provide the poorest 5 crore Indian families an amount of Rs 72,000 per year, every year. This scheme, announced by Congress president Rahul Gandhi, instantly grabbed headlines. Given the attention the scheme has grabbed, there's a good chance something like NYAY will be implemented no matter which government finally comes to the Centre.

Before we get into the funding of NYAY, let's look at it from a moral standpoint. There are moral reasons in favour of as well as against NYAY. We do have some of the poorest people on Earth. Without money in their pockets, they can do little to get out of the poverty trap. This money in hand can help people choose how they want to improve their life – better food, shelter, education or anything else.

On the other hand, two moral issues go against NYAY. One, the government is using taxpayer money to fund a massive subsidy that may not have the consent of the same taxpayers. Two, a culture of getting money for free can create a sense of entitlement and disrupt the labour market. India already has low labour productivity and NYAY can harm it further.

Paying 5 crore families Rs 72,000 a year will cost Rs 3.6 lakh crore. That's a massive amount of money even at the central government budget level. It's roughly a fifth of the Centre's share of tax revenues (Rs 18 lakh crore). Already, the central government spends more than it earns (the deficit) and these additional costs will throw our budgets further out of whack.

- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:** Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) promise in its manifesto to extend the 'PM Kisan Nidhi

Samman Yojana' to all farmers. The scheme so far covers nearly 120 million small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares (4.9 acres) of landholding will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support. This programme already entails an annual expenditure of ₹75,000 crore, expanding its canvas will further increase the fiscal deficit.

Similarly many populists measures like farm loan waiver, interest subvention, freebies are taken by different regional as well as national parties to garner votes without giving due fiscal, rational and ethical considerations. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), one of the biggest subsidy schemes ever announced, costs us ₹ 50,000 crore per year. NYAY is expected to cost over seven times that. Digesting an expense like this is going to hurt us in other ways like lower growth, more inflation, lower investments, higher taxes and fewer jobs.

### Missing Environment Angle in Mainstream Politics

For all the rivalry between the political parties contesting the elections, there is a remarkable homogeneity of thought on matters relating to ecology and economy and lack of thinking about India's future. In October 2018, United Nations (UN's) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that without radical course correction, the world will exhaust its carbon budget to keep global temperature increase below 1.5°C by 2030. Any increase above that will trigger runaway changes to global climate that could leave large portions of the planet uninhabitable.

But the environment angle is absent from the manifestos and declarations by political parties. What

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

### Legal Provisions Regarding Manifesto

In Subramaniam Balaji V. State of Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court delved into the legality of promising freebies in election manifestos. The legitimacy of the promises made during these elections were challenged in Court.

The Court in its judgment ruled that the promises to distribute election freebies in an election manifesto cannot be read into the language of the Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, (RPA, 1951) for asserting it to be corrupt practices under the prevalent law in force. That the schemes do not violate of Article 14 of public purpose and reasonable classification as it is in the realm of fulfilling the (DPSP's.) Directive Principles of State Policy

Even though the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the State of Tamil Nadu, stating that the promises made in an election manifesto cannot be construed as a 'corrupt practice' under section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, it acknowledged that in reality distribution of free gifts by political parties does influence the electorate and "shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree".

In the fresh guidelines to political parties on election manifesto, EC in the interest of free and fair election directed political parties to adhere to few guidelines. The guidelines are:

- The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that

it shall be consistent with the later and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

- (ii) In the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

### Fixing Accountability of Manifesto

The contents of manifesto help the political parties in interpreting in mirror reality on functioning towards achievement of the welfare goals. But contrary to its role and function, it has been used as tool whereby cogent revealing inducement and enticement of voters through the volley of free goodies.

Due to lack of implementation it creates an impression that the political parties can delude the election and gain profits by making fool of the illiterate, ignorant and incapable poor people who cannot assess the performance of the parties. Unfortunately there are no regulation of malpractice, unprofessionalism or wrongdoing in manifesto preparedness nor there is a systematic mechanism for the supervision and control of these wrongdoing and malpractices.

A list of reforms and recommendation, that may be implemented for improvement regarding regulation of freebies are:

- ◆ It should be made obligatory for each political party to publish and submit their manifesto to the Election Commission before the deadline of the first phase of the nomination, failure of which should lead to debarring the party from contesting the particular election. Election Commission should scrutinize all these manifestos and

give suitable instructions to the political parties.

- ◆ To prevent laxity on part of the political parties and candidates on coming to power, strict judicial action should be taken against the political parties for the non-fulfilment of promises made by them during the announcement of election manifestos. A judicial mechanism is hereby, recommended for the ensuring accountability of the ruling parties towards its election manifestos at both national level and state level.
- ◆ Manifesto should be legally binding document on the parties to implement the promises made before the pre-elections so as to avoid the impractical claims. The claims and promises stated shall be unambiguous, achievable (within time frame), realistic, problem solving and aiming towards the steady growth of society and economic conditions.
- ◆ The political parties should very carefully take the statistical data to be used in the manifestos from reliable sources, preferably from government documents and database. Moreover, the manifesto should lay down the fiscal roadmaps to achieve such targets and the impact of such commodity on the financial reserves.
- ◆ Due to the strict interpretation of the penal statutes of Section 123 of RP Act only candidates and its agents come under its preview. It should encompass its horizons to include political parties as well.
- ◆ MCC should get a legislative backing, in order to facilitate enforceability. It should be citizen's jobs to draft problems and make these parties and candidates collectively devise promises otherwise a cynical private benefit will entail.

### Conclusion

Election manifestos function as signalling devices for contextualizing the priorities of a political party. The manifesto cannot contain anything that is repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and must be consistent with the letter and spirit of the Model Code of Conduct. While political parties can promise welfare schemes in their manifestos, they cannot make promises "which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise".

Election manifestos play an important role in most countries. But in other mature democracies both voters and parties take them very seriously. In the UK, the issues committed to in the manifestoes cannot be contested in the Upper House. Similarly in the US the voters grill the candidates on their manifestos.

Unfortunately, in India these manifestos still do not have any legal sanctity. While manifestos should play a key role in the political dialogue, they instead often morph into mere intellectual exercises. So far the belief is that if the party-in-power fails to implement the promises, the people will vote it out. But that is not enough. Time has come now to make the political parties accountable for their promises in the manifestos.

#### 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.



## 5. DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN TIBET-60 YEARS ON: A SELF CONGRATULATORY DOCUMENT

### Why in News?

Last month Beijing has unveiled a white paper on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tibet uprising that signals a shift in position on Dalai Lama -- from willingness to engage with the spiritual leader to a policy of 'a great leap to socialist system' under Chinese Communist Party.

### Introduction

Beijing has brought out a more than usual self-congratulatory document named "Democratic Reform in Tibet — 60 Years On" highlighting China's role in helping Tibetans become 'master of their own affairs'. China does these exercises from time to time. An earlier iteration was in 2009 and was based on the same broad assumptions — that Tibet was in a state of extreme misery and poverty before the Communist Party of China came and rescued it. Horrifying accounts of the extreme misery of the Tibetan people is now followed by a more subtle presentation of history.

According to the document, before the reforms started in 1959, the exploitation of the Tibetans was not just by the kings and nobles of the time, but also by the Dalai Lama's administration. Under the system, the three-major estate-holders (government officials, nobles and upper-ranking lamas in monasteries) deprived all rights of serfs, held in their hands the serfs' life and death, monopolized land, pastures and other means of production. In addition to all their privations, these entitled landholders and nobles are said to have exercised "mind control" over the Tibetans through religion, promising them "Elysium" in the next life in return for strict obedience. All of this, of course, in stark contrast

to the benefits of today due to the munificence of Beijing.

The document details Beijing's policy on Tibet under President Xi Jinping, a policy has shifted from a willingness to engage with the Dalai Lama to a policy of 'a great leap to socialist system' under Chinese Communist Party's rule. There are two significant differences from earlier publications. First, there is no mention of Beijing's readiness to engage with the Dalai Lama anymore. Second, it affably praises the Living Buddha reincarnation as a succession system unique to Tibetan Buddhism and in the same breath lists a series of rules and regulations including the "Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism" instituted in 2007.

#### The Great Escape

On March 31, 1959, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama of Tibet crossed the Indo-Tibet border in the Kameng Frontier Division, North of Tawang; he met a detachment of the Assam Rifles waiting to welcome him. He had no choice but to flee his native land, as severe repression had taken place in Lhasa.

Three days before the Tibetan leader reached the Indian border, the Communist regime declared that the "feudal lord" had left his native land; that this would allow the serfs to be emancipated. Though thousands had died in Lhasa in the process of "emancipation", Beijing still celebrates the massacre as the "Serfs Emancipation Day".

Few days after coming to India, the Tibetan exile administration, called the CTA, was formed. It is based in Dharamshala, where the spiritual leader also lives. Around 140,000 Tibetans now live in exile, over 100,000 of them in different parts of India. Over six million Tibetans live in Tibet.

### Key Highlights

◆ Tibet's Gross Domestic Product (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.
- ◆ Tibet's population has grown from 1.23 million in 1959 to 3.44 million in 2018, with Tibetans accounting for over 90 percent of the total.
- ◆ The living condition of people in Tibet has improved. 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.
- ◆ Education has also been improved. In 2018, the net enrolment rate in primary school was 99.5 per cent and gross enrolment rates in junior high, senior high and higher education were 99.5 per cent, 82.3 per cent and 39.2 per cent respectively.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The freedom of religious belief of all ethnic groups is protected by the Constitution and the laws, with all religions and religious sects being equally respected and protected. Currently, Tibet has 1,787 sites for the practice of Tibetan Buddhism, over 46,000 resident monks and nuns and 358 Living Buddhas. There are four mosques and over 12,000 native Muslims and one Catholic church.
- ◆ Welfare for the local people had improved in the region, with access to free medical treatment, building

water conservancy projects and disaster rescue and relief.

- ◆ The white paper criticised the Dalai Lama for attempting to maintain feudal serfdom.
- ◆ Beijing had institutionalised the reincarnation process of “living Buddhas” signalling a major say in the choice of next Dalai Lama. The reincarnation of living Buddhas including the Dalai Lama must comply with Chinese laws and regulations and follow religious rituals and historical conventions."

## World View on Tibet

- ◆ In the US, Section 4 of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018, enacted on 19 December, 2018, requires the Department of State to provide an annual report to Congress, regarding the level of access China grants to US diplomats and officials, journalists, and tourists to Tibetan areas in China. This year's report notes even more surveillance than before, a development that is hardly surprising given the US-China relations.
- ◆ The Human Rights Committee of the German Parliament, in a rare statement, called upon the Chinese government to stop repression in Tibet, citing the over 150 self-immolations and declaring deep respect for the peaceful Tibetan culture.
- ◆ In London, a wreath-laying ceremony marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tibetan uprising, while rallies and speeches were held in Australia.

All of this shows that the world hasn't lost interest in the Tibet issue. The Tibet issue is not going to go away in a hurry, despite Beijing's throwing a tantrum every time the subject is raised. Further, as Chinese power grows; global interest on Tibet is likely to revive.

## An Analysis

The timing of the publication was primarily motivated by the fact that the day marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the present Dalai Lama's flight to India and the tectonic shift this entailed in the status of Tibet at the time. There is also the issue that His Holiness, the present Dalai Lama, has changed his stance considerably in recent days. From saying that there perhaps may not be another Dalai Lama, he now suggests that the next reincarnation may be found in India. Not just that, he went on to say that in this case, the Chinese installed one would have little or no relevance. That's clearly annoyed Beijing no end. Further, the white paper coincided with the US State Department report which documented access problems to Tibet in a report to Congress mandated by the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, 2018.

In addition, China's historical accounts are somewhat selective. Recently published white paper and other such publications forget to note the social reform carried out by, for instance, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama's, and that much of the injustice described with such graphic detail, maybe being replicated by a new regime in a different uniform in new ways. In short, the text makes little effort to hide its political message.

Many imminent scholars remarked that in the name of liberation, China has turned whole of Tibet into an area of Neo-Colonialism. China has always tried to justify its invasion of Tibet and its occupation with repressive policies against the Tibetan people. Like most of its Asian contemporaries, traditional Tibetan society or 'Old Tibet' as China calls it, was backward and in need of reforms but it is incorrect to call it 'feudal' as such was not the case.

Concerns raised by independent human rights experts in the free world and highlighted in various international

reports contradict the claims made by China in the white paper. For instance, the Freedom House in its Freedom in the World 2019 report has ranked Tibet as the least free region in the world with no freedoms, political rights and civil liberties. On the much chest thumping pompous claim of China on economic development in Tibet, the Freedom House reports, "the Chinese government's economic development programs in Tibet have strongly encouraged ethnic Chinese migration to the region, disproportionately benefited ethnic Chinese residents and exacerbated the marginalization of ethnic Tibetans, who have also been displaced by mass resettlement campaigns within Tibet." This is very much similar to how colonies are exploited by the colonial powers in the name of economic development. China's so-called economic developments are in pocketed areas of Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) which are heavily populated by the Chinese migrants and for self-serving purposes.

Further, China has now started meddling with the religious training imparted to the Buddhist monks and nuns residing in the area. As per a report published in China's official publication Global Times, 30,000 Buddhist monks and nuns, in TAR, were required to undergo a test. They were grilled for their knowledge of the Chinese constitution, anti-espionage and anti-terrorism activities and regulations pertaining to practicing religion.

Ironically, China's purportedly atheist system is ostensibly subscribing to superstition to suit its purpose when it comes to ensuring that only someone directly under its control gets to officially take up the Dalai Lama's mantle. That, obviously, has to do with the sheer devotion the 14<sup>th</sup> holder of the title evokes among millions of Tibetans, both within China and around the world.

### India and Next Dalai Lama

Traditionally, the title of Dalai Lama is bestowed on the highest-ranking leader in Tibetan Buddhism. It is given to those deemed to be the reincarnation of a line of revered religious teachers.

On the other hand, the white paper doesn't mention about ecological degradation of the region. The global significance and ecological sensitivity of the Tibetan plateau, the "Third Pole" and "Asia's water tap" is constantly emphasized by environmentalists, including the Chinese environmentalists. They blame human activities such as "deforestation, urban expansion and infrastructures such as roads, dams and power grids for profound changes in surface coverage in the region. The rampant open-air mining works and developmental projects have caused much damage to Tibet's fragile ecosystem. The lack of respect for the environment and the lack of sincere desire for environmental protection by the Chinese authorities is one of the prime reason for degradation of

Tibetan ecosystem. The confrontational attitudes of successive leaderships like Mao's "man must conquer nature" have led to further damage of the local environment and destruction.

The Dalai Lama's reincarnation has been one of the most contentious issues not only between the exiled Tibetan leader and the Chinese government but also between Sino-India relationship. Matters will become more complicated by the fact that the status of a new Dalai Lama in India is likely to be considerably different from that of the present head who has not just a worldwide presence but is also truly respected for his intelligence, learning and impish charm. India's positioning on the Tibet issue will also be heavily influenced by not just the huge increase in Chinese power, but how to balance against it. This, in turn, will mean that the office of the Dalai Lama may be far more politically sensitive in the future, as against the rather lukewarm support that has been evident in the past.

### Conclusion

There is only one sentence in the white paper that seems agreeable. Indeed, "these 60 years have changed Tibet" but for the worse. China ruled Tibet for 60 years and has tried every trick in the book of "how to destroy a civilization" if it was ever written and yet the very fact that China feels obligated to publish the so-called white paper to expound its claims of development.

But what China fails to understand is: development is for the comfort of human life not at the cost of it. No amount of backwardness can justify the attack, occupation and destruction of a culture by another culture.

#### General Studies Paper- II

**Topic:** India and its neighborhood-relations.

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

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## 6. ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER FOR RURAL INDIA: NEED OF THE HOUR

### Why in News?

India accounts for almost one-fourth of the total groundwater extracted globally, more than that of China and the US combined thus using the largest amount of groundwater, around 24 per cent of the global total, according to a new report released by WaterAid to mark 'World Water Day' on March 22.

### Introduction

Water is a scarce resource and an important basic necessity for the human survival. The quantity of potable water on Earth is limited and its availability per person is reducing day by day due to increase in global population and damage to the environment. Though water available



in nature is free, sizeable investment and planning is needed in order to make water available to people in the desired quality and quantity on a consistent basis.

Access of safe drinking water was declared as a human right by the United Nations but remains a challenge for both urban as well as rural India. Depleting ground water, lack of proper rainwater harvesting and rising

contamination in the ground water due to sewage and agricultural effluent discharge is posing fresh challenges for the rural India, which are struggling to get safe and affordable water.

### Need for Clean Drinking Water

Safe water, sanitation and hygiene are some of the most basic requirements for human health, and all countries have a responsibility to ensure that everyone can access them. The importance of providing clean drinking water in rural India can have following effects:

- ◆ **Improvement in Health:** Adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are all essential ingredients

to ensure good health. Lack of safe drinking water poses many health hazards such as diarrhea, cholera and typhoid which have seen millions of registered cases.

- ◆ **Improvement in Economic Productivity:** Economic opportunities are routinely lost to the impacts of rampant illness and the time-consuming processes of acquiring water where it is not readily available.
- ◆ **Improvement in Literacy:** Education suffers when sick children miss school.

## Current Scenario of Rural Drinking Water

Providing safe and adequate drinking water for the entire rural population is one of the commitments of the government. According to National Sample Survey Organisation's 69 Round Survey covering household conditions and amenities in India for the period July 2012- December 2012, 88.5 per cent of the rural households have access to drinking water from protected sources. The 2011 Census reveals about 30.8 per cent of rural households have access to piped water from taps. But the Census shows that 22.10 per cent of rural population has to travel at least half-a-kilometre to fetch drinking water.

## Government Initiatives

Water is a state subject but the Union government influences its supply through the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Launched in 2009, NRDWP provides state governments with the funds to build the infrastructure, such as piped connections, to deliver water to rural households for domestic use (broadly drinking, cooking and sanitation).

But, over-drawing of groundwater, drying up of wells and pollution of water have taken a toll on availability of water in habitations which were earlier

fully covered. To ensure sustainable drinking water supply, the government has revamped the NRDWP with new and focused objectives.

- ◆ Now, instead of coverage of habitations, the focus is on ensuring water at household level.
- ◆ Focus on piped water supply rather than on hand pumps.
- ◆ Enhancement of service levels for rural water supply from the norm of 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd for designing of systems.
- ◆ Greater thrust on coverage of water quality affected habitations.
- ◆ Making available resources for operation and management of schemes.
- ◆ Conjoint approach between rural water supply and rural sanitation so as to achieve saturation of habitations with both these services.
- ◆ Move away from over-dependence on single source to multiple sources.
- ◆ Incentivizing states to hand over management of schemes to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- ◆ Provision of separate funds for IEC & RD and other software activities.
- ◆ A new component water quality monitoring and surveillance was introduced 3 per cent of NRDWP funds allocated for the purpose.
- ◆ Move away from high cost treatment technologies for treating Arsenic and Fluoride contaminated water to cost effective ones.
- ◆ Promotion of simple-to-use technologies.
- ◆ Involving grassroot-level workers for water quality testing.

However, union government has actually slashed NRDWP's funding. In 2014-15, only 0.6% of total government funding was allocated to NRDWP and by 2018-19 even this had shrunk to 0.2%. In an NRDWP budget

brief, Accountability Initiative, a non-profit research organization, points out that not only has allocation decreased, but actual fund releases have also fallen sharply. In 2017-18, just 72% of allocated funds were spent by NRDWP.

## Other Government Schemes

- ◆ **Swajaldhara (2002):** It started to involve community in planning, implementation and management of drinking water related schemes.
- ◆ **National Rural Drinking Water Programme (2009):** It aimed to provide with the funds to build the infrastructure, such as piped connections, to deliver water to all rural habitations, government schools and anganwadis.
- ◆ **Swajal Scheme (2018):** The aim of scheme is to ensure that there is a steady supply of clean drinking water in rural areas. These remote rural areas usually receive contaminated and harsh water which, on consumption, has led to many illnesses.

### Facts

- Approximately 2.1 billion people all over the world still are unable to access safe water sources within their home.
- 85 per cent of rural drinking water supply and 50 per cent of urban drinking water supply come from groundwater sources.
- Less than 50% habitations have access to the mandated 55 litres of water per day.
- It is estimated that about 21 percent of communicable diseases in India are water-related.
- Article 47 conferring the duty of providing clean drinking water and improving public health standards to the State.
- United Nations (UN) had recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right in 2010.
- **SDG goal 6:** The countries of the world have to achieve universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene to all by 2030.

## Challenges

India has long faced the challenge of providing safe drinking water to over 700 million people in more than 1.5 million villages. In 1972, the government began to improve rural water supply and in the mid-1980s the issue was declared a national priority. As a result, by 2011, 95 percent of India's rural population had access to some form of water supply infrastructure. In practice however many systems were no longer functional. The key issue was that systems were designed and constructed by state engineering agencies with little participation from local communities. People lacked a sense of ownership and maintenance was neglected. Consumers also treated water as a right to be provided free-of-cost by the government, making systems financially unsustainable. Moreover, a growing population led to the mounting demand for water, with the result that water tables were falling and many water sources were shrinking or drying up altogether. At the same time, rural households had begun to demand higher levels of service. While in the 1990s, rural communities were satisfied with village wells and hand pumps, many now sought piped household connections.

Further, it has been noted that government program like NRDWP is over-dependant on ground water. However, ground water is contaminated in over 20 states. For instance, high arsenic contamination has been found in 68 districts of 10 states. Chemical contamination of ground water has also been reported due to deeper drilling for drinking water sources.

According to the Comptroller and auditor general of India (CAG) report, which analysed the state of rural water supply between 2012 and 2017, 4.76 lakh habitations had slipped from fully-covered to partially-covered state. The number of slip-back habitations was high in Andhra

Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

All these challenges pose hurdle in achieving supply of water to all rural households for domestic use.

### Water Contamination and Rural India

More than four crore people in rural India drink water contaminated by heavy metals, fluoride, arsenic and nitrate.

West Bengal is the worst-affected with 39 per cent of India's affected population living in that state. About 1.57 crore rural residents of Bengal drink metal-contaminated water. Rajasthan has 65 lakh rural people putting their health at risk while Bihar has 43 lakh people ingesting contaminated water.

As per data from the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 16 states have a rural population of more than one lakh depending on metal-contaminated water. Of these, seven – West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura – have more than 10 lakh affected people.

Rajasthan tops the list of states in fluoride and salinity contamination, affecting 33 lakh and 25 lakh people respectively. The state also tops in nitrate contamination with 7 lakh people directly affected.

West Bengal leads in arsenic and iron contamination, with 96 lakh people in the state consuming arsenic water and 49 lakh drinking iron-contaminated water.

## Towards Cleaner Water

Providing safe drinking water to all in rural India is a challenging task. Given the diversity of the country and its people, solutions have to be diverse. One has to look at an approach that seeks the participation of users through interventions engaging the communities with various government schemes and policies. Citizens should be made aware of the demand for clean drinking water as a right. Such an integrated approach would incorporate collaborative efforts of various sectors involving the government, civil society and needless to say the people.

- ◆ **Supporting Awareness Drives:** One of the major challenges is

to make people aware on the need to consume safe water. The government needs to support civil society and organisations involved in increasing awareness. An integrated campaign can result in wide spread information dissemination amongst the masses on the ways and means of preventing contamination of water sources.

- ◆ **Testing and Remedial Action:** There is an urgent need to enhance the monitoring network by establishing monitoring stations across all regions and seasonal assessments of all water sources.
- ◆ **Capacity Building of Communities:** The roles of panchayats are becoming more important and stress is being laid on community-based approaches in dealing with water-related problems.
- ◆ **Inter-Agency Coordination:** One major bottleneck in an effective policy formulation and implementation has been the current institutional set-up involving various government agencies. Better co-ordination amongst ministries and departments would ensure effective implementation. The option of a single nodal ministry with the overall supervision and administration pertaining to water resources may be looked into as is the case with countries like Australia.
- ◆ **Role of Environment Sanitation and Hygiene:** A direct relationship exists between water, sanitation, health, nutrition and human well being. Consumption of contaminated drinking water, improper disposal of human excreta, lack of personal and food hygiene and improper disposal of solid and liquid waste have been the major causes of diseases in our country. There has been a key focus in various

government programmes like the 'Total Sanitation Campaign' to spread the message of maintaining personal hygiene for reducing water pollution.

- ◆ **Looking for Alternate Water Sources:** Rain water harvesting and subsequent recharge of groundwater can help lower the concentration of minerals in aquifers. Setting up community-based water harvesting units will involve creating social mobilisation, awareness and confidence among all sections of the community.
- ◆ **Dual Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment:** To reduce the burden on fresh water sources,

the option of dual water system is being worked out in several parts of the country. The success of this system lies in the fact that filtered purified water is used only for drinking purposes while other source of water may be used for purposes other than drinking.

### Conclusion

As water is a scarce resource, to accomplish the targets of NRDWP, water conservation and augmentation through rainwater harvesting and water treatment should be encouraged. The government has accorded high priority to water conservation. Schemes such as the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee

Yojana' have been given shape to improve water use efficiency.

However, water crisis is not an issue for which only the state is responsible, it is a collective civic duty to be mindful about water use and wastage, without collective cooperation of the state and the people there can be no way forward in finding a solution to this ever growing problem.

#### General Studies Paper-III

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

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## 7. SOLAR E-WASTE: A NEW CATEGORY OF ELECTRONIC WASTE

### Why in News?

By 2050, India will likely stare at a pile of a new category of electronic waste namely 'solar e-Waste'. Currently, India's e-Waste rules have no laws mandating solar cell manufacturers to recycle or dispose waste from this sector. India's photovoltaic (PV) waste volume is estimated to grow to 200,000 tonnes by 2030 and around 1.8 million tonnes by 2050," said the study by Bridge To India (BTI), an energy consultancy firm.

### Introduction

Renewable energy technologies can help countries meet their policy goals for secure, reliable and affordable energy; electricity access for all; reduced price volatility; and the promotion of social and economic development. Recent and expected cost reductions in renewable power generation technologies clearly show that renewables are now an increasingly cost-effective solution to achieve these goals. This is particularly important given the agreement in Paris in 2015 at

COP21, as it gives confidence that the costs of the transition to a sustainable energy future can be managed and are declining. The virtuous cycle of policy support for renewable power generation technologies leading to accelerated deployment, technology improvements and cost reductions has already had a profound effect on the power generation sector. It is also setting the basis for what could one day be the complete transformation of the energy sector by renewable energy technologies.

The rising deployment of renewable energy increases the scale and competitiveness of the markets for renewable technologies and with every doubling in cumulative capacity of a renewable technology, costs can come down by as much as 18% to 22% for solar PV modules and 12% for wind. The result is striking: renewable energy technology equipment costs are falling and the technologies themselves are becoming more efficient. The combination of these two factors is leading to declines, sometimes rapid

ones, in the cost of energy from renewable technologies. To date, this transformation is most visible in the power generation sector, where dramatic cost reductions for solar PV and, to a lesser extent, for wind power, are driving high levels of investment in renewables.

India is among the leading markets for solar cells in the world, buoyed by the government's commitment to install 100 GW of solar power by 2022. So far, India has installed solar cells for about 28 GW and this is largely from imported solar PV cells. India's domestic manufacturers are largely involved in assembling cells and modules. Solar cell modules are made by processing sand to make silicon, casting silicon ingots, using wafers to create cells and then assembling them to make modules.

Though India's solar energy story is still in its nascent stage, solar energy installed capacity has increased by over eight times—from 2.63 GW in 2014 to 26 GW in 2018. According to a report of the International Renewable Energy

Agency (IRENA), India will have solar PV of 600 GW by 2050. But, Vinay Rustagi, managing director of Bridge to India, points out the fact that with growing capacity of solar energy, the country will generate PV waste between 1 and 1.2 million tonne per annum in future. So far, regulatory authorities have not taken note of this long-term problem.

## PV Cell Technologies

Solar photovoltaics, also called solar cells or just 'PV', are electronic devices that convert sunlight directly into electricity. The modern form of the solar cell was invented in 1954 at Bell Telephone Laboratories. The term 'photovoltaics' is derived from the physical process whereby the conversion of light (photons) to electricity (voltage) occurs, the so-called 'PV effect'. PV cell technologies are usually classified into three generations, depending on the basic material used and their level of commercial maturity:

- ◆ **First-Generation PV Systems (fully commercial):** These use wafer-based crystalline silicon (c-Si) technology, monocrystalline silicon (also known as single crystalline) or multicrystalline silicon.
- ◆ **Second-Generation PV Systems:** These are based on thin-film PV technologies and generally include three main families:
  - 1) Amorphous (a-Si) and micromorph silicon (a-Si/  $\mu$ c-Si);
  - 2) Cadmium- Telluride (CdTe); and
  - 3) Copper-Indium-Selenide (CIS) and Copper-Indium-Gallium-Diselenide (CIGS).

These are called "thin-film" because the semiconducting materials used for the production of the cell are only a few micrometres thick. These technologies are being deployed on a commercial scale, but some at low volumes.

- ◆ **Third-Generation PV Systems:** These include technologies that are still in a demonstration phase or have not yet been widely commercialised, as well as novel concepts still under development. They also include concentrating PV (CPV) and organic PV cells.

First- and second-generation PV technologies dominate the market today and will continue to do so in the near future. Crystalline silicon-based PV modules currently dominate the solar PV market, with at least 90% of new installations by capacity in recent years. This is because their commercial status, relatively high efficiency and low cost make them a very attractive choice.

## Solar e-Waste

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2016 estimated there was about 250,000 metric tonnes of solar panel waste in the world at the end of that year. IRENA projected that this amount could reach 78 million metric tonnes by 2050.

Solar modules contain some of the potentially dangerous materials as electronics, including silicon tetrachloride, cadmium, selenium, and sulfur hexafluoride, a potent greenhouse gas that cannot be removed without breaking apart the entire panel. Further, PV modules carry heavy metals and this cannot be dumped in landfills.

Approximately 90% of most PV modules are made up of glass. However, this glass often cannot be recycled as float glass due to impurities. Common problematic impurities in glass include plastics, lead, cadmium and antimony

## Recycling Solar Cells

With a lifetime of about 30 years on average, crystalline silicon solar panels don't become obsolete very quickly. However, given the rapid expansion of the solar industry, the number of

solar panels needed to be recycled or disposed of in the coming years will continue to increase. More and more panels will reach the end of their life each year and even now, old solar panels are beginning to become a problem.

Although solar energy is termed as "clean" energy, it is important to understand that it cannot be necessarily deemed as "green". This is because even though miniscule compared to other conventional sources of energy, there is an environmental impact of solar energy which cannot be ignored.

The three principles of waste management are the 3R—reduce, reuse and recycle. Since India has already decided to install 100 GW of solar power, reducing e-waste is not an option. That leaves us with the recycling option. Apart from a Tamil Nadu-based company, Poseidon Solar Services, there are currently no other company to recycle solar PV photovoltaics (PV) cells in the country.

## Recycling Challenges

- ◆ Solar energy is land intensive and maximum exposure and attention have been paid to this aspect of solar power. Since the major issue of e-waste being accumulated will only come after 20-25 years, there has not been much focus on how to manage the amount of e-waste that the solar industry will generate.
- ◆ PV waste recycling is still at a nascent stage globally, both in terms of technical standards and physical infrastructure. So at present, PV module recycling is not commercially viable.
- ◆ Indian manufacturers do not make solar cells in the country, they just assemble them. So, there is a lack of demand for recycled silicon wafers in India.
- ◆ Recycling technologies for solar panels may be evolving, but the

government needs to urgently take stock of the mounting solar waste crisis and come up with regulations.

### Solar e-Waste Legislation

India is poorly positioned to handle PV waste as it doesn't yet have policy guidelines on the same. A lack of a policy framework is coupled with the fact that even basic recycling facilities for laminated glass and e-waste are unavailable. Despite the e-waste regulation being in place for over seven years, only less than 4% of estimated e-waste is recycled in the organised sector as per the latest estimates from the Central Pollution Control Board.

In fact, between August 2017 and January 2019, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has, on three occasions, asked the government to frame policies to address the disposal of solar panel waste. In January this year, a bench headed by Raghuvendra S Rathore expressed concern over the dearth of government policies related to disposal of these panels.

Though, by default, PV waste is guided by the e-Waste Management Rules, 2016, which puts the onus of disposal on manufacturers under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). But there is absolutely nothing in the policy as to how the country will handle its solar waste. The government must think on the lines of EPR, which is meant for electronic goods. However, even in the context of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 no details were specified regarding solar cells and modules.

### Learning from Europe

It is, in fact, a global trend, where countries do not have a specific rule on the disposal of solar PV. The exception is Europe, where 28 countries adopted the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive in 2012, which includes PV waste. Under this, module producers are required to collect and dispose the PV modules.

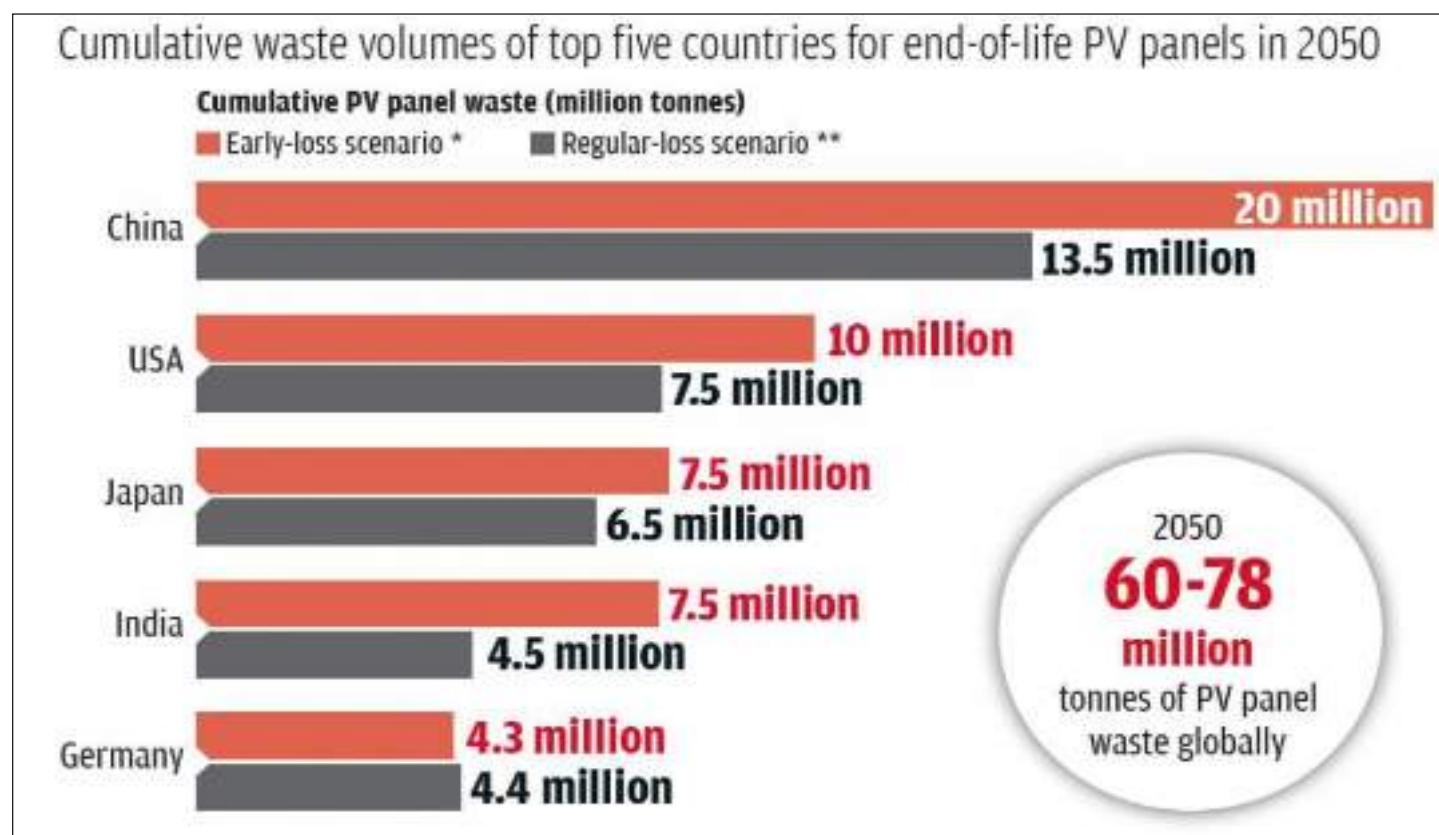
PV Cycle, a European solar panel recycling association, developed a

mechanical and thermal treatment processing in 2017 that achieves a 96 percent recovery rate for silicon-based photovoltaic panels. The remaining 4 percent is utilized in an energy recovery process, using a waste-to-energy technology. The previous recovery rate for silicon-based panels was around 90 percent, so this new solar panel recycling process is good news for the environment. Non-silicon-based solar panels can have a recovery rate of up to 98 percent.

### Future of Recycling

Renewable energy has always faced criticism that in the haste of accomplishing new challenges, issues related to sustainability of projects are not thought of. The Indian solar manufacturing industry itself is not thinking in terms of cradle-to-grave approach since their concern mostly is competing with Chinese technology that has flooded the market.

When module and cell-manufacturing companies are not doing the recycling themselves, there



is a scope for a separate industry to develop around PV recycling.

However, there are pertinent issues in the beginning for the recycling industry. Since there are not enough defunct panels in the markets, right now it does not make financial sense to do business. But it has to be realised that the metals and other elements used in solar panels are precious and these should be extracted and reused because in the future these materials will become scarce and expensive.

## Conclusion

Now that we know that solar panels can be recycled, the question is what other benefits it brings to the economy—if any. Obviously, a proper

solar panel recycling infrastructure will need to be established to manage the large volumes of PV modules that will be disposed in near future. Once that is in place, we'll be witnessing several positive factors and new opportunities within the economy. Not only will PV recycling create more green job opportunities but also approximately 14 billion USD in recoverable value by 2050. This influx will make it possible to produce 2 billion new panels without the need to invest in raw materials. This means that there will be the capacity of producing around 630 GW of energy just from reusing previously used materials.

There are adequate best practices available in the EU and the US which

we can refer to and define our own standards. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy should step in and evaluate the appropriate standards and implementation/enforcement mechanisms for recycling of solar e-Waste. The time is ripe for the country to put in place a comprehensive policy to address the issues related to disposal of solar panel waste.

### General Studies Paper- III

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

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# SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

## Jallianwala Bagh Massacre: The Grief Which United India

**Q1. Discuss the significance of Jallianwala Bagh massacre for Indian national movement.**

**Hints:**

- ◆ Rowlatt committee in India had recommended a new law in March 1919, called The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act popularly known as the Rowlatt Act.
- ◆ It empowered the state to detain individuals without trial, imposed stricter controls on the press, and permitted warrantless arrests and in-camera trials where the accused would not know the witnesses or the evidence used against them.
- ◆ The massacre shocked the conscience of many Indians (including Mahatma Gandhi) who believed in the British idea of rule of law. Many stalwarts of the Indian freedom struggle were lawyers trained in Britain; British imposition of a draconian law and the appalling cruelty of the massacre were enough for them to discard their illusions about the British tradition of fair play.
- ◆ The government was forced to institute an inquiry commission (The Hunter Commission), where the unrepentant general acknowledged that his principal aim was not to disperse the crowd but to produce a “moral effect.” The colonial government of India determined that General Dyer’s actions were unwarranted and dismissed him from service.
- ◆ The JallianwalaBagh massacre marked the beginning of the resistance against the exceptional laws of colonial governance. The ruthless colonialism that had marked the rise of the British had morphed into what appeared to be enlightened imperialism.

## Independent Media: A Bulwark for Democracy

**Q2. Examine the role of 'independent media' in realizing the essence of democracy. Discuss some critical issue faced by media group in maintaining its independency**

**Hints:**

- ◆ “The Fourth Estate”, “Watchdog in a democracy”, “Voice of the People”, “Pillar of a Democracy” are some of the usual terms associated with the role of media in a working democracy.
- ◆ It plays a pivotal role in influencing mindsets across the country, which makes it essential for us to ensure that we are consuming information from the right channels.
- ◆ When people get information from independent sources, they are encouraged to think critically and form their own opinions, making independent media vital for any democracy.
- ◆ The concentration of media ownership has been a growing concern in the past few years. It implies that the influence and power which result in distribution of news and culture among other forms of expression and opinion-building in the country is now vested in only a handful of people—those who own or control the media.
- ◆ Paid news play a significant role in influencing voting tendency of voters as the viewer does not get a correct picture of the personality or performance of the candidate in whose favour or against he decides to cast his vote. This destroys the very essence of the democracy.
- ◆ Fake news has now even slipped into traditional media outlets and is often circulated by prominent individuals. This has contributed to the echo chamber phenomenon.
- ◆ Freedom of expression and media freedom are essential foundations for open and democratic societies. The freedom to express one’s ideas and form an opinion is an important prerequisite for political processes to function in a democratic way.

## Beggary in India: A Problem of Great Magnitude

**Q3. The issue of begging in a way is violation of fundamental rights. What are the causes and steps needed to eradicate this menace.**

**Hints:**

- ◆ Right to life embodies right to live with dignity and with necessities of life required for it. The social contract between the citizen and the State is a contract by which in exchange for the citizen ceding her autonomy partially, the State promises her security over her person and a life with dignity.
- ◆ In our constitutional framework, this is guaranteed by Part III which enjoins the State not only to protect life but also to advance it, and Part IV which mandates that the State shall allocate resources so as to further the common good. Some of the causes of begging includes:
  - ◆ **Physical factors:** In India there is no adequate provision for treatment and social rehabilitation of blind, deaf, dumb or the physically handicapped. In the absence of any reasonable alternative, such persons are constrained to beg.
  - ◆ **Economic factors:** Economic factors which generally prompt people to take to begging. Among these factors poverty, unemployment, under-employment and loss of income are important.
  - ◆ **Social factors:** Among the social factors, hereditary occupation, family disorganization and widowhood are causes of begging.
- ◆ Steps that can be taken to address this menace includes
  - ◆ **Eradicating Poverty:** Priority should be given to eradication of extreme poverty.
  - ◆ **Rehabilitation:** Small shelters have to be made and they need to be imparted skills that would help them land jobs. They should be made to earn their livelihood by working and not begging.
  - ◆ **Creating awareness:** People should discourage beggars. Begging flourishes because people tend to be generous.

## Election Manifesto: An Intellectual Exercise with No Accountability

**Q4. What is 'election manifesto' and discuss its relevance in contemporary times. Also suggest some measures that should be taken to fix its accountability.**

**Hints:**

- ◆ Manifesto has been able to play a crucial character in formation of government at state and centre level. It acts as a medium espoused by political parties, explain their rational, thus politicizing to the voters their policies, idea, promises, reforms, animus, programmes.
- ◆ With the advent of new electronic media and social media over the decade or so, there has been a

tremendous down surge in the relevance of the political manifestos. During elections, wherein the younger generation preferring not to read the illustrious paged manifestos and building a fondness towards catch phrases and slogans like "Acche Din" and "Yes, We Can".

- ◆ The contents of manifesto help the political parties in interpreting in mirror reality on functioning towards achievement of the welfare goals. But contrary to its role and function it has been used as tool whereby cogent revealing inducement and enticement of voters through the volley of free goodies.
- ◆ It should be made obligatory for each political party to publish and submit their Manifesto to the Election Commission before the deadline of the first phase of the nomination.
- ◆ To prevent laxity on part of the political parties and candidates on coming to power, strict judicial action should be taken against the political parties for the non-fulfilment of promises.

## Democratic Reform in Tibet-60 Years On: A Self Congratulatory Document

**Q5. Discuss the prime reasons which motivated Beijing to release 'White paper on Tibet'. Also analyse the significance of Tibet in Indian and global context.**

**Hints:**

- ◆ Beijing has unveiled a White Paper named "Democratic Reform in Tibet — 60 Years On" highlighting China's role in helping Tibetans become 'master of their own affairs'. China does these exercises from time to time.
- ◆ The timing of the publication was primarily motivated by the fact that the day marks the 60th anniversary of the present Dalai Lama's flight to India and the tectonic shift this entailed in the status of Tibet at that time.
- ◆ Further, the white paper coincided with the US State Department report which documented access problems to Tibet in a report to Congress mandated by the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, 2018.
- ◆ In the US, Section 4 of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018, enacted on 19 December, 2018, requires the Department of State to provide an annual report to Congress, regarding the level of access China grants to US diplomats and officials, journalists, and tourists to Tibetan areas in China.
- ◆ The Human Rights Committee of the German Parliament, in a rare statement, called upon the Chinese government to stop repression in Tibet, citing the over 150 self-immolations and declaring deep respect for the peaceful Tibetan culture.

- ◆ The Freedom House in its Freedom in the World 2019 report has ranked Tibet as the least free region in the world with no freedoms, political rights, and civil liberties. The issue of Tibet has always been roadblock between Sino-Indian relations.
- ◆ The global significance and ecological sensitivity of the Tibetan plateau, the “Third Pole” and “Asia’s water tap” is constantly emphasized by environmentalists, including the Chinese environmentalists.

## Access to Potable Water for Rural India: Need of the Hour

**Q6. India accounts for almost one-fourth of the total groundwater extracted globally, still it is facing shortage of drinking water. Discuss the reasons responsible and measures to address this problem, especially in the context of rural India.**

**Hints:**

- ◆ India accounts for almost one-fourth of the total groundwater extracted globally, more than that of China and the US combined thus using the largest amount of groundwater, around 24 per cent of the global total.
- ◆ Access of safe drinking water was declared as a human right by the United Nations but remains a challenge for both urban as well as rural India. Depleting ground water, lack of proper rainwater harvesting and rising contamination in the ground water due to sewage and agricultural effluent discharge is posing fresh challenges for the rural India, which are struggling to get safe and affordable water.
- ◆ The 2011 Census reveals about 30.8 per cent of rural households have access to piped water from taps. It also shows that 22.10 per cent of rural population has to travel at least half-a-kilometre to fetch drinking water.
- ◆ National Rural Drinking Water Programme (2009): It aimed to provide with the funds to build the infrastructure, such as piped connections, to deliver water to all rural habitations, government schools, and anganwadis.
- ◆ Swajal Scheme (2018): The aim of scheme is to ensure that there is a steady supply of clean drinking water in rural areas. These remote rural areas usually receive contaminated and harsh water which, on consumption, has led to many illnesses.

- ◆ Supporting awareness drives, testing and remedial action, capacity building of communities, inter-agency coordination, role of environment sanitation and hygiene, looking for alternate water sources are some of the measures that can go in a long run to eradicate this growing concern.

## Solar e-Waste: A New Category of Electronic Waste

**Q7. Solar e-Waste is posing a new challenge to the hitherto waste management regime. Examine the problems in recycling solar cells.**

**Hints:**

- ◆ By 2050, India will likely stare at a pile of a new category of electronic waste, namely solar e-waste. India’s PV (photovoltaic) waste volume is estimated to grow to 200,000 tonnes by 2030 and around 1.8 million tonnes by 2050
- ◆ With a lifetime of about 30 years on average, crystalline silicon solar panels don’t become obsolete very quickly. However, given the rapid expansion of the solar industry, the number of solar panels needing to be recycled or disposed of in the coming years will continue to increase.
- ◆ Although solar energy is termed as “clean” energy, it is important to understand that it cannot be necessarily deemed as “green”. This is because even though miniscule compared to other conventional sources of energy, there is an environmental impact of solar energy which cannot be ignored.
- ◆ By default, PV waste is guided by the e-Waste Management Rules, 2016, which puts the onus of disposal on manufacturers under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- ◆ When module and cell-manufacturing companies are not doing the recycling themselves, there is a scope for a separate industry to develop around PV recycling.
- ◆ Since there are not enough defunct panels in the markets, right now it does not make financial sense to do business. But it has to be realised that the metals and other elements used in solar panels are precious and these should be extracted and reused because in the future these materials will become scarce and expensive.



# SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

## 1. Electoral Bonds Controversy

Recently, the Supreme Court has asked all political parties to furnish receipts of electoral bonds along with identity and bank account details of the donors and the amounts received in a sealed cover to the Election Commission by May 30. The order - passed on a petition filed by NGO Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) - takes a swing at the inherent anonymity of the scheme introduced by the Present government in the fiscal year 2017-18 as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties.

### What is the Controversy?

The instrument finds itself in the centre of a major controversy over allegations that it is not only skewed towards the ruling party, but flouts the concept

of free and transparent elections. According to ADR, a deep look at the tax declarations of various political parties to the Election Commission revealed that funding through electoral bonds is skewed heavily towards national parties, with the BJP walking away with the lion's share. Of the Rs 215 crore generated through this route in 2017-18, the ruling party secured Rs 210 crore and the opposition Congress Rs 5 crore.

### Supreme Court's View

The Supreme Court said that if the identity of the buyers of electoral bonds is not known, the efforts of the government to curtail black money in elections would be "futile". Furthermore, it not only directed the

Finance Ministry to reduce window of purchasing electoral bonds from 10 days to five days in April-May, but also said that it will examine the changes made in the law (the amendments) to ensure the balance does not tilt in favour of any party.

### What are Electoral Bonds?

This is a bearer instrument in the nature of a Promissory Note that is payable to the bearer on demand and is interest-free. The concept of electoral bonds was introduced by the present government in the Finance Bill, 2017 and facilitated through multiple amendments in the Finance Act, 2017. The idea was to increase transparency in political funding and curb the usage of black money. ■

## 2. Namami Gange got Global Recognition

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of "Public Water Agency of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London on April 9. The awards recognise excellence across the international water industry and reward those initiatives in the water, waste water and desalination sectors, which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people.

### What is NMCG?

An integrated mission for Ganga rejuvenation, the Namami Gange programme has a comprehensive multi-sector intervention with multi-stakeholder involvement and

adopts a basin-based approach. It aims at providing comprehensive and sustainable solutions for major pollution hot spots along the stretch of 97 towns and 4,465 villages on the Ganga stem.

This mission is not only constructing new infrastructures but also rehabilitating the old and dilapidated Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs) as well as ensuring Operation and Maintenance (O & M) of all assets hence created.

### Key Achievements

In Namami Gange programme, a total of 289 projects have so far been

sanctioned at a cost of Rs 28,377 crore out of which 87 projects have been completed.

The 10 cities including Haridwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Kolkata which contribute more than 64 per cent of the pollution in Ganga have been comprehensively covered in all aspects under the Mission. Kanpur has been the hotspot of major pollution on the Ganga stem.

Namami Gange programme also includes 28 sewerage infrastructure projects with 643 MLD treatment capacity taken up in 18 towns of Bihar at a cost of Rs 5220.81 crore enhancing current capacity by 10 times. ■

### 3. Woman can file Dowry Harassment Case from Anywhere: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court (SC) recently held that a woman, who had fled the cruelty of her marital home, can file a case of dowry harassment under Section 498 IPC against her husband and in-laws at the place where she is currently sheltered. In a judgment further expanding the jurisdiction of courts to provide relief to victims of dowry harassment, SC relaxed the rigours of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Section 177 of the Code mandates that criminal cases can be filed and tried only in courts within whose jurisdiction the crime occurred.

#### Background

The verdict brings relief to women

fighting dowry harassment cases as until now their cases could be heard only by those courts that fell within the jurisdiction of their matrimonial home. The need to define the term “jurisdiction” arose in January 2014 when a bench, came across an appeal filed by a woman questioning the Allahabad High Court judgment that declined her permission to register a dowry harassment case against her in-laws at her parents’ place of residence, where she was staying.

#### Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code

It deals with the violence done on women after her marriage by

her husband or her in-laws or any relative of the husband. It prescribes punishment for 3 years and a fine. It gave a new definition to cruelty. Cruelty can be defined as:

- ◆ If the act done is of such a nature that the woman is enticed to commit suicide or cause an injury to herself, which may prove fatal. This was added in the case of Shobha Rani v. Medhukar Reddy. It was held in the case that evidence is required to prove cruelty.
- ◆ If the act done is to harass women or any other person related to her to meet unlawful demands. ■

### 4. End of Sudan Leader’s 30-Year Rule

Recently, Sudan’s military overthrew President Omar al-Bashir and announced it would rule the oil-producing North African nation through a transitional council for the next two years, after four months of anti-government protests. However, protesters have rejected army takeover after removal of President and protesters have vowed to continue their campaign for democratic reform.

#### Who is Omar al-Bashir

Omar al-Bashir led a military coup that kicked off Sudan’s Islamic revolution in 1989. Now, after three

decades in charge, he has been pushed out after a wave of nationwide protests over soaring prices for food, medicine, fuel and transport. The 75-year-old ruler, who was indicted in 2009 by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes and genocide in the country’s Darfur region, had insisted he would only leave office if he lost elections in 2020.

#### Background

Sudan was engulfed in civil war for two decades before a 2005 peace deal that partitioned the country six years later. South Sudan assumed control

over three-quarters of the oil fields, stripping the North of a large chunk of its revenue and foreign exchange. Lower crude prices have further dented income from what’s left of Sudan’s output. The government has tried to diversify the economy by encouraging mining, but it remains a fledgling industry and the bulk of the country’s 40 million people depend on subsistence agriculture. Sudan is among the world’s poorest nations, ranking 167<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries on the UN Development Program’s human development index ■

### 5. India became YouTube’s Largest and Fastest Growing Market

According to the YouTube, with substantial growth in India’s internet coverage and data growth, it has become YouTube’s largest and fastest growing market with 265 million Indians watching the video-sharing website every month. In the last one year, the

video-sharing website’s consumption on mobile phones has increased to 85%. YouTube today has become the first stop for users to consume content, whether they’re looking for entertainment or information. It is this incredible variety of content combined

with the growing reach that makes YouTube a perfect platform for brands to drive personalised engagement.

In the last one year, YouTube’s consumption on mobile has increased to 85%, with 60% of the watch time coming from outside the six largest

metros in India. Today, YouTube creators have become effective story tellers, with more than 1,200 Indian creators crossing the million subscriber-milestone, compared to five years ago, when there were only two creators.

#### About YouTube

- ◆ It was founded in 2005.
- ◆ It is one of the most popular video sites on the Web today. Millions of videos have been uploaded and shared here, ranging from movie trailers to amateur videos of cats — and everything in between.
- ◆ YouTube is owned by Google and is one of their most popular

peripheral properties. YouTube was the first large-scale video sharing site on the Web and it is available in nearly every country and over fifty different languages.

- ◆ Anyone can upload content here, which makes for an utterly astonishing array of watchable

## 6. India: World's Top Recipient of Remittances

According to the World Bank report 'Migration and Development Brief', India has retained its position as the world's top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 7 billion back home in 2018. India was followed by China (USD 67 billion), Mexico (USD 36 billion), the Philippines (USD 34 billion) and Egypt (USD 29 billion).

#### Key Highlights

- ◆ India managed to retain its top spot in remittances by registering a significant flow of remittances from USD 62.7 billion in 2016 to USD 65.3 billion 2017 and to USD 79 billion in 2018, a significant growth over the last three years.
- ◆ The remittances to South Asia

grew 12% to \$131 billion in 2018, outpacing the 6% growth in 2017.

- ◆ Remittances grew by more than 14% in India, where a flooding disaster in Kerala likely boosted the financial help that migrants sent to families.
- ◆ In Pakistan, remittance growth was moderate (7%), due to significant declines in inflows from Saudi Arabia, its largest remittance source. In Bangladesh, remittances showed a brisk uptick in 2018 (15%).
- ◆ The remittances to low-and middle-income countries reached a record high of \$529 billion in 2018, an increase of 9.6% over the previous record high of \$483 billion in 2017.

- ◆ Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, reached \$689 billion in 2018, up from \$633 billion in 2017.

- ◆ The upsurge was driven by stronger economic conditions in the United States and a pick-up in oil prices, which had a positive impact on outward remittances from some Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

- ◆ Reducing remittance costs to 3% by 2030 is a global target under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7. Remittance costs across many African corridors and small islands in the Pacific remain above 10%. ■

## 7. NASA's has found its First Earth-sized Planet

NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, (TESS) has discovered its first Earth-sized exoplanet. The planet, named HD 21749c, is the smallest world outside our Solar System that TESS has identified yet. The new Earth-sized planet is likely a rocky though uninhabitable world, as it circles its star in just 7.8 days - a relatively tight orbit that would generate surface temperatures on the planet of up to 800 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Earth-sized planet, called HD 21749c, is estimated to be around

89% as large as Earth and it orbits a star that is roughly 70% as massive as our Sun. However, very little about the relationship between the planet and its star is Earth-like.

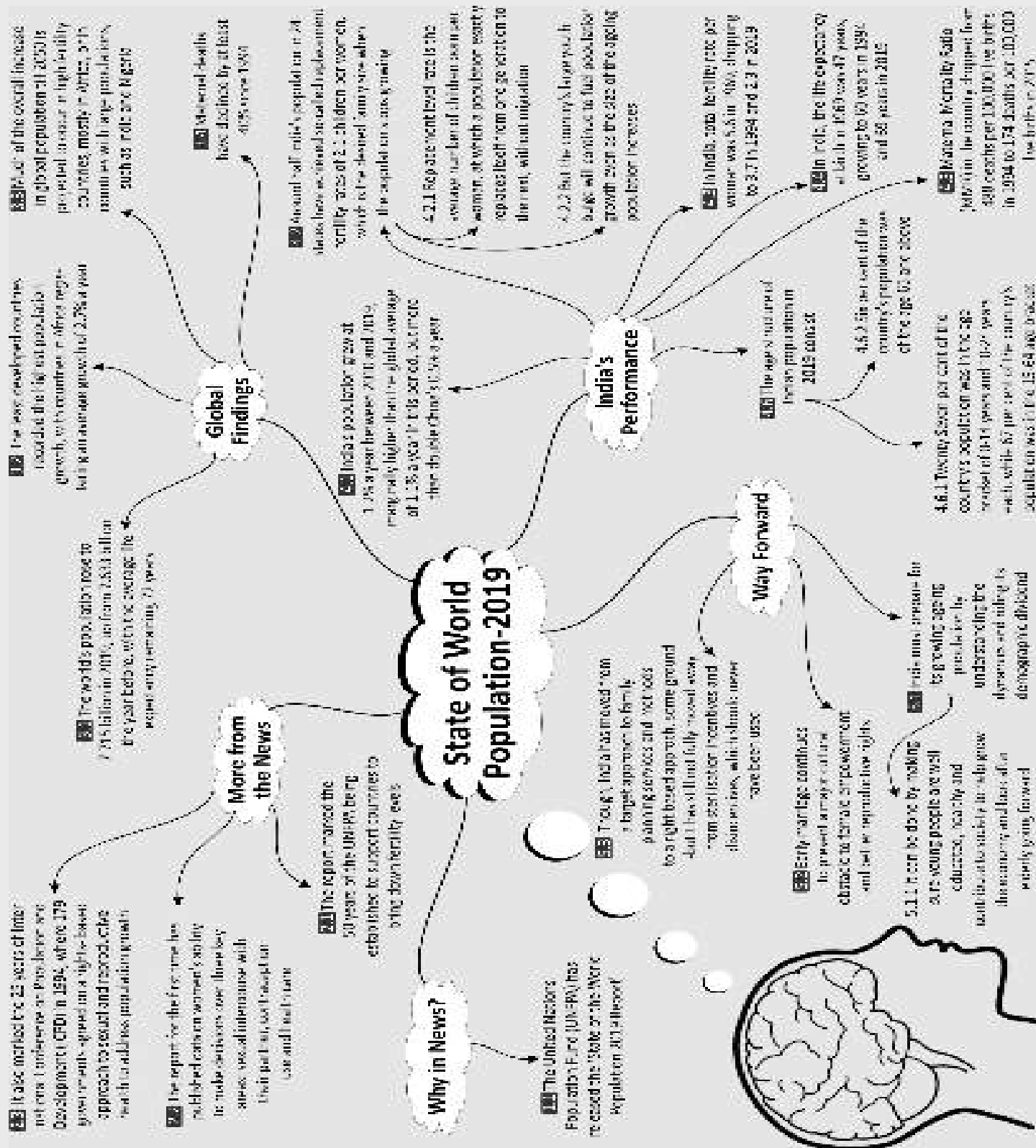
The discovery of this Earth-sized world is nevertheless exciting, as it demonstrates TESS' ability to pick out small planets around nearby stars. In the near future, the TESS team expects the probe should reveal even colder planets, with conditions more suitable for hosting life.

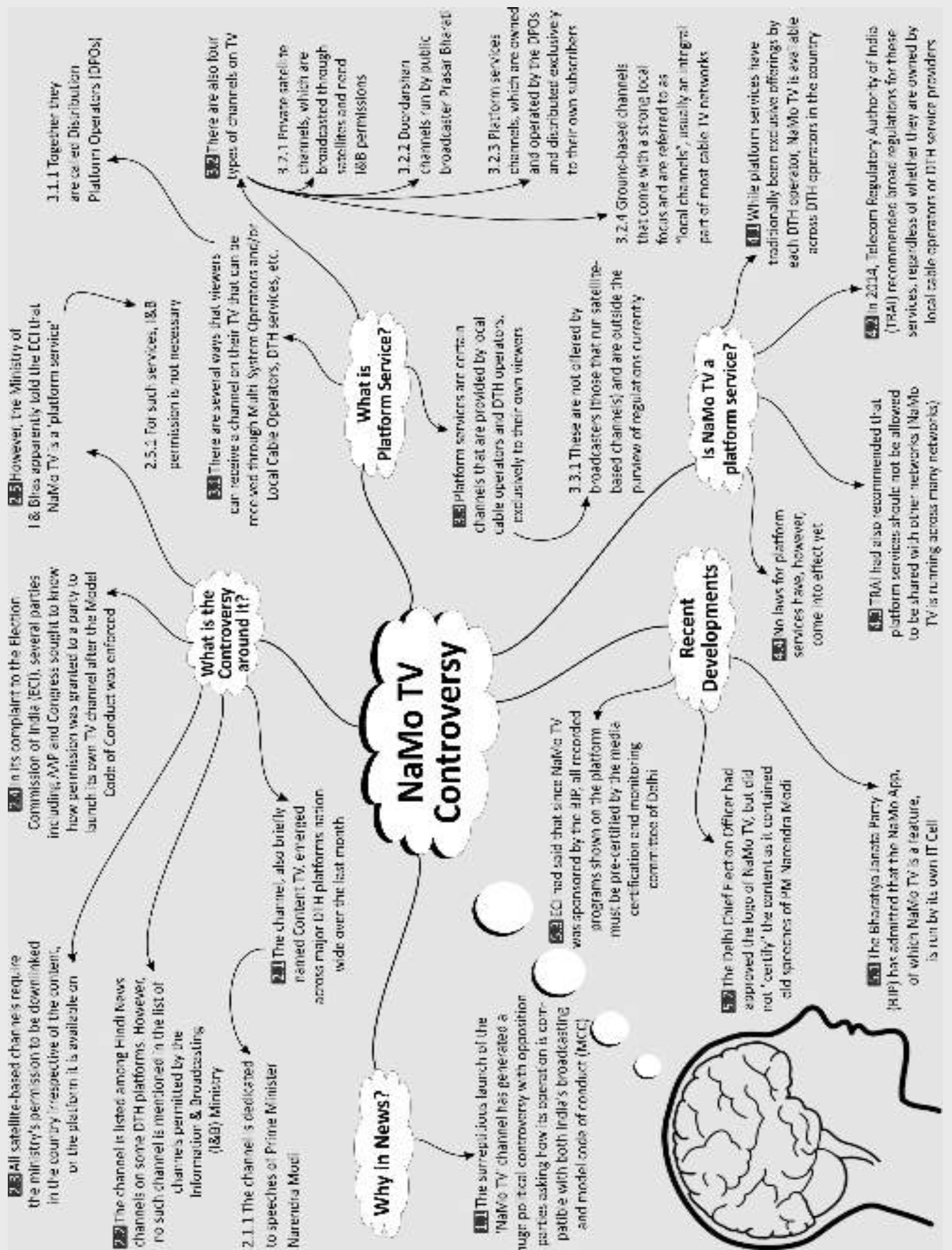
#### About TESS

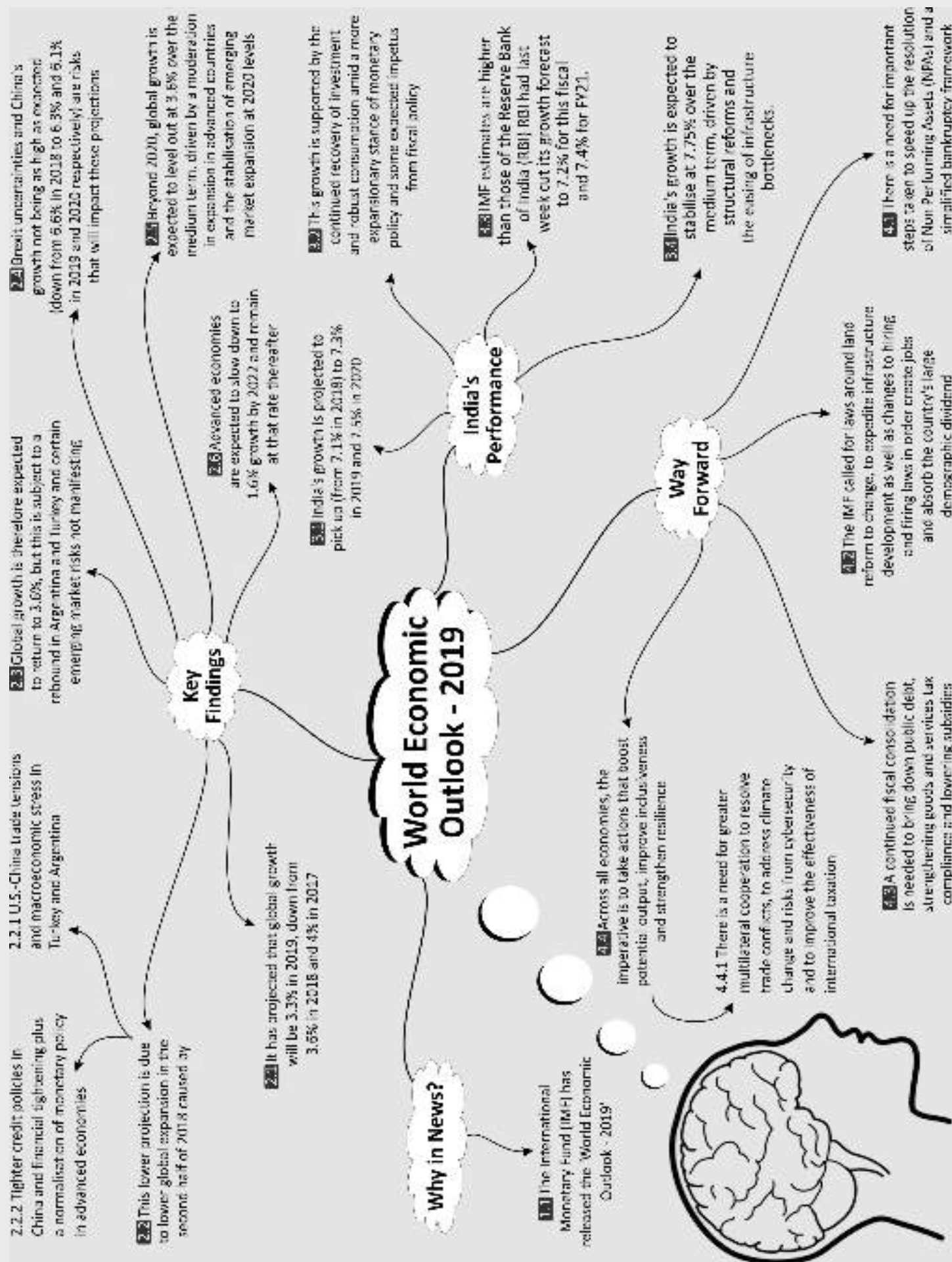
TESS is designed to detect the telltale signs of exoplanets orbiting the stars it observes by spotting the tiny changes in brightness associated with a planet passing in front of them. This latest observation is actually the 10<sup>th</sup> confirmed planet TESS has discovered, but it's the first one that is likely close to Earth in overall size.

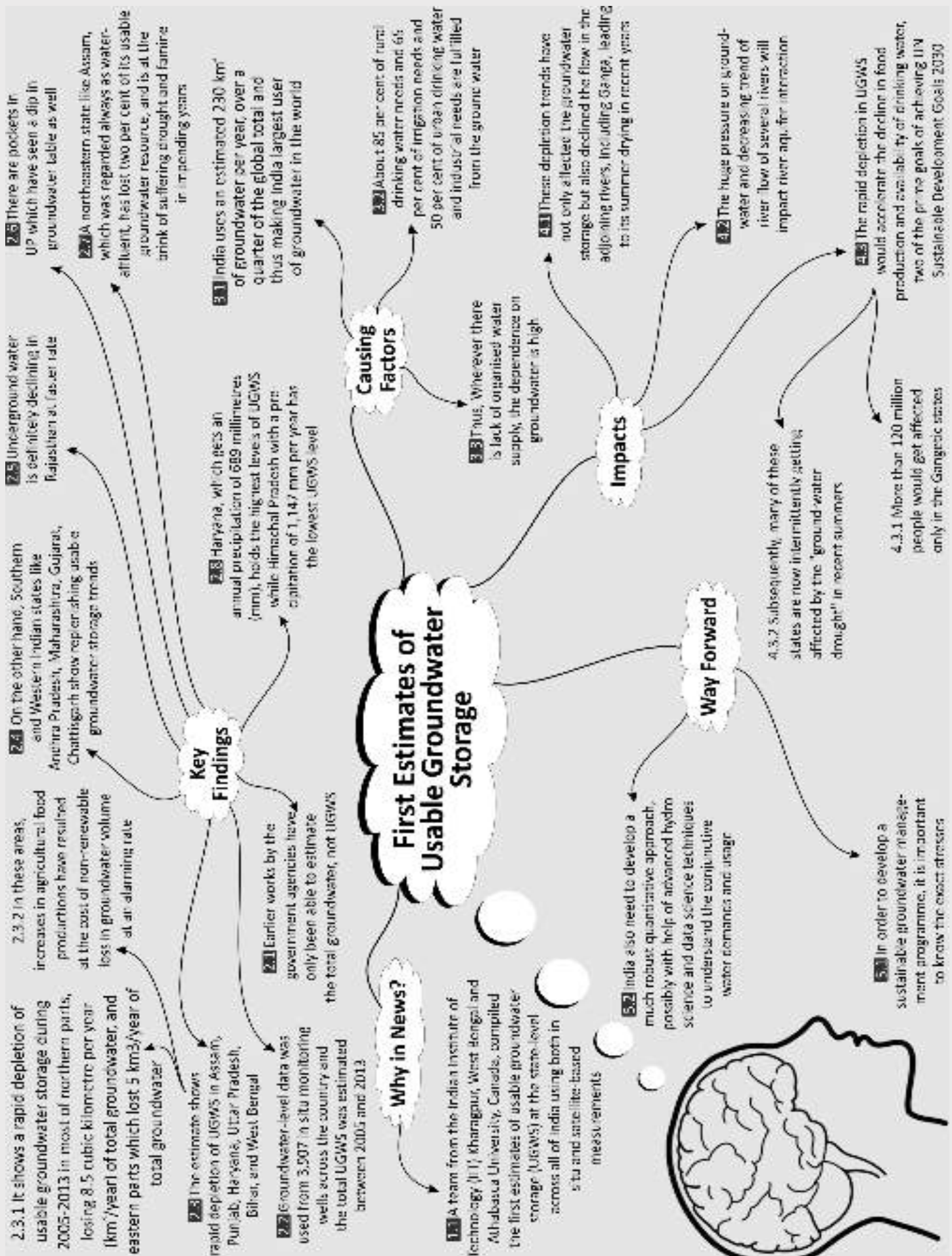
Specifically, the TESS is looking for Earth-like planets, in the hopes that data it provides can help scientists find worlds that are capable of supporting life; human or otherwise. ■

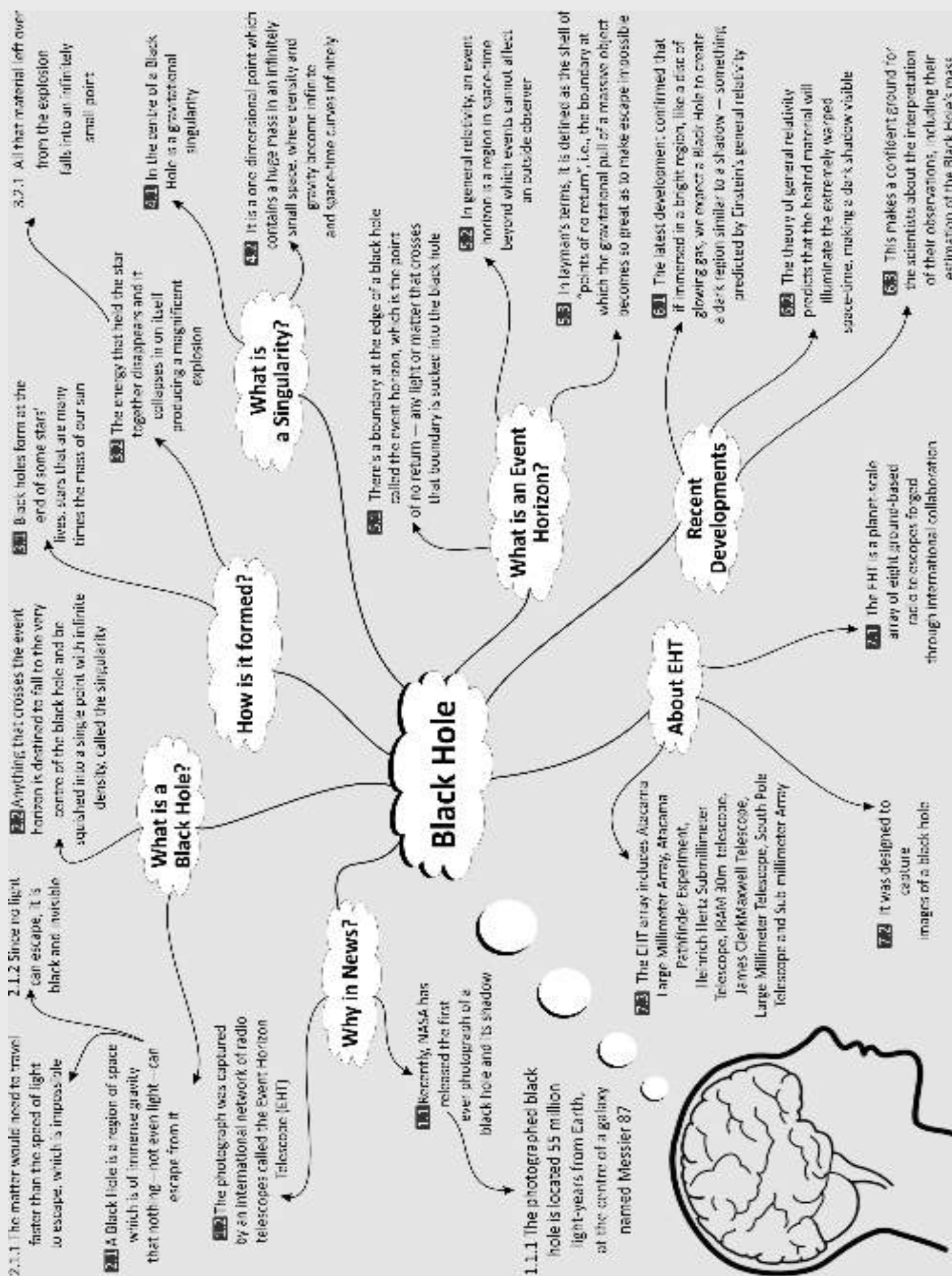
# SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

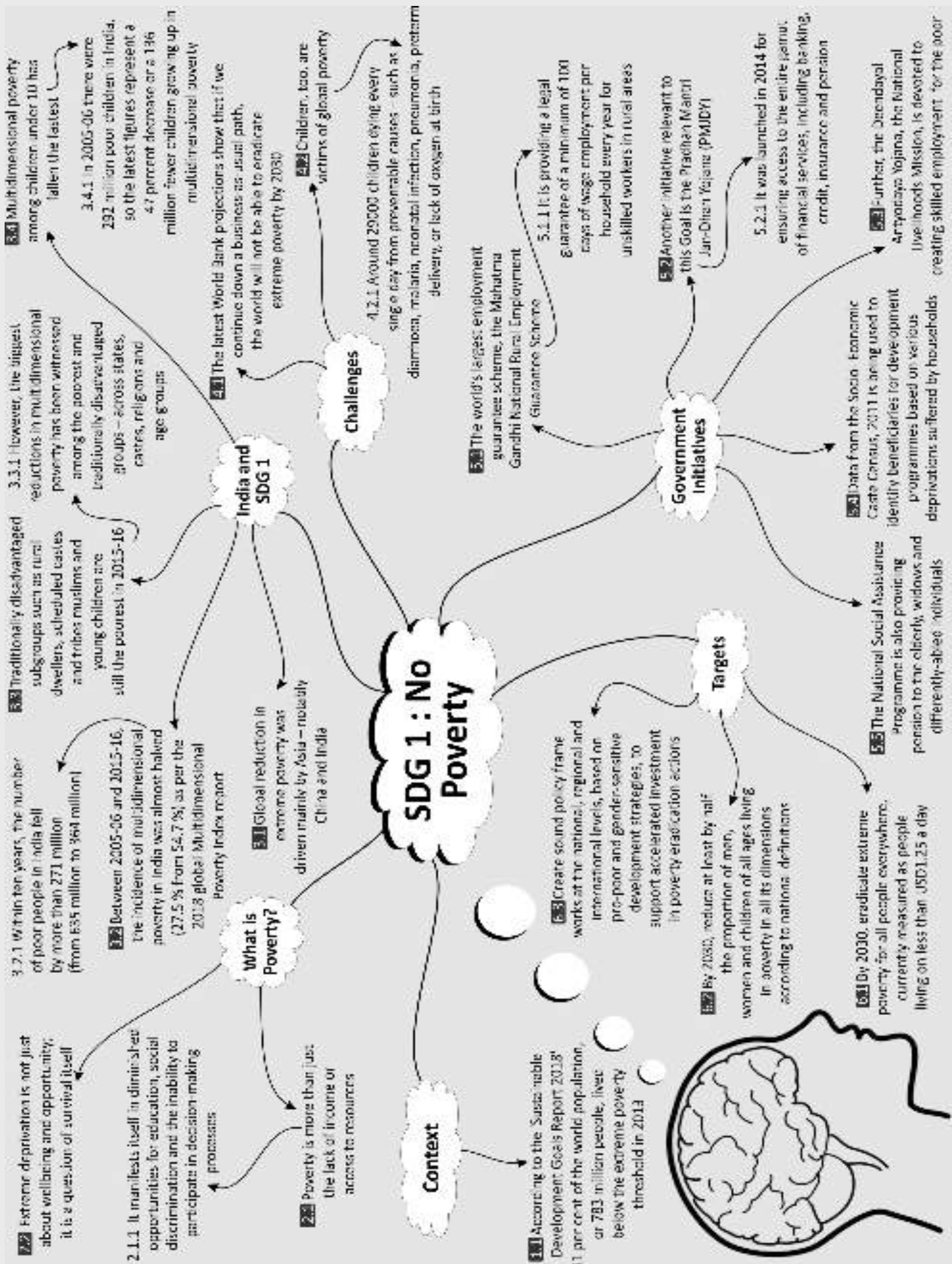


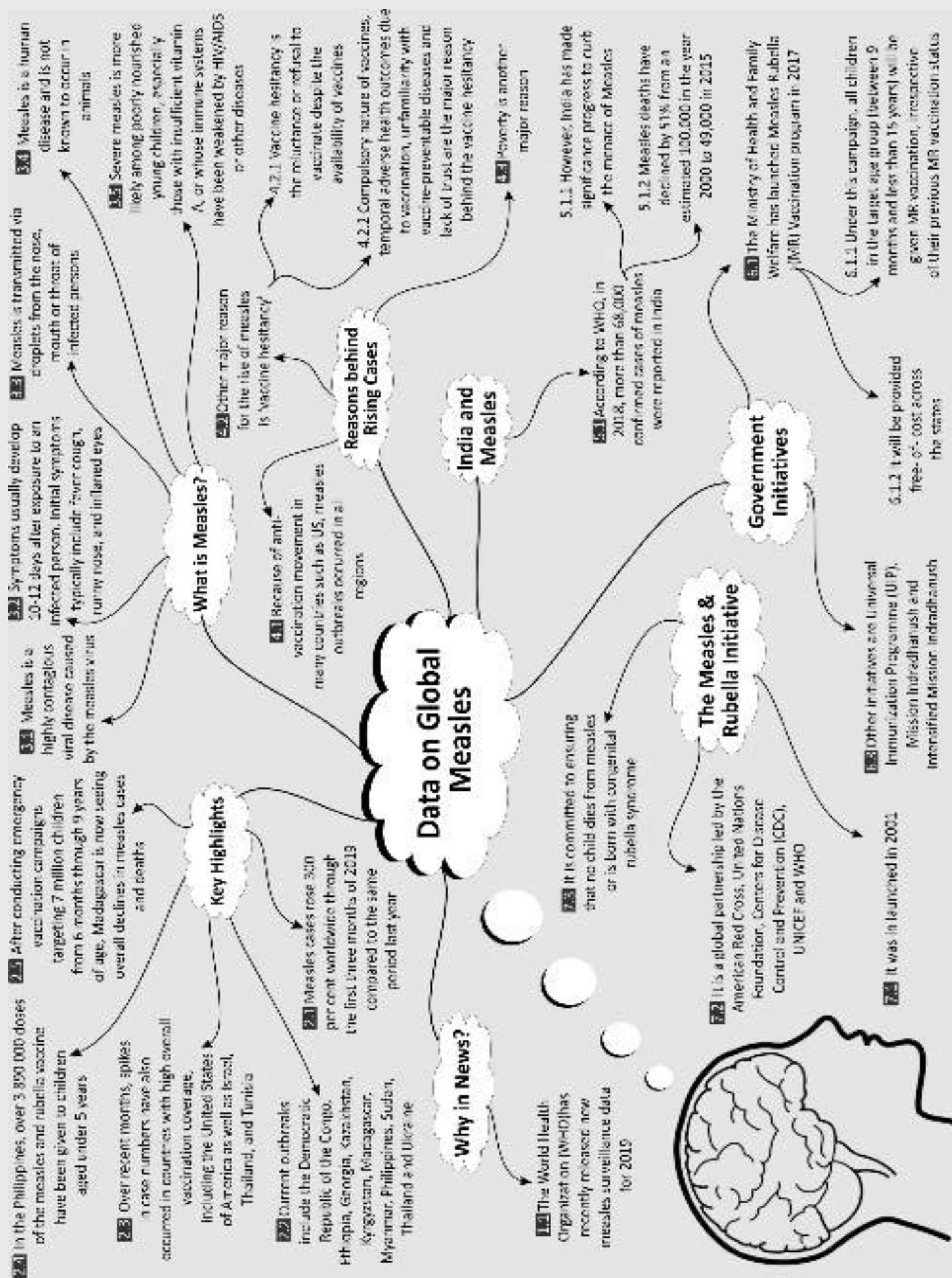












# SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

## (Based on Brain Boosters)

### State of World Population-2019

**Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of 'State of World Population-2019':**

1. It has been released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
2. Much of the overall increase in global population till 2050 is projected to occur in high fertility countries, mostly in Africa, or in countries with large populations, such as India and Nigeria.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation: Both statements are correct.** It has been released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Much of the overall increase in global population till 2050 is projected to occur in high fertility countries, mostly in Africa, or in countries with large populations, such as India and Nigeria. The least developed countries recorded the highest population growth, with countries in Africa registering an average of 2.7% a year (the global average is 1.1%).

### NaMo TV Controversy

**Q2. With reference to the 'NaMo TV', consider the following statements:**

1. According to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting NaMo TV is a 'platform service'.
2. Platform services are certain channels that are provided by broadcasters (those that run satellite-based channels), exclusively to their own viewers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.** In its complaint to the Election Commission of India (ECI), several parties including AAP and Congress sought to know

how permission was granted to a party to launch its own TV channel after the Model Code of Conduct was enforced. However, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has apparently told the ECI that NaMo TV is a 'platform service'.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** Platform services are certain channels that are provided by local cable operators and DTH operators, exclusively to their own viewers. These are not offered by broadcasters (those that run satellite-based channels) and are outside the purview of regulations currently.

### World Economic Outlook - 2019

**Q3. Consider the following statements in respect of 'World Economic Outlook - 2019':**

1. It has been released by the World Bank.
2. It has projected India's growth to pick up to 7.3% in 2019 and 7.5% in 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: (b)**

**Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct.** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the 'World Economic Outlook - 2019'. It has projected that global growth will be 3.3% in 2019, down from 3.6% in 2018 and 4% in 2017.

**Statement 2 is correct.** It also projected India's growth is projected to pick up (from 7.1% in 2018) to 7.3% in 2019 and 7.5% in 2020. This growth is supported by the continued recovery of investment and robust consumption amid a more expansionary stance of monetary policy and some expected impetus from fiscal policy.

### First Estimates of Usable Groundwater Storage

**Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'first estimates of usable groundwater storage' in India:**

1. The estimate shows rapid depletion of UGWS in Assam, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
2. On the other hand, Southern and Western Indian states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chattisgarh show replenishing usable groundwater storage trends.

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. A team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, West Bengal and Athabasca University, Canada, compiled the first estimates of usable groundwater storage (UGWS) at the state-level across all of India. It shows rapid depletion of UGWS in Assam, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. On the other hand, Southern and Western Indian states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chattisgarh show replenishing usable groundwater storage trends.

## Black Hole

**Q5. Consider the following statements in respect of 'black hole':**

1. A Black Hole is a region of space which is of immense gravity that nothing not even light can escape from it.
2. The first photograph of a black hole was captured by Hubble Telescope.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. A Black Hole is a region of space which is of immense gravity that nothing, not even light can escape from it. The matter would need to travel faster than the speed of light to escape, which is impossible. Thus no light can escape, it is black and invisible.

**Statement 2 is not correct.** The first photograph of Black Hole was captured by an international network of radio telescopes called the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT).

## SDG 1 : No Poverty

**Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of 'SDG 1 - No Poverty':**

1. Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, the incidence of multidimensional poverty in India was almost halved (27.5 % from 54.7 %) as per the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index report.
2. One of the targets of SDG 1 is to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than USD1.50 a day by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, the incidence of multidimensional poverty in India was almost halved, climbing down to 27.5 percent from 54.7 percent as per the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index report. Within ten years, the number of poor people in India fell by more than 271 million (from 635 million to 364 million).

**Statement 2 is not correct.** One of the targets of SDG 1 is to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than USD1.25 a day by 2030.

## Data on Global Measles

**Q7. Consider the following statements:**

1. Measles is a highly contagious fungal disease.
2. It is spread by coughing and sneezing, personal contact or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions.

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. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease (ribonucleic acid virus of the genus Morbillivirus), not a fungal diseases.

**Statement 2 is correct.** It is spread by coughing and sneezing, personal contact or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.

○○○

# SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. For the first time ever, which reptile was gene-edited through CRISPR technology?

- *Anolis lizard*

2. According to the 'National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), 2019, which higher education institute has topped in overall category?

- *IIT Madras*

3. Vikram Nath has been appointed as first chief justice of which state High Court?

- *Andhra Pradesh*

4. 'Fossilised Bacteria' in Meteorite which shows 'signs of microbial life' has been found on which planet?

- *Mars*

5. Recently, 'Beresheet spacecraft' has crashed on Moon, belongs to which nation?

- *Israel*

6. United Arab Emirates's (UAE) highest civilian honour 'Zayed Medal' has been awarded to which personality?

- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi (India)*

7. A fact-checking feature 'tip line' has been launched to curb fake news ahead of Lok Sabha election 2019 in India by which IT platform?

- *WhatsApp*



# SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

## 1. Virtual Reality Centre of Indian Navy

Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba has inaugurated the maiden 'state-of-the-art' Virtual Reality Centre (VRC) at the Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Group). This centre would provide major boost to the Indigenous warship design capabilities of Indian Navy, providing impetus to self-reliance and greater fillip to warship construction under "Make in India" initiative of the Indian government.

### About Reality

**Augmented Reality (AR):** AR is an enhanced version of reality where live direct or indirect views of physical real-world environments are augmented with superimposed computer-generated images over a user's view of the real world, thus enhancing one's current perception of reality. It simply augments our current state of presence, often with learners. The most common versions of AR are location-based AR, projection-based AR and superimposition-based AR.

**Virtual Reality (VR):** VR is the term used to describe a three-dimensional, computer-generated environment which can be explored and interacted with by a person. That person becomes part of this virtual world or is immersed in this environment and whilst there, is able to manipulate objects or perform a series of actions to determine what happens in the environment. VR technology relies mostly on headsets, also known as goggles.

**Mixed reality (MR):** It referred as hybrid reality. It is the merging of real and virtual worlds to produce new environments and visualizations where physical and digital objects co-exist and interact in real time. Mixed reality takes place not only in the physical world or the virtual world, but is a mix of reality and virtual reality, encompassing both augmented reality and augmented virtuality via immersive technology.

## 2. Course in Film Criticism and the Art of Review

Breaking yet another new ground, Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune has announced, for the first time, a course in Film Criticism and the Art of Review. The 20-day course would be conducted from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 in Delhi in association with Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Delhi.

The course would be helmed by Bhopal-based filmmaker Ms. Rajula Shah, an FTII alumnus. She studied film direction at FTII from 1997 to 2000. Her film practice emerges from an intense dialogue with the various arts, schools of thought and philosophies through a close collaboration with people, their work and contexts. Her special interest of study and work is in the expanding scope of the film practice & the digital arts.

### Key Features

- ♦ It has been designed to provide a basic grounding in the discipline of film criticism and to train the participants into becoming a serious viewers of cinema.

- ♦ The course included the study of significant films in the history of cinema through the prism of critical thinking.
- ♦ The course is being conducted under FTII's countrywide film education outreach initiative (Skilling India in Film and Television) (SKIFT) under which over 135 short-term courses have been held in 37 cities across the country covering over 5800 learners.

### About FTII

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was established in the year 1960 and was formerly known the 'Film Institute of India'. It was a department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India.

In 1971, FTII came to be known as the 'Film and Television Institute of India' (FTII) and soon started in-service training programs for Doordarshan, India's public broadcaster. The Television Training wing, which was earlier functioning in New Delhi, shifted to Pune in 1974. Thereafter, the institute became fully aided by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### 3. Data Users' Conference

For the first time in the 140 year long Census exercise in India, data is proposed to be collected through a mobile app, at the conference of data users' to finalize the strategy and questionnaire for the Census 2021. The data users' conference is the first formal interaction of the census organization with various stakeholders.

#### Key Highlights

- ◆ The enumerators would be encouraged to use their own mobile phone for which they would be paid appropriate remuneration or else there is also option to collect and record the data through paper schedules which will eventually be submitted electronically by them.
- ◆ Around 33 lakh enumerators would be mobilized for data collection for which notification has already been issued. The reference date is 1st October 2020 for Jammu & Kashmir and snow bound areas of Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand, while for the rest of country the reference date is 1st March 2021.

- ◆ Census 2021 will be conducted in two phases. In the first phase 'House Listing Operations' would be conducted in any two months chosen by the states between April-September 2020. In the second phase, actual population enumeration would be done during 9<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, followed by the Revision round from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- ◆ All stakeholders also caution while using technology for data collection in Census 2021 and stressed that data confidentiality should be maintained.

#### Significance of Census

Census is not just an exercise of head count but also provides invaluable socio-economic data which forms credible basis for informed policy formulation and allocation of resources. The changing demographics and socio economic parameters reflected by the Census helps in reformulation of country's plans for the economic development and welfare schemes for its people.

### 4. Fourth Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019

The 4<sup>th</sup> Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) Congress 2019 was held in Delhi, India. It was organized by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in association with South Delhi Municipal Corporation witnessed the presence of more than 200 delegates from around 30 countries.

The Vice President of India has also addressed the congress and called upon town planners to make sustainable solutions such as harvesting solar energy, enhancing green cover and water conservation an essential part of town planning.

#### Key Highlights

- ◆ Green infrastructure is the need of the hour to promote resource efficiency to achieve climate resilient urban development. Moving away from traditional metrics of measuring development, there is a need for new urban infrastructure that was low-carbon, green and climate resilient.
- ◆ Strong measures are required to ensure that urban solid waste is converted wealth by learning from the best practices followed globally.

- ◆ The rise in global temperature is going to result in several aspects of human activity including farming, Vice President wanted planners to factor in changing climate and its likely impacts in all development strategies.
- ◆ More than 60% of the world's population resides in Asia and the region was most affected by natural disasters, so that governments in Asia must build climate resilient habitats. The Asian cities must emphasize biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems.

#### About RCAP

Resilient Cities is the annual global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation. It is convened by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and co-hosted by the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and the City of Bonn and was launched in 2010 with the goal of forging partnerships and dialogues that matter. It aims to provide an Asian platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation where partnerships are forged and concrete dialogues are happening, with the ultimate goal of identifying solutions and creating lasting impacts for cities in the region.

## 5. Continuation of Phase 4 of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle

The Union Cabinet has approved ongoing Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) continuation programme Phase-4 consisting of five GSLV flights during the period 2021-2024. The GSLV Programme - Phase 4 will enable the launch of 2 tonne class of satellites for Geo-imaging, Navigation, Data Relay Communication and Space Sciences.

### Benefits

The GSLV Continuation Programme - Phase 4 will meet the launch requirement of satellites for providing critical Satellite Navigation Services, Data Relay Communication for supporting the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme and the next interplanetary mission to Mars. This will also ensure the continuity of production in Indian industry.

### Implementation Strategy

The GSLV Continuation Programme - Phase 4 will meet the demand for the launch of satellites at a frequency up to two launches per year, with maximal participation by the Indian industry. All the operational flights would be completed during the period 2021-24.

### Background

GSLV has enabled independent access to space for 2 tonne class of satellites to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). One of the very significant outcomes of the GSLV Continuation Programme is the mastering of the highly complex cryogenic propulsion technology, which is an essential technological capability to launch communication satellites to GTO. This has also paved the way for the development of a high thrust Cryogenic engine & stage for the next generation launch vehicle i.e. GSLV Mk-III.

With the last successful launch of GSLV-F11 on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018, GSLV has successfully orbited 10 national satellites. GSLV with the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage has established itself as a reliable launch vehicle for communication, navigation and meteorological satellites and also to undertake future interplanetary missions.

GSLV Continuation Programme was initially sanctioned in 2003 and two phases have been completed and the third phase is in progress and expected to be completed by Q4 of 2020-21.

## 6. Vice President called for Financial Inclusion and Inclusive Development

The Vice President of India has said that financial inclusion and inclusive development are the needs of the hour. He called for 'Antyodaya' and stated that development held no meaning until its benefits reached the most deprived groups of people.

### Key Highlights

- ◆ India's financial institutions have been commended globally for being resilient and for having withstood global downturns and recessions well. The banks were no longer just about strong lockers and a good interest rate on deposits. They have transcended their conventional mandates and are now at the forefront of India's development story.
- ◆ India's banking sector is poised for robust growth as the rapidly growing business and commerce in India would turn to banks for credit and other financial services. There are number of factors such as the upwardly mobile middle class and the digital revolution as the thrust factors behind these growth prospects.
- ◆ However, Indian banking industry is facing number of challenges such as the rising Non Performing Assets (NPA) in the banking system that has the capacity to affect banks' lending capabilities. The accumulation of bad loans happened over a long period of time and now, it threatens to hamper economic growth by weakening the credit supply channel of the economy.
- ◆ He also asked banks to adhere strictly to the principles of business ethics and good corporate governance at all times. Observing that a bankers' role was one of stewardship based on trust. Ethical considerations should form an important part of risk-taking activities. The welfare of customers and other stakeholders in good times and bad should be a major concern in any business proposition.
- ◆ India must enter into more treaties for exchange of information and intelligence on financial fraud and bank accounts and work with international agencies in bringing defaulters to justice.
- ◆ The banks can make use of technology and data analytics to identify the early warning signals of loan defaulting and evolve robust mechanisms to identify the hidden NPAs. Banks must focus on nurturing internal skills for credit assessment and undertake forensic audits to understand the intent of the borrower.

## 7. Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2019

The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of joint military exercise between India and Singapore, 'Bold Kurukshetra 2019', came to end after an impressive closing ceremony.

### Key Highlights

- ◆ In total, 270 troops from both countries participated. This year's exercise involved integrated live-fire drills.
- ◆ The four day long joint training focused on developing interoperability and conduct of joint tactical operations in mechanised warfare. The troops learnt about each other's organisations and best practices being followed in combat.
- ◆ The 'Bold Kurukshetra exercise' was constituted under a military-to-military agreement between the two sides, known as the Bilateral Agreement for Joint Army Training and Exercises. The two countries renewed that agreement in November 2017.

### Defense and Security Cooperation

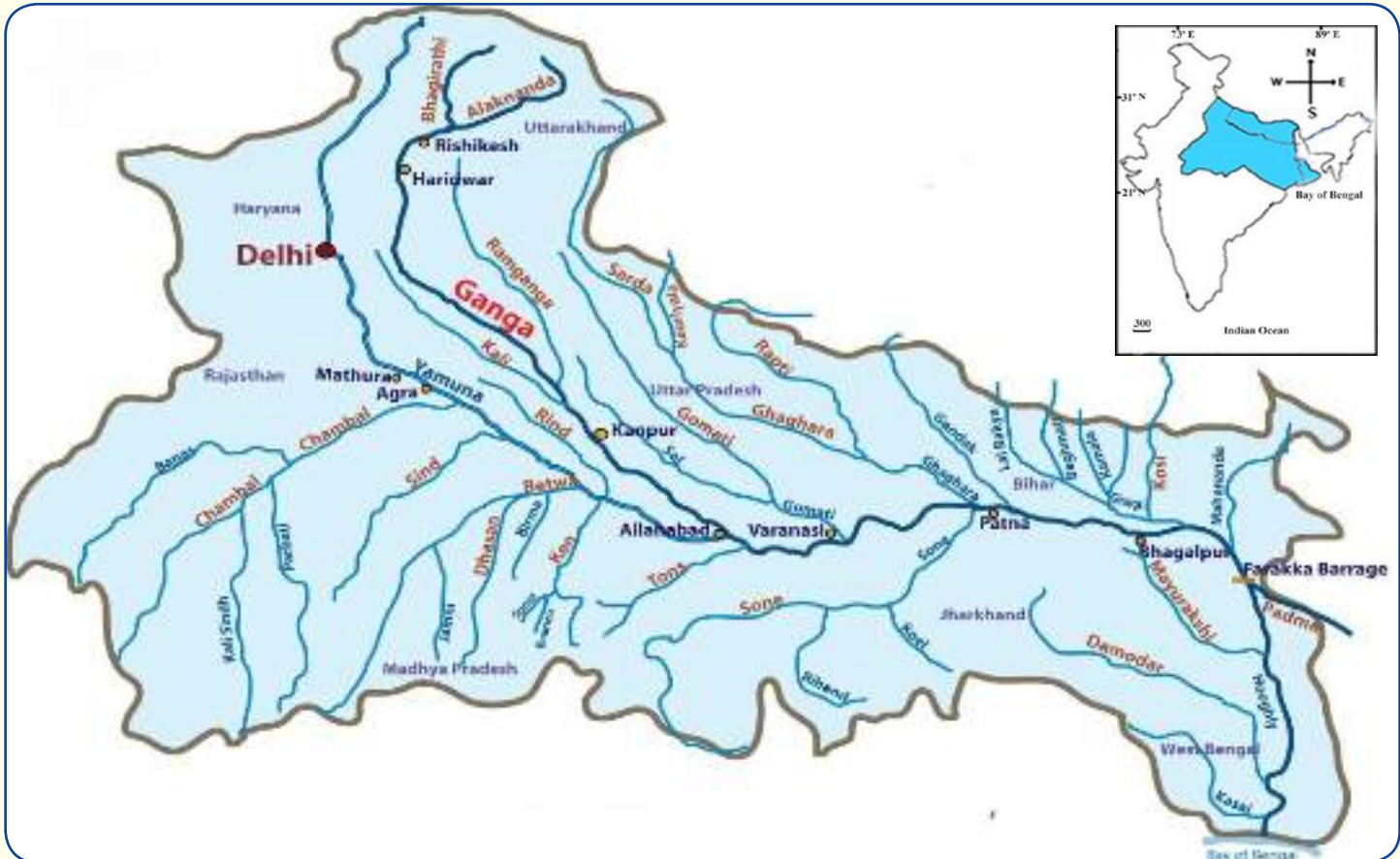
Defense and security cooperation between India and Singapore has been growing in recent years. India and Singapore enjoy a close military relationship that includes various aspects, including high-level visits, policy dialogues, courses and other professional exchanges. Both sides have been looking to further expand this aspect of the relationship as broader patterns of collaboration evolve in the wider Indo-Pacific, with recent examples including the inking of a new naval pact and the Indian Navy's access to Changi Naval base in Singapore.

The army component of the bilateral defense relationship includes various arrangements, including those that allow the Singaporean Army to train in India – part of a series of deals with a few key countries and services that afford the city-state much-needed space to train abroad that it does not have at home. In terms of exercises, the two armies conduct several drills and among these is bilateral armor exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra.'



# SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

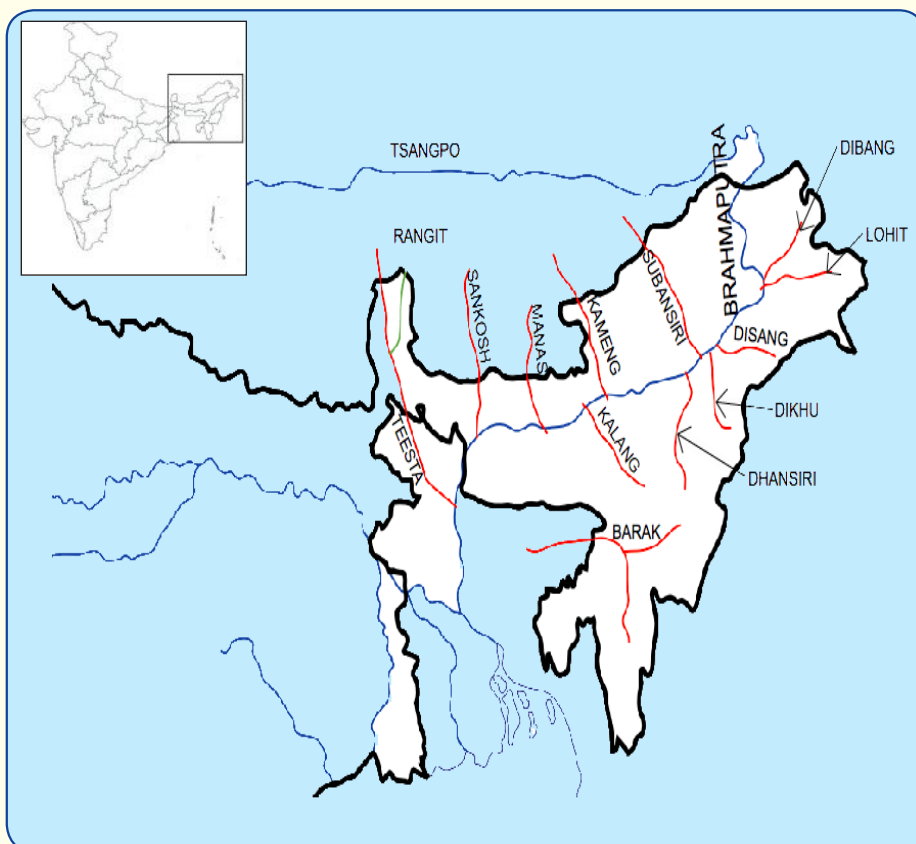
## 1. Ganga River System



### Key Facts

- The Ganga rises in the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. At its source, the river is called as the Bhagirathi. It descends down the valley upto Devprayag where after joining another hill stream Alaknanda, it is called Ganga.
- The total length of river Ganga (measured along the Bhagirathi and the Hooghly) up to its outfall into Bay of Bengal is 2,525 km.
- A large number of tributaries join and flow from the Ganges to drain the Northern part of India and Bangladesh.
- The principal tributaries joining the river from right are the Yamuna and the Son.
- The Ramganga, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Kosi and the Mahananda join the river from left.
- The Chambal and the Betwa are the two other important sub- tributaries.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Ganga Basin
  - Eastern Gandak Hydroelectric Project - Bihar on Gandak river
  - Kosi Hydroelectric Project - Bihar on Kosi river
  - Sone Hydroelectric Project - Bihar on Ganga/Sone river
- National Parks on the bank of Ganga river and its tributaries
  - Valmiki National Park- River Gandak forms the Western boundary of the park.
  - Jim Corbett National Park - Ramganga River along with its tributaries, Palain, Mandal and Sonanadi serve as key hydrological resource for the park.

## 2. Brahmaputra River System



### Key Facts

- It originates in the North from Kailash ranges of Himalayas and flows for 916 km in India.
- The principal tributaries of the river joining from right are the Lohit, the Dibang, the Subansiri, the Jia Bharali, the Dhansiri, the Manas, the Torsa, the Sankosh and the Teesta whereas the Burhidihing, the Desang, the Dikhow, the Dhansiri and the Kopili joins it from left.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Brahmaputra Basin
  - Kopili Hydroelectric Project - Umrangso, Assam on Kopili River.
  - Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project - Assam on Subansiri River.
- National Parks on the bank of Brahmaputra river and its tributaries
  - Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (Assam) - It is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit rivers in the North and Dibru river in the South.
  - Orang National Park (Assam) - It is located on the North bank of the Brahmaputra River.

## 3. Indus River System

### Key Facts

- The Indus originates in the Northern slopes of the Kailash range in Tibet near Lake Manasarovar.
- It enters Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir. Several tributaries - the Zaskar, the Shyok, the Nubra and the Hunza join it in the Kashmir region.
- The main tributaries of the Indus in India are Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Satluj.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Indus Basin
  - Anandpur Sahib Hydroelectric Project - Ropar, Punjab on Satluj river.
  - Bassi Hydroelectric Project- Mandi, Himachal Pradesh on Beas river.
  - Ranjit Sagar Dam Hydroelectric Project - Shahpurkandi, Punjab on Ravi river.
  - Stakna Hydroelectric Project - Leh, Jammu & Kashmir on Indus river.
- National Parks on the bank of Indus river and its tributaries
  - Hemis National Park - It is bounded on the North by the banks of the Indus River.
  - Great Himalayan National Park - Tirthan, tributary of Beas river.



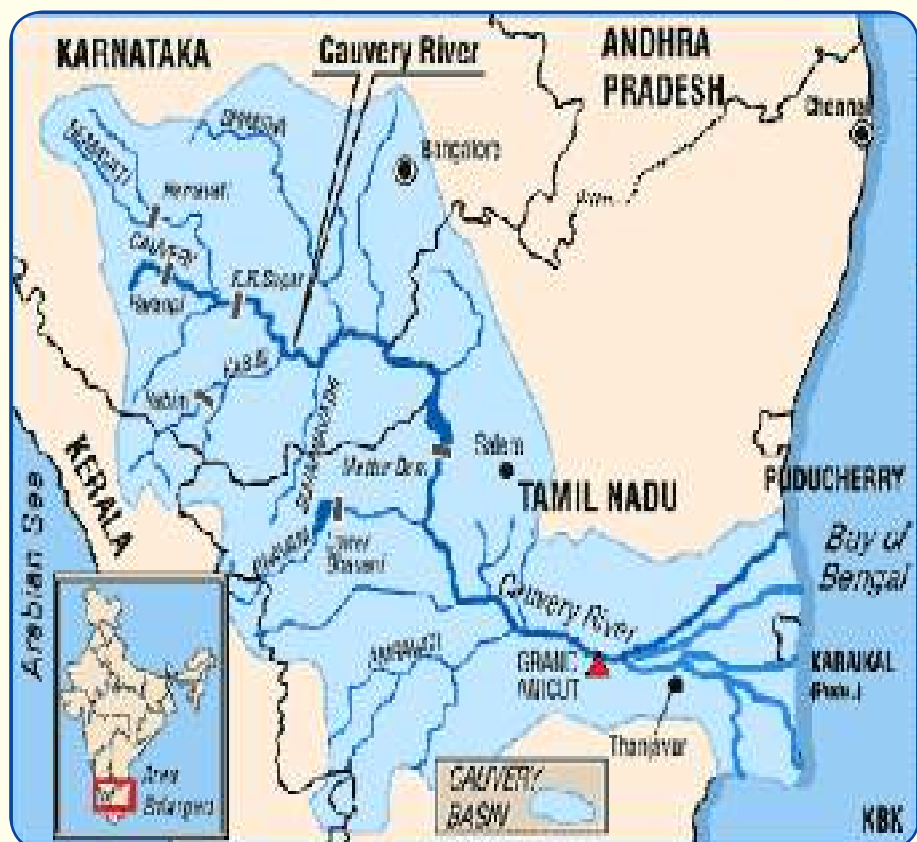
#### 4. Krishna River System



##### Key Facts

- The Krishna River rises from the Western Ghats near Jor village of Satara district of Maharashtra, just North of Mahabaleshwar.
- The Krishna Basin extends over Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- It is bounded by Balaghat range on the North, by the Eastern Ghats on the South and the East and by the Western Ghats on the West.
- Its principal tributaries joining from right are the Ghatprabha, the Malprabha and the Tungabhadra whereas those joining from left are the Bhima, the Musi and the Munneru are joining the river from left.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Krishna Basin
  - Tungabhadra Hydroelectric Project - Karnataka on Tungabhadra river.
  - Srisailem Hydroelectric Project - Telangana on Krishna river.
  - Ujjani Hydroelectric Project - Maharashtra on Bhima river.
- National Parks on the bank of Krishna river and its tributaries
  - Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary - Bhadra river, tributary of Tungabhadra.

#### 5. Cauvery River System



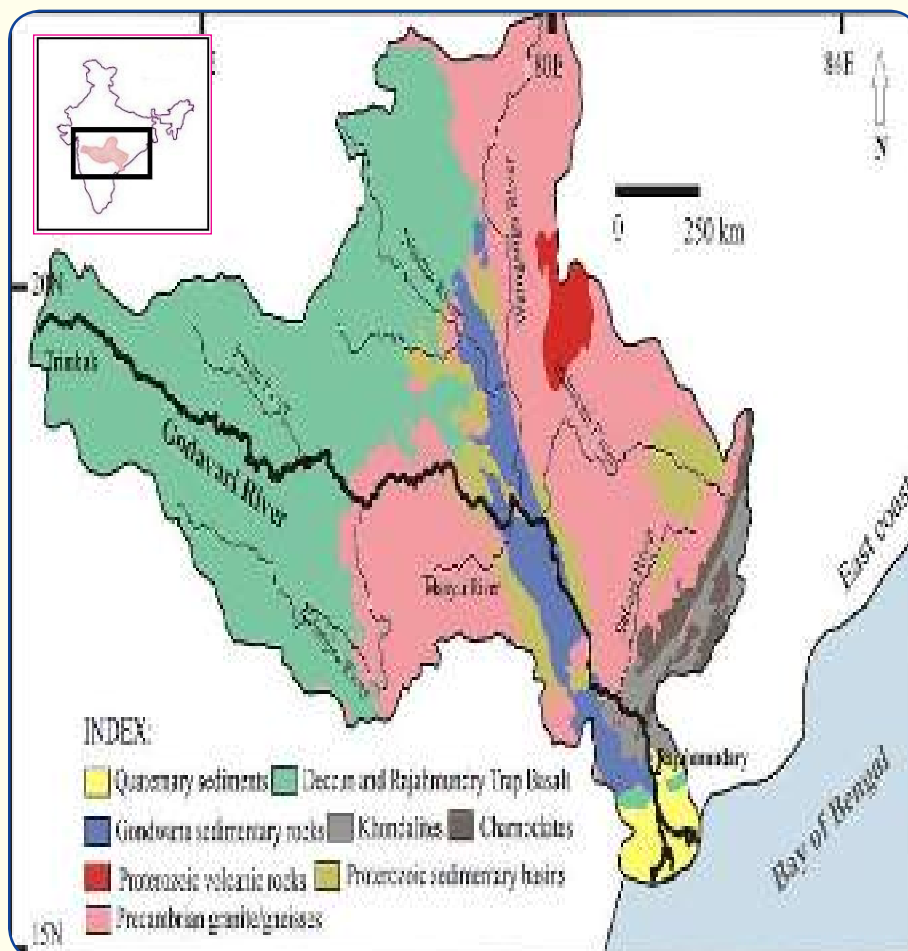
##### Key Facts

- It rises from the Brahmagiri range near Cherangala village of Kodagu district of Karnataka.
- The Cauvery basin extends over states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry.
- Its important tributaries joining from left are the Harangi, the Hemavati, the Shimsha and the Arkavati whereas the Lakshmantirtha, the Kabbani, the Suvarnavati, the Bhavani, the Noyil and the Amaravati joins from right.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Cauvery Basin
  - Simshapura Hydroelectric project - Karnataka on Cauvery river.
  - Mettur Hydroelectric Project - Tamil Nadu on Cauvery river.
- National Parks on the bank of Cauvery river and its tributaries
  - Nagarhole National Park And Tiger Reserve - Its water sources include the Lakshmantirtha river, Sarati Hole, Nagar Hole, Balle Halla and Kabini River.
  - Bandipur Tiger Reserve And National Park - The park is flanked by the Kabini river in the north and the Moyar river in the South.

## 6. Godavari River System

### Key Facts

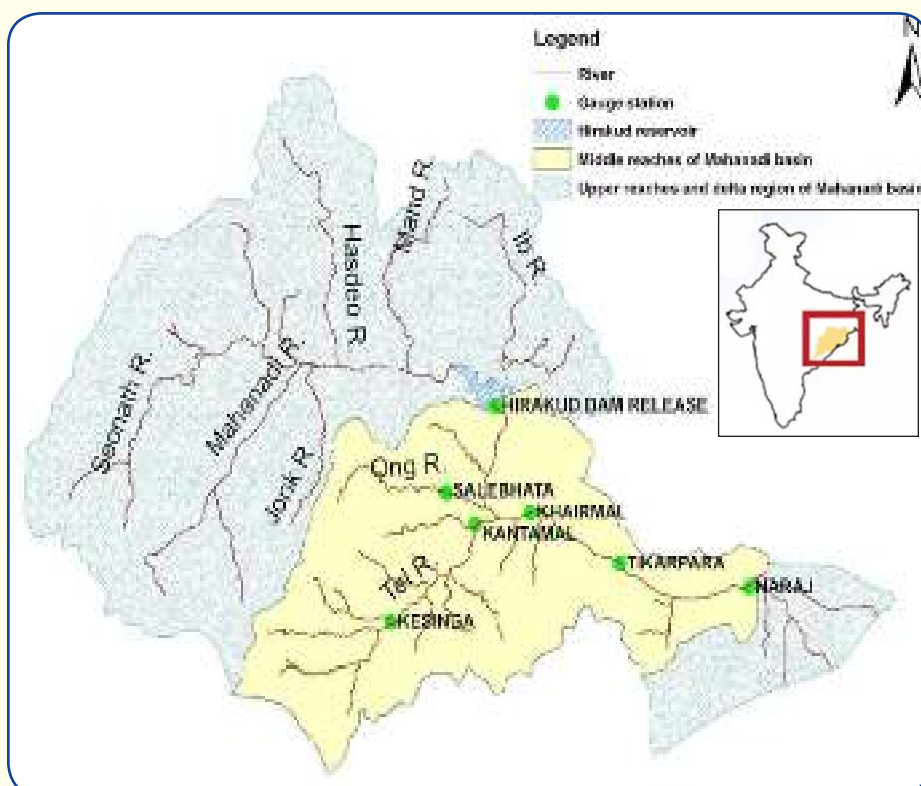
- The Godavari River rises from Trimbakeshwar in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.
- The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Union territory of Puducherry.
- The basin is bounded by Satmala hills, the Ajanta range and the Mahadeo hills on the North, by the Eastern Ghats on the South and the East and by the Western Ghats on the West.
- The Pravara, Manjira, Dharna and Maner are right bank tributaries while the Purna, Pranhita, Indravathi, Kadana and Sabari are important left bank tributaries.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Godavari Basin
  - Singur Hydroelectric Project - Telangana on Majeera river.
  - Pochampad Hydroelectric Project - Telangana on Godavari river.
  - Bandardhara Hydroelectric Project - Maharashtra on Pravara river.
- National Parks on the bank of Godavari river and its tributaries
  - Papikonda National Park - The Park lies in the River Godavari basin.



## 7. Mahanadi River System

### Key Facts

- It originates from Farsiya village of Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh.
- The Mahanadi basin extends over states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- It is bounded by the Central India hills on the North, by the Eastern Ghats on the South and East and by the Maikala range on the West.
- The Seonath, the Hasdeo, the Mand and the Ib are left bank tributaries whereas the Ong, the Tel and the Jonk are right bank tributaries.
- Hydro Electric Projects in Mahanadi Basin
  - Gangrel Hydroelectric Project - Chhattisgarh on Mahanadi river.
  - Hasdeo Bango Hydroelectric Project - Chhattisgarh on Hasdeo river.
  - Hirakud Hydroelectric Project - Odisha on Mahanadi river.
  - Sikaser Hydroelectric Project - Chhattisgarh on Pairi river.





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