

PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

August: 2019 / Issue-01

INDIA'S CHANDRAYAAN-2

Brighter Mission to Darker Site

- Parliamentary Standing Committees : A Critical Tool for Scrutiny
- Anti-defection Law & Role of Speaker : An Analysis
- The POCSO (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Introduction
- India and Bangladesh : An 'Organic' Tie
- The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019: An Understanding
- The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Overview



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LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR) **26 AUG | 5:30 PM**

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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder
Dhyeya IAS



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

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

Q H Khan
Managing Director
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



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

I extend best wishes for the success of this endeavor.

Qurban Ali

Chief Editor

Dhyeya IAS

(Ex Editor- Rajya Sabha TV)



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

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

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

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

Ashutosh Singh

Managing Editor

Dhyeya IAS



PREFACE

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

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

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

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

Omveer Singh Chaudhary
Editor
Dhyeya IAS

Perfect 7

The Weekly Issue

Perfect 7

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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. INDIA'S CHANDRAYAAN 2 : BRIGHTER MISSION TO DARKER SITE

Why in News?

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1 successfully launched Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft on July 22, 2019 into its planned orbit with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 169.7 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 45475 Km.

Introduction

Chandrayaan 2 is an Indian lunar mission that will boldly go where no country has ever gone before the Moon's South Polar Region. Through this effort, the aim is to improve our understanding of the Moon — discoveries that will benefit India and humanity as a whole. These insights and experiences aim at a paradigm shift in how lunar expeditions are approached for years to come propelling further voyages into the farthest frontiers.

The mission is India's second journey to the moon and its most ambitious and complex space project yet, and comes more than a decade after ISRO's successful launch of its first lunar mission Chandrayaan-1. In September this year, Chandrayaan-2 will aim to land a rover on the Moon, making India the fourth country in the world to do so, after former Soviet Union, the U.S., and China. India is also shooting for more moon success. Chandrayaan-3, a possible joint effort with Japan, may send a lander and rover to a lunar pole in 2024. The country will push toward Chandrayaan-3 as it continues its push for ever-more-ambitious space missions.

About Chandrayaan 2

Chandrayaan 2 is on a mission unlike any before. Leveraging nearly a decade of scientific research and engineering development, India's second lunar expedition will shed light on a completely unexplored section of the Moon — its South Polar region.

Chandrayaan-2 has several science payloads to expand the lunar scientific knowledge through detailed study of topography, seismography, mineral identification and distribution, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics of top soil and composition of the tenuous lunar atmosphere, leading to a new understanding of the origin and evolution of the Moon.

The Orbiter payloads will conduct remote-sensing observations from a 100 km orbit while the Lander and Rover payloads will perform in-situ measurements near the landing site.

For understanding of the Lunar composition, it is planned to identify the elements and mapping its distribution on the lunar surface both at global and In-situ level. In addition, detailed 3 dimensional mapping of the lunar regolith will be done. Measurements on the near surface plasma environment and electron density in the Lunar ionosphere will be studied. Thermo-physical property of the lunar surface and seismic activities will also be measured. Water molecule distribution will be studied using infra red spectroscopy, synthetic aperture

radiometry & polarimetry as well as mass spectroscopy techniques.

India's second mission to the Moon is a totally indigenous mission comprising of an Orbiter, Lander and Rover.

- ♦ **Orbiter:** Once Chandrayaan-2 reaches the Moon, the orbiter will enter into an orbit around the satellite and will continue revolving around the Moon for a year, performing experiments to study the satellite's outer atmosphere. It will conduct remote-sensing observations from a 100 km orbit. It will also relay communication between Earth and Chandrayaan 2's Lander - Vikram.
- ♦ **Vikram - Chandrayaan 2's Lander:** Chandrayaan 2's lander is named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme. It is designed to function for one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 Earth days. Vikram has the capability to communicate with IDSN at Byalalu near Bangalore, as well as with the Orbiter and Pragyan rover.
- ♦ **Pragyaan - Chandrayaan 2's Rover:** It is a six-wheeled solar-powered vehicle. It will detach itself and slowly crawl on the surface, making observations and collecting data. It will be equipped with two instruments and its primary objective will be to study the composition of the surface near the lunar landing site and

Difference between GSLV and PSLV		
Features	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)	Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)
Generation	Third generation launch vehicle	Fourth generation launch vehicle
Type of satellites	Deliver the "Remote-sensing" satellites to Sun-Synchronous orbits.	Deliver the "Communication-satellites" to Geo-synchronous orbits.
No. of stages	Four-staged vehicle with 2 solid and 2 liquid stages	Three-staged vehicle with a solid, liquid and cryogenic stage
Variants	PSLV-G PSLV-CA PSLV-XL	GSLV Mk-I GSLV Mk-II GSLV Mk-III
Lift-off mass	230-320 tonnes	400-600 tonnes
Payload	1600 kg in to 620 km Polar Orbit, 1060 kg in to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)	NSAT-II class of satellites (2000 - 2,500 kg) into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). 4 Tonne in to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)

determine its abundance of various elements. It can only communicate with the Lander.

A Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA) of NASA is among the payloads and is aimed at understanding dynamics of Earth's Moon system and deriving clues on Lunar interior.

GSLV MK-III
GSLV MkIII has successfully injected Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into its orbit. It is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage. GSLV Mk III is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of the GSLV Mk II.

Key Payloads

Chandrayaan 2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer (CLASS) : It will measure the Moon's X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) spectra to examine the presence of major elements such as Magnesium, Aluminium, Silicon, Calcium, Titanium, Iron, and Sodium.

Imaging IR Spectrometer (IIRS): It will measure the solar radiation reflected off the Moon's surface in 256 contiguous spectral bands from 100 km lunar orbit.

Chandrayaan 2 Atmospheric Compositional Explorer (CHACE 2) :

It will continue the CHACE experiment carried out by Chandrayaan 1. Its primary objective is to carry out an in-situ study of the composition and distribution of the lunar neutral exosphere and its variability.

Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment (ChaSTE): It will measure the vertical temperature gradient and thermal conductivity of the lunar surface. It consists of a thermal probe (sensors and a heater) that is inserted into the lunar regolith down to a depth of ~10 cm.

Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (APXS): Its primary objective is to determine the elemental composition of the Moon's surface near the landing site. It achieves this through X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy technique, where X-ray or alpha particles are used to excite the surface.

Why are we going to the Moon?

The Moon is the closest cosmic body at which space discovery can be attempted and documented. It is also a promising test bed to demonstrate technologies

required for deep-space missions. Chandrayaan 2 will attempt to foster a new age of discovery, increase our understanding of space, stimulate the advancement of technology, promote global alliances, and inspire a future generation of explorers and scientists.

South Pole of the Moon

Moon provides the best linkage to Earth's early history. It offers an undisturbed historical record of the inner Solar System environment. Though there are a few mature models, the origin of Moon still needs further explanations. Extensive mapping of lunar surface to study variations in lunar surface composition is essential to trace back the origin and evolution of the Moon. Evidence for water molecules discovered by Chandrayaan-1, requires further studies on the extent of water molecule distribution on the surface, below the surface and in the tenuous lunar exosphere to address the origin of water on Moon.

The lunar South Pole is especially interesting because of the lunar surface area here that remains in shadow is much larger than that at the North Pole. There is a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it. In addition, South Pole region has craters that are cold traps and contain a fossil record of the early Solar System.

Global Players in Moon Exploration

Over the past few years, European Space Agency officials have repeatedly stressed their desire to build a permanent human settlement on the Moon. This "moon village," which could take decades to build (if indeed it is built), would likely rise near the South Pole.

And China has already embarked on an ambitious robotic lunar-exploration campaign, known as 'Chang'e' (after the Chinese moon goddess). The program

successfully sent orbiters to the moon in 2007 and 2010 and dropped landers and rovers onto the surface in 2013 and January of this year. That most recent lunar mission, 'Chang'e 4', touched down on the Moon's mysterious far side — something that had never been done before.

Throughout the 2020s, China is planning to return lunar samples to Earth and build a small, robotic research outpost near the Moon's South Pole. These efforts may well pave the way for crewed exploration of the lunar surface, perhaps in the early 2030s. Chinese space officials have mentioned building a crewed "lunar palace," but this goal is not formally on the nation's docket at the moment.

To date, only the Soviet Union/Russia, the United States and China have soft-landed on the Moon. The Israeli lander 'Beresheet' came close but crashed during its touchdown attempt in April this year.

Russia, which hasn't landed on the Moon since the 'Luna-24' mission in the mid-1970s (when the nation was still part of the Soviet Union), also planning to get in on the action soon. The country is working on 'Luna-25', a resource-prospecting mission to the lunar South Pole that could launch in the 2022 to 2024 time frame.

NASA also has other lunar projects in the pipeline, for example, including several tiny resource-scouting craft that will launch on the first flight of the agency's huge Space Launch System rocket next year.

India's Space Exploration Mission

Government of India established the Department of Space in 1972 to promote development and application of space science and technology for socio-economic benefits. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the primary agency under the Department of Space for executing space

programmes. During the seventies, India undertook demonstration of space applications for communication, broadcasting and remote sensing; designed and built experimental satellites - Aryabhata, Bhaskara, APPLE and Rohini — and experimental Satellite Launch Vehicles - SLV-3 and ASLV.

Indian space programme encompasses research in areas like astronomy, astrophysics, planetary and earth sciences, atmospheric sciences and theoretical physics. Balloons, sounding rockets, space platforms and ground-based facilities support these research efforts. Today, India has established space systems that form an important element of the national infrastructure. India successfully sent its Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft to moon in November 2008 and became the fourth individual country to send a probe to the lunar surface. India's 100th Space Mission took place in September 2012 during which the country's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) successfully placed French SPOT-6 and Japanese PROITERES satellites in the required orbits. In September 2014, India successfully placed an unmanned spacecraft in an orbit around planet Mars.

Further, ISRO is planning to have the first unmanned (without astronaut) mission of Gaganyaan, in December 2020 and the second unmanned mission in July 2021. Finally, the first Gaganyaan mission with astronauts will be executed in December 2021. For this, ISRO has developed some critical technologies like re-entry mission capability, crew escape system, crew module configuration, thermal protection system, deceleration and floatation system, sub-systems of life support system etc. required for this programme. Some of these technologies have been demonstrated successfully through the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-2007),

Crew module Atmospheric Reentry Experiment (CARE-2014) and Pad Abort Test (2018).

Space Exploration and for Developing Country

Any space exploration mission undertaken by a developing country like India is likely to prompt the argument that such investments need to be redirected in areas that need immediate intervention by the government (e.g. installing more toilets in the country). There have been counter arguments that this may not be a fruitful approach, but that doesn't mean there isn't one.

Similarly and completely setting aside these kind of arguments, it might be naïve to expect the government will spend Rs 978 crore on alleviating poverty if only the Chandrayaan 2 mission hadn't hogged it. No; the government must spend on both at the same time, and allow advantages accruing in one sector to support the other.

One of the simplest ways of resolving this debate is to concretely showcase how technologies developed for space missions like Chandrayaan 2 find their way into the daily lives of citizens, or solve challenges faced by industries that contribute to the nation's progress. Ironically, one of India's current challenges is the trickling down effect of investments in technology by the ISRO. The space agency does, actively, transfer its technology to build capacity and investment in India's private space industry. However, there is a need to further mature the current technology transfer framework within ISRO to meet the standards set by its international peers. Presently, ISRO's technology transfer policy has a two-pronged approach.

- ◆ The first one is 'buy-back' — once scientists at ISRO have developed a technology and proven its ability, they make the intellectual property

available for the industry to use and invest resources to replicate the technology. In turn, ISRO provides the industry with an option to buy-back the product to reduce the financial burden and to ensure the company has an anchor customer, to begin with. Through the buy-back assurance, the hope is that the industry will potentially be able to explore the use of technology by other customers (national or international). This buy-back approach has been largely applied to space-related technology, since the transferred tech can then be used by ISRO for its own missions.

- ◆ This is where the second approach of spin-off can help. In this approach, know-how or underlying technologies made available by ISRO are applied usefully to non-space industries like healthcare, electronics, energy, agriculture, etc. For example, there is a long list of spin-offs from NASA that have added value to the common man — not just in the US, but across the world. These include the design of a space shuttle fuel pump, which was used as the basis of the design

for a tiny heart pump approved for implantation in young, critically ill patients. Another example is the collaboration with Pillsbury Company to create a systematic approach to quality control to keep the food free from a wide range of potential chemical, physical and biological hazards which have become an industry standard that benefits consumers worldwide. Memory foam was invented to keep test pilots and astronauts cushioned during flights are now being used in mattresses, couches, movie theatre seats, helmets, etc.

It is important that spin-offs from ISRO are tracked systematically and presented to the public transparently. This will not only allow the public to be educated on the benefits of such spin-offs to society but also push policymakers in the country to expand investments in many new research areas that ISRO is looking into.

Way Forward

Chandrayaan-2 is very important for India and if it gets successful, then India will become the fourth country after Russia, the United States and China to

soft-land a rover on the lunar surface. The mission would solidify India's place among the fleet of explorers racing to the Moon, Mars and beyond for scientific, commercial or military gains.

This mission will help us gain a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the Moon by conducting detailed topographical studies, comprehensive mineralogical analyses, and a host of other experiments on the lunar surface. This mission will also expand India's footprint in space, inspire a future generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers and surpass international aspirations.

General Studies Paper- III

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

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.



2. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEES : A CRITICAL TOOL FOR SCRUTINY

Why in News?

The opposition leaders have pointed out to the government that on an average 65-70% of the Bills were referred to standing committees during the previous governments. But over the past two years only 26% of the Bills have been referred to the standing committees and have been passed without scrutiny by parliamentary standing committees, this has cast a cloud over the functioning of our apex legislature.

Introduction

After the formation of the 17th Lok Sabha, parliamentary standing committees have not been constituted as consultations among parties are still under way. Partly as a result of this, the Bills were passed without committee scrutiny. They were discussed in Parliament over durations ranging between two and five hours.

Given the volume of legislative business, discussing all Bills under the consideration of Parliament in

detail on the floor of the House is impossible. Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law. At least in principle, the assumption is that the smaller cohort of lawmakers, assembled on the basis of the proportional strength of individual parties and interests and expertise of individual lawmakers, could have more open, intensive and better informed discussions. Committee meetings are 'closed door' and members are not bound by party whips, which allows them the latitude for a more

meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in full and open Houses where grandstanding and party positions invariably take precedence.

Further, executive accountability to the legislature is enforced through questions in Parliament also, which are answered by ministers. However, department standing committees go one step further and hear from senior officials of the government in a closed setting, allowing for more detailed discussions. This mechanism also enables parliamentarians to understand the executive processes closely.

Parliamentary Oversight Mechanisms in India

In India, parliamentary scrutiny of the regulators can take place through the following means: (i) question hour; (ii) discussions in Parliament; (iii) parliamentary committees. Some of the means of legislative oversight, such as annual submission of reports by regulators to Parliament, are provided in enactments. Other mechanisms are laid down in the Rules of Procedures of the Parliament.

Question Hour: Every regulator falls within the administrative domain of a government department. During question hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) can ask questions to scrutinise the functioning of ministries and the regulators related to their departments. It is the role of the minister, and not of the regulator, to respond to the questions. Given that regulators function independently of the department, there is a gap in the accountability of the regulator's actions.

Discussions in Parliament: Parliament may take up the role of regulators for debate under different Rules of Procedure of Parliament (such as half-hour discussions and discussions under Rule 193 in the Lok Sabha). In these debates too,

the concerned minister responds to the issues raised by the MPs. During these discussions, regulators cannot be summoned to explain their functioning. MPs may raise issues of public importance in Parliament, and examine the government's response to problems being faced by citizens through: (i) a debate, which entails a reply by the concerned minister, or (ii) a motion which entails a vote. The time allocated for discussing some of these debates or Bills is determined by the Business Advisory Committee of the House, consisting of members from both the ruling and opposition parties.

Using these methods, MPs may discuss important matters, policies, and topical issues. The concerned minister while replying to the debate may make assurances to the House regarding steps that will be taken to address the situation.

Alternatively, MPs may move a motion for:

- (i) Discussing important issues (such as inflation, drought, and corruption);
- (ii) Adjournment of business in a House in order to express displeasure over a government policy; or
- (iii) Expressing no confidence in the government leading to its resignation.

Parliament Committee: The Committee system of Parliament is often used in several countries for oversight of regulators. In India, there are 24 Department Related Standing Committees that comprise members from both Houses of Parliament. These committees are ministry specific, and may review the working of regulators within their respective departments. It ensures that detailed scrutiny of government finances, legislation and working continues to take place even if Parliament sessions are disrupted. With a representation of members from across political parties, these

committees also act as a consensus-building platform.

Another feature of the committee system is its engagement with relevant stakeholders and power to summon witnesses. The committees regularly seek feedback from citizens and experts on subjects it examines. After detailed discussion, the prepared reports are tabled in Parliament. These comments add value to the discourse in Parliament. The committees also publish reports on the status of implementation of their recommendations.

Origins of Committee System in India

As is the case with several other practices of Indian parliamentary democracy, the institution of Parliamentary Committees also has its origins in the British Parliament. According to P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, the practice of regularly referring Bills to committees began in 1989 after government departments started forming their own standing committees. Prior to that, select committees or joint committees of the houses were only set up to scrutinise in detail some very important Bills, but this was few and far between.

Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business). Committee reports are usually exhaustive and provide authentic information on matters related to governance. Bills that are referred to committees are returned to the House with significant value addition. Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees.

Due to capacity and time constraints, it is not possible for MPs to scrutinise all policies and legislation on the floor of the House. It was felt that by forming smaller groups of members

to examine the subjects would ensure deeper deliberation and debate. In India, the earliest Parliamentary Committees were the Public Accounts Committee (1921) followed by the Estimates Committee (1950). In 1993, the current system of Department Related Standing Committees (DRSC) was established replacing subject committees and the structure has largely remained the same till date.

Type of Parliamentary Committee

- ◆ The Standing Committees (DRSC), aligned with specific ministries examine their performance and budgets apart from Bills or subjects related to their respective ministries.
- ◆ The Financial Committees are primarily responsible for scrutinising the expenditure priorities of the government, suggest measures to improve efficiency in spending and performance of Public Sector Undertakings.
- ◆ The Select Committee is formed for analysing a specific legislation/policy and is disbanded after submission of its reports.
- ◆ The Administrative Committees are primarily responsible for ensuring day-to-day activities of the legislature are planned in consultation with the members.

Members from both Houses across party lines are represented in most of these committees. Since ministers are part of the executive and legislature is a separate arm to keep a check on the executive, ministers are not a part of any Standing Committees. There are 16 department-related standing committees at present (complete list), which are divided according to the subject they look into like finance, defence, information technology, water resources and so on. Each of these committees have an upper limit of 45 members: 30 from Lok Sabha &

15 from Rajya Sabha. But in practice, at present, all standing committees have 31 members: 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

Issues and Relevance of committee system

The Standing Committees have improved the Parliament's ability to examine policies better, there are several challenges that need further attention.

Fewer Bills Referred: To strengthen the lawmaking process, it is important that all Bills are examined by Standing Committees before passage. This ensures thorough scrutiny of the law. This practice is seen in legislatures of most developed countries. In India, there is no such rule to ensure all Bills are referred to committees. As a convention, the ministry piloting the Bill recommends the Speaker to refer a Bill to the Standing Committee.

The 14th and 15th Lok Sabha saw 60 percent and 71 percent of bills referred to committees. This number has dipped sharply to just 27 percent in the 16th Lok Sabha. The attendance of members in committee meetings has been a cause for concern as well, which is about 50 percent since 2014-15.

Longer Tenure for Members: The committee system allows a smaller group of legislators to develop technical expertise on a particular subject and ensure better deliberation. In the present format, the members are nominated to a Standing Committee for one year. However, shifting of committees every year defeats this purpose.

Discussion of committee Reports: The committees make several recommendations in their reports after thorough analysis and feedback from stakeholders. Since these are recommendatory in nature, the executive may not necessarily accept them. Moreover, the reports of the committees are not taken up

for discussion in Parliament except for references in certain debates on Bills. Several of committee's recommendations are neither implemented nor discussed.

Research Support: Committees examine issues that are technical in nature. To equip members to gain an in-depth understanding of issues and finally give sound and nuanced recommendations, it is important that quality research is made available to them. Institutional research support will allow committees to serve as expert bodies to examine complex policy issues.

The need for referring all Bills to committee, longer tenure for members and strengthening committees with adequate research support also find mention in the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, 2002 (NCRWC).

Strengthening of Committee System

Parliamentary committees can play a central role in oversight of the executive, through detailed examination of government policies. Major recommendations to strengthen the committee system are detailed below.

Requirement of Attendance of Ministers before Committees: In current practice, government officials depose before committees, and ministers are exempt from appearing before committees. This implies that the political executive, which is accountable to Parliament for the decision taken by it, does not clarify and defend its position before the committee. In other countries, such as the UK, ministers are required to depose before committees.

Increasing Transparency: Allowing for greater transparency in the procedures of the committees will provide a greater check on the oversight function of Parliament, and therefore ensure that procedures are followed in

process of conducting oversight. While some Parliaments allow for video recording of committee meetings (such as the US and UK), others selectively allow meetings to be opened to the public (such as Denmark).

Greater Public Participation: Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) examine a range of subjects related to their department or ministry. While some invite suggestions from the public on these issues, there is no consistency in the manner of public participation across these committees and on issues. Public participation should be invited more systematically and be institutionalised in the procedures of each committee to strengthen the oversight function of committees.

Oversight Committee: According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliaments may establish a general oversight committee to oversee the work of other permanent and ad-hoc committees. These committees can co-ordinate the oversight functions of sector specific committees. They may recommend issues that committees take up to investigate, and other committees may bring matters up before this committee. For example, the US has established a Committee on Oversight and Government Reform specifically to perform oversight functions over the federal government, even though individual committees also perform oversight functions over their sectors.

International Experiences

The House of Lords in the UK recommended steps to improve parliamentary oversight. These are summarised below.

- ◆ **Expert support to MPs:** The Committee noted that effective scrutiny depends on the skill and resources available to the parliamentary committees. Committees, as compared to the regulators they seek to oversee, may often be under resourced and thus fail to ensure accountability.
- ◆ **Regularity of scrutiny:** It was observed that ad-hoc scrutiny of the regulator was not adequate for effective oversight. Furthermore, the Annual Reports did not reflect that they were prepared for the purpose of parliamentary scrutiny. The reports should be prepared keeping in mind legislative oversight.
- ◆ **Co-ordination between regulators:** Parliament should address the question of co-ordination in its scrutiny of regulators. Different regulators, while complying with their respective statute, and executive orders, may take regulatory decisions that are in conflict with the over-arching policy or the objectives of other regulators. It recommended that a dedicated joint parliamentary committee to oversee regulatory bodies be established.

Way Forward

There can be no democratic system of government without transparency and accountability. The primary responsibility in this field falls squarely on the shoulders of Parliament. Through its core oversight function, parliament holds the government to account on behalf of the people, ensuring that government policy and action are both efficient and commensurate with the needs of the public. Parliamentary oversight is also crucial in checking excesses on the part of the government.

Strengthening the committee system can go a long way in improving the quality of laws drafted and minimise potential implementation challenges. The need of the hour is for greater and effective utilisation of Parliamentary Committees to strengthen Parliament as a deliberative body which can ensure effective oversight.

In the backdrop of a number of Bills having been passed without scrutiny, why are parliamentary standing committees necessary?

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

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3. ANTI-DEFECTION LAW & ROLE OF SPEAKER : AN ANALYSIS

Why in News?

The prolonged political crisis in Karnataka has demonstrated the ways in which the nearly 35-year-old anti-defection law can be used and abused. In this article, we will discuss how the law was enacted, and how it has performed.

Introduction

The anti-defection law as enunciated in the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India was to answer the menace of unethical political defections eating into vitals of democracy. Defections had reduced people's representatives to nomads wandering whenever

and wherever they found lush green pastures to graze. Apart from destabilising duly elected governments, such switching of political loyalties had made a mockery of parliamentary democracy. Once elected and chosen by the voters, the people's representatives were at unrestricted liberty to dump

their electorate. The anti-defection law needs to be looked into again by the lawmakers and reformed in light of the experience of its implementation since 1985. There have been a large number of cases of defection and how awkwardly they have been handled. Lately, for e.g., we have seen people moving out of parties in large numbers and eluding disqualification by suggesting that they have merged with their new party. The law is clear, mergers are between two parties and two-thirds of the members will agree to the merger. Now the practice is the other way around — two-thirds of the members or more move out and then they merge with the new party. The law is made to stand on its head by the legislators.

The Legislative Journey of the Anti-defection Law

The seeds of the anti-defection law were sown after the general elections in 1967. The results of those elections were a mixed bag for the Congress. It formed the government at the Centre, but its strength in Lok Sabha fell from 361 to 283. During the year it lost control of seven state governments as MLAs shifted their political allegiance. In this backdrop, P Venkatasubbaiah, a Congress MP in Lok Sabha who served in the Cabinets of both Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, proposed the setting up of a high-level committee to make recommendations to tackle the “problem of legislators changing their allegiance from one party to another”.

The Y B Chavan Panel: Despite the acrimony, the Lok Sabha agreed to the setting up of a committee to examine the problem of political defections. The then Home Minister, Y B Chavan, headed the committee. In its report, the committee noted “that the lure of office played a dominant part in decisions of legislators to defect. It pointed out that out of 210 defecting legislators in seven states,

116 were given ministerial berths in governments which they helped form by their defections. To combat this, the committee recommended a bar on defecting legislators from holding ministerial positions for a year — or until the time they got themselves re-elected. It also suggested a smaller Council of Ministers both at the levels of the Centre and the states. The committee was in favour of political parties working together to help evolve a code of conduct to effectively tackle disruptions.

Early attempts at a Law: Following the report of the Y B Chavan committee, two separate legislative attempts, both unsuccessful, were made to find a solution to defections.

- ◆ The first one was made by Indira’s Home Minister Uma Shankar Dikshit in 1973;
- ◆ The second, in 1978, by Shanti Bhushan, Minister for Law and Justice in the Janata Party government of Morarji Desai.

The third attempt — which was successful — was made in 1985, after the Congress won more than 400 seats in Lok Sabha in the aftermath of Indira’s assassination.

The Tenth Schedule

The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 52nd Amendment Act. The amendment by which the Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution, did three broad things.

One, it made legislators liable to be penalised for their conduct both inside (voting against the whip of the party) and outside (making speeches, etc.) the legislature — the penalty being the loss of their seats in Parliament or the state legislatures.

Two, it protected legislators from disqualification in cases where there was a split (with 1/3rd of members splitting) or merger (with 2/3rds of

members merging) of a legislature party with another political party.

Three, it made the Presiding Officer of the concerned legislature the sole arbiter of defection proceedings.

However, there is an exception that was provided in the law to protect the legislators from disqualification. The 10th Schedule says that if there is a merger between two political parties and two-thirds of the members of a legislature party agree to the merger, they will not be disqualified.

Disqualification on Ground of Defection:

- (1) A member of a House belonging to any political party shall be disqualified for being a member of the House—
 - ◆ if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party; or
 - ◆ if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs or by any person or authority authorised by it in this behalf, without obtaining, in either case, the prior permission of such political party, person or authority and such voting or abstention has not been condoned by such political party, person or authority within fifteen days from the date of such voting or abstention.
- (2) An elected member of a House who has been elected as such otherwise than as a candidate set up by any political party shall be disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.
- (3) A nominated member of a House shall be disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat after complying with

the requirements of article 99 or, as the case may be, article 188.

Disqualification on Ground of Defection not to apply in case of Split.

Where a member of a House makes a claim that he and any other members of his legislature party constitute the group representing a faction which has arisen as a result of a split in his original political party and such group consists of not less than one-third of the members of such legislature party.

Disqualification on Ground of Defection not to apply in case of Merger:

A member of a House shall not be disqualified, where his original political party merges with another political party and he claims that he and any other members of his original political party—

- (a) have become members of such other political party or, as the case may be, of a new political party formed by such merger; or
- (b) have not accepted the merger and opted to function as a separate group.

The 2003 Amendment

The last step in the legislative journey of the anti-defection law came in 2003. A Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in Parliament by the then government to address some of the issues with the law. A committee headed by Pranab Mukherjee examined the Bill.

The committee observed that the provision of split has been grossly misused to engineer multiple divisions in the party, as a result of which the evil of defection has not been checked in the right earnest. Further it is also observed that the lure of office of profit plays dominant part in the political horse-trading resulting in spate of defections and counter defections.”

The one-third split provision which offered protection to defectors

was deleted from the law on the committee’s recommendation. The 2003 Amendment also incorporated the 1967 advice of the Y B Chavan committee in limiting the size of the Council of Ministers, and preventing defecting legislators from joining the Council of Ministers until their re-election. However, as events in the years and decades since have demonstrated, these amendments have had only limited impact.

The (Ab)use of the Law

The removal of the split provision prompted political parties to engineer wholesale defections (to merge) instead of smaller ‘retail’ ones. Legislators started resigning from the membership of the House in order to escape disqualification from ministerial berths. The ceiling on the size of the Council of Ministers meant an increase in the number of positions of parliamentary secretaries in states. The Speakers started taking an active interest in political matters, helping build and break governments. The anti-defection law does not specify a timeframe for Speakers to decide on defection proceedings. When the politics demanded, Speakers were either quick to pass judgment on defection proceedings or delayed acting on them for years on end.

Role of Speaker

The Anti-Defection law is clear that the question of disqualification or otherwise under the Tenth Schedule is to be decided by the Speaker. The Courts have only the power of judicial review and any a priori intervention is ruled out. It is an established precedent that the Speaker as the Head of Legislature and being a constitutional authority is not amenable to the jurisdiction of the Courts. However, this applies in respect of the conduct of legislative business where the Speaker is supreme and final authority. However, in areas wherein

the Speaker is expected to function as a quasi-judicial authority under the Tenth Schedule, it would definitely invite judicial review and the Office of the Speaker cannot claim any special privilege.

Judicial Review of Anti-Defection Law

The scope of this anti-defection law was examined in detail in *Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu*, a case that also analyzed various other aspects of this legislation also. Here, the court, speaking about the necessity of an anti-defection legislation, said, “The object is to curb the evil of political defections motivated by lure of office or other similar considerations which endanger the foundations of our democracy. The decision of the Speaker was not immune from judicial scrutiny. The Court claimed that a dispute regarding the disqualification of a Member of Parliament was not to be treated as a matter of privilege but one which is not legislative but judicial in nature.

The remedy proposed to disqualify the members of either House of Parliament or of the State Legislature who is found to have defected from continuing as a Member of the House. The Supreme Court has said that when the party issues a whip, it must be for a very important legislative measure or a trust vote on which the government’s survival is at stake.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Anti-Defection Law

Advantages

Provides stability to the government by preventing shifts of party allegiance. By preventing parliamentarians from changing parties, it reduces the accountability of the government to the Parliament and the people.

Disadvantages

Ensures that candidates elected with party support and on the basis of party manifestoes remain loyal to the party policies. Also promotes party discipline. Interferes with the member's freedom of speech and expression by curbing dissent against party policies.

Recommendations on Reforming the Anti-Defection Law

Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms (1990):

- ◆ Disqualification should be limited to cases where (a) a member voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party, (b) a member abstains from voting, or votes contrary to the party whip in a motion of vote of confidence or motion of no-confidence.
- ◆ The issue of disqualification should be decided by the President/ Governor on the advice of the Election Commission.

Halim Committee on anti-defection law (1998) :

- ◆ The words 'voluntarily giving up membership of a political party' be

comprehensively defined.

- ◆ Restrictions like prohibition on joining another party or holding offices in the government be imposed on expelled members.
- ◆ The term political party should be defined clearly.

Law Commission (170th Report, 1999)

- ◆ Provisions which exempt splits and mergers from disqualification to be deleted.
- ◆ Pre-poll electoral fronts should be treated as political parties under anti-defection law.
- ◆ Political parties should limit issuance of whips to instances only when the government is in danger.

Election Commission

- ◆ Decisions under the Tenth Schedule should be made by the President/ Governor on the binding advice of the Election Commission.

Constitution Review Commission (2002)

- ◆ Defectors should be barred from holding public office or any remunerative political post for the duration of the remaining term.

- ◆ The vote cast by a defector to topple a government should be treated as invalid.

Way Forward

The introduction of Tenth Schedule in the Constitution attempted to bring in a comprehensive legislation that would assail the menace of defection. While the law has succeeded in this aspect to a reasonable degree, there were certain ambiguities. The Courts of the land have done a fair job in expounding the stance by applying the law to particular facts and circumstances. Nevertheless, very few general propositions have been laid down which have a universal application. Thus, there seems to be considerable scope for judicial interpretation, one that may give further clarity on the law and may bring in a wider range of cases within the umbrella of this legislation.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

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4. THE POCSO (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019 : AN INTRODUCTION

Why in News?

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (POCSO) was passed in the Rajya Sabha. The government considered it a great step towards ensuring the safety of children in India by making punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children – including the death penalty and provisions for fines and imprisonment to curb child pornography.

Introduction

Globally violence against children affects children of all nations. At least three out of four of the world's children – 1.7 billion – have experienced inter-personal violence, cruelty or abuse in their daily lives in a previous year, regardless of whether they lived in rich countries or poor (Ending Violence In Childhood Global Report 2017). Based on approximate estimate, 20% of girls and 5 to 10% of boys are victims of

sexual abuse. Violence violates the dignity and rights of children, and robs them of the joys of childhood. Childhood violence also disrupts the formation of capabilities, and imposes huge financial and human costs on individuals and societies.

The issue of child sexual abuse is widespread across India, impacting children of all ages, socio-economic classes and genders. Half of the country's children face some form of

sexual abuse, with 21% having faced severe sexual abuse. Boys account for around 53% and girls for 47% of all children reporting abuse.

Despite the high prevalence of violence against children, it is often hidden, unseen or under-reported. It is not widely acknowledged or understood. In a country where sexuality is a taboo, the vocabulary to communicate around sexuality and sexual abuse is non-existent. Caregivers often do not have the knowledge or comfort to support children either by being watchful or by talking to them and hand-holding them in the case of abuse. In such a context, the onus is on the education system to provide children with the essential life skills to identify unsafe touches and situations and seek help. However, the education system makes little effort to address it.

Understanding Child Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a form of child abuse. CSA happens when a person uses a child for his/her sexual gratification. It is mostly committed by someone who is in a position of power and/or authority, and sometimes, even in a position of trust. The very nature of abuse implies a relationship, and thus it is much easier for such a person to take advantage of the child's helplessness and vulnerability. CSA may be physical, visual or verbal in nature. It is also a violation of the child's body as well as of the child's trust and is against the law.

Impact of Child Sexual Abuse

The impact of CSA can be diverse and numerous. Sexual abuse can impact the life of children at the physiological, psychological, and social levels and on sexual behavioral patterns.

- ◆ Physical impact can include pregnancy, tears to vaginal or anal area, sexually transmitted diseases, repeated urinary infection and psychosomatic illness.

- ◆ Psychological impact can include unusual or unexplained fear of people or places, nightmares, eating and sleeping disturbances, anxiety, hyper-vigilance, clinging behavior, indifference, frequent daydreaming, dissociation, lack of trust in self and others, regressive behaviors such as thumb sucking, soiling and bedwetting. The most profound impact can include suicide.
- ◆ Social impact can include sudden withdrawal, overly pleasing behavior, increased hostility, aggression and drastic change in academic performance.
- ◆ Sexual abuse in childhood can cause drastic and visible change in sexual conduct and mannerisms. It is also possible that the trauma of CSA may create sexual identity anxiety or confusion.

It is difficult to separate the short-term impact from the long-term impact as the former may often be the commencement of a long-term problem.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through legal provisions.

The objective of POCSO is to protect children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, pornography and to establish special courts for speedy trial of such offences.

The salient features of the Act are that it:

- ◆ Defines the child as anyone below the age of 18 both girls and boys under the age of 18 years.
- ◆ Addresses a wide range of sexual offences which include anything

from complete and partial penetration, non-penetrative sexual assault, stalking of a child, showing children pornography, using the child for pornography and exhibitionism. The law protects children from both contact and non-contact sexual abuse.

- ◆ Places the burden of proof on the accused and ensures punishment for all perpetrators irrespective of age and gender.
- ◆ Does not recognize consensual sexual acts among children or between a child and an adult.
- ◆ Introduces child friendly measures and defines the role of the police as a child protector.
- ◆ Pronounces the importance of mandatory reporting of sexual offences.

Above all, the Act stipulates that a case of CSA must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.

The POCSO (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Bill will amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Key Amendments

Penetrative Sexual Assault:

The Bill increases the minimum punishment from seven years to ten years. It further adds that if a person commits penetrative sexual assault on a child below the age of 16 years, he will be punishable with imprisonment between 20 years to life, with a fine.

Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault:

The Act defines certain actions as "aggravated penetrative sexual assault". The Bill adds two more grounds to the definition of aggravated penetrative sexual assault. These include: (i) assault resulting in death of child, and (ii) assault committed during a natural calamity, or in any similar

situations of violence. Currently, the punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault is imprisonment between 10 years to life, and a fine. The Bill increases the minimum punishment from ten years to 20 years, and the maximum punishment to death penalty.

Aggravated Sexual Assault: “Aggravated sexual assault” includes cases where the offender is a relative of the child, or if the assault injures the sexual organs of the child, among others. The Bill adds two more offences to the definition of aggravated sexual assault. These include: (i) assault committed during a natural calamity, and (ii) administering or help in administering any hormone or any chemical substance, to a child for the purpose of attaining early sexual maturity.

Pornographic Purposes: Under the Act, a person is guilty of using a child for pornographic purposes if he uses a child in any form of media for the purpose of sexual gratification. The Act also penalises persons who use children for pornographic purposes resulting in sexual assault. The Bill defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child including photograph, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child.

Storage of Pornographic Material: The Act penalises storage of pornographic material for commercial purposes with a punishment of up to three years, or a fine, or both. In addition, the Bill adds two other offences for storage of pornographic material involving children. These include: (i) failing to destroy, or delete, or report pornographic material involving a child, and (ii) transmitting, displaying, distributing such material except for the purpose of reporting it.

Juvenile Justice Act

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 7 May 2015 and received Presidential assent on 31 December 2015. It replaced the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. It provides strengthened provisions for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law. Some of the key provisions include :

- Change in nomenclature from ‘juvenile’ to ‘child’ or ‘child in conflict with law’ across the Act to remove the negative connotation associated with the word ‘juvenile’.
- Clarity in powers, function and responsibilities of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
- A separate new chapter has been added on Adoption to streamline the adoption of orphans, abandoned and surrendered children; and the existing Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been given the status of a statutory body.
- Inclusion of new offences committed against children and mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions.
- Under Section 15, special provisions have been made to tackle child offenders committing heinous offences in the age group of 16-18 years. The Juvenile Justice Board is given the option to transfer cases of heinous offences by such children to a Children’s Court (Court of Session) after conducting a preliminary assessment.
- Several new offences committed against children, which are not adequately covered under any other law, are included in the Act. These include sale and procurement of children for any purpose, including illegal adoption; corporal punishment in child care institutions; use of a child by militant groups; offences against disabled children; and kidnapping and abduction of children.

Poor Implementation of POCSO Act

The convictions for child sexual assault have steadily declined in the last 10 years despite the enactment of the POCSO Act, which provides for child-friendly procedures. From a conviction rate of 32.6% in 2006 for child sexual assault, it is down to 28.2% in 2016 – while the pendency has climbed from 81.3% in 2006 to 89.6% in 2016.

On July 12, 2019, the Supreme Court has taken suo-motu cognizance of the high pendency of POCSO cases,

as data revealed that, “from January 1st to June 30th of this year, 24,212 FIRs had been filed across India. Out of over 24,000 cases, 11,981 are still being investigated, while police have filed charge sheets in 12,231 cases. Trials commenced in 6,449 cases only, it said, adding that they are yet to commence in 4,871 cases. Till now, trial courts have decided only 911 cases, about 4 percent of the total cases registered.”

Other Issues and Challenges

- ◆ Absence of exclusive ‘Special’ Courts and Special Public Prosecutors.
- ◆ **Procedural Lapses:** Children are often exposed to the accused, and aggressive questioning of survivors persists, resulting in survivors frequently turning hostile, more so in the absence of any witness protection systems.
- ◆ **Lapses in the Investigation:** Failure on the part of the police to collect relevant evidence, take statements of relevant witnesses, or collect forensic samples correctly are some of the major lapses that affect convictions.
- ◆ **Absence of Victim Protection and Support:** A survey of 100 survivors of sexual assault by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights revealed that one in three children who faced sexual abuse dropped out of school. Further, only 15% of the survivors received compensation. The introduction of the death penalty for child sexual assault shifts attention away from the poor state of the implementation of the POCSO Act.

Way Forward

Child sexual abuse is a very serious matter. A society where the most vulnerable and innocent are regularly and dreadfully abused is indicative of a sombre situation that undoubtedly

demands urgent intervention. This can be achieved by ensuring that children are protected and supported when they courageously report sexual offences, when child-friendly procedures are followed meticulously and investigation and prosecutions are strengthened. Further steps like Establishment of exclusive Special Courts and investment in infrastructure,

people and training, implementation of a robust victim and witness protection program are necessary for will providing the much-needed framework for ensuring support and protection to child survivors of sexual offences, enabling both higher conviction rates and greater levels of healing and rehabilitation of child survivors.

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.

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5. INDIA AND BANGLADESH : AN 'ORGANIC' TIE

Why in News?

During her official visit to China, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has described its ties with India and engagements with New Delhi as 'organic' and 'beyond a few billions of dollars of trade'.

Introduction

Recently, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina concluded her first official visit to China after she formed the government for the third consecutive term in January this year. Bangladesh being a strategic partner of China, PM Hasina's visit attracted global attention.

The immediate outcome of the visit was the signing of nine bilateral agreements in the areas including aid for the Rohingyas, economic and technical cooperation, investment, power, culture and tourism. This strategic relationship, however, is not very sudden as its inception was in 2016. But this time, Sheikh Hasina has received a special diplomatic status in China. In consonance with that, different questions have also arisen in India at different diplomatic levels, along with a few news items from Dhaka.

According to them, Bangladesh is trying to overcome the dependency on India. In other words, India's overbearing attitude to Bangladesh

may reduce after Hasina's visit to China. These are some views that have concerned India about the visit.

India - Bangladesh Relations: Overview

India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971. India - Bangladesh relationship is anchored in history, culture, language and shared values of secularism, democracy and countless other commonalities between the two countries. Both countries share an all-encompassing win-win partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust and understanding that goes far beyond a strategic partnership.

During the last decade of Ms. Hasina's tenure as Prime Minister, high-level Bangladesh-India engagement has intensified. There is an irrevocable and irreversible bipartisan political consensus in India for upgrading relations across a comprehensive interface of ties. India's 'neighbourhood policy' has focussed on Bangladesh, which has emerged as a key interlocutor in India's 'Act East Policy' and sub-regional groupings like Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative. In Bangladesh

too, a growing domestic political consensus, overriding fractious politics, has emerged in favour of close ties with India.

Key Pillars of the Relationship

Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia with an annual turnover of around \$9 billion plus an estimated informal trade of around \$8-9 billion, across the 4,100-km-long porous border. Cooperation in connectivity, energy, security and intelligence matters has intensified. The 'Padma Multipurpose Bridge' and the 'Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link' will dramatically change connectivity within Bangladesh and with India. Waterways are also being revived to reduce the cost of trade.

Improvement in bilateral ties has led to newer areas of cooperation such as cyberspace. Bangladesh has provided cyber connectivity between the international gateways at Cox's Bazar to Agartala for faster internet connectivity in India's North-Eastern States.

India has also become a partner in Bangladesh's nuclear power programme, with the beginning of construction at the Rooppur nuclear power plant. India is poised to export around 1100 MW of power to meet the energy deficit in Bangladesh. Power

projects totalling more than 3600 MW are under implementation by Indian companies.

The adverse balance of trade has been a bilateral issue. The asymmetry in the economies of India and Bangladesh is the major factor. To enable more Bangladeshi exports to flow into India, duty free entry was granted in 2011 under the South Asian Free Trade Area. This has led to an increase in exports from Bangladesh from around \$350 million to the current level of around \$900 million.

A special economic zone (SEZ) in Bangladesh for Indian manufacturing companies has been mooted and notified. When operational it will encourage Indian companies to manufacture there and export to India. Indian investment in Bangladesh has reached \$3 billion. In 2017, 13 agreements worth around \$10 billion were signed in the power and energy sectors.

To offset the economic asymmetry, India has granted Bangladesh generous lines of credit (LOCs) and grants, with commitments reaching \$8 billion. While LOCs mainly cover infrastructure and connectivity projects, grants flow into social sector development.

Capacity building under the 'Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme' is an important strand in bilateral ties and people-to-people interaction. Bangladeshis are among the largest groups of tourists into India. The visa regime has been liberalised and over a million visas are issued to Bangladeshi citizens annually.

India-China Rivalry

As the strategic rivalry between India and China intensifies, Bangladesh increasingly finds itself embroiled in a great game along the Indian Ocean region. China's foray into South Asia, generally considered to be India's diplomatic backyard, is relatively

new. Apart from long-lasting ties with Pakistan, China's economic engagement with South Asian countries only began in the last two decades. In this short period of time, China has emerged as a top trade partner in the region.

In this short period of time, China has emerged as a top trade partner for Bangladesh. In 2015, China became Bangladesh's top trading partner, knocking India out of the position it had held for 40 years. Imports from China represent 34 percent of Bangladesh's total. In 2016, as a member of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Bangladesh has seen an influx of Chinese investment in recent times. Beijing's support of Bangladesh was evident in the 27 agreements for investments and loans signed by the two countries – worth some \$24 billion. Along with an earlier \$13.6 billion investment in joint ventures, those deals brought Chinese investment in Bangladesh to a total of \$38 billion, the largest sum ever pledged to Bangladesh by a single country.

This large amount of Chinese investment in India's most trusted, friendly neighbor made New Delhi feel it was falling behind. Therefore, in response, India announced \$5 billion in loans for Bangladesh in 2017, which is the largest amount ever invested by India in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and India-China Rivalry

Bangladesh's importance in the strategic calculations of India and China stems not only from its pivotal geographical location on the Indian Ocean. Bangladesh is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region and growing at above 6 percent steadily for almost for a decade. This year the country has fulfilled the eligibility criteria set by the United Nations to be recognized as a developing country, moving out of the list of LDC (Least

Developed Countries). Development — both physical (large-scale infrastructure and military capabilities) and social (human resources and services) — is likely to remain a central national priority for Bangladesh in the coming decades.

In Bangladeshi geopolitics, India has always been at the center while the United States has had leverage. Other regional powers such as China used to be on the periphery. Historically Bangladesh has more cultural and societal links with India. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are collectively known as a subcontinent. However, India's hegemonic posture and coercive tactics created deep resentment among ordinary Bangladeshis, especially when contrasted with China's model of non-interference in domestic affairs coupled with lavish spending.

China has become Bangladesh's top source for arms imports; and Dhaka likewise is China's second-largest arms export destination in the world, behind Pakistan. Bangladesh accounts for 20 percent of all Chinese arms sales. Most recently, in 2017 the Bangladesh Navy took delivery of two Chinese submarines at a minimum price. This agreement made India uncomfortable; thus New Delhi expressed interest in offering submarine training for the Bangladesh Navy.

Again, while China and India seek to expand their influence in the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh is using both to make necessary improvements to its military.

If the China-India strategic rivalry intensifies, both countries will double down on their approach to bringing strategically located Bangladesh into their own orbit. China, along with increasing investment, may also open its economy to billions of dollars in imports from Bangladesh, which will help the country to diversify its exports to a new destination beyond North

America and Europe. On the Indian side, India may ramp up the diplomatic and cultural ties with Bangladesh. India and China will do their best to edge each other out in their competition for dominance in the Bay of Bengal and will try to squeeze an economically weak Bangladesh.

Challenges for India

Rohingya issue can be a setback in India-Bangladesh ties. It has imposed a huge economic and security burden on Bangladesh. Bilaterally, the issue of the illegal migration has already acquired a high profile in India with the publication of the draft National Register of Citizens in Assam. On the other hand repatriation of Rohingya refugees is a major foreign policy challenge for PM Hasina. Rohingyas have been residing in Bangladesh since August 2017 after they fled to escape persecution in their home in Rakhine in Myanmar. Efforts by the international community barely yielded any outcomes. Popular feeling in Bangladesh is China by dint of its warm relationship with Myanmar can help to resolve the Rohingya crisis. This will require deft handling of bilateral ties. Sharing of river waters will remain a challenge, but not an insurmountable

one. China's security and economic footprint has grown in South Asia and managing this will remain a challenge for both countries. While Bangladesh is overwhelmingly dependent on military hardware from China, India also provided loan for procurement of defence-related goods from India. This momentum must be maintained and intensified.

Way Forward

Nowadays, the world is polycentric. Everyone should maintain a close relationship with each other. In order to keep the relationship between the two countries intact, the relationship needs to be looked at so that it is not taken for granted. In this modern era of globalisation, no state can stick with 'walk alone' principle.

As far as Bangladesh is concerned, there is a large section in Bangladesh supporting stronger ties with China to counterbalance India. For China, developing a relationship gives it a presence in a major country in South Asia, which is India's backyard. Bangladesh could work as a bridge to access the Indian markets for its products.

Again, Bangladesh' strategic location, especially, close proximity to Siliguri Corridor, a narrow strip of land connecting India's Northeast region to the rest of the country also motivating factors. Indian security analysts suggested that China might leverage its relationship with Bangladesh to watch India closely in the event major hostilities breakout between China and India over their disputed border. Although analysts in Bangladesh observed such assumptions are farfetched, as a fast-growing economy, Bangladesh needs each of our friends for diverse purposes not certainly at the expenses of another, so that the country wants to maintain good relations with both India and China. Recently, Prime Minister of Bangladesh has described Dhaka's ties with India and engagements with New Delhi as 'organic' and 'beyond a few billions of dollars of trade'.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood-relations.

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6. THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019 : AN UNDERSTANDING

Why in News?

The Parliament of India has passed Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It amended the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act, 2005) to empower the Central government to determine the term, salaries and other terms given in section 13 and 16 of RTI Act, 2005.

Introduction

In recent years, there has been an almost unstoppable global

trend towards recognition of the right to information by countries, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the people. The right to information has been recognized as a fundamental human right, which upholds the inherent dignity of all human beings. The right to information forms the crucial underpinning of participatory democracy - it is essential to ensure accountability and good governance. The greater the access of the citizen to information, the greater the responsiveness of government to

community needs. Alternatively, the more restrictions that are placed on access, the greater will be the feelings of 'powerlessness' and 'alienation'. Without information, people cannot adequately exercise their rights as citizens or make informed choices. However, the free flow of information in India remains severely restricted by three factors:

- ◆ The legislative framework includes several pieces of restrictive legislation, such as the Official Secrets Act, 1923;

- ◆ The pervasive culture of secrecy and arrogance within the bureaucracy; and
- ◆ The low levels of literacy and rights awareness amongst India's people.

Right To Information is derived from our fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it. Democracy revolves around the basic idea of Citizens being at the center of governance. And the freedom of the press is an essential element for a democracy to function. It is thus obvious that the main reason for a free press is to ensure that Citizens are informed. Thus it clearly flows from this, that the Citizens Right To Know is paramount.

History of The Right to Information Act

India has taken 82 years to transition from an opaque system of governance, legitimized by the colonial Official Secrets Act, to one where citizens can demand the right to information. The enactment of the Right to Information Act, 2005 marks a significant shift for Indian democracy, for the greater the access of citizens to information, the greater will be the responsiveness of government to community needs. The journey of the Right To Information from a "Bill" to an "Act" may be divided into three phases.

PHASE 1-1975 to 1996- There were infrequent, irregular demands to public and private authorities for information, from various constituent social groups, coming to a crescendo in more focused ones in the mid-1980s. Grassroots movements in rural Rajasthan in the early 1990s were a major push. The National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI) was formed in 1996, and that culminated this phase. Various judicial orders in support of transparency were seen during this period.

PHASE 2-1996 to 2005- This phase is marked by the formulation of a draft RTI bill, spearheaded by the NCPRI. The subsequent processing by the government and the Parliament of the same is too, a bit of it. Rapid growth in size and influence of the RTI movement in India was seen, and as the National RTI Act was passed in 2005, this phase came to a close. This is also the period that sees a large number of countries across the world enact transparency laws.

PHASE 3-2005 to (Present)- If we guide our focus on the time from the end of 2005 to the present, we will see that the consolidation of the act and on pushing for proper implementation has been taken up as the new challenge. Part of the effort has also been to afford protection to the RTI Act from any attempt to weaken it by those in power and being called "public" authorities. To push the boundaries of the RTI regime and make it deeper and wider in coverage, participation, and impact is a matter gaining rapid importance.

Right to Information: An Introduction

The Right to Information Act and its rules define a format for requisitioning information, a time period within which information must be provided, a method of giving the information, some charges for applying and some exemptions of information which will not be given. The right to information is defined-

- ◆ As a right to information accessible under the Act which is held by or under the control of any Public Authority and includes a right to
 - ◆ Inspection of work, documents, records,
 - ◆ Taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records,
 - ◆ Taking separate samples of material,
 - ◆ Obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in

Provision	RTI Act, 2005	RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019
Term	The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years.	The Bill removes this provision and states that the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.
Quantum of Salary	The salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.	The Bill removes these provisions and states that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.
Deductions in Salary	The Act states that at the time of the appointment of the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level), if they are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to the pension. Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.	The Bill removes these provisions.

any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device.

Under the RTI Act, 2005, Public Authorities are required to make disclosures on various aspects of their structure and functioning. This includes:

- ◆ disclosure on their organisation, functions, and structure;
- ◆ powers and duties of its officers and employees; and
- ◆ Financial information.

The intent of such suo moto disclosures is that the public should need minimum recourse through the Act to obtain such information. If such information is not made available, citizens have the right to request for it from the Authorities. This may include information in the form of documents, files, or electronic records under the control of the Public Authority. The intent behind the enactment of the Act is to promote transparency and accountability in the working of Public Authorities.

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Parliament had passed the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019. In this amendment, it is proposed to amend the RTI Act, 2005 so as to provide that the term of office of, and the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of, the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) and the State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) and the State Information Commissioners (SICs), shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central government.

Tenure: The amended Bill does away with the fixed tenure of five years for the CIC and the IC - instead, they will serve for a tenure determined by the Central government.

Salary: The salary of the CIC and the ICs which are currently benchmarked with the salary of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (EC)s respectively. The amended bill gives the government to fix the salary, which could be lower — given that the Information Commission is a statutory body unlike the EC which is a constitutional body. However, the current incumbents' salaries will not be affected by the amendment.

Appointments & Dismissals: Currently, the CIC and the IC are chosen by a three member panel of the Prime Minister (PM), the Leader of Opposition or leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha and a Cabinet minister nominated by the PM. Similarly, the SCIC and SIC are chosen by a three member panel comprising the state Chief Minister (CM), the state's leader of opposition or leader of the largest opposition party in the state assembly and a state cabinet minister nominated the chief minister. The amended bill arrogates the power of appointment and the term as well as the salary of SCIC and SICs to the Central government — which nullifies the independence of the state legislatures.

If the tenure of the CIC, IC, SCIC and SIC are to be fixed by the Centre, it may follow that their removal from office may also be dependent on the Centre — whereas in the original bill, the CIC and IC may be removed only by the President — and the state Governor in case of SCIC and SIC — after an enquiry by the Supreme Court finds reason for their dismissal from office.

Argument against the Amendment

As per the present RTI Act, the salary and allowances of the CIC and IC are the same as that of the CEC and ECs respectively, which are fixed as per provisions of the Constitution. The RTI Act has consciously given ICs status and privileges equal to EC in order to ensure

that they function independently and autonomously.

Several persons, including former Information Commissioners, have spoken against the Bill. Altering the salary structure and tenure of the ICs will weaken their authority and make them subservient to the political executive.

If government can change conditions anytime, the ICs will feel that there is a sword hanging over them, which strikes at the root of their independence. The timing of the amendments is not innocent or innocuous.

Even the CIC and the ICs will serve at the pleasure of the government — raising the possibility that they would be more interested in ensuring the longevity of their tenures rather than serving the citizens' interests.

Current rules stipulate that no CIC, IC, SCIC or SIC serve more than one term, for a maximum period of 5 years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier. The new bill gives the government the power to fix tenures, it's not clear whether an incumbent seen as pliable or 'friendly' to the Centre may get to serve more than one term.

Argument in-favour of Amendment

- ◆ As the reason for the amendment, the Bill states, "the mandate of ECI and Central and state Information Commissions are different. Hence, their status and service conditions need to be rationalised accordingly".
- ◆ Information Commission was a statutory body and it was an anomaly to equate it to a constitutional body like ECI. Making ICs equal to the status of ECs means that they are at par with Supreme Court judges. However, the orders of ICs can be challenged in High Court. Therefore, there is an apparent anomaly in the status

of ICs, which needs to be rectified, explained the Minister.

Besides the RTI Act did not give the government rulemaking powers. Hence this amendment is merely correcting these things.

Way Forward

In India, the RTI Act is regarded as one of the most successful laws of independent India. It has given ordinary citizens the confidence and the right to ask questions of government authorities. According to estimates, nearly 60 lakh applications are being filed every year. It is used by citizens as well as the media. The law

is seen as having acted as a deterrent for government servants against taking arbitrary decisions.

It also has the potential to deepen democracy and transform it from a representative to a participatory one, where governments, and their functionaries at all levels, are directly answerable to the people for their actions and inaction. However, if this potential has to be actualized, a much more concerted push has to be given to strengthen the RTI regime in the next few years.

Therefore, any amendment should maintain the essence of the present RTI Act. Further, it should be ensured that

the commission and its functionaries perform their duties independently and with complete autonomy.

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.



7. THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019 : AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

The Parliament of India has passed the 'National Investigation (NIA) (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It will amend the existing NIA Act, 2008.

Introduction

Over the past several years, India has been the victim of large scale terrorism sponsored from across the borders. There have been innumerable incidents of terrorist attacks, not only in the militancy and insurgency affected areas and areas affected by Left Wing Extremism, but also in the form of terrorist attacks and bomb blasts, etc., in various parts of the hinterland and major cities, etc.

A large number of such incidents are found to have complex inter-State and international linkages, and possible connection with other activities like the smuggling of arms and drugs, pushing in and circulation of fake Indian currency, infiltration from across the borders, etc. keeping all these in view, several experts and committees, including the Administrative Reforms Commission in its report, had made

recommendations for establishing such an Agency. The government after due consideration and examination of the issues involved, proposed to enact a legislation to make provisions for establishment of a National Investigation Agency in a concurrent jurisdiction framework, with provisions for taking up specific cases under specific Acts for investigation.

Accordingly the NIA Act was enacted in 2008 and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) was born. At present NIA is functioning as the central counter terrorism law enforcement agency in India. It was set up to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations. It empowers the Central Government to set up special courts for the trials of scheduled offences listed under the Act.

The National Investigation Agency

The National Investigation Agency aims to be a thoroughly professional investigative agency matching the best international standards. The NIA aims to set the standards of excellence in counter terrorism and other national security related investigations at the national level by developing into a highly trained, partnership oriented workforce. NIA aims at creating deterrence for existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals. It aims to develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information.

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019

There are three major amendments to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act of 2008.

Scheduled Offences: The first change is the type of offences that the NIA can investigate and prosecute. The schedule to the Act specifies a list of offences which are to be investigated and prosecuted by the NIA. These include offences under Acts such as the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.

The Bill seeks to allow the NIA to investigate the following offences, in addition: human trafficking, offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

Jurisdiction of the NIA: The second change pertains to NIA's jurisdiction. The Act provides for the creation of the NIA to investigate and prosecute offences specified in the schedule. The officers of the NIA have the same powers as other police officers in relation to investigation of such offences, across India.

The Bill states that in addition, officers of the NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries. The Central government may direct the NIA to investigate such cases, as if the offence has been committed in India. The Special Court in New Delhi will have jurisdiction over these cases.

The Act allows the central government to constitute Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences. The Bill amends this to state that the central government may designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences. The central government is required to consult the Chief Justice of the High Court under which the Sessions Court is functioning, before designating it as a Special Court. When more than one Special Court has been designated for any area, the senior-most judge will distribute cases among the courts. Further, state governments may also designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019

Further, in Order to empower NIA government has also amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill 2019, in a move that gives a big push to India's internal security machinery.

The UAPA – an upgrade on the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act TADA, which was allowed to lapse in 1995 and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) was repealed in 2004 — was originally passed in 1967 under the then Congress government led by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 was passed by parliament. The Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.

- ♦ **Who may Commit Terrorism:** Under the Act, the Central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism, or is otherwise involved in terrorism. The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.
- ♦ **Approval for Seizure of Property by NIA:** Under the Act, an investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. The Bill adds that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the NIA, the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
- ♦ **Investigation by NIA:** Under the Act, investigation of cases may

be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above. The Bill additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.

- ♦ **Insertion to Schedule of Treaties:** The Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. The Schedule lists nine treaties, including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979). The Bill adds another treaty to the list. This is the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).

The Scope of Anti-Terror Laws

India, the world's most populous parliamentary democracy with "the most powerful court in the world" following the common law system, has a large Muslim minority with a complicated history of strife with the Hindu majority. It has experienced secessionist movements in Kashmir, the North East, and Punjab. Polarization of Hindus and Muslims has increased in recent decades with a resurgence of Hindu nationalism and its ascendance to power in the national and regional arenas. The Indian state has designed a vast panoply of anti-terror and preventive detention laws since independence.

- Preventive Detention Act, 1950
- Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958
- Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987
- Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002
- Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2004
- Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2008

Criticism

The fundamental rights are all parts of an integrated scheme and their waters must mix to constitute grand flow of impartial justice. The restriction of

law should be rational and connected to the purpose for which is necessary. Needless to say, laws which abridge fundamental rights and personal liberty of human on mere suspicion of crime are worst form of law.

There have been instances of tribals being branded as Maoists and arrested by police for the only crime of trying to protect their area from exploitation and mining. Out of 39% of population of Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST) and minorities in India, 53% of them are behind bars and most of them have been convicted under UAPA act. If a person is charged under UAPA, then even the court cannot exercise its power, to order or to direct the officer in charge of a prison to produce the detained person in court for inquiry, trial, answering to a charge or any other such proceedings.

The fortification of NIA (amendment) bill, is no more than an act of bamboozle. The atrocities committed on dalits, tribals and minorities by state machinery outweigh the atrocities committed by government on any other individual. It is appalling to note that majority of those who charged under anti-terror laws are the people belonging to SC, ST and minority communities.

According to statistics published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 922 cases were reported under UAPA in 2016, which was 5% than what was recorded in 2014, with 976 cases. At the same time, it was up by 3% from 2015 (897 cases). In total, 2,700 cases

were registered over 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Act assigns absolute power to the Central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.

The amendments to the UAPA allows the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to go to any state without taking permission from state police concerned for checking anti-terror activities.

The provision to declare an individual as terrorist is without due process and against principle of natural justice. Without following any formal judicial process, a person can be labelled terrorist, and can be thrown to the 'mob' to suffer extra-judicial punishments.

When the NIA itself is under a cloud, there is also apprehension of the agency being misused for political vendetta.

Argument in-favor of the Bill

India's police and internal security system is highly fragmented and often poorly coordinated. The country's federal political system leaves most policing responsibilities to the states, which usually possess their own counterterrorism and intelligence units.

India has zero tolerance policy against terrorism. Government is trying to allay all apprehensions on the bill and so, terrorism has to be uprooted from this country. A strict law is

utmost necessary in this regard to strengthen the investigation agencies.

The object of the proposed amendments is to facilitate speedy investigation and prosecution of terror offences

and designating an individual as terrorist in line with the international practices. The aim of the NIA is to empower a federal agency to investigate major crimes such as terrorism and organized crime without having to be asked to do so by the states. The NIA's monitoring system had been improved, with the intent of expediting investigation and judgment.

The Bill also seeks to expand the agency's jurisdiction to investigate offences committed outside India. As of now, the NIA is designated to probe cases of terrorism within the country. With the amendments, the NIA will be able to probe cases of cybercrime and human trafficking as well.

Way Forward

India is not a police state. India is a democratic republic. The determination has been written into the articles of the Constitution in the shape of fundamental rights and they are what makes India a democratic republic and what marks India from authoritarian or police States.

Apart from this, there seem to be cosmetic changes to these two Acts to bolster the image of the government and to tarnish the image of those it deems to be 'terrorists'. One can only hope that the government exercises such a power widely if, of course, the UAPA amendment is passed through parliament.

At last, these lines by Edmund Burke stand relevant in contemporary Indian times, "People crushed by laws, have no hopes but from power. If the laws are their enemies they will be enemies to the law; and those who have much to hope and nothing to lose will always be dangerous."

PROPOSED CHANGES IN NIA ACT	PROPOSED CHANGES IN UAPA
➤ Draft NIA (Amendment) Bill seeks to empower agency to carry out searches in a state without DGP's consent ➤ While it is not mandatory for NIA even now to intimate DGP before a search, it does so where a law and order situation is anticipated ➤ NIA will be empowered to probe terror acts on foreign soil if Indian nationals or interests are harmed ➤ Cyberterrorism, human trafficking being added to Schedule of the NIA Act	➤ Proposed amendment to UAPA will enable govt to declare top terrorists such as Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish head Masood Azhar, already designated as global terrorists by UN, as 'individual terrorists' ➤ Listing of an individual as 'terrorist' helps impose travel ban, restrict access to funds and other amenities ➤ Banning of individual terrorists under UAPA will add heft to India's request to other nations to designate them on similar lines

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

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SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

India's Chandrayaan 2 : Brighter Mission to Darker Site

Q 1. Chandrayaan 2 mission would solidify India's place among the fleet of explorers racing to the Moon, Mars and beyond for scientific, commercial or military gains. Discuss the benefits of this mission to India and humanity as a whole.

Hints:

- ◆ Chandrayaan 2 is an Indian lunar mission that will boldly go where no country has ever gone before the Moon's South Polar Region. Through this effort, the aim is to improve our understanding of the Moon — discoveries that will benefit India and humanity as a whole.
- ◆ These insights and experiences aim at a paradigm shift in how lunar expeditions are approached for years to come propelling further voyages into the farthest frontiers.
- ◆ Chandrayaan 2 will attempt to foster a new age of discovery, increase our understanding of space, stimulate the advancement of technology, promote global alliances, and inspire a future generation of explorers and scientists.
- ◆ This mission will also expand India's footprint in space, inspire a future generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers and surpass international aspirations.

Parliamentary Standing Committees : A Critical Tool for Scrutiny

Q 2. In the backdrop of a number of Bills having been passed without scrutiny, why are parliamentary standing committees necessary? Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ Given the volume of legislative business, discussing all Bills under the consideration of Parliament in detail on the floor of the House is impossible. Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law.

- ◆ It ensures that detailed scrutiny of government finances, legislation and working continues to take place even if Parliament sessions are disrupted. With a representation of members from across political parties, these committees also act as a consensus-building platform.
- ◆ Parliamentary committees can play a central role in oversight of the executive, through detailed examination of government policies.
- ◆ Strengthening the committee system can go a long way in improving the quality of laws drafted and minimise potential implementation challenges. The need of the hour is for greater and effective utilisation of Parliamentary Committees to strengthen Parliament as a deliberative body which can ensure effective oversight.

Anti-defection Law & Role of Speaker : An Analysis

Q 3. "The anti-defection law needs to be looked into again by the lawmakers and reformed in light of the experience of its implementation since 1985." Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ The anti-defection law as enunciated in the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India was to answer the menace of unethical political defections eating into vitals of democracy.
- ◆ Now the practice is the other way around - two-thirds of the members or more move out and then they merge with the new party. The law is made to stand on its head by the legislators.
- ◆ The Speakers started taking an active interest in political matters, helping build and break governments. The anti-defection law does not specify a timeframe for Speakers to decide on defection proceedings. When the politics demanded, Speakers were either quick to pass judgment on defection proceedings or delayed acting on them for years on end.

- ◆ Thus, there seems to be considerable scope for judicial interpretation, one that may give further clarity on the law and may bring in a wider range of cases within the umbrella of this legislation.

The POCSO (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Introduction

Q 4. Despite the high prevalence of violence against children, it is often hidden, unseen or under-reported. Discuss the reasons behind it.

Hints:

- ◆ The issue of child sexual abuse is widespread across India, impacting children of all ages, socio-economic classes and genders. Half of the country's children face some form of sexual abuse.
- ◆ Children are often exposed to the accused, and aggressive questioning of survivors persists, resulting in survivors frequently turning hostile, more so in the absence of any witness protection systems.
- ◆ Failure on the part of the police to collect relevant evidence, take statements of relevant witnesses, or collect forensic samples correctly are some of the major lapses that affect convictions.
- ◆ Child sexual abuse is a very serious matter. A society where the most vulnerable and innocent are regularly and dreadfully abused is indicative of a sombre situation that undoubtedly demands urgent intervention.

India and Bangladesh : An 'Organic' Tie

Q 5. Recently, Prime Minister of Bangladesh has described Dhaka's ties with India and engagements with New Delhi as 'organic' and 'beyond a few billions of dollars of trade'. Critically discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971. India - Bangladesh relationship is anchored in history, culture, language and shared values of secularism, democracy and countless other commonalities between the two countries.
- ◆ India's 'neighbourhood policy' has focussed on Bangladesh, which has emerged as a key interlocutor in India's 'Act East Policy' and sub-regional groupings like Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and

Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative.

- ◆ In Bangladeshi geopolitics, India has always been at the center while the United States has had leverage. Other regional powers such as China used to be on the periphery. Historically Bangladesh has more cultural and societal links with India. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are collectively known as a subcontinent. However, India's hegemonic posture and coercive tactics created deep resentment among ordinary Bangladeshis, especially when contrasted with China's model of non-interference in domestic affairs coupled with lavish spending.
- ◆ Bangladesh could work as a bridge to access the Indian markets for its products. Again, Bangladesh' strategic location, especially, close proximity to Siliguri Corridor, a narrow strip of land connecting India's Northeast region to the rest of the country also motivating factors.

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Understanding

Q 6. Critically analyse the recently amended provisions of RTI Act, 2005.

Hints:

- ◆ The Parliament had passed the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019. In this amendment, it is proposed to amend the RTI Act, 2005 so as to provide that the term of office of, and the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of, the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICS) and the State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) and the State Information Commissioners (SICs), shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central government.
- ◆ Several persons, including former Information Commissioners, have spoken against the Bill. Altering the salary structure and tenure of the ICs will weaken their authority and make them subservient to the political executive.
- ◆ If government can change conditions anytime, the ICs will feel that there is a sword hanging over them, which strikes at the root of their independence. The timing of the amendments is not innocent or innocuous.
- ◆ Besides the RTI Act did not give the government rulemaking powers. Hence this amendment is merely correcting these things.

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Overview

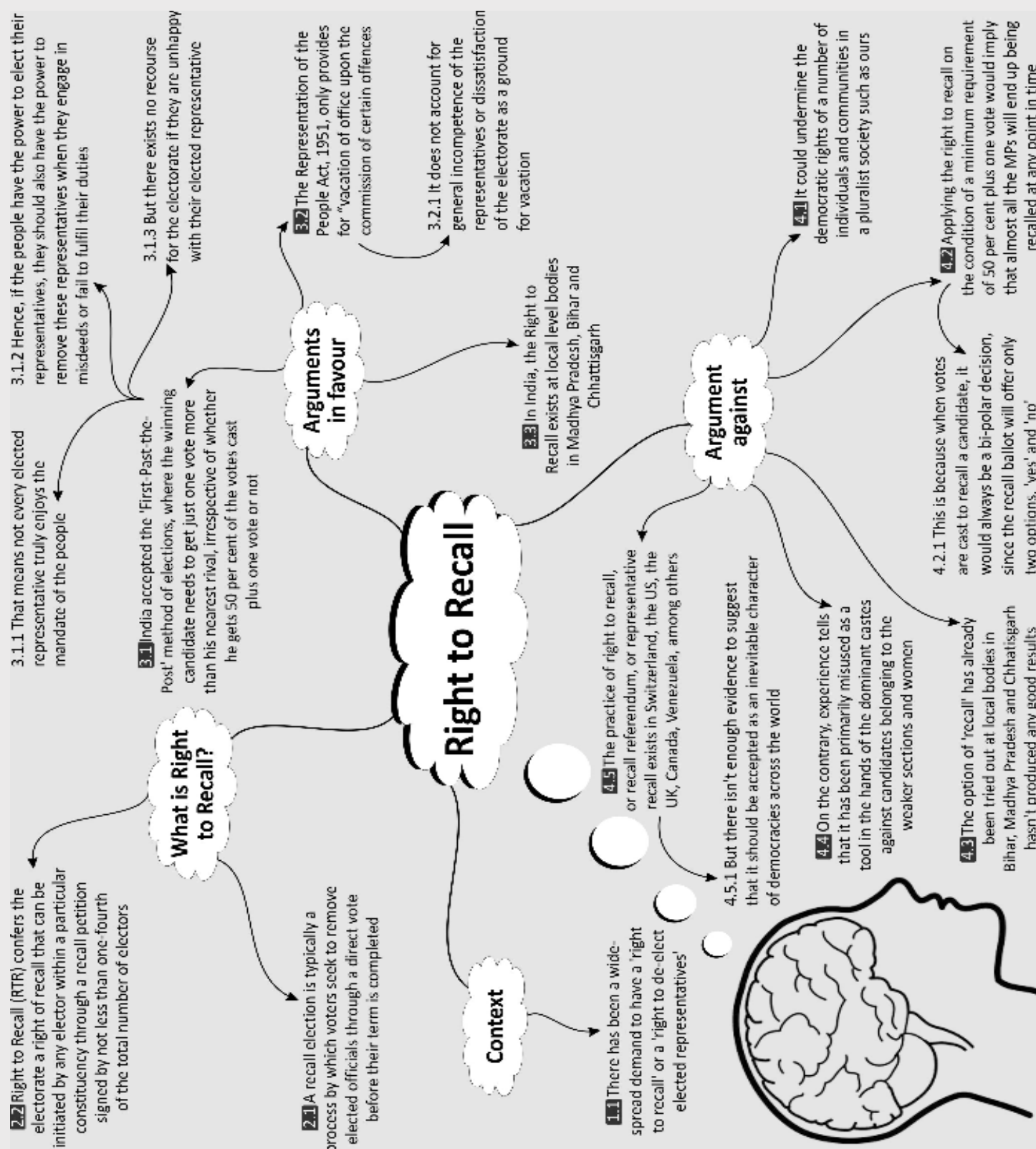
Q 7. What is the mandate of National Investigation agency. Discuss the key amendments made by the government to the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

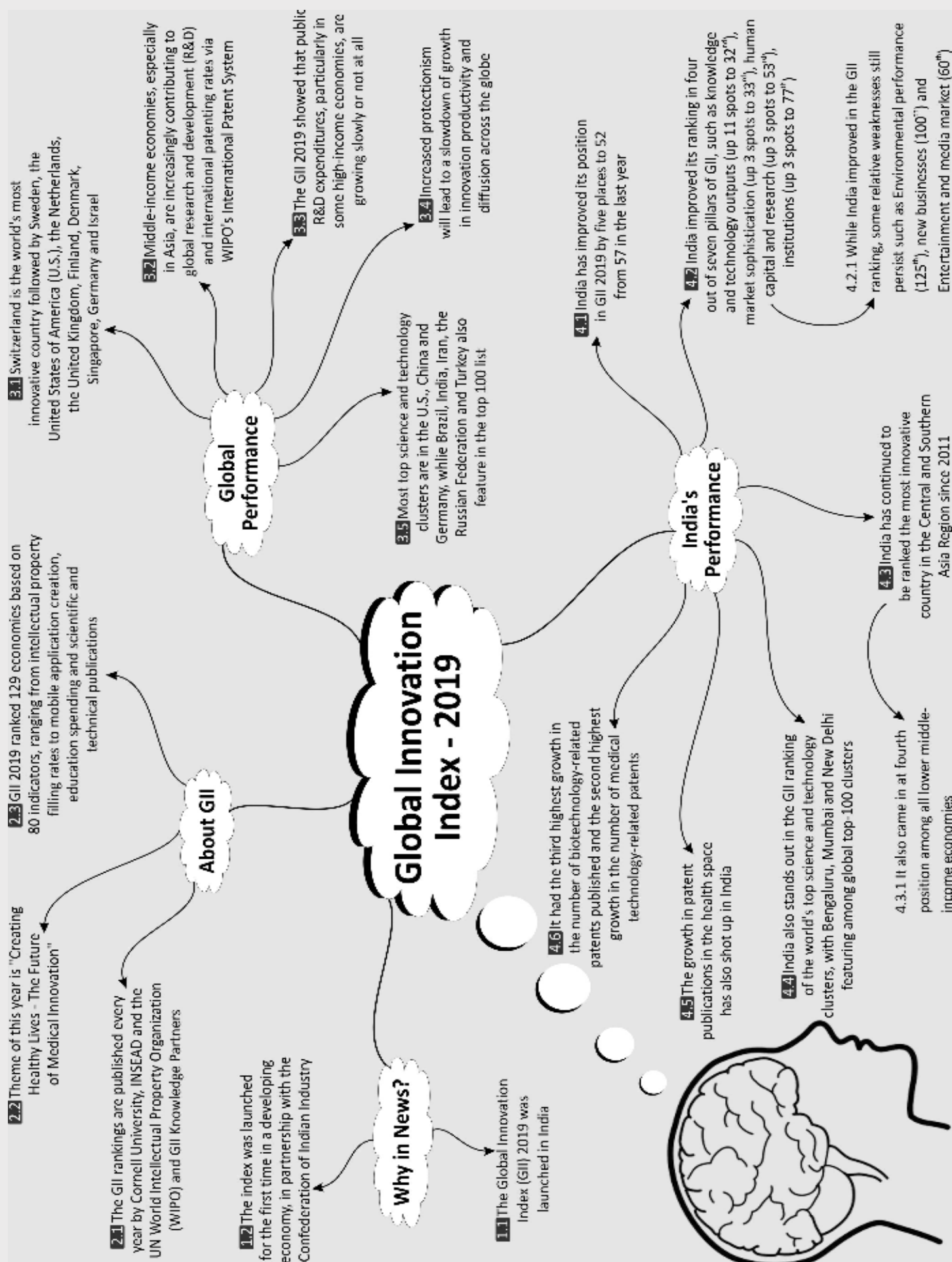
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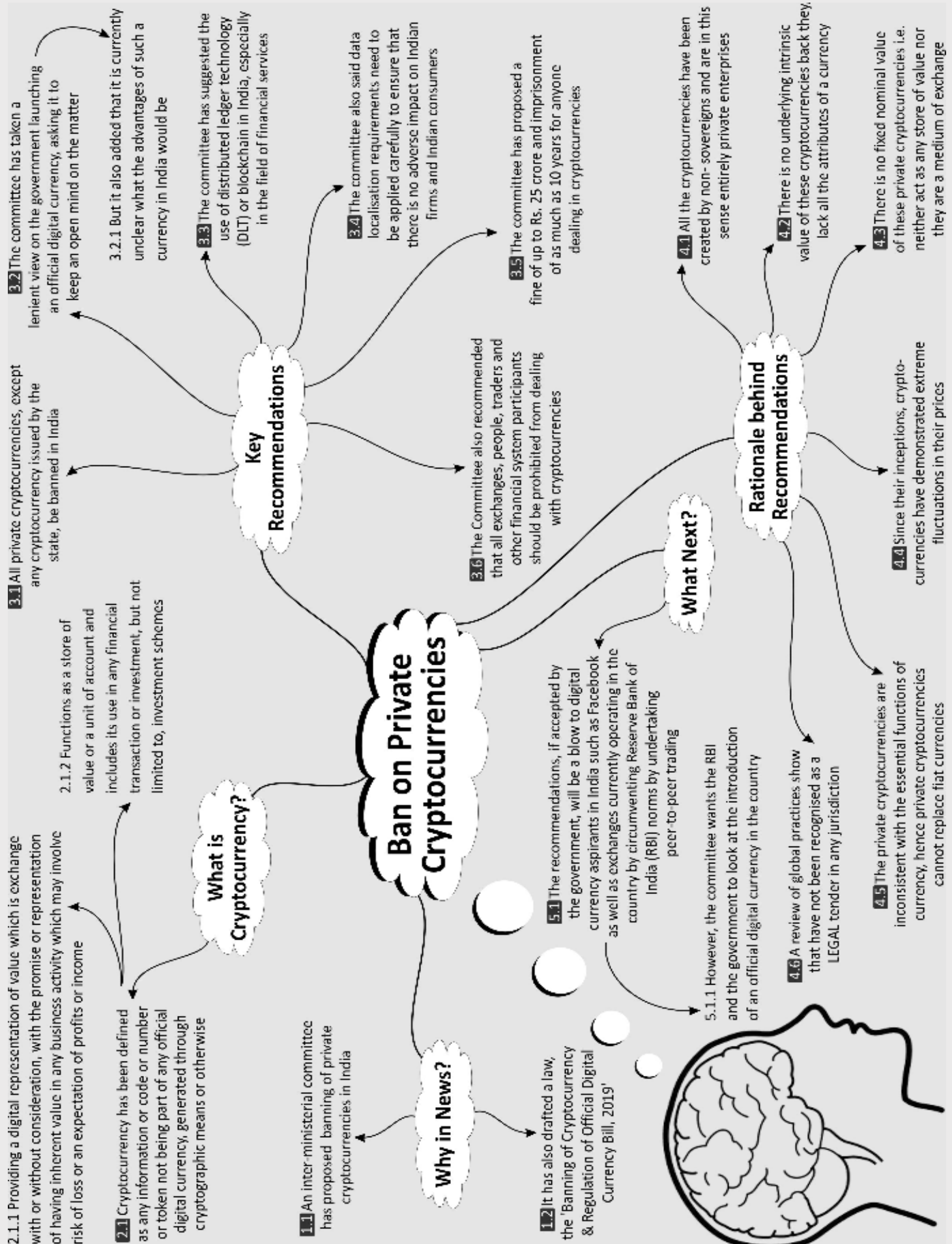
- ◆ NIA aims at creating deterrence for existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals. It aims to develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information.
- ◆ The Bill seeks to allow the NIA to investigate the following offences, in addition: human trafficking, offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.
- ◆ The Bill states that in addition, officers of the NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.
- ◆ The Act allows the central government to constitute Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences. The Bill amends this to state that the central government may designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences. The central government is required to consult the Chief Justice of the High Court under which the Sessions Court is functioning, before designating it as a Special Court. When more than one Special Court has been designated for any area, the senior-most judge will distribute cases among the courts. Further, state governments may also designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences.

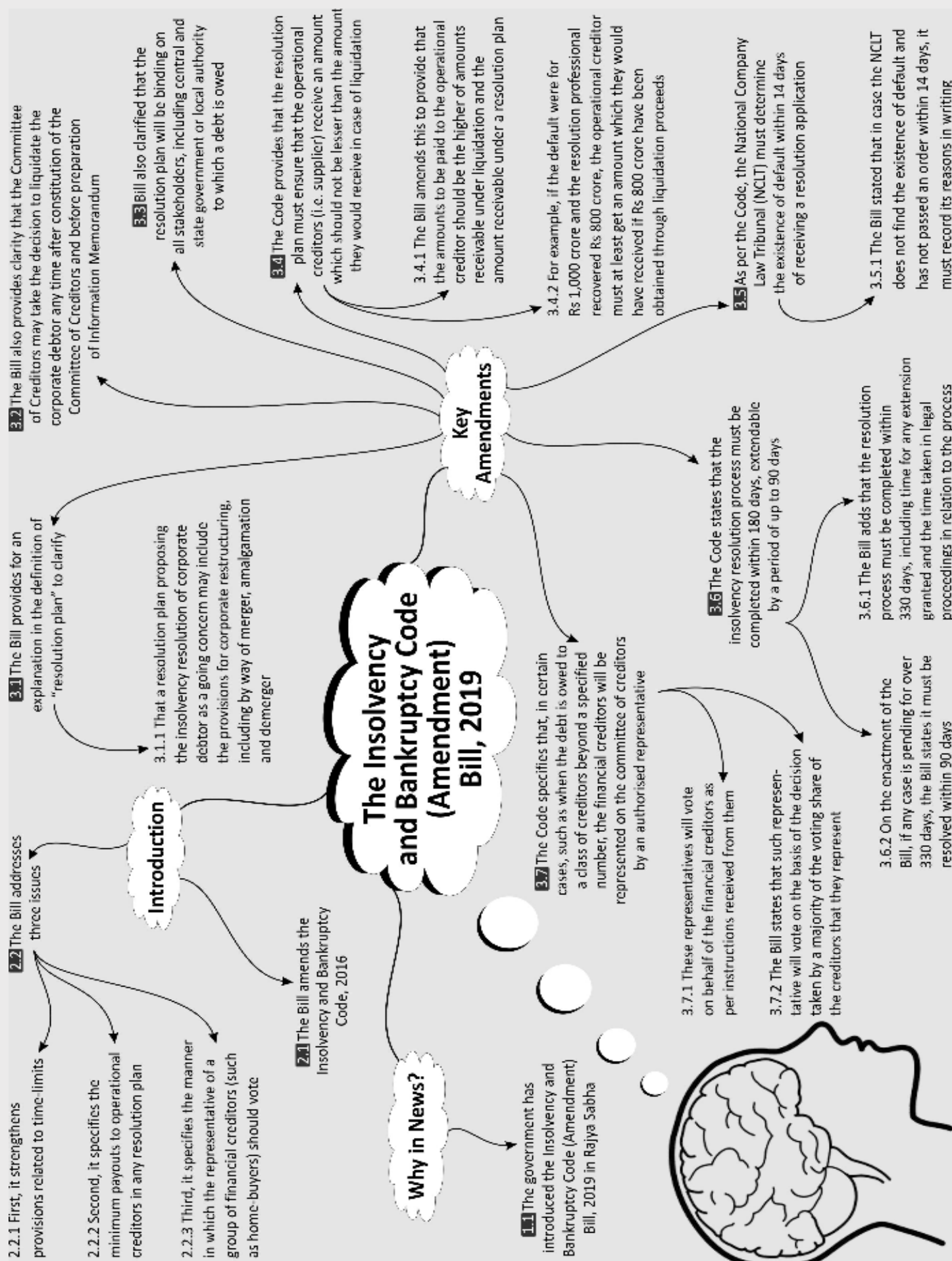


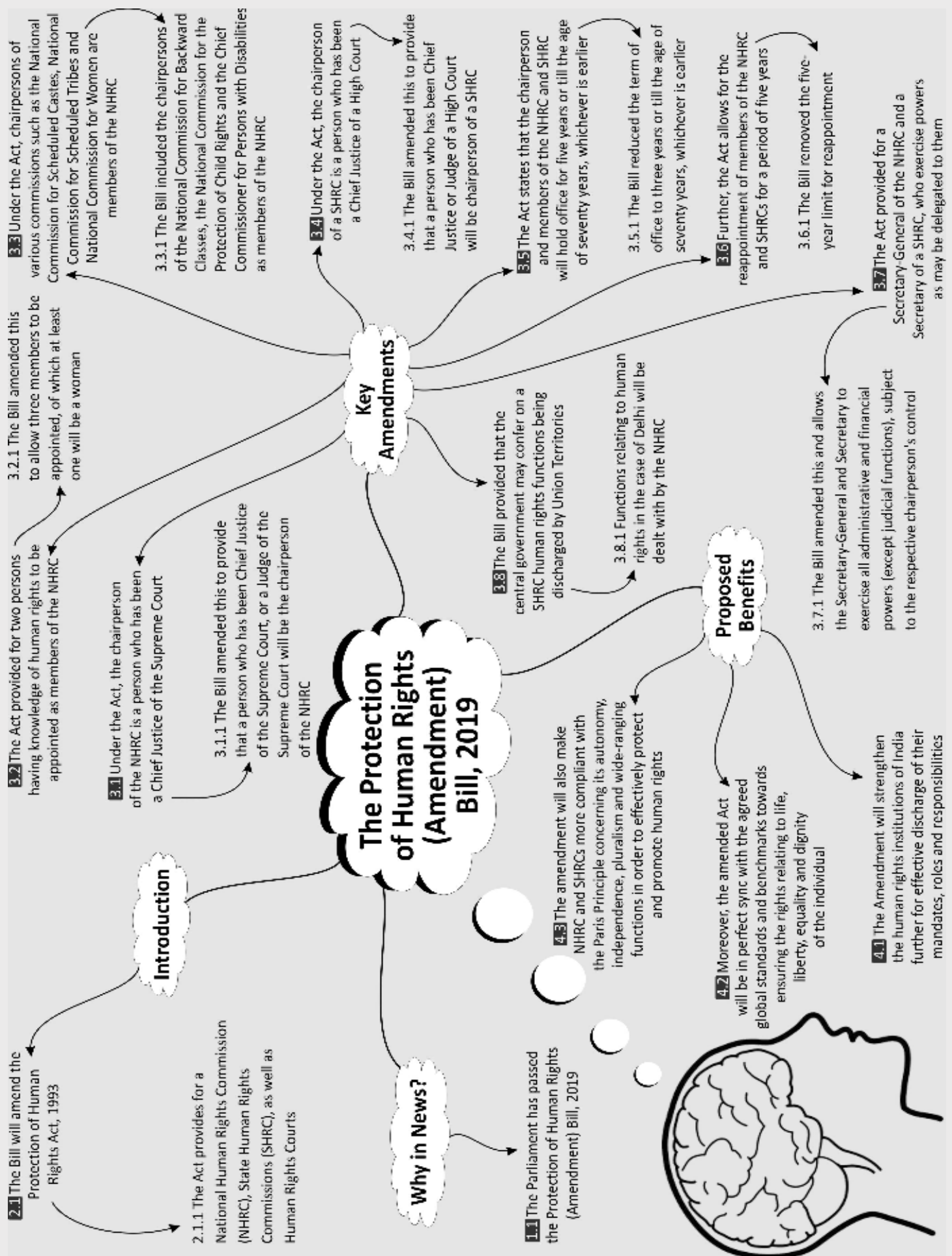
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

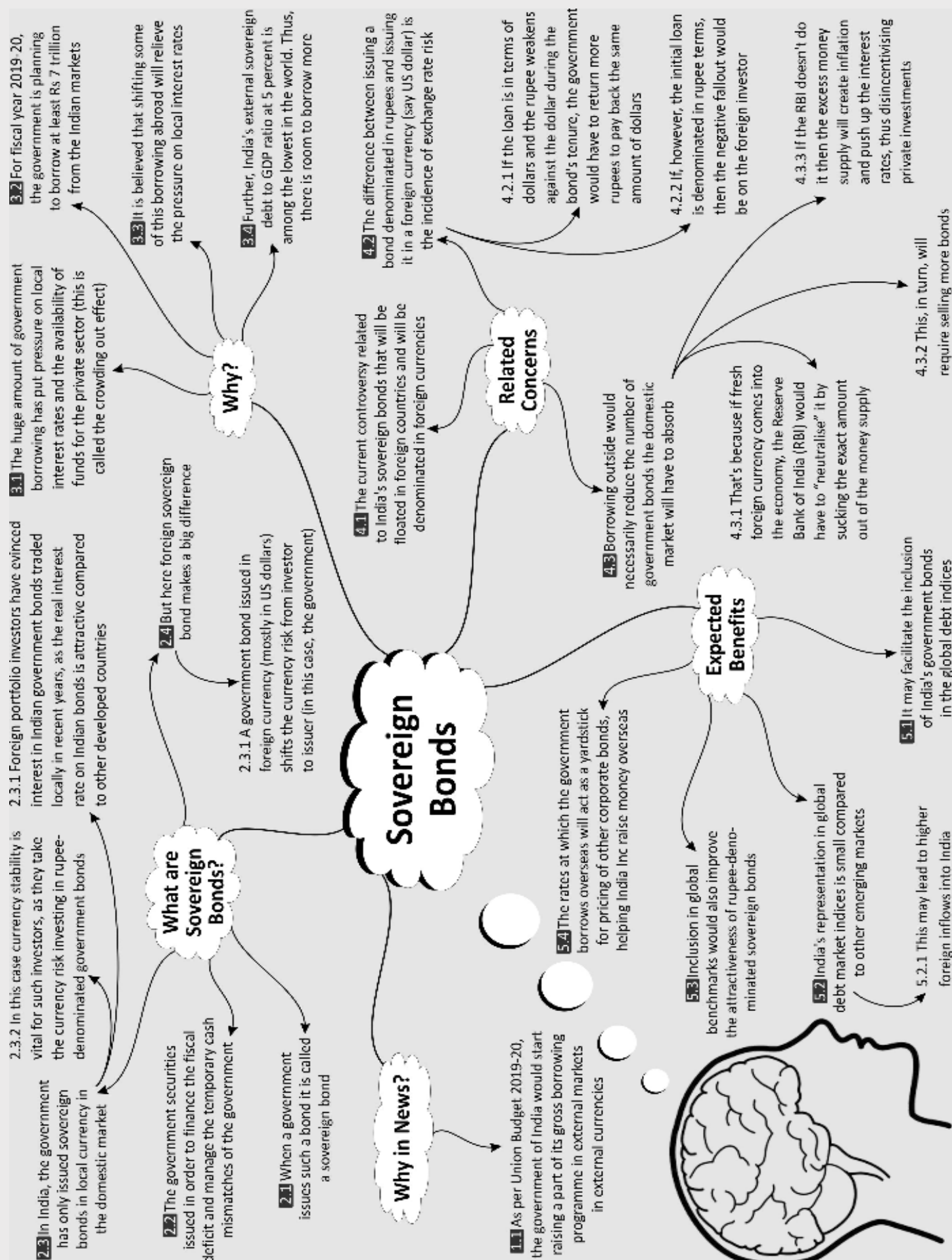


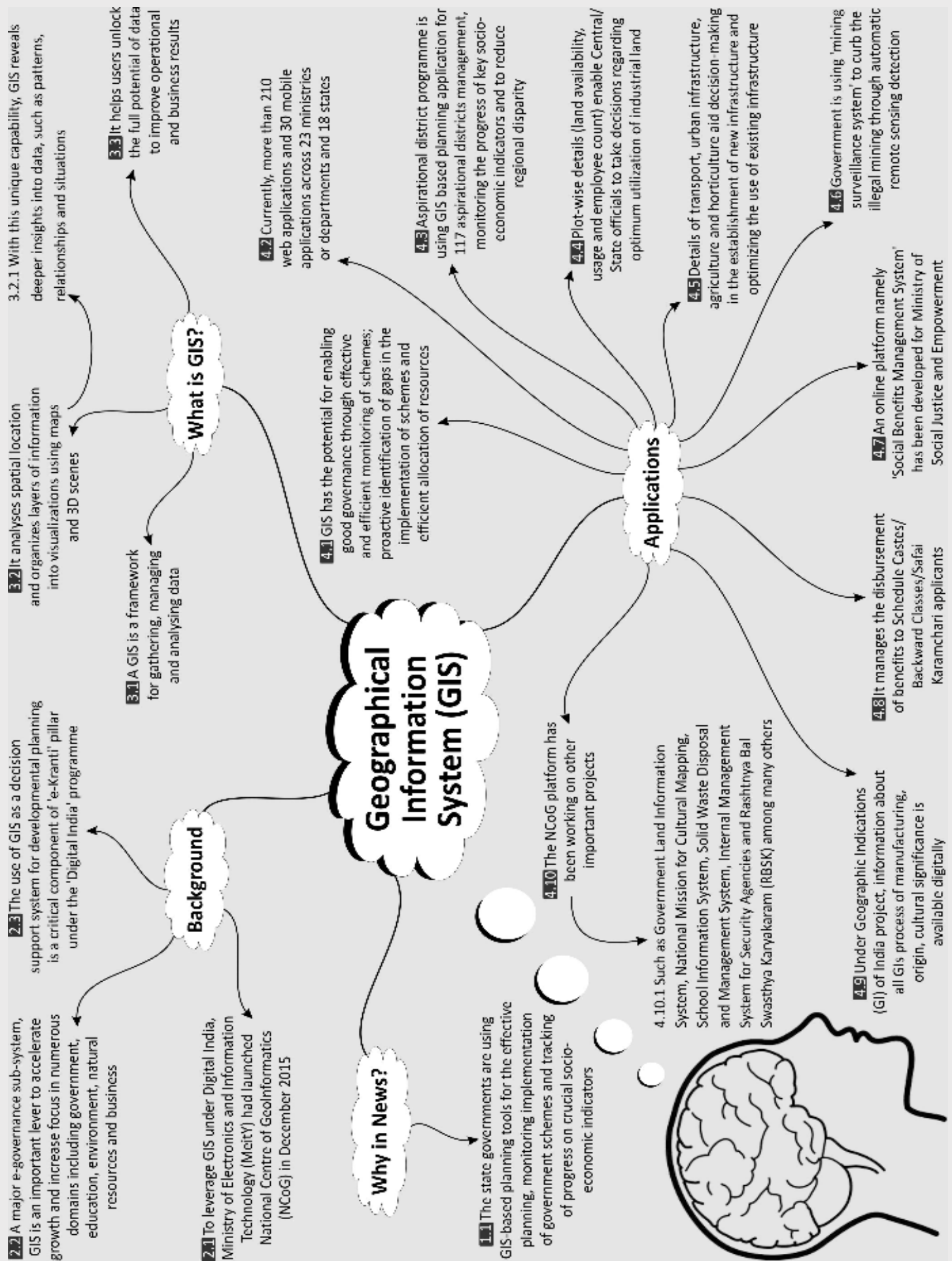












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Right to Recall

Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Right to Recall':

1. In India, the 'Right to Recall' exists for MPs and MLAs in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh.
2. A recall election is typically a process by which voters seek to remove elected officials through a direct vote before their term is completed.

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. In India, the Right to Recall exists at local level bodies in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh.

Statement 2 is correct. A recall election is typically a process by which voters seek to remove elected officials through a direct vote before their term is completed. Right to Recall (RTR) confers the electorate a right of recall that can be initiated by any elector within a particular constituency through a recall petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of electors.

Global Innovation Index - 2019

Q2. With reference to the 'Global Innovation Index (GII)-2019', consider the following statements:

1. It is published every year by World Bank and the UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
2. India has improved its position in GII 2019 by five places to 52 from 57 in the last year.
3. India has also continued to be ranked the most innovative country in the Southern Asia Region since 2011.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 only

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The GII rankings are published every year by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.

Statement 2 is correct. India has improved its position in GII 2019 by five places to 52 from 57 in the last year.

Statement 3 is not correct. India has continued to be ranked the most innovative country in the Central and Southern Asia Region since 2011.

Ban on Private Cryptocurrencies

Q3. Recently, an inter-ministerial committee has proposed banning of private cryptocurrencies in India. Consider the following statements in this regard:

- a) All private cryptocurrencies, except any cryptocurrency issued by the state, be banned in India.
- b) The committee has identified the potential use cases for blockchain technology in areas such as payments systems, among others.

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. An inter-ministerial committee has proposed banning of private cryptocurrencies in India. It has also drafted a law, the 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019'.

The committee also identified the potential use cases for blockchain technology in areas such as payments systems, among others.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019':

1. The Bill will amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
2. It clarified that the resolution plan will be binding on all stakeholders, including central and state government or local authority to which a debt is owed.
3. It reduced the time of resolution process from 350 days to 330 days.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a) 1 and 3 only | b) 2 and 3 only |
| c) 1 and 2 only | d) 3 only |

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Bill will amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The IBC amendment bill also clarified that the resolution plan will be binding on all stakeholders, including central and state government or local authority to which a debt is owed.

Statement 3 is not correct. The Bill adds that the resolution process must be completed within 330 days (previously 180 days + extendable by a period of up to 90 days), including time for any extension granted and the time taken in legal proceedings in relation to the process.

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Q5. With reference to 'the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019', consider the following statements:

1. It proposed that a person who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or a Judge of the Supreme Court will be the chairperson of the NHRC.
2. Further, the Bill reduced the term of office of chairperson to three years or till the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. The Bill said that a person who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or a Judge of the Supreme Court will be the chairperson of the NHRC.

The existing Act states that the chairperson and members of the NHRC and SHRC will hold office for five years or till the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. The Bill reduced the term of office to three years or till the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.

Sovereign Bonds

Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Sovereign Bonds':

1. When a government issues a bond, it is called a sovereign bond.
2. The government securities issued in order to finance its balance of payment (BoP) problem only.

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. When a government issues a bond it is called a sovereign bond.

Statement 2 is not correct. The government securities issued in order to finance the fiscal deficit and manage the temporary cash mismatches of the government. In India, the government has only issued sovereign bonds in local currency in the domestic market.

Geographical Information System (GIS)

Q7. Consider the following statements:

1. A Geographical Information System (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing and analysing data related to physical features of a particular area.
2. A GIS is an important lever to accelerate growth and increase focus in numerous domains including government, education, environment, natural resources and business.

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. A Geographical Information System (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing and analysing data. It analyses spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes.

Hence statement 2 is correct. A GIS is an important lever to accelerate growth and increase focus in numerous domains including government, education, environment, natural resources and business.

SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Who are the authors of the book 'Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics'?

–Harivansh (Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha) and Shri Ravi Dutt Bajpai

2. Which state has the highest solar rooftop installations in the country?

–Gujarat

3. Attoor Ravi Varma, who passed away recently, was the renowned poet and translator of which language?

–Malayalam

4. Who has been appointed as the UK's new Prime Minister?

–Boris Johnson

5. Which state has declared Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary a tiger reserve for better conservation of tigers?

– Madhya Pradesh

6. Which country is participating with India in 'Hand-in-Hand' military exercise in Meghalaya?

–China

7. Which international institution has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 7% for the 2019-20 from 7.2%?

–Asian Development Bank

○○○

SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS EXAM

- Q1. What is 'Article 35A'? Why is it a controversial, even sentimental issue for the Jammu and Kashmir? Critically analyse.
- Q2. What are sovereign funds? Why is India borrowing in external markets in external currency? Critically discuss.
- Q3. "The passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 is a victory of gender justice and will further equality in society." Discuss.
- Q4. "With Russia and China lining up behind Pakistan, India will have to redraw its post-US Afghan strategy." Comment.
- Q5. Critically discuss how the idea of local reservation of jobs could hit the ideal of one unified Indian market.
- Q6. "Innovation has increasingly gained importance as a driver of economic growth on par with investment." Discuss it in the context of India's performance on 'Global Innovation Index 2019'.
- Q7. What do you understand by 'radicalisation'? Discuss how does India deal with radicalisation.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. National Medical Commission Bill

Lok Sabha has passed the National Medical Commission Bill 2019 for replacing the corruption-plagued Medical Council of India (MCI) with a new body. It has been described by the government as one of the biggest reforms that will end 'inspector raj' in the medical education sector.

Key Highlights

The National Medical Commission Bill of 2019 proposes to have four autonomous boards to take care of its different functions:

Under - Graduate Medical Education Board to set standards and regulate medical education at undergraduate level.

Post-Graduate Medical Education Board to set standards and regulate medical education at postgraduate

level. Medical Assessment and Rating Board for inspections and rating of medical institutions.

Ethics and Medical Registration Board to regulate and promote professional conduct and medical ethics and also maintain national registers of (a) licensed medical practitioners and (b) Community Health Providers (CHPs).

The Bill also proposes for the NMC to "frame guidelines for determination of fee and other charges" for 50% of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities. Currently, state governments determine fees for 85% of seats in such institutions and the rest are left for the management.

Other powers of the NMC include permission to establish new



medical colleges, start post-graduate courses, increase the number of seats, recognition of medical qualifications in and outside India etc.

There will be a National Licentiate Examination for doctors to obtain a licence to practice after graduation. This examination will also be the basis for admission to post-graduate medical courses.

2. China's First Commercial Spacecraft

A startup company named i-Space has become the first Chinese private firm to achieve orbit with a successful launch of a light-class Hyperbola 1 booster. The Hyperbola 1 rocket carried several small satellites and payloads into an orbit approximately 186 miles (300 kilometers) above Earth.

Key Highlights

The Hyperbola 1 rocket is capable of delivering up to 573 pounds (260 kilograms) of payload mass to a 310-mile-high (500-kilometer) Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit. The Hyperbola-1, consisting of three solid

stages with a liquid-propellant fourth stage, has a length of 20.8 meters and mass at takeoff of around 31 metric tons.

China's commercial space sector has proliferated over the last few years since the country implemented space policy reforms under President Xi Jinping, allowing private capital to begin funding new satellite and launcher companies. China's satellite and launch industries have traditionally been managed by state-owned organizations, which oversee spacecraft and launch vehicle design, production and operations. Those

government-owned companies, led by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp., or CASC, remain major players in Chinese space activities, but startups have entered the fold to develop small satellites and mini-launchers, two of the most dynamic segments of the global space industry.

The progress in the private sector comes as the Chinese government is putting billions of dollars into space investment. Earlier this year, China became the first country to send an unmanned rover to the far side of the moon.

3. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The parliament has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which seeks to tighten Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) norms and ensure stricter action for non-compliance of the company law regulations.

Key Highlights

A key change in the Bill pertains to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending, wherein companies would have to mandatorily keep unspent money in a special account. Under the Act, companies earning profit of over

Rs 5 crore, turnover of Rs 100 crore or networth of more than Rs 500 crore are required to shell out at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.

The Bill empowered the Registrar of Companies (RoC) to initiate action for removal of the name of the company from register of companies if it is not carrying on any business or operation in according with the company law.

Among other things, the Bill also provided for re-categorisation of 16

minor offences as purely civil defaults and transferring of functions with regard to dealing with applications for change of financial year to Central government.

It also provided for shifting of powers for conversion from public to private companies from NCLT to the Central government, as well as more clarity with respect to certain powers of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

4. Government to Install Solar Projects of 40,000 MW by 2022

The government of India has set a target of installation of 40,000 MW of Rooftop Solar (RTS) projects by the year 2022 in the country including installation of RTS on rooftop of houses.

Key Highlights

As per the Central government data, Gujarat has stood first in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity as on

July 23, 2019. Overall, total rooftop solar installations in India is 1700.54 MW. on an average it is estimated that 1.5 million units per MW per year are generated from solar rooftop plants.

Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have solar rooftop installations at 198.52 MW and 151.62 MW respectively.

To achieve the cumulative capacity of 40,000MW from rooftop solar projects by 2022, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved Phase-II of the Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Programme.

The programme is laudable and necessary to give the much-needed momentum lacking in the industry. It does so by seeking to address two major roadblocks impeding the large-scale deployment of rooftop solar in India – insufficient support by discoms and dearth of interest, particularly amongst residential consumers.

Rooftop solar also has the great benefit of being able to provide electricity to those areas that are not yet connected to the grid — remote locations and areas where the terrain makes it difficult to set up power stations and lay power lines.

CABINET APPROVES OF GRID CONNECTED SOLAR ROOFTOP PROGRAMME TO ACHIEVE CUMULATIVE CAPACITY OF 40,000MW FROM RTS PROJECTS BY 2022

- Total financial support of **Rs. 11,814 Crore** to be provided by the centre.
- 5% of applicable cost** will be provided as incentive for installed capacity achieved above **10% and upto 15% over** and above installed base capacity in a financial year.
- For installed capacity achieved beyond **15% In a financial year**, **5% of the applicable cost** for capacity achieved above **10% and upto 15% of the installed base capacity** in addition to **10% of the applicable cost** for achievement beyond **5% of the installed base capacity** will be given as incentive.

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5. R-27 Air-to-Air Missiles

In order to boost its capabilities in beyond visual range warfare, India has signed a deal worth around Rs 1,500 crore to acquire R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia to be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft. The missiles with an extended range would give an added capability to the Sukhois to take on enemy aircraft at long ranges.

Key Highlights

The missiles have been acquired under 10-I projects which mandate the three services to maintain critical weapon

systems and spares for a specified minimum period, which is known as War Wastage Reserve (WWR).

The missile has a length of 4m, a body diameter of 0.23m and wingspan of 0.77m. The weight of the missile is 253kg. The R-27 can be launched from an altitude of 25km, up to a range of 60km. The guidance system of the missile includes semi-active radar seeker with command updates.

The R-27 missile is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile developed by Russia for its MiG and Sukhoi series of fighter jets.

Background

In the last 50 days, the IAF has signed deals worth over Rs 7,600 crore for acquiring equipment under emergency requirements approved by the Defence Ministry. After the Pulwama attack, the Central government had given emergency powers to the three services to buy whatever equipment is required by them for safeguarding the borders with Pakistan. Under the powers given, the security forces can buy the equipment of their choice within three months at the cost of up to Rs 300 crore per case. ■

6. TOI 270: New Planetary System

Recently NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered three new planets in TOI 270 system. TOI 270 is about 73 light years away from Earth and is located in the constellation Pictor.

Key Highlights

The trio namely TOI270b, TOI270c and TOI270d are among the smallest and nearest exoplanets known to date. These three planets orbit the star every 3.4 days, 5.7 days, and 11.4 days respectively.

In this TOI 270 system, TOI 270 b is the innermost planet. Researchers expect it to be a rocky world about 25 per cent bigger than Earth. It is not habitable since it is located too close to the star — about 13 times closer than our Solar System's Mercury is from the Sun. Researchers expect it to be a rocky world about 25 per cent bigger than Earth.

On the other hand, TOI 270 c and TOI 270 d are Neptune-like planets because their compositions are dominated by gases rather than

rock. Planet d, which is suspected to have a rocky core covered by a thick atmosphere, offers a surface unfavourably warm for the existence of liquid water, thereby rendering the planet potentially uninhabitable.

With further study and observations, researchers expect to find the composition of these planets, the presence of atmosphere in them and the kinds of gases they contain, etc. ■

7. Guidelines for 5G Trials

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued guidelines for 5G trials across all available spectrum bands and is likely to allocate up to 400 MHz of radio waves for the purpose.

Key Highlights

The government is planning to conduct spectrum auction for 5G services by the end of this year to enable the roll-out of commercial services using

the technology in 2020. The DoT has fixed a uniform fee of Rs 5,000 for the trial licence. However, its validity will range between 3 month and 2 years, depending on the purpose for which the trial is being conducted.

The department has set a deadline for itself to grant permit for the trials between 4 and 8 weeks. After the expiry of the deadline, the applicant will be required to send a notice for trial

if the DoT has not given any response. If the applicant does not receive any reply within two weeks after giving application, it will be deemed approval.

Indian entities can also apply for trial licence for demonstrating the product in the country, according to the guidelines.

The guidelines bar companies from offering any commercial service using the trial licence. ■

SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. Consumer Protection Bill, 2019

The Lok Sabha has passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019.

Key Highlights

Under the Bill, there is provision for Central government to set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers and will be empowered to investigate, recall, refund and impose penalties. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements. There is also a provision for class action law suit for ensuring that rights of consumers are not infringed upon. The authority will have power to impose a penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser



of up to 10 lakh rupees and imprisonment for up to two years for a false or misleading advertisement.

Proposed Benefit to Consumers

- ◆ Presently consumer only have a single point of access to justice, which is time consuming. Additional swift executive remedies are proposed in the Bill through Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- ◆ Deterrent punishment to check misleading advertisements and adulteration of products.
- ◆ Product liability provision to deter manufacturers and service providers from delivering defective products or deficient services.
- ◆ Ease of approaching Consumer Commission and Simplification of Adjudication process.
- ◆ Scope for early disposal of cases through mediation.
- ◆ Provision for rules for new age consumer issues: e-commerce & direct selling.

2. Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019

Parliament has passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019.

Key Highlights

The Bill makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void (i.e. not enforceable in law) and illegal. It defines talaq as talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by a Muslim man resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce. Talaq-e-biddat refers to the practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of the word 'talaq' thrice in one sitting by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce.

The Bill makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine. (A cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without warrant.) The offence

will be cognizable only if information relating to the offence is given by: (i) the married woman (against whom talaq has been declared), or (ii) any person related to her by blood or marriage.

The Bill provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to the accused. The bail may be granted only after hearing the woman (against whom talaq has been pronounced), and if the Magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail.

A Muslim woman against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children. The amount of the allowance will be determined by the Magistrate.

A Muslim woman against whom such talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. The manner of custody will be determined by the Magistrate.

3. The Code on Wages Bill, 2019

The Lok Sabha has passed the Code on Wages Bill, 2019.

Key Highlights

The Bill seeks to merge four labour laws related to wages, two of them dating back to 1936 and 1948. Among the four Acts being subsumed in The Code on Wages Bill, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 belongs to pre-independence era and The Minimum Wages Act 1948 is also 71 years old. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are also being subsumed in the Code.

The Code on Wage universalizes the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling. At present, the provisions of both Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act apply on workers below a particular wage ceiling working in Scheduled Employments only. There

are 12 definitions of wages in the different Labour Laws leading to litigation besides difficulty in its implementation. The definition has been simplified and is expected to reduce litigation and will entail at lesser cost of compliance for an employer.

It also aims to rationalize the number of wage types from around 2,000 categories to around 200 and reduce the influence of inspectors on companies, a constant demand from employers for years.

There were instances that due to smaller limitation period, the claims of the workers could not be raised. To protect the interest of the workers, the limitation period has been raised to 3 years and made uniform for filing claims for minimum wages, bonus, equal remuneration etc., as against existing varying period between 6 months to 2 years.

4. Fourth cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018

On the occasion of Global Tiger Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released the results of the fourth cycle of All India Tiger Estimation - 2018.

Key Highlights

India has achieved the target of doubling the tiger count four years ahead of the deadline. The total count has risen to 2,967 from 2,226 in 2014 — an increase of 741 individuals (aged more than one year), or 33%, in four years. It is a moment of pride for the country as it achieved its commitment to the St.Petersburg Declaration, of doubling Tiger population, much in advance to the 2022 deadline.

Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers at 526, followed by Karnataka at 524 and Uttarakhand at 442. However, not all is rosy in Chhattisgarh and Mizoram that

have seen a decline in the numbers. Odisha maintained its tiger count.

During the fourth cycle, in sync with 'Digital India' initiative, data was collected using an Android based application- M-STripes (Monitoring system for Tigers' Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) and analyzed on the applications' desktop module.

The success owes a lot to increased vigilance and conservation efforts by the Forest Department. From 28 in 2006, the number of tiger reserves went up to 50 in 2018, extending protection to larger numbers of tigers over the years.

The other important reason is increased vigilance, and the fact that organised poaching rackets have been all but crushed.

5. GST Rate on all EVs has been Reduced

The high-powered Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has decided to reduce the tax rate on electric vehicles (EVs) to 5% from the existing 12%. The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate on EVs will be effective from August 1. This move aimed at accelerating the adoption of eco-friendly mobility solutions.

Key Changes

- ◆ The GST rate on all electric vehicles be reduced from 12% to 5%.

- ◆ The GST rate on charger or charging stations for EVs be reduced from 18% to 5%.
- ◆ Hiring of electric buses (of carrying capacity of more than 12 passengers) by local authorities be exempted from GST.

Other Initiatives taken by Government

In a bid to make EVs affordable to consumers, the Union Budget 2019-20 provided for an income tax benefit for a EV buyer. The government will provide an additional income-tax

deduction of Rs. 1.5 lakh on the interest paid on loans taken for purchase of EVs. This amounts to a benefit of around 2.5 lakh over the loan period to the taxpayers who take loans to purchase electric vehicle. Also, to make EV popular for public transportation, hiring of electric buses (of carrying capacity of more than 12 passengers) by local authorities will be exempted from GST.

Other Facts

In India, nearly 30 lakh four wheelers are sold in India every year, and EVs contribute anything between 10-15,000. Globally, the share of EVs in total sale is approximately 1 per cent, but in Norway, the share in the double digits.

6. Creation of Buffer Stock of Sugar

Cabinet approved the creation of buffer stock of 40 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of sugar for a period of one year from 1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020. This would improve the liquidity position of sugar mills. The reimbursement available under the scheme would be directly credited into farmers' account on behalf of sugar mills against their cane price dues.

Proposed Benefits

- ◆ The decisions will lead to:
- ◆ Improvement in the liquidity of sugar mills;
- ◆ Reduction in sugar inventories;
- ◆ Stabilization in sugar prices by alleviating of price sentiments in domestic sugar market and thereby facilitate timely clearance of cane price dues of farmers;

- ◆ Benefits for sugar mills in all sugarcane producing states, by way of clearing sugarcane price arrears of sugar mills.

Background

In the wake of sugar production during sugar season 2017-18 (October-September) and sugar season 2018-19, and given the over-leveraged position in the industry and liquidity crunch, interventions have been taken from time to time by the government to improve liquidity of the sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers and also to stabilize sugar prices in the domestic market.

The buffer subsidy scheme announced in sugar season 2017-18 has expired on 30th June, 2019. However, ensuing sugar season 2019-20 is likely to commence with huge carryover/opening stock.

7. The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019

The government has introduced the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha to amend the laws regulating the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions of the persons employed in an establishment. The Code applies to establishments employing at least 10 workers, and to all mines and docks. It does not apply to apprentices. Further, it makes special provisions for certain types of establishments and classes of employees, such as factories, mines and building and construction workers.

Key Features

- ◆ The Code repeals and replaces 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.
- ◆ It specified several duties of employers. These include providing a workplace that is free from hazards that may

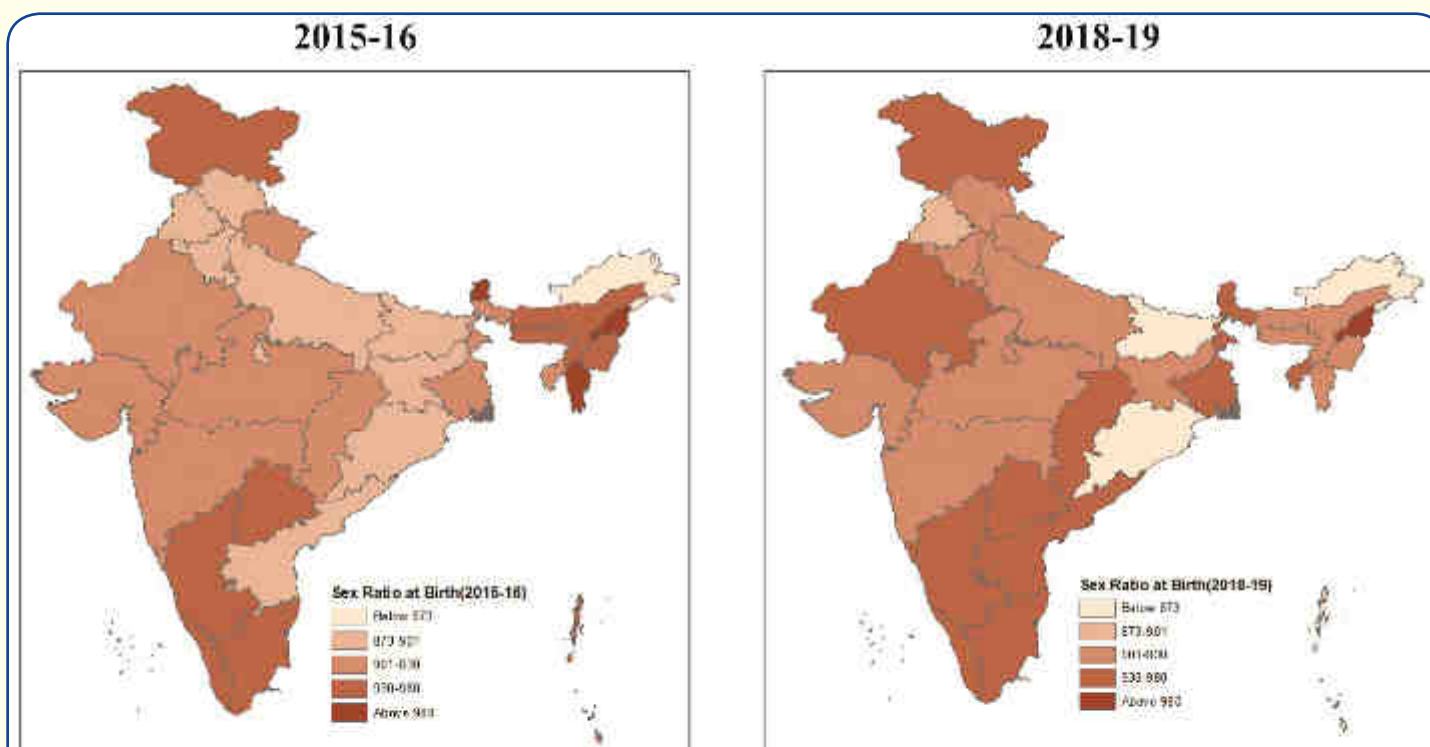
cause injury or diseases and providing free annual health examinations to employees, as prescribed. In case of an accident at the workplace that leads to death or serious bodily injury of an employee, the employer must inform the relevant authorities.

- ◆ Duties of employees under the Code include taking care of their own health and safety, complying with the specified safety and health standards and reporting unsafe situations to the inspector. Every employee will have the right to obtain from the employer information related to safety and health standards.
- ◆ Work hours for different classes of establishment and employees will be provided as per the rules prescribed by the central or state government. For overtime work, the worker must be paid twice the rate of daily wages. Female workers, with their consent, may work past 7pm and before 6am, if approved by the central or state government.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Sex Ratio @ Birth (2015-16 vs 2018-19)

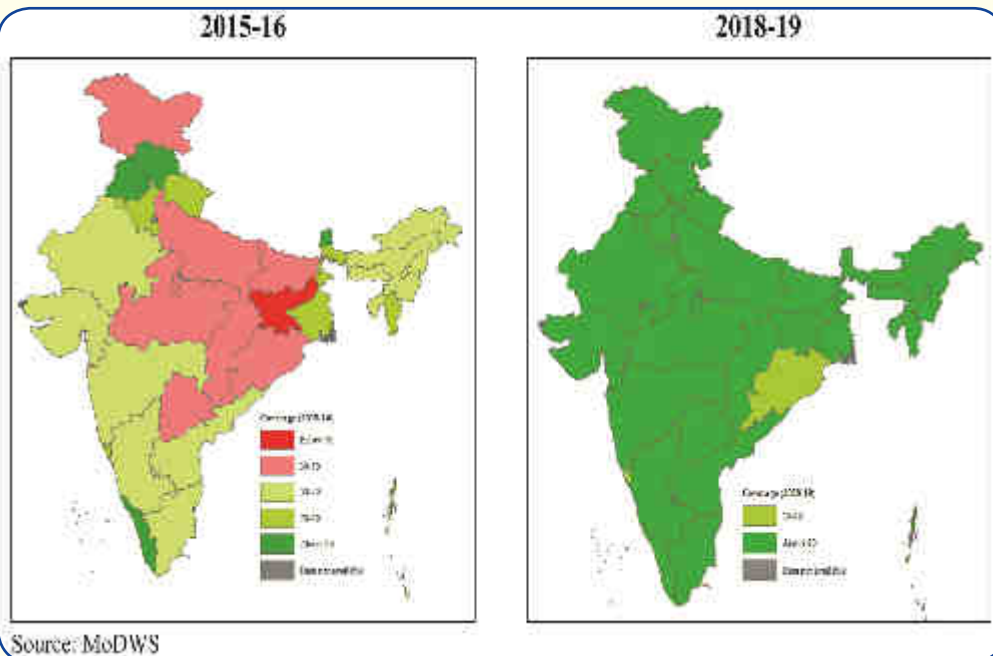


Source: Derived from Health Management Information System (HMIS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 Note: SRB figures are calculated using average of BBBP districts.

Key Facts

- Sex ratio at birth (SRB) (0-6 years) is defined as the number of live females births per 1,000 live males birth in the population.
- As per Census 2011, the national average of SRB is 919.
- India's sex ratio at birth was on a steady decline until the first decade of the twenty-first century. To address this trend, government of India has launched 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) in 2015.
- The campaign was flagged from Panipat, Haryana, which had the worst child sex ratio at 834 among Indian states as compared with the national average. But the state recorded an annual SRB of 914 girls in 2017 and 924 girls in 2018.
- Consider the large states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, all of which had registered declining child sex ratios between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. Around the launch of the BBBP in 2015-16, they had among the poorest sex ratios at birth. But by 2018-19, all these states showed a reversal of the trend, registering an increase in SRB between 2015-16 and 2018-19.
- Rajasthan was chosen as the state improved by 34 points from 888 girls per 1000 boys in 2011 to 922 per 1000 boys in 2017-18 to indicate that good performance receives a reward.
- But states such as Odisha and Bihar have recorded a dip in SRB in 2018-19, compared to Census 2011.
- BBBP has had an impact particularly on large states with very poor child sex ratio-states that plausibly also needed the greatest pivot in their social norms.

2. Coverage of Individual Household Latrine (2015-16 vs 2018-19)



Key Facts

- Within five years of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), household access to toilets has increased to nearly 100 per cent in all states.
- SBM was launched on 2nd October, 2014 to achieve universal sanitation coverage by 2nd October, 2019.
- SBM is the first one to emphasize behaviour change as much as, if not more than, construction of toilets. SBM has achieved success in not only providing toilets but also in ensuring that these toilets are used.
- According to the government, since the launch of SBM in 2014, 9.16 crore individual household

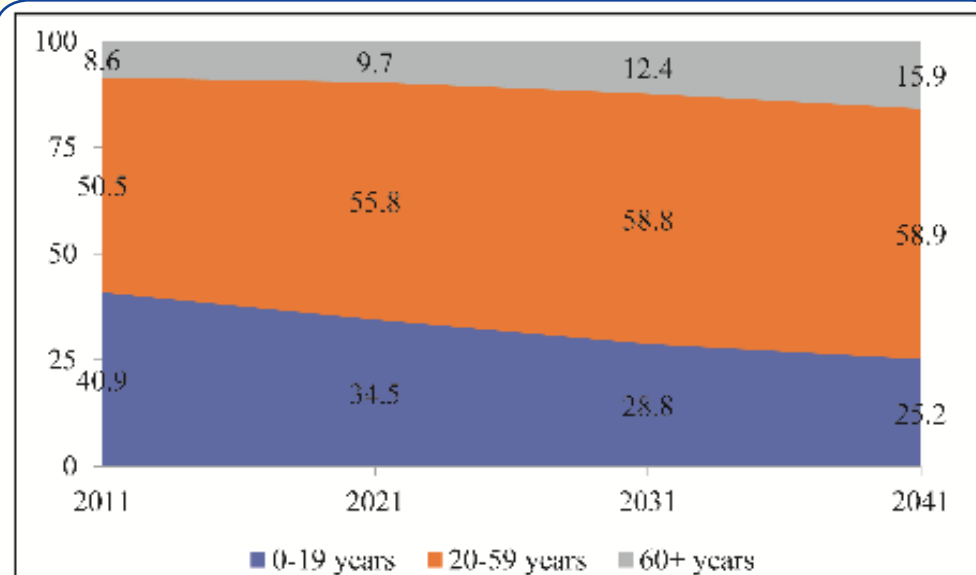
latrines (IHHLs) have been constructed till 5th February, 2019 out of which, 5.22 crore IHHLs have been constructed during the last two years. For construction of IHHLs, funds are shared between the Centre and states in the 60:40 ratio and for North Eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir and special category states it is 90:10.

- As per SBM-G, a total of 5,68,700 villages have been declared as ODF as of June 2019. of these, 5,11,052 villages (89.9%) have been verified as ODF. This implies that 10.1 per cent villages are left to be verified as ODF for the scheme to achieve its target by 2019.

3. Demographic Composition in India (2011-2041)

Key Facts

- India's demographic dividend will peak around 2041, when the share of working-age, i.e. 20-59 years, population is expected to hit 59 per cent.
- The share of India's young, i.e. 0-19 years, population has already started to decline and is projected to drop from as high as 41 per cent in 2011 to 25.2 per cent by 2041.
- On the other hand, the share of elderly, 60 years and above, population will continue to rise steadily, nearly doubling from 8.6 per cent in 2011 to 16 per cent by 2041.
- States ahead in the demographic transition, such as Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab and most

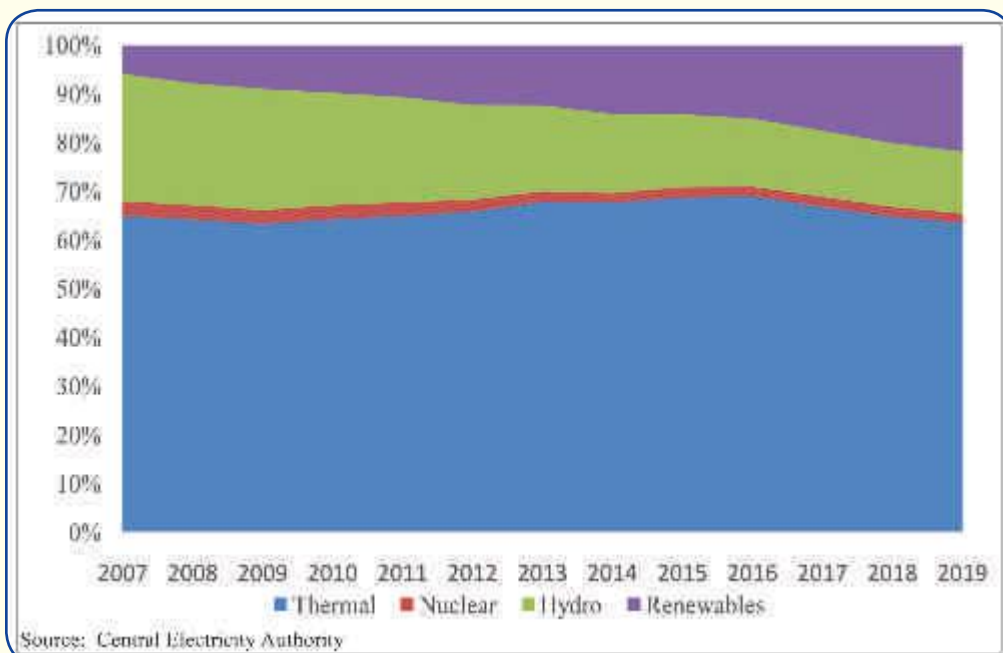


Source: Survey Calculations

of the southern states, would have less than one-fourth of the population under the age of 20 but about one fifth or more population over the age of 59 by 2041.

- Even states in earlier stages of demographic transition, such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, will see a significant decline in the share of young population, though these shares will remain relatively high and as large as 30 per cent in Bihar by 2041. Meanwhile, the share of elderly population in these states will still be below 15 per cent through 2041.

4. Share of Energy Sources in total Installed capacity in India



Key Facts

- Globally, coal remains the largest source of electricity generation mix globally, with 38 per cent market share in 2018 (IEA, 2019).
- India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement states that India will achieve 40 per cent installed capacity of power from non-fossil fuels by 2030. It was also determined that 175 GW of renewable energy capacity will be installed by 2022. This includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro power.
- As far as India is concerned, a total of around 358 GW energy capacity has been installed in the country as on July 2019.

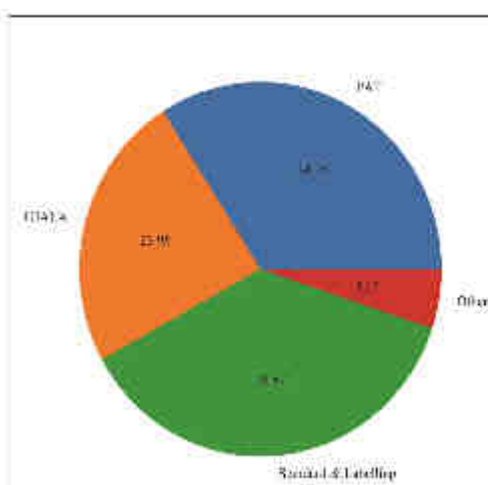
- It includes around 64 per cent from thermal power plants, around 2 per cent from nuclear, around 13 per cent from hydro and around 22 per cent from renewable energy sources.
- While there has been tremendous increase in the renewable energy capacity, fossil fuels, especially coal, would continue to remain an important source of energy. Given the sustainable energy objectives of the country and the importance that coal based power plants entail, there is a need for building capacity for cleaner and more efficient coal technologies.

5. Impact of Energy Savings in 2017-18

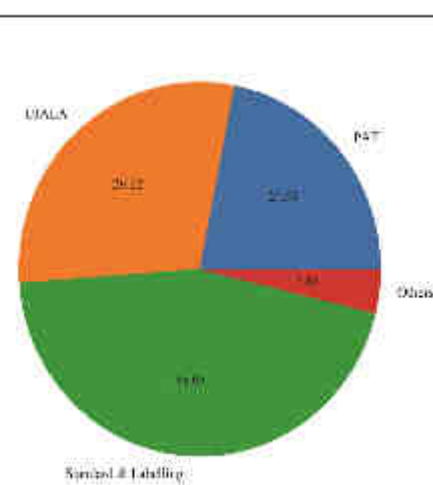
Key Facts

- The implementation of various energy efficiency programmes such as 'Standards & Labelling Programme', 'Unnati Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)', 'Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT)', etc., has witnessed exceptional performance in terms of reducing energy consumption thereby leading to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and cost savings.
- According to a BEE study, overall, this saving has resulted in total cost savings worth Rs. 53,000 crore (approximately) in 2017-18 and contributed in reducing 108.28 Million Tonnes of CO₂ emission. The contribution is largely from three major programmes – PAT, UJALA and Standard & Labelling.

Reduction in CO₂ emission (MtCO₂)



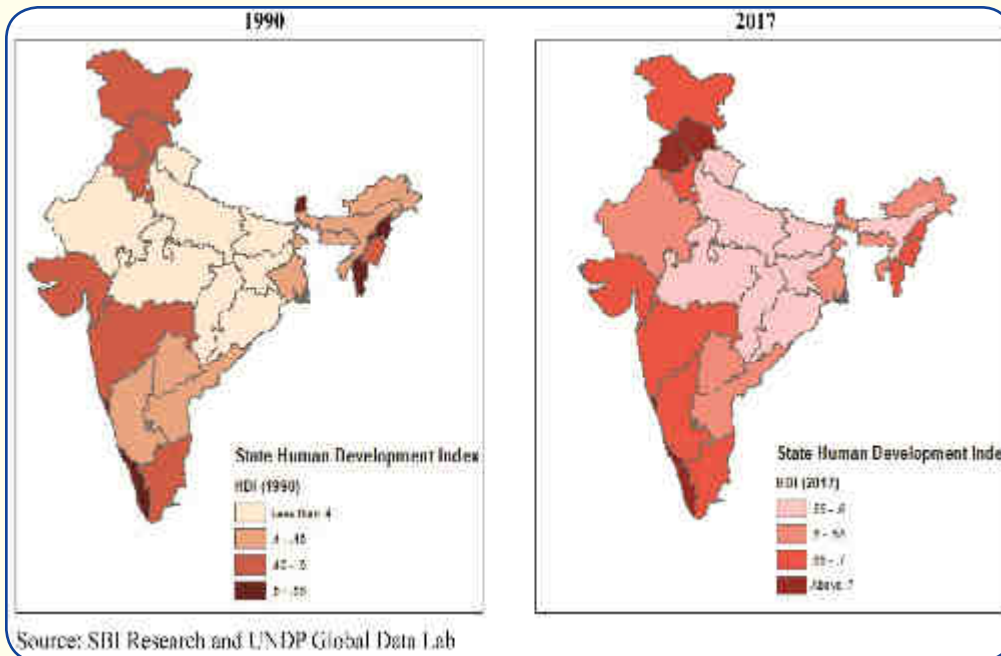
Monetary Savings (₹Crore)



Source: Bureau of Energy Efficiency

- The overall electricity savings due to energy efficiency measures is 7.21 per cent of the net electricity consumption in 2017-18, total thermal energy saved is 2.7 per cent of the net thermal energy consumption and 2.0 per cent of the net energy supply.
- India is planning to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35 per cent from its 2005 levels by 2030, as part of its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.

6. Subnational Human Development Index 1990 vs 2017



Key Facts

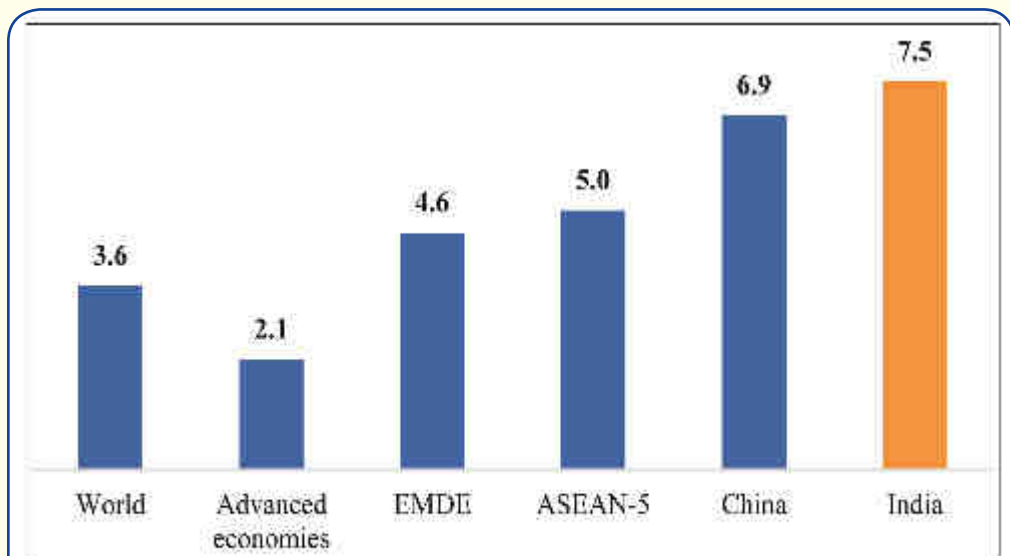
- India's Human Development Index (HDI) has improved significantly over the years between 1990 and 2017. India's HDI value increased from 0.427 to 0.649, but its position still lowest among its peer countries.
- India is ranked 130 among 189 countries on HDI 2018. Moreover, India also reflects inter-State disparities in regional and human development which are reflected by state level HDIs.
- The Subnational Human Development Index (SHDI) for different states for the period of 1990 and 2017, show that all states have shown significant improvement in the levels of human development.

- The 2017 HDI scores indicate that the states like Kerala, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab occupy the top four positions while the states like Bihar, UP and MP are at the bottom of the rankings.
- The region-wise trend of HDI scores suggests that most Southern and Northern states have performed much better as compared to their Eastern counterparts who have registered poor performance in SHDIs.

7. Growth of GDP in India and the world

Key Facts

- The World output growth declined from 3.8 per cent in 2017 to 3.6 per cent in 2018.
- The slowdown in the world economy and Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDE) in 2018 followed the escalation of US-China trade tensions, tighter credit policies in China and financial tightening along side the normalization of monetary policy in the larger advanced economies.
- In the intervening period, when the world did not appear to have changed much, India took a few giant strides forward.
- India became the sixth largest economy by sustaining growth rates higher than China, thereby earning the epaulette of being the fastest growing major economy in the world.
- India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to 7.5 per cent in Fiscal Year 2019-20, driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.
- The GDP of an economy is the total monetary value of all goods and services produced in an economy within a year.



Source: World Economic Outlook, April 2019, IMF

Note: (1). EMDE – Emerging Market and Developing Economies; (2). ASEAN-5 composed of 5 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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MUKHERJEE NAGAR (DELHI)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
16 AUG | 8:30 AM

OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR (DELHI)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
23 AUG | 10:30 AM

LAXMI NAGAR (DELHI)

GENERAL STUDIES
IAS REGULAR BATCH
13 AUG | 10:30 AM
IAS WEEKEND BATCH
17 AUG | 11 AM
PCS BATCH
13 AUG | 7:30 AM
UP PCS TARGET FOR PRE
22 AUG | 6 PM

PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
19 AUG | 8 AM

LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
19 AUG | 6 PM

LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR)

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
19 AUG | 6 PM
IAS WEEKEND BATCH
17 AUG | 5:30 PM

LIVE STREAMING

GENERAL STUDIES
IAS REGULAR BATCH
13 AUG | 10:30 AM
IAS WEEKEND BATCH
17 AUG | 11 AM
PCS BATCH
13 AUG | 7:30 AM

GREATER NOIDA

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
13 AUG | 3:30 PM

BHUBANESWAR

GENERAL STUDIES
Pre-cum-Mains
26 AUG
7:30 AM & 6 PM

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Sociology
- History
- Geography
- Political Science

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AN INTRODUCTION

Dhyeya IAS, a decade old institution, was founded by Mr. Vinay Singh and Mr. Q.H. Khan. Ever since its emergence it has unparalleled track record of success. Today, it stands tall among the reputed institutes providing coaching for Civil Services Examination (CSE). The institute has been very successful in making potential realize their dreams which is evidents from success stories of the previous years.

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

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

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Distance learning Programme, DSDL, primarily caters the need for those who are unable to come to metros fro economic or family reason but have ardent desire to become a civil servant. Simultaneously, it also suits to the need of working professionals, who are unable to join regular classes due to increase in work load or places of their posting. The principal characteristic of our distance learning is that the student does not need to be present in a classroom in order to participate in the instruction. It aims to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance. Realizing the difficulties faced by aspirants of distant areas, especially working candidates, in making use of the institute's classroom guidance programme, distance learning system is being provided in General Studies. The distance learning material is comprehensive, concise and examoriented in nature. Its aim is to make available almost all the relevant material on a subject at one place. Materials on all topics of General Studies have been prepared in such a way that, not even a single point will be missing. In other words, you will get all points, which are otherwise to be taken from 6-10 books available in the market / library. That means, DSDL study material is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and that will definitely give you added advantage in your Preliminary as well as Main Examination. These materials are not available in any book store or library. These materials have been prepared exclusively for the use of our students. We believe in our quality and commitment towards making these notes indispensable for any student preparing for Civil Services Examination. We adhere all pillars of Distance education.

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