

PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

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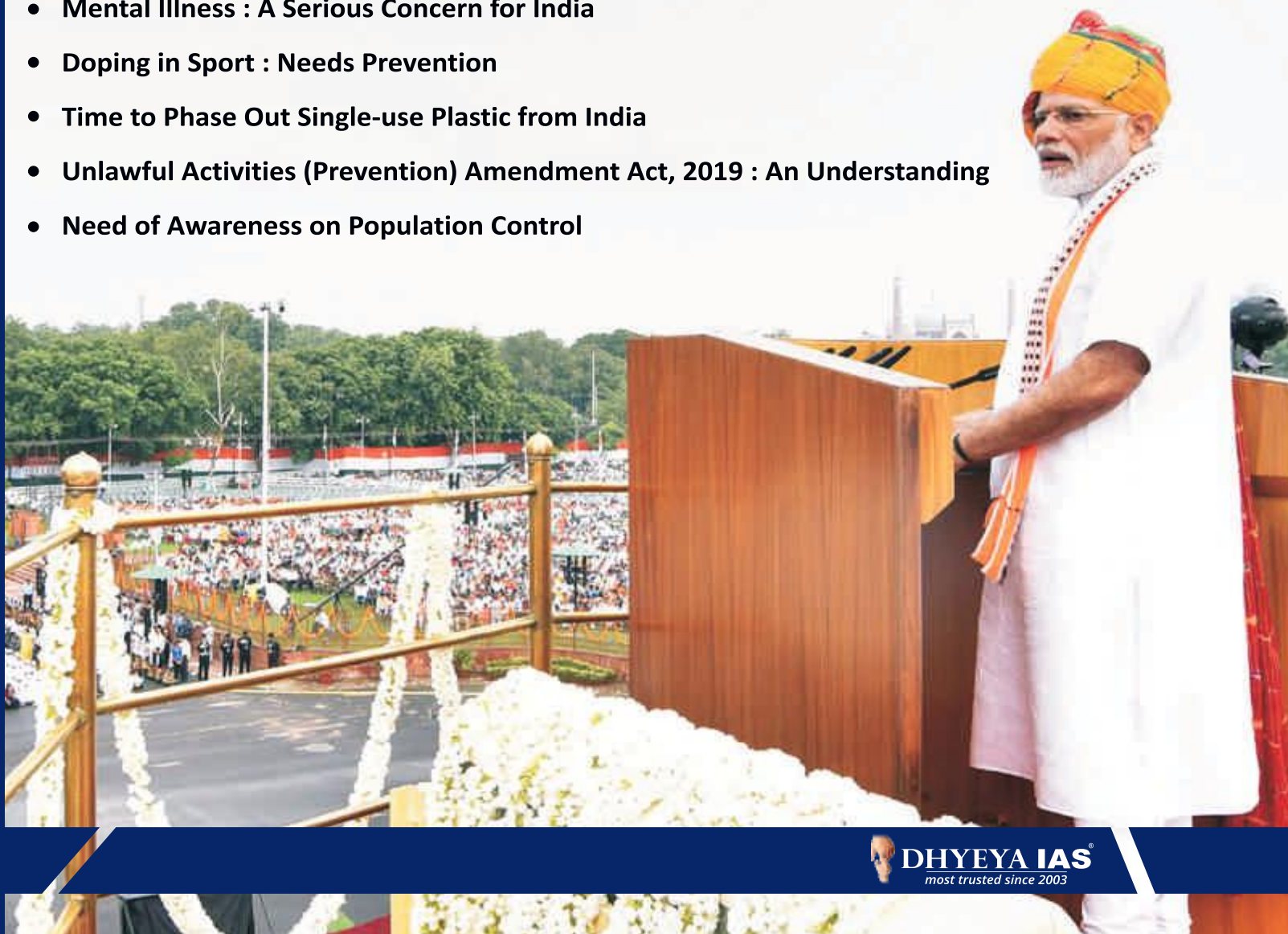
August: 2019 / Issue-04

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

First Among Equals

- The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Analysis
- Mental Illness : A Serious Concern for India
- Doping in Sport : Needs Prevention
- Time to Phase Out Single-use Plastic from India
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 : An Understanding
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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



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Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder
Dhyeya IAS



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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

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS (for Civil Services Examination)

August: 2019 | Issue: 04

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Our other initiative



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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. CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF : FIRST AMONG EQUALS

Why in News?

The surprising, yet overdue announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India 73rd Independence Day helps realise what had been a longstanding demand of both military and civilian professionals.

Introduction

The creation of the post of CDS is to provide “effective leadership at the top level” to the three wings of the armed forces, and to help in improving coordination among them. The imperative to create a CDS assumed great importance following the Kargil War of 1999. Despite securing victory in that war against daunting odds, the absence of a CDS became evident. The issue of efficient management of the higher defence organisation came into sharp focus after the war, when the K. Subrahmanyam-headed task force was asked to examine questions about the anticipation and detection of Pakistani intrusions in Kargil and the military response. The strategic expert and his team highlighted the systemic issues bedevilling our national security structures, which included poor coordination and technological inadequacies.

On the recommendations of the task force, the government tasked a Group of Ministers (GoM) in the early 2000s to undertake a review of national security management. In 2001, GoM

recommended for the establishment of the CDS.

The CDS is a post that will act as the single-point advisor to the government of India. The officer concerned will be in a position to advise on matters related to all the three services - Army, Navy and Air Force - thus making India's armed forces integrated. The CDS will be a 'first among equals', and will be senior to the three other service chiefs.

The CDS's primary function is not merely to serve as a single point military adviser to the government, but equally to establish priorities about defence acquisitions and personnel issues, apart from improving coordination between the three services and serving as the head of the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Furthermore, the CDS' role and inputs in the defence budget is as important as the military counsel the CDS provides to the government.

The present government must be lauded for making a very bold decision yet clearly defining the functions and role of the newly created CDS will be indispensable in the coming weeks and months. Integrating and merging all the service headquarters with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is also necessary if the CDS in the end is to be effective, because the CDS will not only be expected to pay attention to all the matters noted above, he will also be required with the three services in creating a synergised and interoperable fighting force.

A History of the Demand for a Chief of Defence Staff

During the British era, India was perhaps the only country in the world which had a single Commander-in-Chief for all the three services. In 1947, this arrangement was discarded and each service came to have its own Commander-in-Chief, independent of each other. The nomenclature of the three Chiefs was changed in 1955 from Commanders-in-Chief to Chiefs of Staff. Each service was placed under its own Commander-in-Chief to Chief of the Army Staff, Chief of the Naval Staff and Chief of the Air Staff. This re-designation has been both meaningless and misleading. They are not authorized to take any decision on behalf of the government nor issue any government orders. These functions are performed by civil officials in the MoD. The service Chiefs continue to function as Commanders-in-Chief of their service.

The need for a unified command was made apparent following the 1962 war against China and the 1965 war with Pakistan. The turning point came with the formation of Kargil Review Committee, which was formed after the Kargil War to review the events leading up to the war and offer recommendations for the future. The report, led by K. Subrahmanyam, highlighted several shortcomings that stemmed from a lack of coordination between services.

Report of Various Committees

The Kargil Review Committee (KRC): It was set up in the wake of the intelligence debacle that led to the Kargil conflict, which did not call for the establishment for CDS per se. Instead, it called for the integration of the service headquarters with the MoD making it clear that such a reform measure would actually enhance civilian supremacy, not undermine it.

Group of Ministers Report (GOM) 2001: It was the most extensive set of reforms in the country's history on reforming the national security system. It recommended for the establishment of the CDS. The report of the GoM was constituted on the basis of the Kargil Review Committee report.

Naresh Chandra Committee Recommendation: In 2012, the Task Force on National Security headed by Naresh Chandra revisited the issue and in view of the resistance towards the CDS, sought to find a way by re-labeling the position as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). A Chairman of Chiefs of Staff (COSC) was established in 2012, which was at best a temporary measure and ultimately inadequate.

Committee of Experts (CoE): It was constituted by MoD under the chairmanship of Lt. Gen (Retd) D B Shekatkar to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces. The Shekatkar committee suggests creation of just three joint theatre commands: North, South and West-which will merge the existing 17 commands. Each command will report to a theatre commander. The theatre commanders will report to the CDS, the single point military advisor to the government.

Argument in favor of CDS

Some experts are favouring this concept on the basis of following arguments. These are:

- ◆ The case for a CDS has been built around the argument that it is necessary to have a professional body of the highest standing to facilitate 'jointmanship' and render single-point military advice to the government on matters of national security.
- ◆ The institution of a CDS is best justified by the importance of strategising for a robust and cost-efficient national defence policy. Implicit in this is the role the CDS would play in fostering inter-services jointness in terms of budgeting, equipment purchases, training, joint doctrines and planning of military operations- an imperative of modern warfare.
- ◆ Probably, India is the only country in the world, where the Secretary Department of Defence - a generalist civil servant drawn from diverse background and who serves in the MoD for a fixed tenure - has been made responsible for the Defence of India and every part thereof including preparation for defence. It means that a bureaucrat heading the Defence Ministry will formulate the operational plans for war fighting and Chiefs of Staff will execute it.
- ◆ The creation of the post of CDS will make our national security more effective and more economical.
- ◆ Structural reforms could bring about a much closer and more constructive interaction between the civil government and the services. The merger will enable better long-term defence planning covering missions, training, logistics, acquisitions, operational strategy, force structure and personnel management.
- ◆ From an operational perspective, the concept of military conflict today extends beyond land, air and sea, into the domains of space, cyber, electronic and information.

Effective defence preparedness requires a 'jointness' of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy in incorporating these domains into their war-fighting strategies. It also requires a prioritisation of the weapons requirements of the forces and optimisation of their resource allocations based on a clearly defined national defence strategy.

- ◆ The CDS is also seen as being vital to the creation of "theatre commands", integrating tri-service assets and personnel like in the United States (US) military. India has 17 service commands at different locations and duplicating assets.
- ◆ Another fear that a CDS will erode the supremacy of the civil over the military is unfounded. The CDS will not be a Supreme Commander. He will only be an Inter-Service professional coordinator with individual service chiefs having the right of direct access to the head of the government. It also needs to be mentioned that Army Chiefs in different countries have staged military coups but no CDS has ever done so. India's Defence Services are fully committed to upholding democratic values and in a well-established democracy like ours with such diversity, and of continental dimension, the question of a military coup does not arise.

Arguments against CDS

Theoretically, the appointment of a CDS is long overdue, but there appears to be no clear blueprint for the office to ensure its effectiveness. India's political establishment is seen as being largely ignorant of, or at best indifferent towards, security matters, and hence incapable of ensuring that a CDS works. The several arguments has been discussed below:

- ◆ It is apprehended that the defence services will become too powerful and subvert civilian control over the military with the possibility of military coup.
- ◆ There is feeling among the smaller services, particularly the Air Force, of Army dominance in defence policy formulation. Some fear that a CDS may lead to a situation like the one that prevailed before 1947, when the Army was the dominant service.
- ◆ Many serving service chiefs are inhibited by the idea of CDS as they think that their position would be undermined if the CDS would be appointed.
- ◆ The Indian Air Force has long argued that unlike the US and other Western militaries, the Indian services are not an expeditionary force, for which a CDS is a necessity. This is because fighting a war on alien soil need the combined firepower of all the three services.

Examples around the World

Examples of a CDS exist in many other countries. For example, The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia, the Chief Head of Defence (CHOD) position within NATO countries, and in India's neighbourhood, the CDS in Sri Lanka and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee in Pakistan.

Canada experimented with a more unified CDS model in 1967, dissolving its armed services to merge them into the Canadian Armed Forces under the CDS. In 2011, their original names were restored but their unified status was preserved.

In 2016, China integrated its military and other police and paramilitaries into five theatres from the earlier seven area commands, each with its own inclusive headquarters, one of which has responsibility for the Indian border.

Way Forward

In his announcement on the CDS, the Prime Minister mentioned past reports

on defence reforms, the transforming nature of military conflict, the impact of technology and the need for modernisation, coordination and jointness. This leads to hope that the GoM recommendations of 2001 along with latest Committee of experts report will be implemented. If carried out objectively, it will better enable India's civilian managers including MoD bureaucrats to understand operational issues and the consequences of their choices in tackling the military challenges posed by hostile countries especially China and Pakistan. At last, creation of the post of CDS will bring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability into decision-making on defence matters.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

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2. THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019 : AN ANALYSIS

Why in News?

Parliament has recently passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill proposed to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, (PHRA, 1993) which was enacted for the constitution of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the Human Rights Courts for protection of human rights.

Introduction

Human rights are standards that allow all people to live with dignity, freedom, equality, justice, and peace. Every person has these rights simply

because they are human beings. They are guaranteed to everyone without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. Human rights are essential to the full development of individuals and communities.

Human rights are better protected at the national level with adequate laws, independent judiciary and effective mechanisms. However, they seldom initiate action on their own except in public interest cases and their educational role is very limited. The international community has increasingly realized the importance

of human rights implementation at national level and the United Nations (UN) started addressing the issue of National Human Rights Institutions since 1946. The United Nations International Workshop on National Institutions for promotion and protection of human rights resulted in drafting of guidelines that were later adopted by UN Commission on Human Rights as the Paris Principles in 1992 and adopted by UN General Assembly in 1993.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. The NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the

promotion and protection of human rights. Section 2(1)(d) of the PHRA defines human rights as the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

Importance of NHRC

- ◆ NHRC is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of the second most populous country in the world. The human rights conditions of 1.3 billion people depend in part on the well functioning of the NHRC.
- ◆ Established in 1993 as one of the earliest NHRIs, the NHRC has been a model NHRI and hence its impacts and influence go beyond India's national boundaries. Thus, significant in law and practice of NHRC are likely to influence other similar NHRIs particularly in the South Asia Region.

Need for Amendment

Since its creation, every five years, the NHRC has to undergo accreditation by Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), an agency affiliated to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR). The Commission's compliance to the 'Paris Principles' is ascertained in this process, which is similar to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation of Indian colleges — better the grade, higher the benefits. Thus, if India retains an A-status, the NHRC will continue to play a pivotal role in the decision-making processes of the UNHRC and other important international bodies.

In 2016, the accreditation agency deferred grading the NHRC because of the Commission's poor track-record — especially, political interference in its working. But the agency was satisfied with the government's commitment

to introduce necessary changes to the Commission and granted the NHRC A-status in 2017. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is an outcome of this commitment.

In addition, in June 2016, the current chair of the NHRC and former Chief Justice of India, HL Dattu, described this institution over which he presided as “a toothless tiger.” In 2017, the Supreme Court of India seemed to support Justice Dattu's remarks while dealing with the alleged extra-judicial killings of 1,528 persons in Manipur by police and armed forces. The Supreme Court (SC) observed that:

“Considering that such a high powered body has brought out its difficulties through affidavits and written submissions filed in this court, we have no doubt that it has been most unfortunately reduced to a toothless tiger.”

Further, the challenge before the Commission was to keep a tight grip on its disposal, so that pendency was not allowed to increase. Unfortunately, this did not happen and the number of cases pending with the Commission has been increasing sharply every year. Either the Commission needs to get its staff strength increased or change methods of disposal so that the backlog of accumulated undisposed cases does not become heavy.

Key Amendments

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019, inter alia, provides:

- ◆ that a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of India;
- ◆ to increase the Members of the Commission from two to three of which, one shall be a woman;

- ◆ for two persons having knowledge of human rights to be appointed as members of the NHRC;
- ◆ to include Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as deemed Members of the Commission;
- ◆ to reduce the term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission and the State Commissions from five to three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment;
- ◆ to provide that a person who has been a Judge of a High Court (HC) is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the State Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of the High Court; and,
- ◆ to confer upon State Commissions, the functions relating to human rights being discharged by the Union territories, other than the Union territory of Delhi, which will be dealt with by the Commission.

Benefits

The proposed benefits are discussed below:

- ◆ The Bill will ensure that the NHRC is more inclusive. For this, the new Bill provides for including the chairpersons of the National Commission for Backward Classes, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) along with a women member as deemed Members of the Commission. Till now, only chairpersons of commissions such as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled

Tribes and National Commission for Women are members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

- ◆ The Bill will expedite the process of appointment of chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission as well as State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs). As the amendment eases the eligibility to 'fill the vacancies' — besides a former Chief Justice of India, a former Supreme Court judge can also head the NHRC, and former HC judges, not just ex-CJs, the state commissions.
- ◆ The amendment will allow Secretary-General of the NHRC and Secretary of a SHRC to exercise all administrative and financial powers (except judicial functions), subject to the respective chairperson's control. This will reduce the pendency of cases before the commission, as those cases which were dismissed in limine by the commission, will now be decided at the secretariat level, instead of being put up to the Commission for final disposal. During 2015-16, out of 1,18,254 cases, which were disposed by the commission that year, 65,220 were dismissed in limine.
- ◆ The amended Bill will be in sync with the agreed global standards and benchmarks on ensuring rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of individuals in the country.
- ◆ The amendment to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 will make the NHRC and SHRCs more compliant with the 'Paris Principle' "concerning its autonomy, independence, pluralism and wide-ranging functions in order to effectively protect and promote human rights".

On the whole, the amendment shows that the government was

sensitive to the rights of humanity and was committed to strengthening the Human Rights Commission.

Critical Analysis

There have been apprehensions that instead of addressing the inadequacies within the commission, the newly introduced amendment paved the way for amplified politicisation of the body. Critics of the Bill points to the fact that similar amendments were proposed and rejected by the 108th Standing Committee in 2006.

Office of the Chairpersons

Much of NHRC's credibility lies in the fact that it is led by a former Chief Justice of India (CJI). This clause is now proposed to be amended to "broaden" the scope of the NHRC to allow a former judge of the Supreme Court to be in the running for the top post in the human rights body. Home minister Amit Shah justified this change, using the 'first amongst equals' argument — a move intended to ensure that the post doesn't go vacant. This amendment will only allow the appointment committee to handpick the most 'favourable' judge to head the NHRC which is a matter of grave concern. It is only irrational to assume that with so much at the disposal of the commission, the ruling government wouldn't hand-pick pliant men to serve on the body. Further, broadening the scope of the NHRC will create another platform for internal conflict and unhealthy competition amongst the many Supreme Court judges.

In addition, in light of GANHRI's 2011, 2016 and 2017 recommendations, and given that quasi-judicial function is only one out of the ten functions laid out in Section 12 of the PHRA, it is important to debate if a judicial appointee is best suited to lead the apex human rights body.

Lack of Diversity

The present amendment Bill, however, has failed to diversify the commission, offering token representation to women and reserving only one seat amongst the non-judicial members. In 2017, the report by GANHRI has cited the fact that only 20% of the staff at the NHRC comprised of women and criticised its selection process.

Since its formation, the NHRC has had just three women as members and none as its chairperson. In the current setup, if the government is serious with its intentions, it should have proposed that half of its commissioners are women.

An analysis of the annual reports of the NHRC reflects a steep rise in the pendency of human rights violation cases, with 40,766 cases pending in 2015-16. Among the cases disposed of, 50% were discarded on procedural grounds. With this heavy caseload setting the context, the numerically tied composition of the commission seems scanty.

Not only does it overburden the commission, but it also reduces the possibility of including religious, ethnic, linguistic, cultural groups and marginalised sections like Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), LGBTIQ+, etc. Lack of representation from the communities which are most vulnerable to such violations than any other is running in complete contradiction to the pillars of diversity and plurality.

For a country with over 1.3 billion population, the apex human rights body cannot be left in the control of five or six commissioners representing the majority socio-economic-cultural groups. The number of commissioners needs to significantly increase to ensure that they can respond to the large volume of complaints and allow

representation from diverse groups. After all, these are the communities that need an effective NHRC the most.

Reduction in Tenure of Members and Chairpersons

Shortening the term of commissioners from five to three years is another change that has not been well thought through. A judicial member is appointed after retirement, after 65 years in case of a chairperson and a judicial member and 62 years in case of another judicial member, with the cap of 70 years as retirement. A three-year term, eligible for reappointment, would practically mean a shorter second tenure. Shorter tenures of commissioners create a larger room for government interference to replace commissioners who fail to toe the government line.

Question of Independence and Government Interference

Section 4 of the PHRA provides for a six-member appointment committee

guaranteeing at least two seats to opposition party leaders, one from the Lok Sabha and the other from the Rajya Sabha. The three guaranteed members are from the ruling coalition – the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Speaker of the House. The remaining member – Deputy Chair of the Rajya Sabha – may or may not belong to the ruling party.

In short, the composition of the appointment committee would be in the ratio of 4:2 in most cases, 3:3 in rare cases or 5:1 as experienced in the absence of a Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. This is a clear and direct attack on the autonomy and independence of the body.

As long as the government's representation in the appointment committee is in the majority, no reform or amendment can sufficiently address the concerns with the NHRC. With a politically handicapped appointment committee and the ruling party in a majority, the appointments will favour

the selection of 'yes-men' of the government in power.

Conclusion

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has brought sweeping changes of far-reaching consequences to composition and functioning of the commission. While the Bill seeks to diversify the Commission's composition, it falls short of bringing out substantial changes to the NHRC. The impact of these changes cannot be predicted with certainty — only time will tell whether the amendment is a change for the better or worse. Lets hope that the proposed amendment will make NHRC - "A Roaring Tiger" from being "A Toothless Tiger."

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.



3. MENTAL ILLNESS : A SERIOUS CONCERN FOR INDIA

Why in News?

Recently, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) National Level Review Meeting on Mental Health was held in New Delhi. It has been observed that the efforts to improve the mental health care in the country have been made but a huge gap still remains between the requirements and availability of facilities in the sector. Several issues to bridge the gap between the legislation (i.e. Mental Healthcare Act, 2017) and its implementation have been highlighted.

Introduction

Mental illness contribute to 31% of the global disease burden, but only receive 1% or less funding from national health

budgets worldwide. In India, there is a 90% treatment gap for those living with mental illness. 10-12% of persons living with mental illness experience long term care needs and these individuals are languishing in mental hospitals, beggar homes and therefore experience poor quality of living, poor mental health outcomes and significant human rights violations.

Further, World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that 20% of Indian population will be suffering from at least one mental-health problem by 2020. India now has the highest rate of suicides in the 15-29 age category, 42.5% of people working in the private sector are battling either depression, anxiety or some form of similar issue

according to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) report.

Untreated mental health disorders are leading cause of disability worldwide. The cause of absolute worry that demands hands-on action is the fact that more than 60% of Indians facing mental health issues (ranging from mild to severe) do not seek help. We all know that stigma is also a major issue for reluctance in seeking help.

In India, most funding towards mental health is utilised for institutional care that focuses on addressing solely biological vulnerabilities rather than social stressors (e.g. poverty, employment status, abuse, homelessness). The National Mental

Health Policy called for a convergence between health and social care systems to address vulnerable and marginalised groups who suffer from mental illnesses.

What are Mental Disorders?

Mental disorders (or mental illnesses) are conditions that affect our thinking, feeling, mood, and behavior. They may be occasional or long-lasting (chronic). They can affect our ability to relate to others and function each day. There are many different mental disorders, with different presentations. They are generally characterized by a combination of abnormal thoughts, perceptions, emotions, behaviour and relationships with others. Mental disorders include: depression, bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia and other psychoses, dementia, intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders including autism.

Mental Healthcare Act, 2017

The various provisions under the Mental Healthcare Act are as follows:

- ◆ **Rights of Persons with Mental Illness:** Every person will have the right to access mental healthcare services. Such services should be of good quality, convenient, affordable, and accessible. This act further seeks to protect such persons from inhuman treatment, to gain access to free legal services and their medical records, and have the right to complain in the event of deficiencies in provisions
- ◆ **Advance Directive:** This empowers a mentally ill person to have the right to make an advance directive toward the way she/he wants to be treated for the requisite illness and who her/his nominated representative shall be. This directive has to be vetted by a medical practitioner.
- ◆ **Mental Health Establishments:** The government has to set up the

Central Mental Health Authority at national level and State Mental Health Authority in every state. All mental health practitioners (clinical psychologists, mental health nurses, and psychiatric social workers) and every mental health institute will have to be registered with this authority.

- ◆ **Decriminalizing Suicide and Prohibiting Electroconvulsive Therapy:** It decriminalizes suicide attempt by a mentally ill person. It also imposes on the government a duty to rehabilitate such person to ensure that there is no recurrence of attempt to suicide. A person with mental illness shall not be subjected to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) without the use of muscle relaxants and anesthesia.
- ◆ **Responsibility of certain other Agencies:** The Act also imposes a duty on the police officer in the charge of a police station to take under protection any wandering person; such person will be subject to examination by a medical officer and based on such examination will be either admitted to a mental health establishment or be taken to her residence or to an establishment for homeless persons.
- ◆ **Insurance:** The Act requires that every insurance company shall provide medical insurance for mentally ill persons on the same basis as is available for physical illnesses.

Implementation of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017

- ◆ Presently, India spends 0.06% of its health budget on mental-healthcare (who.org). This budget is even less than Bangladesh (0.44%). Most of the developed nations spend above 4% of their budgets on mental-health research, infrastructure, frameworks and talent pools.

There is a requirement of 13500 psychiatrists but only 3827 are available. Against the requirement of 20250 clinical psychologists only 898 are available. Similarly, there is an acute shortage of para-medical staff also.

- ◆ There is issue regarding availability of mental healthcare to prisoners. It is an obligation of the State governments under Section 103 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 to provide mental healthcare facility to prisoners.
- ◆ The Centre has been very proactively engaged with the task of improving the mental healthcare system in the country for which the cooperation of states is also needed. The state authorities are supposed to register and regulate all mental healthcare facilities and publish their details online. It is also required to register all clinical psychologists, mental health nurses and psychiatric social workers. More than two years after the Mental Health Act, 2017 was passed; only 19 states have managed to get the State Mental Health Authority in place, as required under the new Act.
- ◆ The Act mandates the states to have a functional authority within nine months of the law coming into force but most of the states have missed the deadline. The states are also yet to draft the rules of the Act. There is a lack of understanding among states about how to make rules. They need a bit of legal guidance and handholding. With the lack of new rules, the rules of the old Mental Health Act (1987) are still being followed.

Issues and Challenges of Mental Disorder

Most strongly associated factors with mental disorders are deprivation and poverty. Individuals with lower levels

of education, low household income, lack of access to basic amenities are at high risk of mental disorder. Lifetime risk of affective disorders, panic disorders, generalized anxiety disorder, specific phobia and substance use disorders is found to be highest among illiterate and unemployed persons. Suicidal behavior was found to have relation with female gender, working condition, independent decision making, premarital sex, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Ongoing stress and chronic pain heightened the risk of suicide. Living alone and a break in a steady relationship within the past year were also significantly associated with suicide. Work environment, school environment and family environment plays important role in pathogenesis of mental disorders.

Females are more predisposed to mental disorders due to rapid social change, gender discrimination, social exclusion, gender disadvantage like marrying at young age, concern about the husband's substance misuse habits, and domestic violence. Divorced and widowed women are at slightly elevated risk of mental disorders. In India domestic violence is a big problem. Poorer women are more likely to suffer from adverse life events, to live in crowded or stressful conditions, to have fewer occupational opportunities and to have chronic illnesses; all of these are recognized risk factors for common mental disorders. Psychological factors such as headache and body ache, sensory symptoms and nonspecific symptoms such as tiredness and weakness also makes people vulnerable to mental disorders. Biological factors affecting mental disorders are genetic origin, abnormal physiology and congenital defect.

Stigma related to mental disorders, lack of awareness in common people, delayed treatment seeking behaviour,

lack of low cost diagnostic test and lack of easily available treatment are the main hurdles in combating the problem of mental health in India. In addition factors pertaining to traditional medicine and beliefs in supernatural powers in community delays diagnosis and treatment. India had focused its attention mainly to maternal and child health and communicable diseases. This leads to lack of political commitment to non communicable diseases further aggravating the load of mental disorders.

Government Initiatives

In 2015, government of India has launched first ever National Mental Health Policy to provide universal psychiatric care and include psychiatric treatment in primary health care. Some great steps have been taken including rights of the mentally ill, support to care-givers, community level action and increasing "compassion and responsibility".

Mental Health Action Plan 2013 - 2020

The 66th World Health Assembly, consisting of Ministers of Health of 194 Member States, adopted the WHO's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 in May 2013. The action plan recognize the essential role of mental health in achieving health for all people. It is based on a life-course approach, aims to achieve equity through universal health coverage and stresses the importance of prevention.

Four major objectives are set forth: more effective leadership and governance for mental health; the provision of comprehensive, integrated mental health and social care services in community-based settings; implementation of strategies for promotion and prevention; and strengthened information systems, evidence and research.

However, over time these initiatives began to perform poorly primarily due to inadequate budgetary allocations, lack of inter-sectoral coordination between different government departments, and the absence of a stable leadership and

administrative structure to ensure proper implementation.

Thus, India has a long way to go in terms of an all-inclusive mental health ecosystem, but this step could be revolutionary if implemented with speed and accuracy.

Need of the Hour

- ◆ India needs to aim at improving child development by early childhood interventions like pre-school psychosocial activities, nutritional and psycho-social help to give roots for a healthy community.
- ◆ To reduce the burden of mental disorders in women, there is need to do socio-economic empowerment of women by improving access to education and employment opportunities.
- ◆ Society needs to be free of discrimination and violence. Reducing discrimination against sex, caste, disability and socio-economic status is an important aspect to reduce mental disorders.
- ◆ Social support for elderly people needs to be strengthened. More community and day centres for the aged should be developed. Programmes targeting towards indigenous people, migrants and people affected by disasters need to be established.
- ◆ Programme could be implemented through school like programmes supporting ecological changes in schools or at work place like stress prevention programmes.
- ◆ The need of the hour is to sensitize and educate individuals about the signs and symptoms of mental illness while normalizing the idea of seeking support for themselves and their loved ones.
- ◆ There is a need to be more open discussion and dialogue with the general public, and not just

experts on this subject, which will in turn help create a more inclusive environment for people with mental illness.

- ♦ Interventions, focusing on raising awareness of mental health issues and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health, are necessary for addressing the situation.
- ♦ Increase in spending in establishing more institutes, training centres and treatment facilities, running large scale awareness campaigns to eliminate social stigma, providing affordable facilities and cover by insurance is what India needs urgently.

Way Forward

Burden of mental disorders seen by the world is only a tip of iceberg. To

promote mental health, there is a need to create such living conditions and environment that support mental health and allow people to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyle. A society that respects and protects basic, civil, political, and cultural rights is needed to be built to promote mental health. National mental health policies should not be solely concerned with mental disorders, but should also recognize and address the broader issues which promote mental health. This includes education, labour, justice, transport, environment, housing and health sector.

Considering that most of the earlier strategies to enhance mental health have not succeeded over the past seven decades or more in less-developed countries, the time has

come to take on a new approach with renewed vigor. Mental health awareness can become both the means and the way of ending this apathy. Progressive government policies based on evidence-based approaches, an engaged media, a vibrant educational system, a responsive industry, aggressive utilization of newer technologies and creative crowd-sourcing might together help dispel the blight of mental illnesses.

General Studies Paper- II

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

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4. DOPING IN SPORT : NEEDS PREVENTION

Why in News?

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will now come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). This means India's cricketers will now be tested by NADA. Further, India batsman Prithvi Shaw was recently suspended till November 15 after his urine sample tested positive for the substance 'Terbutaline'.

Doping from the Beginning to the Present Day

There have been several definitions of doping. The first official definition of doping dates from 1963 and it was issued by the European Committee Council: "Doping represents the use of substances or physiological mediators, which are not normally present in the human body, introduced as an external aid to increase the athletes' performance during a competition".

Doping was described in modern sports in the second half of the

19th century. During the Saint Louis Marathon in 1904, Tom Hicks died as a result of using a mixture of cognac and strychnine. After multiple incidents in competitions, in 1928, the International Athletics Federation (IAF) became the first international federation to ban doping in athletic competitions; 32 years later anti-doping testing was implemented.

In the Olympics, the first official controls for conventional substances took place at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Anabolic steroids were the first substances controlled at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal and as a consequence many athletes were disqualified and lost their medals. This led to a decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which stated that the results of doping tests should be made public within the competition.

That was the beginning of an open fight that began in the 1980s between those seeking and finding new doping substances that are not yet on the

antidoping list and the authorities that try to detect these substances. It is clear, however, that between these two sides there is a gap in favor of those interested in cheating. Further, introduction of anti-doping controls outside competitions was a new milestone in the anti-doping campaign in 1989.

In modern professional sports, many athletes have been tested positive with forbidden substances, perhaps the most publicized case being that of Canadian Ben Johnson, the famous 100 meters runner for the use of anabolic steroids. It was the first doping scandal in the history of the Olympic Games, which led to Johnson's suspension for two years and then for life, because he tested positive again in 1993.

Currently, doping is considered as any violation of the following rules: the use or attempt to use a forbidden substance or a prohibited method, refusal for sampling after receiving

an invitation to doping control in accordance with anti-doping rules, avoidance of sampling, falsification or attempt to falsify any part of the doping control, possession of prohibited substances and / or methods, trafficking or attempted trafficking of any prohibited substance.

BCCI and Anti-doping tussle

The BCCI came under the ambit of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), ending more than a decade long stand-off between the apex body of Indian cricket and the national organization. It means all cricketers, without exception, will now be tested for banned and performance enhancing drugs by NADA, like any other Indian athlete.

BCCI had previously used the services of Sweden-based International Dope Testing Management (IDTM) for collecting the samples of cricketers and submitting them to the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL). However, following Sports Ministry's firm stance on the issue, the BCCI has finally agreed to be NADA compliant.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) also initiated process to make the International Cricket Council (ICC) non-compliant to its revised 'Code' for signatories in 2018 after the world cricket body failed to make one of its members, BCCI, NADA compliant. The ICC had become WADA's signatory in 2006 even as it started conducting dope tests as early as 2002. The WADA had set October 8 as the deadline but BCCI's failure to allow the NADA to test its cricketers had forced the world anti-doping watchdog to take action.

The BCCI had in the past argued that it is not a National Sports Federation (NSF) which is recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in India. The BCCI has been an autonomous body which does not receive funding or grants from the sports ministry of the country. Thus, the BCCI had argued it need not be covered

by National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADO) protocols since its not an NSF.

The 'whereabouts clause' has been a big roadblock for BCCI to come under the ambit of the NADA. The same clause had vehemently opposed by star Indian cricketers. The 'Whereabouts Clause' requires every cricketer to inform the ICC or the NADO about his/her location in 3 specific dates in a year wherein they would be available for out-of-competition testing -- as in for NADA's Dope Control Officer (DCO) for sample collection.

Importance of 'Whereabouts Clause'

Whereabouts are information provided by a limited number of top elite athletes about their location to the International Sport Federation (IF) or National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) that included them in their respective registered testing pool as part of these top elite athletes' anti-doping responsibilities.

Because out-of-competition doping controls can be conducted without notice to athletes, they are one of the most powerful means of deterrence and detection of doping and are an important step in strengthening athlete and public confidence in doping-free sport. Accurate whereabouts information is crucial to ensure efficiency of the anti-doping programs, which are designed to protect the integrity of sport and to protect clean athletes.

The concept of out-of-competition is not new. Experience has shown that out-of-competition testing is crucial to the fight against doping, in particular because a number of prohibited substances and methods are detectable only for a limited period of time in an athlete's body while maintaining a performance-enhancing effect. The only way to perform such testing is by knowing where athletes are, and the only way to make it efficient is to be able to test athletes at times at which cheaters may be most likely to use prohibited substances and methods.

Further, the BCCI had reportedly raised concerns surrounding the competence of NADA's doping control officers over the quality of pathologists and sample collection officers. However, now the Sports Ministry has assured that the NADA's doping-control officers are well trained.

What is Doping?

Doping means athletes taking illegal substances to improve their performances. There are five classes of banned drugs, the most common of which are stimulants and hormones. There are health risks involved in taking them and they are banned by sports' governing bodies.

Depending on the country's legislation, doping substances can be bought from pharmacies / supplement stores or, most commonly, from the black market. For a substance or performance improvement method to be classified as doping, it must meet at least two of the following three criteria: (i) to improve performance, to present a hazard (ii) to the health of the athlete and (iii) to violate the spirit of sport. Other methods of improving performance such as blood transfusions are also included in the doping category.

The World Anti-Doping Agency

The goal of WADA is a world in which all athletes compete in a clean sporting environment. WADA is a strong defender of ethical sports and guarantees athletes' legal protection. WADA also aims to harmonise antidoping work all over the world. WADA was established in 1999, and its head office is located in Montreal, Canada.

WADA Code: The WADA Code or simply the Code is a document aiming to harmonise anti-doping regulations in all sports and across countries. It has been adopted by over 600 sports organisations. The Code works on five aspects:

- Prohibited List;
- Testing and investigations;
- Laboratories;
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs); and
- Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

UNESCO's Convention Against Doping

UNESCO's global antidoping convention entered into force in 2007. The governments that have ratified UNESCO's antidoping convention have undertaken to comply with the principles of WADA's World Anti-Doping Code and support the operations of WADA. The governments are committed to arranging antidoping activities in their respective countries. Compliance with the convention is monitored through reporting by the convention member states.

International Anti-Doping Agreement

The International Antidoping Agreement (IADA) is an intergovernmental alliance with strong involvement by national antidoping agencies. IADA exercises active influence on the development of the WADA Code and Standards. It also prepares its own initiatives and develops antidoping work with its projects and programmes. The IADA agreement was concluded in 1991, and its secretarial staff is located in Norway in 2015–2016.

The National Anti-Doping Agency

National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) was set up as registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1890 on November 24, 2005 with a mandate for dope free sports in India. The primary objectives are to implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.

The primary functions of NADA are as under:

- ◆ To implement the Anti-doping Code to achieve compliance by all sports organizations in the Country.
- ◆ To coordinate dope testing program through all participating stakeholders.
- ◆ To promote anti-doping research and education to inculcate the value of dope free sports.
- ◆ To adopt best practice standards and quality systems to enable effective implementation and continual improvement of the program.

To ensure clean and dope free sports in India, NADA has adopted several methods recently. Consequently, the detection rate stood at a maximum of 4.3% during the year 2018-19. As a result, this year maximum 187 players were charged for violating the anti-doping rules. Combat doping at wider level, various new sports like Soft-Tennis, Karate, Kho-Kho, Squash, Roller Skating, Billiards and Boating have been incorporated in dope control program, in year 2018-19.

To prevent doping in sports, NADA has been conducting various Anti-Doping Awareness Programs at national camps, universities, and colleges and during various championships. In year 2018-19, total of 90 Anti-Doping Awareness Programs were conducted in different parts of India, wherein the athletes and their coaches were educated about ill-effects of doping and were asked to support clean and dope-free sports in India. To ensure clean and dope-free sports in India, NADA has started its dope testing even at state-level.

Issues and Challenges

Doping has become a key and complex issue in the sports world, which deserves serious consideration, as specialists are still striving to understand how and why it happens, and how to prevent it. "Sensational" revelations in the press reflect the gravity of a worrying situation resonating in most sports disciplines.

Cases of doping compromise the credibility of performance in sport, the mediatized victories of some "arena heroes" becoming questionable and disputable. Nowadays some sporting disciplines seem to have managed to surpass the human limits and sometimes even the legal limits. The financial interests, the pressure to obtain better results, the media coverage of sports competitions and, last but not least, the human nature can explain this phenomenon.

It is clear that in some disciplines such as athletics or cycling, human performance cannot improve endlessly. Nowadays, sports are no longer just sports; as sport become an industry, a business, a reason for political or national pride, and these facts can only lead to breaking any rules to win. Sometimes, consciously, camouflaged, with a network of specialists behind or on their own, some athletes think "maybe they won't catch me"; because today sports mean sponsors, advertising contracts and money and for that some believe that any risk is worth taking. Even risks to their own health (often with huge and irreversible consequences) no longer matter.

Way Forward

The doping phenomenon in sports is increasing and diversifying, as are the drugs used for doping. There is a permanent race among those who invent new doping methods and sports ethics organizations that are searching for more performant methods to detect them. Unfortunately, most of the times, those in the first category are always one step ahead. Improving scientific procedures used to detect prohibited substances is of course a necessity and also a challenge. Stricter legislation with the involvement of authorities is required to prevent the spread, marketing and use of such substances. Resolute action is required to restore fair-play throughout the sports industry and last but not least, the ethics and fair-play education of young athletes.

General Studies Paper- II

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



5. TIME TO PHASE OUT SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FROM INDIA

Why in News?

In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for freeing India from “single-use plastic”. The government would try to “phase out” single-use plastic by 2022. The Union Environment Ministry reportedly has been working on a central legislation to ban single-use plastics and has sought views from states.

Introduction

Plastic is a lightweight, hygienic and resistant material which can be moulded in a variety of ways and utilized in a wide range of applications. Most plastics do not biodegrade, but instead photodegrade, meaning that they slowly break down into small fragments known as microplastics.

The material is cheap, lightweight and easy to make. These qualities have led to a boom in the production of plastic over the past century. This trend will continue as global plastic production skyrockets over the next 10 to 15 years.

Though, the benefits of plastic are undeniable. But overuse of plastics has its own disadvantages. We are already unable to cope with the amount of plastic waste we generate, unless we rethink the way we manufacture, use and manage plastics. Large amounts of single-use plastics are improperly discarded in dumpsites, in the environment, or burned out of necessity as cooking fuel, especially in countries with inadequate waste management systems and limited public awareness. Only a small percentage is disposed of properly in sanitary landfills, and an even smaller portion is recycled. According to recent estimates, 18-79% of the plastic waste ever produced now sits in landfills, dumps or in the environment, while

about 12% has been incinerated and only 9% has been recycled. If current consumption patterns and waste management practices do not improve, by 2050 there will be about 12 billion tons of plastic litter in landfills and the natural environment.

Single-Use Plastic

Single-use plastics, often also referred to as disposable plastics, are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery. Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.

Key Statistics

- ◆ Globally, 75% of all plastic produced is waste, and 87% of this is leaked into the environment. Over one-third of plastic waste ends up in nature, especially water, which is the largest source of plastic ingestion. Eight million tonnes of plastic pollution ends up in the ocean every year.
- ◆ Study by the World Wildlife Foundation concluded that an average person may be ingesting 5 grams of plastic every week.
- ◆ Overall CO₂ emissions from the plastic life cycle are expected to increase by 50%, while the CO₂ increase from plastic incineration is set to triple by 2030, due to wrong waste management choices.
- ◆ Since 2000, the world has produced as much plastic as all the preceding years combined, a third of which is leaked into nature.
- ◆ More than 270 wildlife species have been documented as having been harmed by entanglement, while

more than 240 species have been found to have ingested plastics.

- ◆ Plastic pollution also has damaging economic consequences, with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) estimating its annual economic impact on the ocean economy at US\$8 billion.

India and Plastic Use

Like much of the world, India is struggling to dispose its growing quantities of plastic waste given how ubiquitous it has become — from our tooth brushes to debit cards. Though, at less than 11 kg, India’s per capita plastic consumption is nearly a tenth of the US, at 109 kg, but overall India generates close to 26,000 tonnes of plastic a day, according to a CPCB estimate from 2012. Worse, a little over 10,000 tonnes a day of plastic waste remains uncollected.

Apart from the plastic we consume through traditional retail, the popularity of online retail and food delivery apps, though restricted to big cities, is contributing to the rise in plastic waste. Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal, in a September 2018 blog, estimated that orders through food delivery aggregators were adding up to “22,000 tonnes of plastic waste created every month in India”. In addition, e-commerce companies are too responsible for excess use of plastic packaging.

As our plastic consumption is increasing, the plastic processing industry is estimated to grow to 22 million tonnes (MT) a year by 2020 from 13.4 MT in 2015 and nearly half of this is single-use plastic, according to a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry study.

The 2016 Plastic Waste Management Rules were an attempt to improve legislation, and state that

every local body has to be responsible for setting up infrastructure for segregation, collection, processing and disposal of plastic waste. Additionally, the rules, amended in 2018, introduced the concept of extended producer responsibility, according to which the producers (manufacturers, importers and those using plastic in packaging) as well as brand owners would be held responsible for collecting the waste their products generate. However, recently National Green Tribunal rapped 25 states and Union Territories for not following its orders on submitting a plan by April 30, 2019, on how they would comply with the Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2016.

Issues and Challenges

- ◆ Waste plastic from packaging of everything from food, cosmetics and groceries to goods delivered by online platforms remains unaddressed.
- ◆ Single-use plastics end up littering the environment in part because of irresponsible individual behavior. But poor waste management systems also play an enormous role.
- ◆ Plastics in the environment pose significant hazards to wildlife both on land and in the ocean. High concentrations of plastic materials, particularly plastic bags, have been found blocking the breathing passages and stomachs of hundreds of different species. Plastic bags in the ocean resemble jellyfish and are often ingested by turtles and dolphins who mistake them for food.
- ◆ Petroleum based plastic is not biodegradable and usually goes into a landfill where it is buried or it gets into the water and finds its way into the ocean. Although plastic will not biodegrade it will degrade into tiny particles after many years.

In the process of breaking down, it releases toxic chemicals which make their way into our food and water supply.

- ◆ Petroleum based toxic chemicals are now being found in our bloodstream and the latest research has found them to disrupt the Endocrine system which can cause cancer, infertility, birth defects, impaired immunity and many other ailments. We produce hundreds of millions of tons of plastic every year, most of which cannot be recycled.
- ◆ Stranded single-use plastics create visual pollution and are increasingly becoming a priority especially in countries that rely heavily on tourism as a major source of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), such as Small Island Developing States. For instance, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) estimated a \$1.3 billion economic impact of marine plastics to the tourism, fishing and shipping industries in that region alone.

Actions to Minimize Plastic Pollution

Nevertheless, to tackle the roots of the problem, policy makers need to improve waste management practices and introduce financial incentives to change the habits of consumers, retailers and manufacturers, enacting strong policies that push for a more circular model of design and production of plastics. Governments must engage a broad range of stakeholders in the decision-making process as they seek to tackle the crisis.

Following actions can be taken to minimize plastic pollutions:

- ◆ **Waste Management System Improvements:** Waste management system design should be improved to reduce landfilling and illegal dumping.

- ◆ **Promotion of Eco-friendly Alternatives:** By working together with industry, governments can support the development and promotion of sustainable alternatives in order to phase out single-use plastics progressively.
- ◆ **Social Awareness and Public Pressure:** Social awareness and education are essential to shape and encourage changes in consumer behaviour, but a gradual, transformational process is necessary.
- ◆ **Voluntary Reduction Strategies and Agreements:** Reduction strategies such as Public Private Partnership (PPP) and voluntary agreements are another option to lessen the number of plastic bags and the amount of single-use plastic packaging.
- ◆ **Policy Instruments:** Though, the national law, several states and cities have introduced bans on plastic carrier bags and other plastic materials. But many more steps yet to be taken to curb it.

UN Environment: 10-step Roadmap for Governments

The report, entitled "Single-use Plastics: A roadmap for Sustainability", by UNEP in 2018, has examined the state of plastic pollution. It suggested 10 universal steps for policymakers to tackle the issue of plastic pollution in their communities. These are:

1. Target the most problematic single-use plastics by conducting a baseline assessment as well as the current causes, extent and impacts of their mismanagement.
2. Consider the best actions to tackle the problem (e.g. through regulatory, economic, awareness, voluntary actions).
3. Assess the potential social, economic and environmental impacts (positive and negative).

4. Identify and engage key stakeholder groups – retailers, consumers, industry representatives, local government, manufacturers, civil society, environmental groups, tourism associations – to ensure broad buy-in.
5. Raise public awareness about the harm caused by single-used plastics. Clearly explain the decision and any punitive measures that will follow.
6. Before the ban or levy comes into force, assess the availability of alternatives. Provide economic incentives to encourage the uptake of eco-friendly and fit-for-purpose alternatives that do not cause more harm.
7. Provide incentives to industry by introducing tax rebates or other conditions to support its transition.
8. Use revenues collected from taxes or levies on single-use plastics to maximize the public good.
9. Enforce the measure chosen effectively, by making sure that there is clear allocation of roles and responsibilities.
10. Monitor and adjust the chosen measure if necessary and update the public on progress.

Government Initiatives

India won global acclaim for its “Beat Plastic Pollution” resolve declared on World Environment Day last year, under which it pledged to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022. In an effort to reduce plastic pollution, several state governments have outlawed conventional plastic bags, allowing only the use and production of “biodegradable” bags. So far, 22 states and Union Territories have joined the fight, announcing a ban on single-use plastics such as carry bags, cups, plates, cutlery, straws and thermocol products.



Wherever firm actions have been taken, positive results have followed. Further, voluntary initiatives are having an impact in many states, as citizens reduce, reuse and sort their waste. For example a Bengaluru waste collective estimates that the volume of plastic waste that they collect dropped from about two tonnes a day to less than 100 kg. This is mainly due to people participation in curbing the plastic pollution.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 are clear that producers, importers and brand owners must adopt a collect-back system for the plastic they introduce into the environment. The Swachh Bharath Abhiyan has initiated many campaigns towards a ‘Clean and Proud India’. It is great to be aware of the dangers and the waste involved with using disposable plastics but we also need healthy alternatives.

Way Forward

A concerted effort need to include a ban on the use of plastic in processed food. A comprehensive extended producer responsibility is also needed to ensure

manufacturers are accountable for recycling, on the lines of rules for electronic waste. The whole world is mobilising efforts to decrease plastic footprint. Every country is reeling under this menace and there is a huge support system globally continuously created to tackle this menace. Many worldwide groups like the WHO, UN Environment, WWF, thousands of communities, NGOs, sustainable startups, and other organisations like plastic-free coalitions, recovery and recycling plants, media houses, are bringing to light the extent of the damage due to unrelented and ubiquitous of plastic. But, ultimately, tackling one of the biggest environmental scourges of our time will require governments to regulate, businesses to innovate and individuals to act.

General Studies Paper- III

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



6. UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT ACT, 2019 : AN UNDERSTANDING

Why in News?

The Parliament has passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019. After the President's assent, it has become an Act.

Introduction

In today's globalized world no country is immune to the threat of terrorism. Several countries in South Asia, including India, have been facing the challenge of terrorism and over the past few years there have been numerous acts of terror in the region. Many of these incidents are found to have complex international linkages and possible connections with transnational organised crime. Terrorism is an evolving phenomenon, with terrorist organizations continuously changing their modus operandi, thereby adding to the complexity and challenges faced by criminal justice practitioners.

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. Thus, India needs a strict law to tackle the growing threat of terrorism.

Background

With the spurt in terrorism in recent years, many countries have enacted appropriate and stringent anti-terrorism laws. India too has had various enactments for dealing with terrorism in the past –

- (i) The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (allowed to lapse in 1995);

- (ii) The Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (repealed in 2004); and

- (iii) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

However, some of these legislations were allowed to lapse/repealed as it was contended that the powers conferred on the law enforcement agencies had the potential, and in fact, had been misused.

The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 and 1987

The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 (commonly known as TADA), was enacted in May 1985, in the background of escalation of terrorist activities in some parts of the country. TADA, 1985 created two new offences, namely, "terrorist act" and "disruptive activities". To try these offences, TADA, 1985 established a system of special courts ("Designated Courts"). The law placed restrictions on the grant of bail by stipulating that unless the Court recorded the existence of "reasonable grounds for believing" that the accused was "not guilty", bail should not be given.

Further, TADA, 1987 strengthened the mechanism that had been provided in TADA, 1985. In the new law, certain offences were re-defined (e.g. harbouring or concealing terrorists; being a member of a terrorist gang or terrorist organization; holding of property derived as a result of terrorist acts etc.). It provided for a new offence of "possession of unauthorized arms in notified areas".

The constitutional validity of TADA, 1987 was challenged before the Supreme Court in *Kartar Singh vs State of Punjab* (1994). The validity of TADA, 1987 was extended in 1989,

1991 and 1993. However, after a series of complaints about its abuse, TADA, 1987, was allowed to lapse in 1995. Subsequently, the country witnessed several terrorist incidents –including hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC-814 to Kandahar in 1999 and the assault on Parliament on December 13, 2001. As a consequence, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 came into force.

Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA)

In 2001, the government had issued Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO). The ordinance granted state law enforcement sweeping powers to investigate, detain, and prosecute for a wide range of terrorist-related offenses. Most notably, POTO targeted those who allegedly incited, supported, abetted, harbored, concealed, or benefited from the proceeds of terrorism. After the attack on Indian Parliament the ordinance became the Prevention of Terrorism Act in 2002. The Indian media and human rights groups observed and criticized frequent abuses of the law, including hundreds of questionable and prolonged detentions with no formal charges filed. The most visible of these involved political figures arrested by rivals in control of state law enforcement machinery.

Further, the Constitutional validity of POTA was challenged in the case, *People's Union for Civil Liberties vs Union of India*, on the ground that the law violated basic human rights. The Supreme Court upheld the Constitutional validity of the law while stipulating some restrictions on the arbitrary use of certain powers. In September 2004, a new central government repealed POTA, but other vigorous anti-terror laws are likely to follow.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967

This law was enacted to provide for more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for matters connected with it. It empowered appropriate authorities to declare any association as 'unlawful' if it is carrying out 'unlawful activities'. This law was comprehensively amended by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2004 to deal with terrorist activities. Like POTA, it defines a 'terrorist act' and also defines a "terrorist organisation" as an organisation listed in the Schedule or an organisation operating under the same name as an organisation so listed. It further provides a mechanism for forfeiture of the proceeds of terrorism apart from providing stringent punishments for terrorism related offences.

Further, it is amended in by Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019. Thus, at present the only Union Legislation dealing specifically with terrorism is the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2019.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019, provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things. Some of the provisions of the Act are given below:

- ◆ **Who may Commit Terrorism:** Under the previous Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.

The new Act additionally empowered the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.

- ◆ **Approval for Seizure of Property by NIA:** Under the previous 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 new Act adds that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
- ◆ **Investigation by NIA:** Under the previous Act, investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above. The new Act additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
- ◆ **Insertion to Schedule of Treaties:** The previous 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 new Act adds another treaty to the list. This is the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).

Criticism of the New Act

- ◆ The UAPA amendments are unconstitutional for the simple reason that they allow the State to notify a person as a terrorist without a procedure established by law. The recent amendment allowed notification of "individuals as terrorists" while under UAPA, 1967, only organisations could be so notified.

- ◆ Section 35 of UAPA, 2019 does not specify detailed grounds or reasons based on which an individual can be termed as a terrorist that conferring of such an "arbitrary and unfettered power without any limits or bounds" amounts to the violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.
- ◆ UAPA, 2019 empower the ruling government, under the garb of curbing terrorism to impose an indirect restriction on the right of dissent, which is detrimental for our developing democratic society.
- ◆ UAPA, 2019 also violates the right to reputation as an integral part of the right to life, by terming or tagging an individual as terrorist even before the commencement of trial. This is in violation of Article 20 of Indian Constitution.
- ◆ The addition of offences to the NIA's repertoire is likely to cause much controversy, considering the breadth of the liberty given to the Central government to transfer cases to the NIA. The NIA will now no longer investigate issues concerning national security but offences related to firearms, explosives and counterfeit currency as well. No case has been made as to why this was necessary and whether the NIA can even take up such a large number of cases.
- ◆ There have been instances of UAPA charges being slapped against people for merely possessing revolutionary literature. When a draconian law is based on loose concepts, officials might find it tempting to use it against those who are positioned against the government. For example, those who work for tribal rights, those who criticize deeds of military in troubled areas etc., could run the risk of being branded terrorists.

Government's Arguments

- ◆ An individual's psychology is the birth place of terrorism, rather than an institution. If, in the first place, an individual is stopped from attracting other individuals into terrorism by providing ideological and financial support, this menace can be finished. Hence, designating an individual as terrorist, after following the due process of law, is of prime importance to nip terrorism in the bud.
- ◆ 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 Act would not be misused against any individual, yet, those individuals who engage in terrorist activities against the security and sovereignty of India, including the urban maoists, would not be spared by the investigating agencies either.
- ◆ There are no changes being made in arrest or bail provisions. Therefore, it is clear that there will be no violation of fundamental rights of any person.
- ◆ Defending the proposed amendment to give powers to DG, NIA to attach properties

acquired from proceeds of terrorism, government said that a strict law is fruitful only when it is practically implementable. Currently, the law requires that NIA take prior permission from the respective state DGP to start investigation in terror cases. This delays the process.

- ◆ The amendment about attaching properties acquired through proceeds of terrorism is being proposed in order to expedite investigation in terror cases and is not against the federal principles.

Conclusion

Terrorism is a multifaceted phenomenon and its human cost has been felt globally. Security of individuals is a basic human right — and protection of this right is the fundamental obligation of any government. Anti-terror laws play an important role in fulfilling this responsibility.

The UAPA, 2019 may empower the ruling government, under the garb of curbing terrorism, to impose indirect restriction on right of dissent which is detrimental for our developing democratic society. The possibility of the misuse of any law drafted with

Hard line

The UAPA Bill, 2019, amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Some highlights:

TERRORISM: Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is involved in terrorism. The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds

SEIZURE OF PROPERTY: Under the Act, an investigating officer must obtain prior approval of the DGP to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. If the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General, NIA is mandatory

INVESTIGATION: Under the Act, investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of DSP or ACP or above. Officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, can also investigate cases

good intentions cannot be thoroughly denied.

Thus, government must be careful in slapping the charges against individual under UAPA so that provisions under the act can't be misused for political purpose. Government must ensure that fundamental rights of every citizen must be respected. But at the same time, the government should continue its fight against terrorism and it should not matter which party is in power.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

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7. NEED OF AWARENESS ON POPULATION CONTROL

Why in News?

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during the 73rd Independence Day address, raised concerns about population explosion in India and stressed on the need for a discussion around it. So, let's discuss various dimensions related population explosion ranging from family planning, its need in present time as well as gender issue related to it.

Introduction

India was the first country in the world to formulate a National Family Planning Programme in 1952, with the objective of "reducing birth rate to the extent necessary to stabilise the population at a level consistent with requirement of national economy". In 2000, India brought its first population policy. The National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP 2000) aims to bring the Total

Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement levels by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectorial operational strategies. Further, its long-term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection. Today, India takes the "cafeteria approach" to family planning which means that

it provides multiple choices--eight contraceptive options for men and women at different life stages. These include six spacing methods and two permanent methods.

The current TFR, at 2.2, is close to the replacement-level fertility rate of 2.1. According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), TFR has declined considerably and between 1992-93 and 2015-16, it declined by 1.2 children (from 3.4 children in 1992-93 to 2.2 in 2015-16). However, there is wide degree of regional variation. Census data reveals that while Southern and Western states are experiencing demographic transitions close to replacement level, states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and other Northern and Eastern states have failed to implement family welfare programmes. While 174 districts out of 621 achieved replacement level fertility, there are 72 districts which have TFR of more than four children per woman.

Population Growth and Economic Growth

The relationship between population growth and economic development has been a recurrent theme in economic analysis since at least 1798 when Thomas Malthus famously argued that population growth would depress living standards in the long run. The theory was simple: given that there is a fixed quantity of land, population growth will eventually reduce the amount of resources that each individual can consume, ultimately resulting in disease, starvation, and war. The way to avoid such unfortunate outcomes was 'moral restraint' (i.e. refraining from having too many children). He didn't foresee the technological advances that would raise agricultural productivity and reduce the toll of infectious diseases—advances that have enabled the world's population

to grow from 1 billion in 1798 to 7.4 billion today.

The general view is that high birth rates and rapid population growth in poor countries would divert scarce capital away from savings and investment, thereby placing a drag on economic development. Larger families have fewer aggregate resources and fewer resources per child. Larger families therefore spread their resources more thinly to support more children. This leaves less for saving and investing in growth-enhancing activities. It also reduces spending on enhancing the economic potential of each child (e.g. through education and health expenditures). Thus, these household level consequences of high birth rates were believed to exert a significant negative effect on per capita income growth.

Is Call of Population Explosion is Farce?

The PM brought up the topic when the majority of Indian states have reached – or even fallen below – replacement levels of total fertility. At the national level, TFR levels are estimated to be at 2.2, and falling. As of now, only nine states are above the replacement TFR level of 2.1, and even in these cases TFR has fallen dramatically over the last decade (the latest data being for 2015-17) in a range of 0.5-1.1 per cent for different states.

In addition to it, the Economic Survey 2018-19 observed that the population growth in India has been slowing for last few decades from an annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent during 1971-81 to an estimated 1.3 per cent as of 2011-16. It further said that all major states have witnessed a marked deceleration in population growth during this period. The slowdown in states with historically high population growth such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana is particularly noteworthy. Further,

population is now growing below 1 per cent in Southern states as well as West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam and Himachal Pradesh. It concluded that India is set to witness a sharp slowdown in population growth over the next two decades, and some states will start transitioning to an ageing society by the 2030s.

While India's population is projected to overtake China's in less than a decade as per the United Nations 'World Population Prospects 2019' report released in June this year, the new projections for India are the lowest since the United Nations began these forecasts. The reason is the sharp decline in India's population growth rates over 10 years from 2001 to 2011. According to Census 2011, the growth rate of population has declined from 21.5% during 1991-2001 to 17.7% during 2001-2011, across all religious groups.

Though, estimates and statistics of population in India have been showing a slightly positive picture though the population explosion has major impacts on the country ranging from health, social, environmental and economic. India is not able to reap benefit from its present demography (around 65% of population is below the age of 35) which was supposed to be dividend once. The rise in population has also been accompanied by an increase in human activity, from high water use, damming of rivers, cropland expansion, increase in the user of fertilizers and irrigation, loss of forests, and a sharp rise in the use of oil, coal, gas, and an increase in the levels of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases that are a result of changes in the use of land and burning of fuels.

The adverse effects of unbridled population growth are manifest everywhere - be it our hugely overpopulated cities or falling agricultural land holdings. Problems of poverty, unemployment, sanitation,

rising crime all are due to the absence of population control. Long-term prospects are also not encouraging: India is set to increase its population by more than 27 crore (i.e. 20 per cent) by 2050. Thus, we desperately need a systematic study of population growth and formulation of a policy to control population.

Challenges to Family Planning

Though, India is the first country in the world to adopt family planning, but still India is unable to achieve the target of population stabilisation. Several factors are responsible for the same.

- ◆ At present, the role of the government in family planning is limited to making contraceptive facilities available at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs) in rural areas as well as the Urban Family Welfare Centres and Postpartum Centres in urban areas. Volunteers called Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) distribute contraceptives and pregnancy testing kits to beneficiaries at their doorsteps. On paper, this may appear sufficient but looking at the way PHCs are run one can well imagine the services that would really be available there. As regards ASHA workers, they are not volunteers but unqualified and minimally trained health workers who are paid a pittance as an incentive for certain tasks they perform.
- ◆ In India, the population policy all along put too much importance on the opening of family planning clinics and centres without arousing any mental preparation among the people to accept such a system.
- ◆ The importance of raising the standard of living and other socio-economic set up of the general mass in the countryside has been neglected in the population policy

of the country. If population problem in country is to be solved then a frontal attack on poverty, especially in the rural areas must be made which will require extra developmental efforts in the rural areas.

- ◆ Demographers and economists in India never approved coercive method which was once adopted by the government in 1976. The experience of emergency in connection with coercive methods showed that the adoption forced sterilisation hurt the sentiments of the people and became counter-productive. We have to learn from the experience of Kerala which reveals that without any adoption of compulsion, the birth rate in the state has been brought down to 19 per thousand by 1990 mainly due to higher level of literacy and better organisation.
- ◆ Although there are lack of infrastructural facilities, but the factors which are very much responsible for this failure of our population policy includes non-optimal use of available resources in the field of population control, political, economic and cultural restraints, absence of broad-based perspective approach in population policy, lack of sincerity on the part of the organisation engaged in family planning, lack of strong political will and lastly lack of co-operation from the general people in implementing the programme itself.

Family Planning and Women's Right

Gender norms in our patriarchal society dictate economic responsibilities to men and reproductive responsibilities to women. Though, these norms are changing steadily but it hasn't yet percolated through to the vast majority of Indians and at the grassroots. This

is reflected in how family planning measures are used in India: heavily skewed towards female sterilisation.

In 2015, of all married people in the reproductive age group, only 47.8% used any modern method of contraception (NFHS-4). Among the people who used contraception, 88% were women – 75% women underwent female sterilisation – whereas of the 12% male contraceptive users, only 0.6% underwent male sterilisation.

The efforts for population control have mostly translated to controlling women's, and not men's, fertility. There is no involvement of men in such dialogues. The program is designed to cater only to women and doesn't actively engage with men to increase their participation in sharing the burden of family planning.

According to the National Health Mission Financial Management Report 2016-17, the total expenditure on family planning in 2016-17 was Rs 577 crore, of which 85% was spent on female sterilisation alone, and only 2.8% on male sterilisation. Further, most outreach health workers in the health system are women, who often find it uncomfortable to talk to men regarding contraceptive methods.

The National Health Policy 2017 aims to increase the uptake of male sterilisation to up to 30% but offers no roadmap to implement it nor to tackle gendered challenges that persist in the health system. Such an approach poses a question whether the health system is seriously trying to involve men.

The history of family planning in India is marred with several violations of women's reproductive rights and has adversely impacted women's health in many instances. The incident in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, in November 2014, highlighted how women from lower socio-economic groups were sterilised in a camp without proper infection-control, leading to severe complications in many women and

the death of 15. Indeed, the Supreme Court of India has highlighted that 363 women, largely from rural and marginalised communities, died between 2010 and 2013 during or after surgery in sterilisation camps, and ordered the government to shut these camps down.

Although experts envisioned contraceptives as a means of liberation, where women could choose and control their fertility, in most cases it has become a top-down approach used by the state to control the population instead.

Government Initiatives

India has been consistently making efforts towards improving health and reducing fertility for sustainable development ever since the world's first national program was launched by the country in 1952. During the historic London Summit on Family Planning India committed that family planning shall be a central part of the government's efforts to ensure Universal Health Coverage and complying to the commitment the country adopted an integrated RMNCH+A approach with reproductive health being the first pillar to achieve the health goals of the country.

In India Family Planning 2020 has been utilized as a platform to focus on improving access to FP services through provision of fixed day static services, improving the overall quality of services, influencing the demand for contraceptives and expanding the basket of choices. India is also committed to ensure that family

planning information, commodities and services are provided absolutely free to every client including 200 million couples in reproductive age group in every nook and corner of the country in collaboration with partners that include civil society organizations and the private sector.

India has been in the forefront of expanding post partum IUCD services and since inception almost 1.4 million insertions has been done. At village level 0.9 million ASHAs are delivering contraceptives (Condoms, Oral Contraceptive Pills & Emergency Contraceptive Pills) at the doorstep of clients. ASHA has been instrumental in counseling the couples for delaying the birth of first child by at least two years and maintain a healthy spacing of at least three years between the first and second child.

Mission Pariwar Vikas

For improved access to contraceptives and family planning services in high fertility districts spreading over seven high focus states, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched "Mission PariwarVikas" in 2016. Special focus has been given to 146 high fertility Districts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Jharkhand, with an aim to ensure availability of contraceptive methods at all the levels of Health System. Its overall goal is to reduce India's overall fertility rate to 2.1 by the year 2025.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can say that the deprived sections of society, which are being targeted for family planning by the government, will hardly follow the two-child norm if they are not assured

of having two healthy children who have a fair chance of reaching adulthood. To provide healthcare for everyone, the government has to ensure that every district has an adequate number of PHCs and CHCs which are properly manned and which have an adequate stock of medicines. This is important as various studies show that better health and educational facilities have leading role to play in controlling population growth.

This can only be achieved if we increase expenditure on healthcare (which currently stands at 1 per cent of our GDP) to upgrade our primary health infrastructure and provide nutritional supplementation to poor children. Once a proper health and nutrition infrastructure is in place, a Family Planning Mission can be launched on the lines of Swachh Bharat Mission. Additionally, couples could be incentivised to follow the two-child norm. By providing incentives and better public healthcare, the government would be able to persuade the targeted population to have only two children, which would ensure that we are spared the calamity waiting for us in coming times ~ should we continue on our wayward trajectory.

General Studies Paper- I

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

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SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Chief of Defence Staff : First Among Equals

Q 1. Creation of the post of CDS will bring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability into decision-making on defence matters. Do you agree? Critically discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ The case for a CDS has been built around the argument that it is necessary to have a professional body of the highest standing to facilitate 'jointmanship' and render single-point military advice to the government on matters of national security.
- ◆ The creation of the post of CDS will make our national security more effective and more economical.
- ◆ It is apprehended that the defence services will become too powerful and subvert civilian control over the military with the possibility of military coup.
- ◆ Many serving service chiefs are inhibited by the idea of CDS as they think that their position would be undermined if the CDS would be appointed.
- ◆ In his announcement on the CDS, the Prime Minister mentioned past reports on defence reforms, the transforming nature of military conflict, the impact of technology and the need for modernisation, coordination and jointness. This leads to hope that the GoM recommendations of 2001 along with latest Committee of experts report will be implemented.

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 : An Analysis

Q 2. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has brought sweeping changes of far-reaching consequences to composition and functioning of the commission. Critically discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ Parliament has recently passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
- ◆ There have been apprehensions that instead of addressing the inadequacies within the commission,

the newly introduced amendment paved the way for amplified politicisation of the body.

- ◆ This amendment will only allow the appointment committee to handpick the most 'favourable' judge to head the NHRC which is a matter of grave concern. It is only irrational to assume that with so much at the disposal of the commission, the ruling government wouldn't hand-pick pliant men to serve on the body. Further, broadening the scope of the NHRC will create another platform for internal conflict and unhealthy competition amongst the many Supreme Court judges.
- ◆ For a country with over 1.3 billion population, the apex human rights body cannot be left in the control of five or six commissioners representing the majority socio-economic-cultural groups. The number of commissioners needs to significantly increase to ensure that they can respond to the large volume of complaints and allow representation from diverse groups. After all, these are the communities that need an effective NHRC the most.
- ◆ The impact of these changes cannot be predicted with certainty — only time will tell whether the amendment is a change for the better or worse. Lets hope that the proposed amendment will make NHRC - "A Roaring Tiger" from being "A Toothless Tiger."

Mental Illness : A Serious Concern for India

Q 3. It has been observed that the efforts to improve the mental health care in the country have been made but a huge gap still remains between the requirements and availability of facilities in the sector. Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ In India, there is a 90% treatment gap for those living with mental illness. 10-12% of persons living with mental illness experience long term care needs and these individuals are languishing in mental hospitals, beggar homes and therefore experience poor quality of living, poor mental health outcomes and significant human rights violations.

- ◆ Most strongly associated factors with mental disorders are deprivation and poverty. Individuals with lower levels of education, low household income, lack of access to basic amenities are at high risk of mental disorder.
- ◆ Females are more predisposed to mental disorders due to rapid social change, gender discrimination, social exclusion, gender disadvantage like marrying at young age, concern about the husband's substance misuse habits, and domestic violence.
- ◆ Stigma related to mental disorders, lack of awareness in common people, delayed treatment seeking behaviour, lack of low cost diagnostic test and lack of easily available treatment are the main hurdles in combating the problem of mental health in India.
- ◆ Thus, India has a long way to go in terms of an all-inclusive mental health ecosystem, but this step could be revolutionary if implemented with speed and accuracy.

Doping in Sport : Needs Prevention

Q 4. The doping phenomenon in sports is increasing and diversifying, as are the drugs used for doping. In this context, discuss how doping is eroding ethics and fair play education of young athletes.

Hints:

- ◆ Doping has become a key and complex issue in the sports world, which deserves serious consideration, as specialists are still striving to understand how and why it happens, and how to prevent it.
- ◆ Cases of doping compromise the credibility of performance in sport, the mediated victories of some "arena heroes" becoming questionable and disputable. Nowadays some sporting disciplines seem to have managed to surpass the human limits and sometimes even the legal limits. The financial interests, the pressure to obtain better results, the media coverage of sports competitions and, last but not least, the human nature can explain this phenomenon.
- ◆ Nowadays, sports are no longer just sports; as sport become an industry, a business, a reason for political or national pride, and these facts can only lead to breaking any rules to win.
- ◆ Stricter legislation with the involvement of authorities is required to prevent the spread, marketing and use of such substances. Resolute action is required to restore fair-play throughout the sports industry and last but not least, the ethics and fair-play education of young athletes.

Time to Phase Out Single-use Plastic from India

Q 5. What is 'Single-use Plastic'? Discuss the issues and challenges related to it.

Hints:

- ◆ Single-use plastics, often also referred to as disposable plastics, are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.
- ◆ Single-use plastics end up littering the environment in part because of irresponsible individual behavior. But poor waste management systems also play an enormous role.
- ◆ Plastic pollution also has damaging economic consequences, with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) estimating its annual economic impact on the ocean economy at US\$8 billion.
- ◆ A concerted effort need to include a ban on the use of plastic in processed food. A comprehensive extended producer responsibility is also needed to ensure manufacturers are accountable for recycling, on the lines of rules for electronic waste. The whole world is mobilising efforts to decrease plastic footprint. Every country is reeling under this menace and there is a huge support system globally continuously created to tackle this menace.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 : An Understanding

Q 6. Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2019, government can designate an individual as terrorist. Critically discuss the rationale behind this amendment to previous Act.

Hints:

- ◆ The new Act additionally empowered the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.
- ◆ An individual's psychology is the birth place of terrorism, rather than an institution. If, in the first place, an individual is stopped from attracting other individuals into terrorism by providing ideological and financial support, this menace can be finished. Hence, designating an individual as terrorist, after following the due process of law, is of prime importance to nip terrorism in the bud.

- ◆ The UAPA amendments are unconstitutional for the simple reason that they allow the State to notify a person as a terrorist without a procedure established by law. Section 35 of UAPA, 2019 does not specify detailed grounds or reasons based on which an individual can be termed as a terrorist that conferring of such an "arbitrary and unfettered power without any limits or bounds" amounts to the violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

Need of Awareness on Population Control

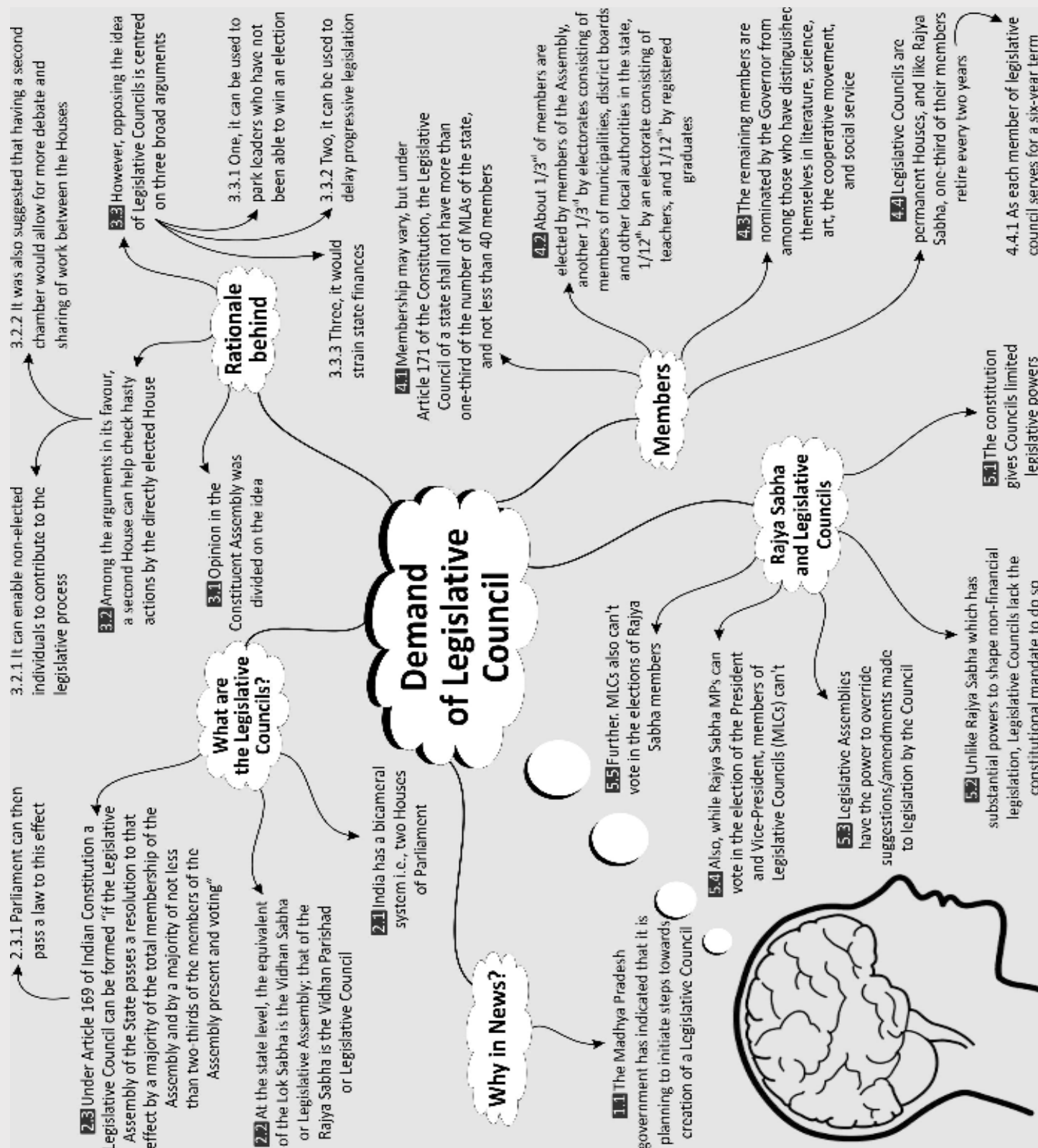
Q 7. India is the first country in the world to adopt family planning, but still India is unable to achieve the target of population stabilisation. Critically discuss the reasons behind the same.

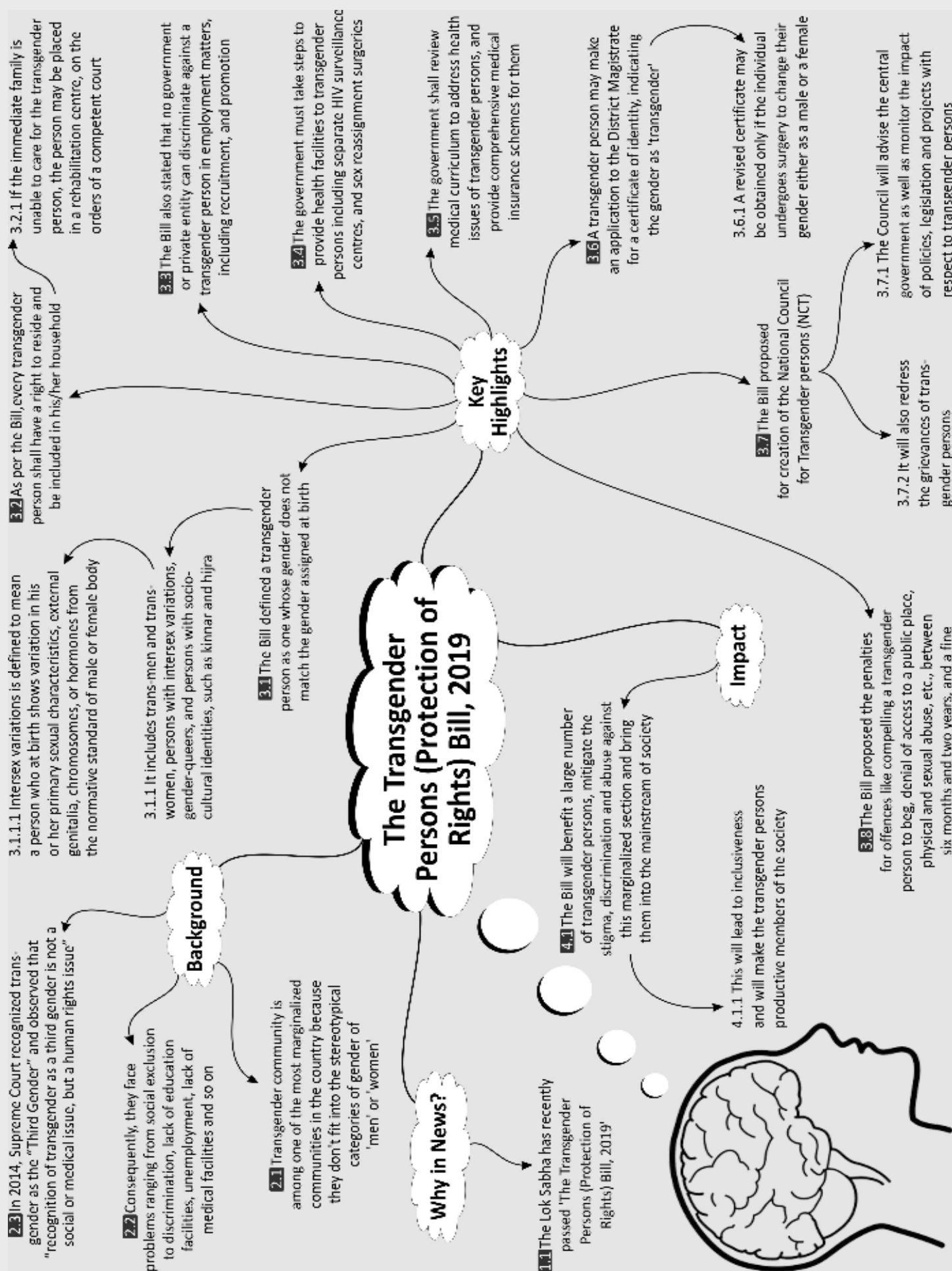
Hints:

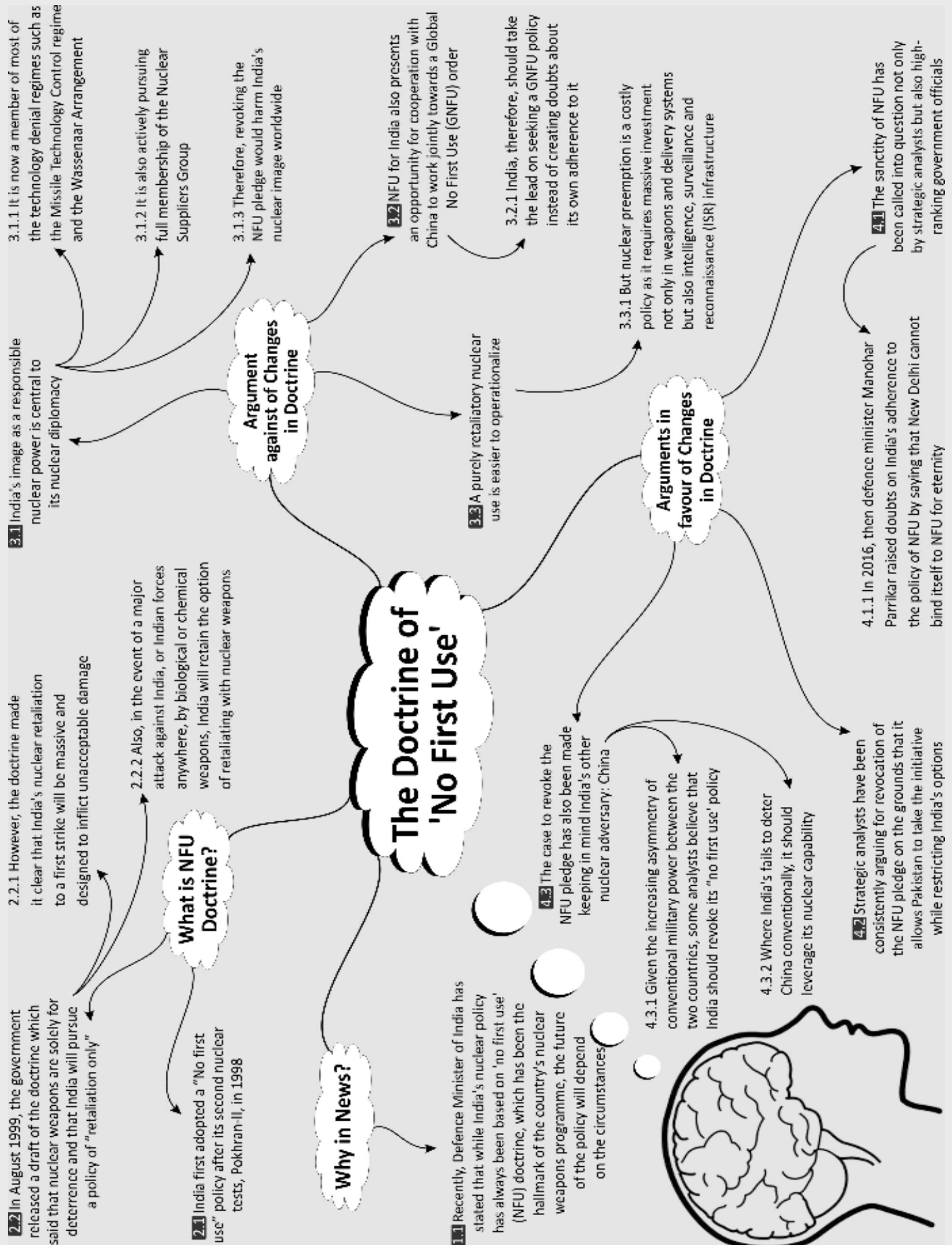
- ◆ India was the first country in the world to formulate a National Family Planning Programme in 1952, with the objective of "reducing birth rate to the extent necessary to stabilise the population at a level consistent with requirement of national economy".
- ◆ Today, India takes the "cafeteria approach" to family planning which means that it provides multiple choices-
- eight contraceptive options for men and women at different life stages. These include six spacing methods and two permanent methods.
- ◆ In India, the population policy all along put too much importance on the opening of family planning clinics and centres without arousing any mental preparation among the people to accept such a system.
- ◆ Although there are lack of infrastructural facilities, but the factors which are very much responsible for this failure of our population policy includes non-optimal use of available resources in the field of population control, political, economic and cultural restraints, absence of broad-based perspective approach in population policy, lack of sincerity on the part of the organisation engaged in family planning, lack of strong political will and lastly lack of co-operation from the general people in implementing the programme itself.
- ◆ In conclusion, we can say that the deprived sections of society, which are being targeted for family planning by the government, will hardly follow the two-child norm if they are not assured of having two healthy children who have a fair chance of reaching adulthood. To provide healthcare for everyone, the government has to ensure that every district has an adequate number of PHCs and CHCs which are properly manned and which have an adequate stock of medicines.

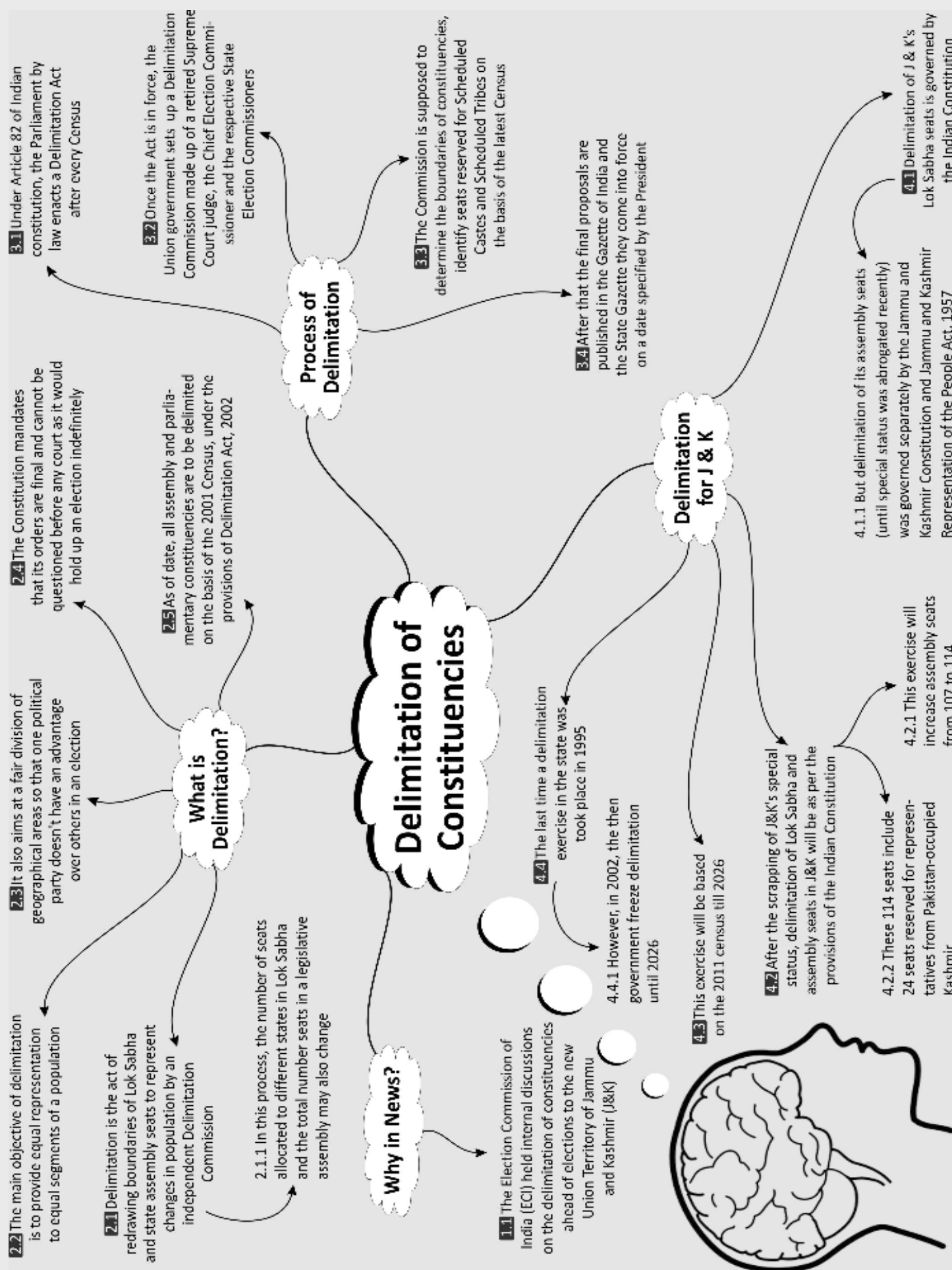


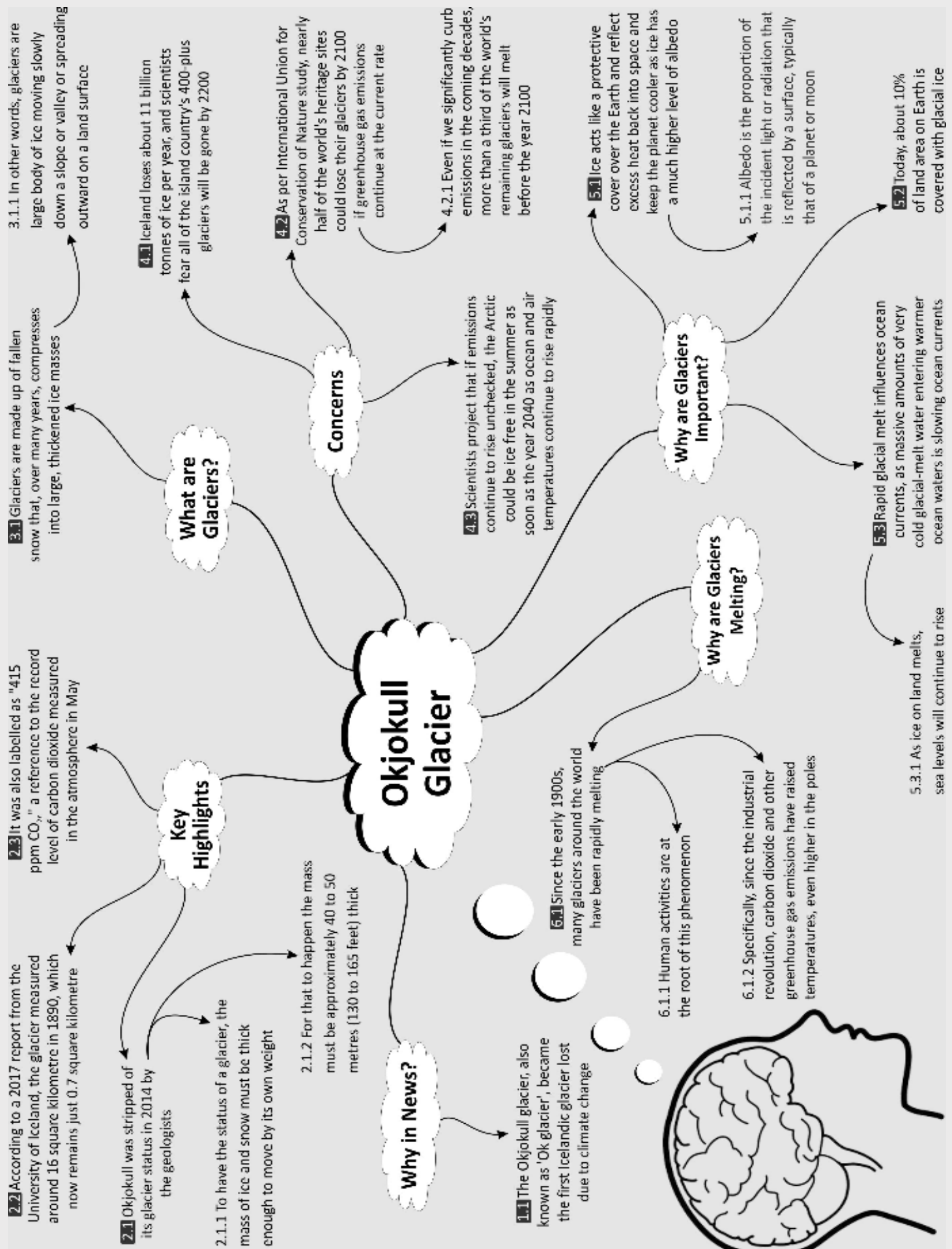
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

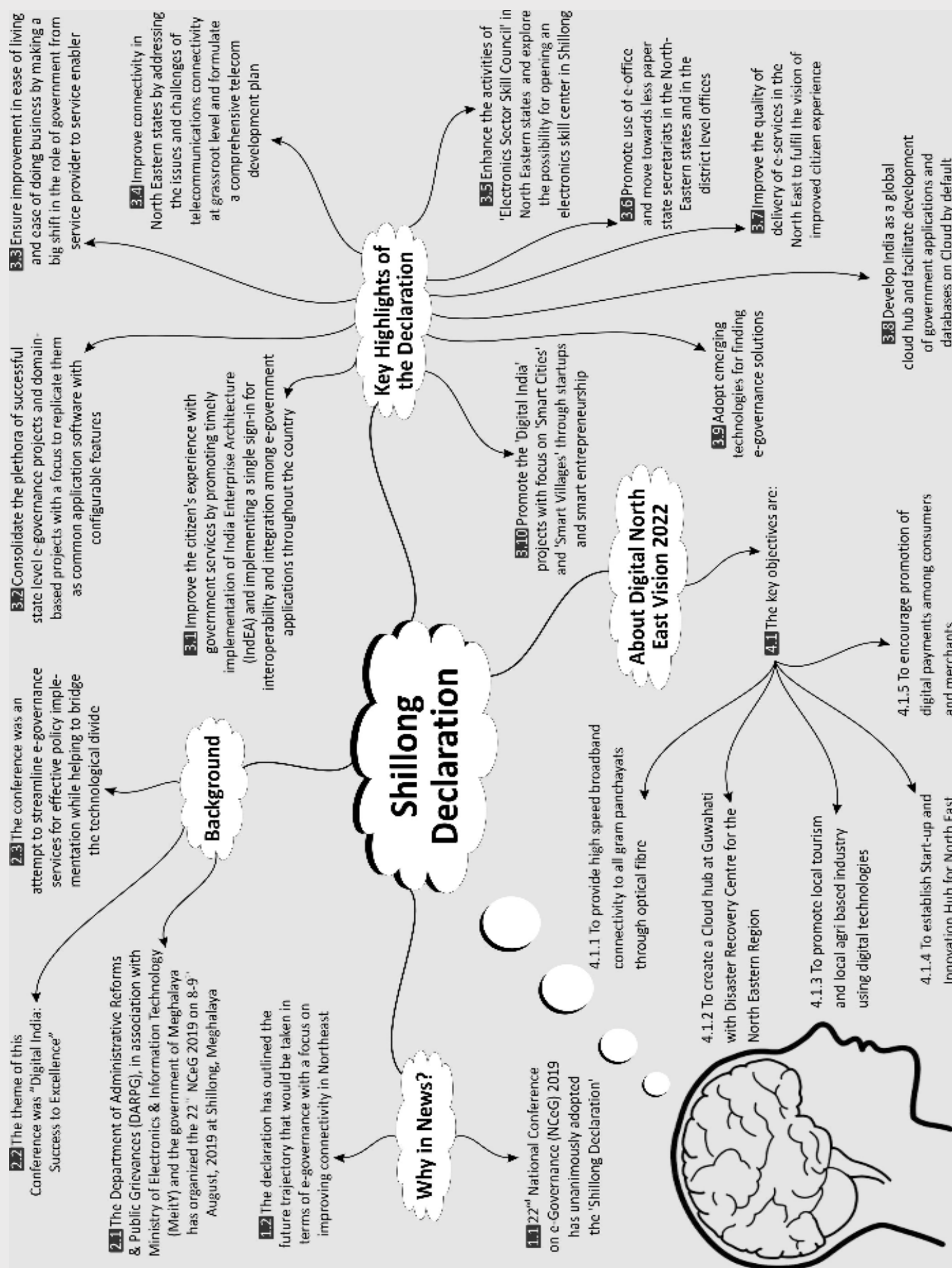


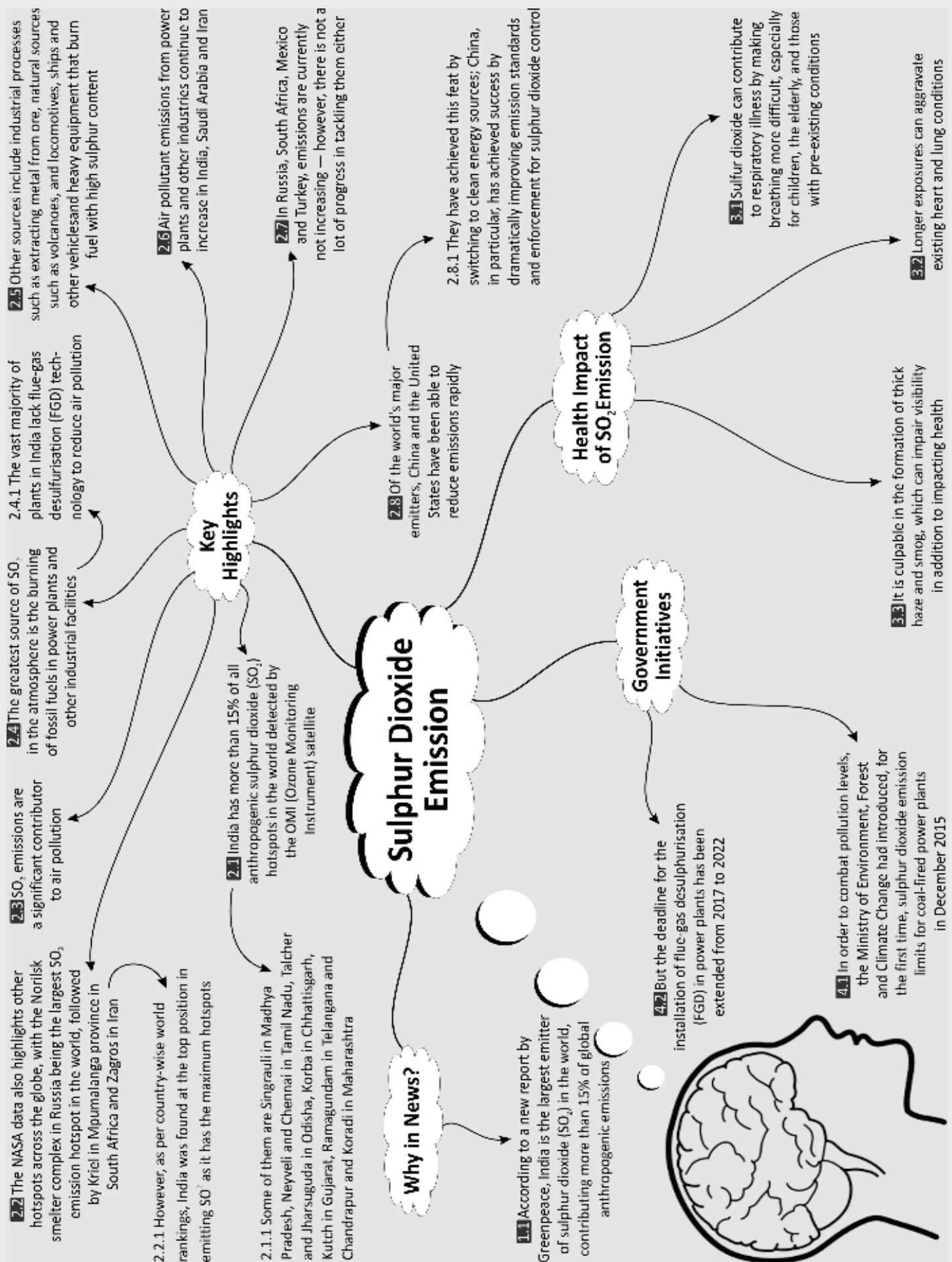












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Demand of Legislative Council

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Legislative Councils are permanent Houses, and like Rajya Sabha, one-third of their members retire every two years.
2. Under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the number of MLAs of the state, and not less than 40 members.

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. Membership may vary, but under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the number of MLAs of the state, and not less than 40 members.

Legislative Councils are permanent Houses, and like Rajya Sabha, one-third of their members retire every two years.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019

Q2. Consider the following statements in respect of 'The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019':

1. A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
2. The proposed National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) will advise the central government and monitor the impact of policies, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.

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 proposed, the National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) for advice the central government as well as monitor the impact of policies, legislation and projects with respect transgender persons.

A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'. A revised certificate may be obtained only if the individual undergoes surgery to change their gender either as a male or a female.

The Doctrine of 'No First Use'

Q3. Consider the following statements in respect of the Doctrine of 'No First Use':

1. India first adopted a "No first use" policy after its second nuclear tests, Pokhran-II, in 1998.
2. The doctrine made it clear that nuclear weapons are solely for deterrence and that India will pursue a policy of retaliation 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: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. India first adopted a "No first use" policy after its second nuclear tests, Pokhran-II, in 1998. In August 1999, the government made it clear that nuclear weapons are solely for deterrence and that India will pursue a policy of "retaliation only". However, the doctrine made it clear that India's nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.

Delimitation of Constituencies

Q4. With reference to the 'Delimitation of Constituencies', consider the following statements:

1. As of date, all assembly and parliamentary constituencies are to be delimited on the basis of the 2011 Census.

2. The orders of the Delimitation Commission can be questioned in Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state assembly seats to represent changes in population by an independent Delimitation Commission. As of date, all assembly and parliamentary constituencies are to be delimited on the basis of the 2001 Census, under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002.

The Constitution mandates that its orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely.

Okjokull Glacier

Q5. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Okjokull glacier':

1. The Okjokull glacier, also known as 'Ok glacier', became the first Arctic glacier lost due to climate change.
2. Ice acts like a protective cover over the Earth and reflect excess heat back into space and keep the planet cooler.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The Okjokull glacier, also known as 'Ok glacier', became the first Icelandic glacier lost due to climate change.

Statement 2 is correct. Ice acts like a protective cover over the Earth and reflect excess heat back into space and keep the planet cooler. 5.2 Today, about 10% of land area on Earth is covered with glacial ice.

Shillong Declaration

Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Shillong Declaration':

1. 'Shillong Declaration' is adopted by the government of Meghalaya and DoNER.

2. It has outlined the future trajectory that would be taken for development of Meghalaya as 'full organic state'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the government of Meghalaya has organized the 22nd NCeG 2019. The Conference has unanimously adopted the 'Shillong Declaration'.

The declaration has outlined the future trajectory that would be taken in terms of e-governance with a focus on improving connectivity in Northeast.

Sulphur dioxide Emission

Q7. Consider the following statements:

1. According to a report by Greenpeace, India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world, contributing more than 15% of global anthropogenic emissions.
2. The greatest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels in power plants and other industrial facilities.

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. According to a new report by Greenpeace, India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world, contributing more than 15% of global anthropogenic emissions. India has more than 15% of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) hotspots in the world detected by the OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.

The greatest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels in power plants and other industrial facilities.

SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Which state has launched 'Ayushman Bharat - Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana', a state specific health insurance scheme?

–Punjab

2. Which state government has doubled the reservation for the OBCs, making up close to 27% from 14% in government jobs and educational institutions?

–Chhattisgarh

3. Who has been appointed as brand ambassador for the Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission?

–Nine-year-old girl Elangbam Valentina Devi

4. Which country is ready to ease work-visa rules for Indian workers and professionals?

–New Zealand

5. Which country has emerged as the world's second largest scrap importer toppling South Korea?

–India

6. Which country has designated India among the over 20 major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries?

–United States of America

7. Which state has become the first state to reserve 75% jobs for local youth in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects set up under public-private partnership mode?

–Andhra Pradesh

○○○

SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS EXAM

- Q1. "China's hypocritical stance at UN against India is a bid to distract from its own troubles in Xinjiang and Hong Kong." Discuss.
- Q2. "Appointment of chief of defence staff will fill a void in India's defence system." Do you agree? Give your opinion.
- Q3. In India, burning of solid fuels in households is the single greatest contributor to air pollution. In this context discuss how 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' was a timely policy intervention by the government.
- Q4. What is NASA's Parker Solar Probe? Discuss the central aim of the mission.
- Q5. What is 'No First Use' doctrine of India? Discuss the relevance of this doctrine in present complex geopolitical situations.
- Q6. What does 'One Nation, One Election' mean? What purpose would simultaneous polls serve, and why most of the Opposition parties are opposing the idea? Discuss.
- Q7. What do you understand by 'negative rate policy'? How does negative rate policy work? Also discuss its pros and cons.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. Jal Jeevan Mission

In his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged the growing water crisis in the country and said around Rs. 3.5 trillion will be spent under the ambitious 'Jal Jeevan Mission' aimed at providing potable water. As per the mission plan, the central government is planning to provide drinking water connections to all homes by 2024.

Key Highlights

This Mission, under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

The 'Jal Jeevan Mission' will converge with other Central and state government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

The Finance Minister informed that government has identified 1592 Blocks which are critical and over exploited, spread across 256 Districts for the mission. Besides using funds available under various schemes, the government will also explore possibility of using additional funds available under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for this purpose.



In addition, the present government has formed a new ministry to address all water issues that looks at the management of water resources and drinking water supply in a holistic manner. The 'Jal Shakti Ministry', formed by integrating the Water Resources and Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministries. ■

2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

Union Minister of Agriculture has rolled out the newly introduced farmers' pension scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) – by enrolling 418 farmers on the first day.

Key Highlights

The scheme is voluntary and contributory for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000 will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years. The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55

to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the age of 60 years.

The Central government will also make an equal contribution of the same amount in the pension fund. The spouse is also eligible to get a separate pension of Rs. 3000 upon making separate contributions to the Fund.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out. The beneficiaries may opt voluntarily to exit the Scheme

after a minimum period of 5 years of regular contributions. On exit, their entire contribution shall be returned by LIC with an interest equivalent to prevailing saving bank rates. Unlike PM KISAN scheme that is now open for all farmers irrespective of land holdings, pension scheme is for farmers owning less than two hectare land.

The farmers, who are also beneficiaries of PM-Kisan Scheme, will have the option to allow their contribution debited from the benefit of that Scheme directly. ■

3. Swachh Survekshan 2020 and Swachh Nagar app

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs has launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020), the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Alongside, the Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water PLUS Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar – an integrated waste management app and AI enabled mSBM App were also launched.

Swachh Nagar App

An app that will allow users to have waste — solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) — collected by their urban local bodies, along with a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities.

This app will not only facilitate the applicants of Individual Household Toilets (IHHL) under SBM-U know the

status of their application in real-time after uploading the photograph but also help them upload the correct photo.

Water Plus Protocol

The Minister also launched the Water+ protocol for cities. A city could be given the tag of Water+ if it ensures 100% treatment of wastewater and 10% use of treated wastewater, among other things.

Moving beyond ODF, ODF+ and ODF++, the WaterPLUS protocol aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain. This is in line with the government's focus on water conservation and reuse under the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' and also aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals on clean water and sanitation.



4. Microplastics found in Arctic snow

According to a new study, tiny plastic particles have been found in vast quantities across the Arctic and the Alps. The findings indicate that particles are being carried through the air to some of the most remote locations on Earth. The team's hypothesis for airborne transportation builds on past research conducted on pollen, where experts confirmed that pollen from near the equator ends up in the Arctic. According to them, concentrations of the microparticles in the Arctic were significantly lower than in the European sites, but still substantial.

At the same time, several million tonnes of plastics find their way each year directly into oceans, where waves and the Sun break them down into

microscopic bits over time. Plastic particles have recently been found inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean, called the Mariana Trench, and blanketing the most pristine snows in the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain.

In the last two decades, the world has produced as much plastic as during the rest of history, and the industry is set to grow by four percent a year until 2025.

What are Microplastics?

Microplastics are pieces which are smaller than 5mm. They emerge when man-made materials disintegrate.



Microplastics come from a variety of sources, including from larger plastic debris that degrades into smaller and smaller pieces. These tiny particles easily pass through water filtration systems and end up in the ocean and Great Lakes, posing a potential threat to aquatic life.

5. India's Seafood Export and Vietnam-EU Free Trade Pact

India's seafood exports to the European Union (EU) is set to drop sharply this year after its biggest competitor Vietnam signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Bloc in July that helps it export products to the EU without any customs duty.

Background

Vietnam signed the FTA whereby they are allowing European products like dairy to come in to Vietnam. It is the first of its kind with a developing

country in Asia, paving the way for tariff reductions on 99% of goods between the trading bloc and Southeast Asian country.

Impact on India

Vietnam is a big competitor to us in farm shrimp. It used to be number one in the world and India came up in a very big way and overtook it. Now, the problem is that because of the FTA, on a lot of the products, Vietnam is having a competitive advantage of almost 6%

over us. Our shrimp exports to the EU attracts a customs duty of 6% and they have zero duty.

About FTAs

Free trade agreements (FTAs) are arrangements between two or more countries, or between a country and a trading bloc to abolish or reduce tariffs, quotas, and preferences on goods and services traded. Countries often agree to FTAs if their economic structures are complementary, not competitive. ■

6. Gogabeel - First Community Reserve

Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in Bihar's Katihar district, has been declared as the state's first 'Community Reserve'. It is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the North and the Ganga in the South and East. It is the fifteenth Protected Area (PA) in Bihar.

Background

Gogabeel was initially notified as a 'Closed Area' by the state government in the year 1990 for five years. However, this status was extended in 1995, up to 2000. After the amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, in 2002, the

provision of 'Closed Area' was omitted and this site disappeared from the list of the Bihar government's PAs, having no legal status.

But, in 2004, Gogabeel, including the neighbouring Baghar Beel and Baldia Chaur, were given the status of an IBA (Important Bird Area of India) by the IBCN.

About Gogabeel

Gogabeel is a permanent waterbody, although it shrinks to some extent in the summer but never dries completely. In summers, the waterbody measures 88 hectares, but supports a unique

assemblage of bird species, both in count and diversity. More than 90 bird species have been recorded from this site, of which, about 30 are migratory.

Among the threatened species, the Lesser Adjutant Stork is listed as 'Vulnerable' by the IUCN while the Black Necked Stork, White Ibis and White-eyed Pochard are 'Near Threatened'. Other species reported from this site include Black Ibis, Ashy Swallow Shrike, Jungle Babbler, Bank Myna, Red Munia, Northern Lapwing and Spotbill Duck. ■

7. Agreements between India and China

India and China has signed four agreements to further strengthen the cultural and people-to-people ties between the two neighbours and ancient civilisations.

Key Highlights

Both the countries agreed to promote cultural exchanges for preservation of intangible cultural heritage, organisation of cultural activities and management of archaeological heritage sites.

Both countries have expressed the importance to enhance cooperation in the field of traditional medicine- where both India and China have a rich knowledge accumulated over centuries, with the objective of promoting the development of Traditional Medicine in two countries' healthcare systems.

Both countries also agreed to promote exchanges between our National Sports Associations, sportspersons and youth for

strengthening cooperation on international sports events.

They also agreed to cooperate in museum management for promoting collaboration between Hubei Provincial Museum, Wuhan and the National Museum, New Delhi in the field of exhibitions, protection and restoration of collections and archaeological excavations for museums.

The two countries also agreed on a Plan of Action for bilateral engagements for the year 2020. ■

SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. Private Sector Participation in Make in India in Defence

Union Defence Minister has emphasised the need to progressively reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers and indigenously develop comprehensive capabilities in the defence sector.

Key Highlights

Foreign investment up to 49 per cent was allowed through automatic route and up to 100 per cent under government route on case-to-case basis. He urged foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to establish manufacturing facilities in India adding that a number of opportunities are available to foreign companies through FDI, Joint Ventures or the defence offset route.

The Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme which has been established under the aegis of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to promote self-reliance in Defence Technology as part of 'Make in India' initiative. The scheme will also encourage participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs so as to create an

ecosystem for enhancing cutting edge technology capability for defence application.

He also announced approval for use of test facilities of government entities for the private industry to meet the best quality standards required for defence manufacturing. This decision has been taken after incorporating the comments of the stakeholders particularly indigenous defence manufacturers. So that, the synergy between government's efforts and industry participation will help fulfil the long-cherished dream of making India a frontrunner in defence production.

The defence products list for issuing industrial licenses under Industry Development and Regulation (IDR) Act has been revised adding that it has reduced the entry barriers for the industry especially the small and medium segment. The initial validity of Industrial license has been increased from three years to fifteen years with a provision to further extend it by three years on a case-to-case basis.

2. International Conference on Teacher Education

The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has organised the International Conference titled "Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global", as a part of silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995. Forty renowned experts from India and abroad discussed the key areas like the present scenario of teacher education in the Indian context; innovations in teaching practices; integration of information and communications technology in teaching; inclusive education in teaching-learning environment; and internationalization of teacher education.

Key Highlights

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is planning to launch the world's biggest project for teacher training named NISHTHA (National Initiative on School Teachers Head Holistic Advancement). More than 42 lakh teachers will be trained through this mission. This initiative is in recognition of the fact that India cannot truly progress until and unless the skills of teachers are periodically upgraded.

Teachers are the pillars of transformation of the society, but it is important to upgrade their skills and ensure that they are trained in the best way. This is only possible in collaboration with teacher education institutions which play a key role in their actual transformation. Efficiency in teacher education is the need of the hour. International collaborations can play a key role in this.

The teacher education system is responsible for preparing teachers for the school system, who would nurture and nourish the future generations. This conference was organized to bring Indian school education system in alignment with global trends.

About NCTE

NCTE was established on 17th August 1995 and was tasked with achieving planned and coordinated development of teacher education system throughout the country and maintenance of norms and standards therein.

3. Four New Products get GI Tag

The Geographical Indication (GI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recently registered 4 new GIs. Palani Panchamirtham from Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the Mizoram and Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala are the latest additions to the list of registered GIs.

Palani Panchamirtham, an abishega Prasadam, from Palani Town is one of the main offerings in the Abisegam of Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, situated in Palani Hills, Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu. It is a combination of five natural substances, namely, banana, jaggery sugar, cow ghee, honey and cardamom in a definite proportion. This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag.

Tawlhlohpuan, a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving and intricate designs that are made by

hand. Tawlhloh, in Mizo language, means 'to stand firm or not to move backward'.

Mizo Puanchei, a colourful Mizo shawl/textile, from Mizoram, is considered as the most colourful among the Mizo textiles. It is an essential possession for every Mizo lady and an important marriage outfit in the state. It is also the most commonly used costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies. The weavers insert the designs and motifs by using supplementary yarns while weaving to create this beautiful and alluring textile.

Tirur betel vine from Kerala, which is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District, is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties. Even though it is commonly used for making pan masala for chewing, it has many medicinal, industrial and cultural usages and is considered as a remedy for bad breath and digestive disorders.

4. Know India Programme

A group of Indian Origin youth visiting India under 'Know India Programme' (KIP). This is the 54th Edition of "Know India Programme". There are 40 participants in this edition from 9 countries. The 54th KIP is scheduled from 1st August to 25th August, 2019 in association with the partner states of Punjab and Haryana.

About KIP

The Know India Programme (KIP) is an important initiative of the government of India with an aim to engage and make the students and young professionals of India Diaspora in the age group of 18-30 years, feel a sense of connect with their motherland and to be motivated and inspired by the transformation taking place in India.

The objective of KIP is also to give them an exposure to various aspects of contemporary India's forms of art, heritage and culture and to promote the awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields such as Industry, Education, Science & Technology, Information & Communication Technology, Climate and Power & Renewable Energy etc.

The KIP is a 25-day orientation programme organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with one or two States including visit to states for 10 days.

Since 2004, the Ministry has conducted 53 editions of KIP with participation of 1821 Overseas Indian youth. The participants are selected on the basis of nominations recommended by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

5. 16 State Governments have signed MoU with Textiles Ministry

Sixteen state governments have signed MoU with Ministry of Textiles to take 'Samarth' - scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS) forward. It is a placement oriented programme for meeting the skill requirements of textiles industry. The scheme aims at skill development of 10 lakh youth upto 2020 in the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving in the organized sector, with a projected outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Around 400,000 people across these states will be skilled under 'Samarth', as part of agreements signed between the Centre and state governments.
- ◆ The training programme involved advanced technology oriented features like Aadhaar Based Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), CCTV recording, dedicated

Call Centre, Mobile App based Management Information System and on-line monitoring.

- ◆ The textile-related segments for which skill development will be provided towards capacity building include apparel and garmenting, knitting, metal handicraft, textile and handloom, handicraft and carpet, among others.
- ◆ The number of beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu is estimated at 1,400 covering the textiles and handloom segment.
- ◆ Around 75 per cent of those who work in textile sector are women. Further, MUDRA scheme also it has been seen that 70 per cent of the beneficiaries are women, suggesting the state representatives to look at district-wise tailoring opportunities for women as part of the outreach for skilling across states.

6. Development of North East Region

The Government of India has given a lot of importance to the development and progress of the North Eastern Region (NER). In continuation with this, the government has decided to launch 200 projects worth Rs 3,000 crore in the NER.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The focus of the government has been on brining the rest of India closer to North east, as compared to the earlier focus of brining only North East India closer to the mainstream. This has helped in the integration and development of this region.
- ◆ Ministry for Development of North-East Region (DoNER) has taken various initiatives for the security of the students of NER who are studying in Delhi and other parts of the country.
- ◆ As per the DoNER, more than 70% of the population in India is below the age of 40 years. They have tremendous power and capacity that needs to be channelized. The youth should utilise the untapped potential of North East by having the benefit of Venture funds for start-ups in NE region.
- ◆ The North East has become a favourite destination for all and has unexplored potential for tourism, handlooms, and other areas, which the youth should explore.
- ◆ When government gives impetus to the Act East policy, it will be the NER that will be benefited, due to its proximity to these neighbouring countries. This will not only enrich NER, but will also enrich whole India.

7. Ministerial meeting on Climate Change of BASIC countries

In the run-up to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet to be held later in the year from 2nd to 13th December, the BASIC countries held its 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Key Highlights

The BASIC Ministers expressed their concern for climate change and its adverse effects and reaffirmed their commitment to the successful implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement, based on the recognition of the needs and special circumstances of developing countries and in accordance with the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances. Ministers stated the importance of responsible, comprehensive, urgent and ambitious actions against climate change, including in the urban environment.

The Ministers highlighted the significant gaps in pre-2020 climate efforts not only in mitigation, but also in adaptation and support to developing countries. They underlined that time is of the essence for any meaningful pre-2020 action and that the implementation gaps should not present a burden to developing countries in the post-2020 period. They also urged developed countries to undertake ambitious actions to reduce emissions and fulfill their finance commitments, including in the pre-2020 period, in light of their historical responsibilities.

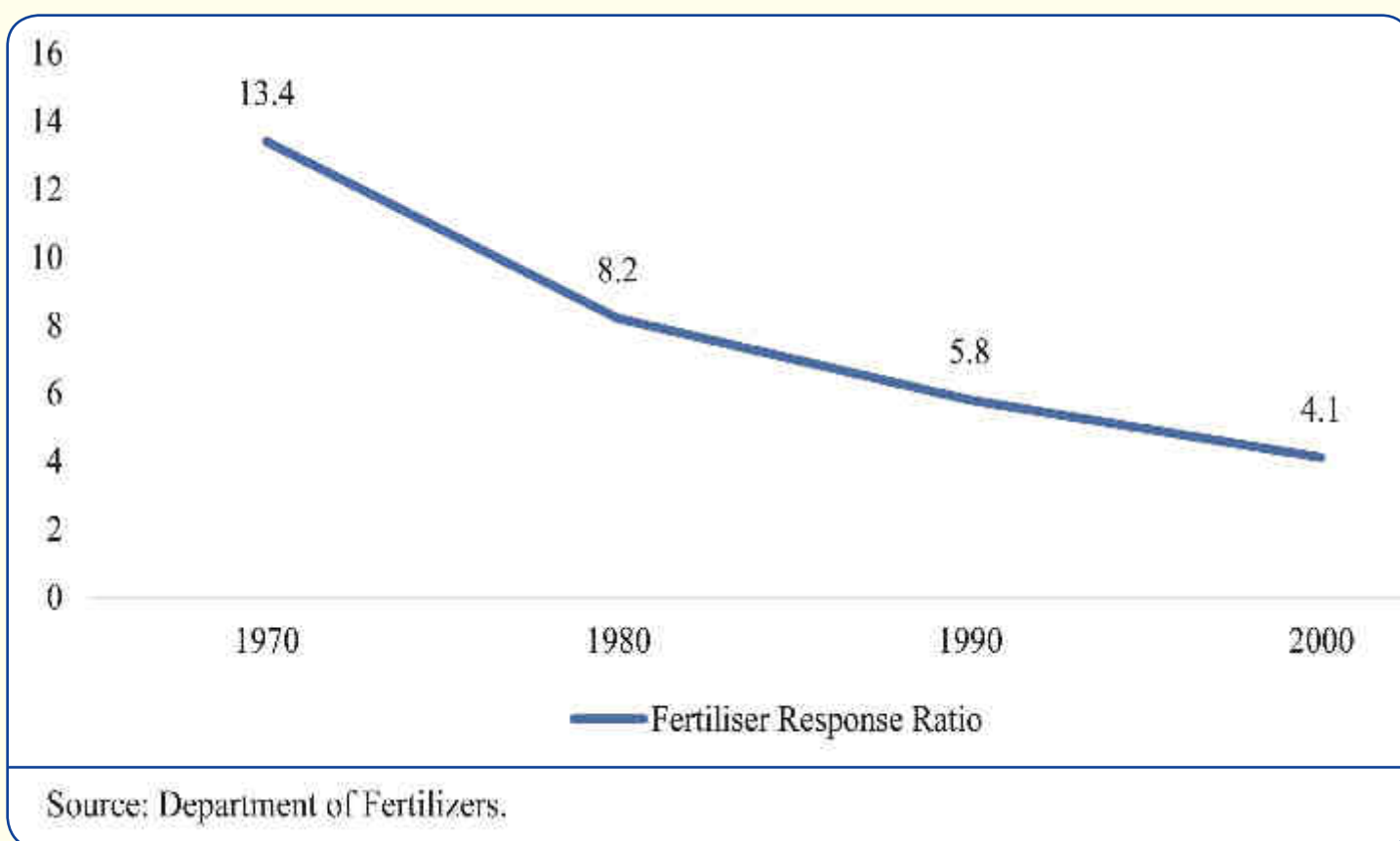
The BASIC Ministers urged developed countries to fulfill their climate finance commitments of mobilizing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for developing countries in a transparent manner and on a grant basis.

Ministers expressed the expectation that the first replenishment of the Green Climate Fund by the end of 2019 will double the initial resource mobilization pledge, ensuring that financial contributions by developed countries match the ambition, needs and priorities of developing countries.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Declining Fertilizer Response Ratio

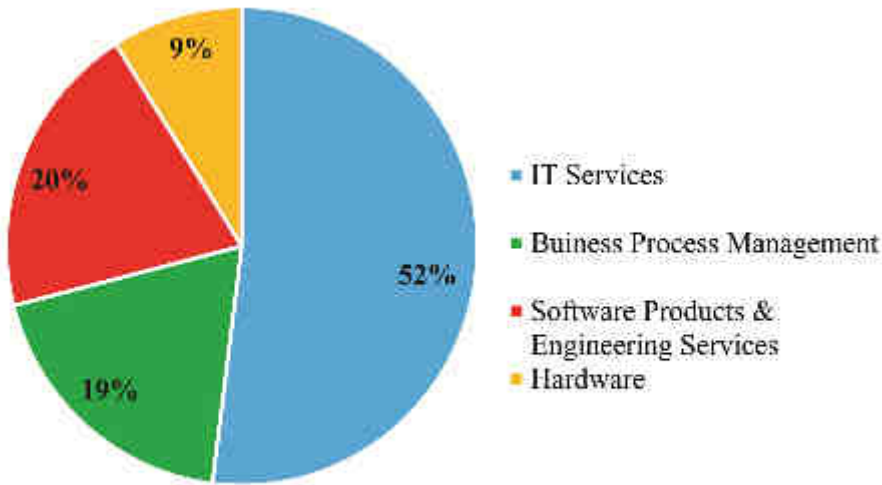


Key Facts

- For the small and marginal farmers, the costs of fertilizers are key determinants of profitability of farming. Since 2002, the fertilizer consumption in India has continually increased till 2011. However, the fertiliser consumption has been declining since then.
- Further, the fertilizer response ratio is showing a declining trend. The declining fertilizer response ratio is an indicator of declining responsiveness of soil fertility to fertiliser application.
- According to Department of Fertilisers, the declining fertilizer response ratio in Indian agriculture is due to inadequacy and imbalance in fertiliser use, increasing multinutrient deficiency, lack of farmers awareness about balanced plant nutrition and poor crop management.
- The improvement in fertilizer use efficiency requires farmers' knowledge regarding the right product, dosage, time and method of application.
- Some of the suggested measures are the use of optimal dose based on soil health status, promotion of neem-coated urea, promotion of micronutrients, promotion of organic fertilizers, and promotion of watersoluble fertilizers.
- By 2020, India will need 294 million tonnes of food grains as against a provisional production of 230 million tonnes in 2007-2008. Thus, an additional food grain production of 64 million tonnes has to be achieved from the same or even lesser land area. Thus, this additional production has, therefore, to come through efficient, judicious and balanced use of chemical fertilizer.
- A NPK ratio of 4:2:1 ($N:P_2O_5:K_2O$) is generally considered ideal and accepted for macro-level monitoring of consumption of plant nutrients. However, presently this ratio is 6.7:2.4:1 in India.

2. Indian IT BPM Industry Marketshare

Key Facts



Source: NASSCOM, 2018

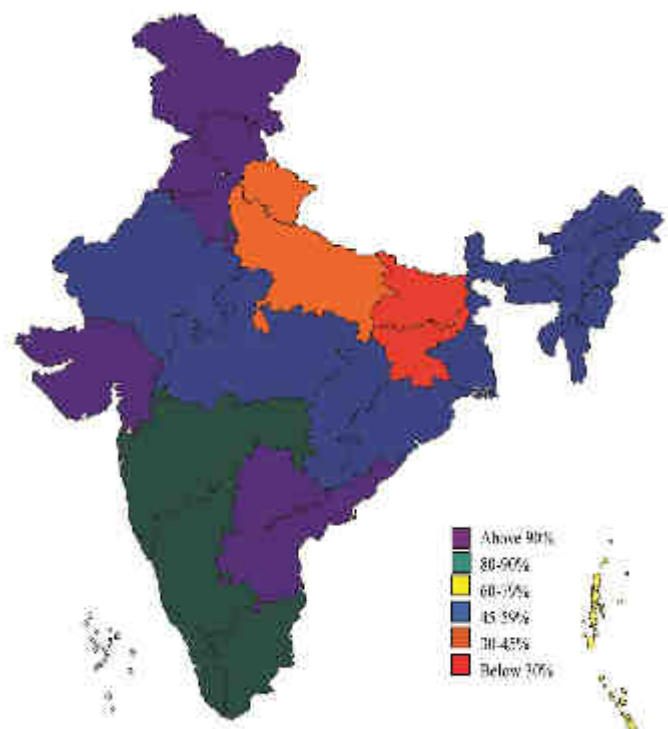
- The IT services constitute the largest segment with a share of around 52%, followed by BPM with share of around 20%.
- Software products and engineering services together accounted for around 19% share whereas hardware accounts for 10%.

- The Indian Information Technology / Information Technology enabled Services (IT/ ITes) industry has contributed immensely in positioning the country as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors and creating huge job opportunities in India, as well as in the USA, Europe and other parts of the world.
- The Indian Information Technology - Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry grew by 8.4% in 2017-18 to US\$167 billion (excluding e-commerce but including hardware) from US\$154 billion in 2016-17, as per NASSCOM data. It is estimated to have reached US\$181 billion in 2018-19.
- IT-BPM exports grew by 7.7% to US\$126 billion in 2017-18 and is estimated at US\$136 billion for 2018-19. E-commerce market is estimated at US\$43 billion for FY 2018-19, at the growth rate of 12%.

3. TV Penetration in India

Key Facts

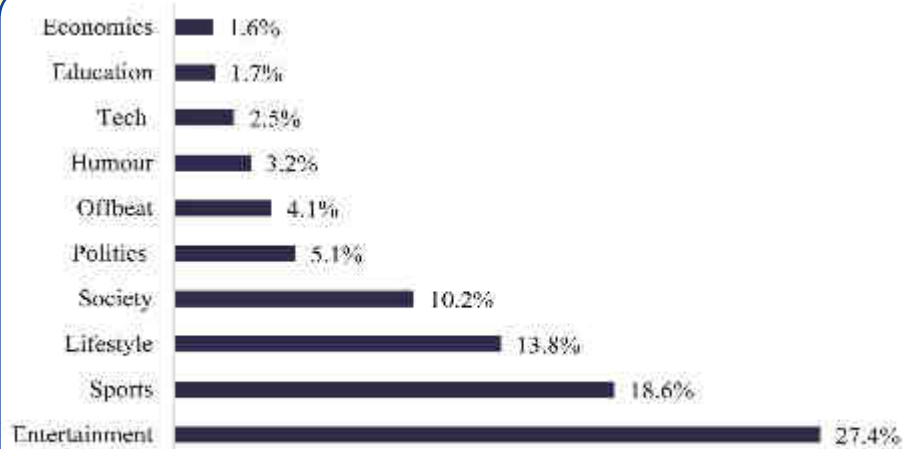
- India is the second largest pay-TV market in the world after China. As per Broadcasting Audience Research Council of India (BARC)/EY estimates, out of the estimated 29.8 crore households in India, TV penetration reached 66% in the country with 19.7 crore TV households in 2018, which is 7.7% increase over the previous Broadcast India Survey 2016.
- The growth drivers for TV include digitalisation of cable services, higher uptake of HD channels, growth of over the top (OTT) platforms aided by the rising smartphone penetration and high-speed data adoption.
- Of the 19.7 crore TV households, 10.3 crore households were covered by Cable services, 5.6 crore households by Direct to Home (DTH) services and 3.6 crore households were covered by Doordarshan Free Dish in 2018.
- As per FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment Report (2019), TV sector grew at 12.1% to reach Rs. 74,000 crore in 2018 with advertising comprising 41% of the revenue while distribution accounted for the balance.
- India has at present a large broadcasting and distribution sector in the world comprising 906 satellite TV channels, 1469 Multi System Operators (MSO), 60,000 Local Cable Operators (LCO), 6 DTH operators and several IBTV service providers.
- Around 43% of all private satellite channels are news channels (April 2019).



Source: BARC, 2018

4. Category Wise Consumption of Mobile Content

Key Facts



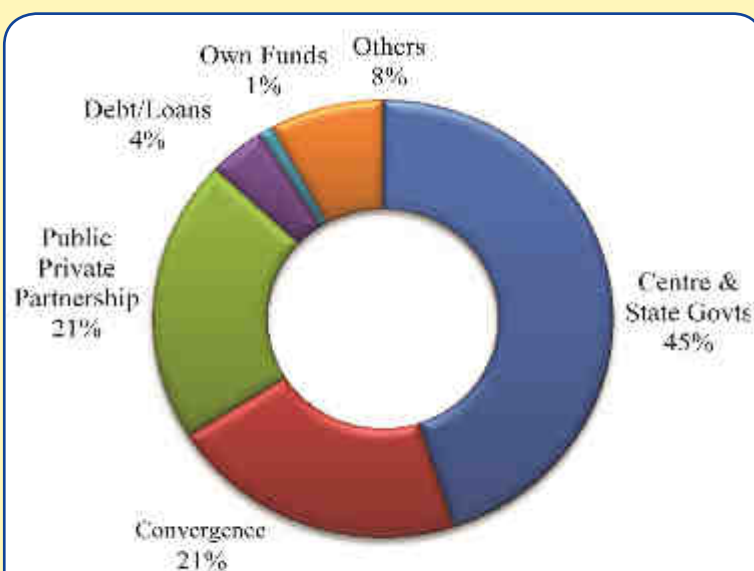
Source: FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment Report (2019)

- As per FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment Report (2019), total number of mobile subscribers stood at 1.17 billion in 2018. Smartphone users also increased by 39% to reach 340 million in 2018.
- On an average, the rate of data consumption has doubled from 4 GB to GB per month between 2017-18.
- The digital media market grew 42% to reach Rs. 169 billion in 2018. Internet subscribers grew 28% from 446 million in December 2017 to 570 million in November 2018, driven by rural internet subscriber growth of 49%.
- Given that there are around 4 billion internet users in the world, one in eight is Indian.
- According to the total rate of content consumption on UC News Feed platform in India, Entertainment was the largest category in mobile content consumption for Indian users, accounting for 27.4%, followed by sports (18.6%), lifestyle (13.8%), society (10.2%), politics (5.1%), among others.
- Social Media penetration reached 17% in 2018, up from 11% in 2015. The most active social media platforms are YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram.

5. Source of funding under the Smart Cities Mission

Key Facts

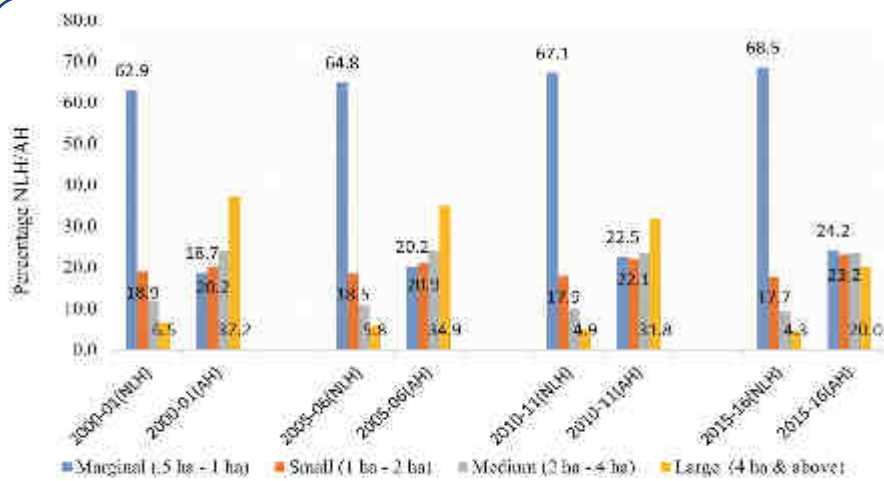
- Smart Cities Mission (SCM) was launched in June 2015 for a 5-year period with the objective of promoting cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality life to its citizens.
- The strategic components of Smart Cities initiative are area-based development involving city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment) and city extension (Greenfield development) and a pan-city development in which Smart Solutions are applied covering larger parts of the city.
- The 100 cities under the Mission have proposed to execute 5,151 projects worth Rs. 2,05,018 crore in 5 years from their respective dates of selection. Financial innovation is in-built in the design of the programme.
- On implementation status, the survey said that all the 100 cities have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs).
- Significant progress has been made with respect to implementation of projects pertaining to integrated command and control centres, smart roads, smart water, solar rooftops, and vibrant public spaces.
- The distribution of funding from Central and State Government is 45%, funds from Public Private Partnership (PPP) is 21% and convergence with other government schemes is 21%.



Source : Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

6. Operational Land Holdings (Number & Area Operated in Ha)

Key Facts



Source: Agriculture Census 2015-16.

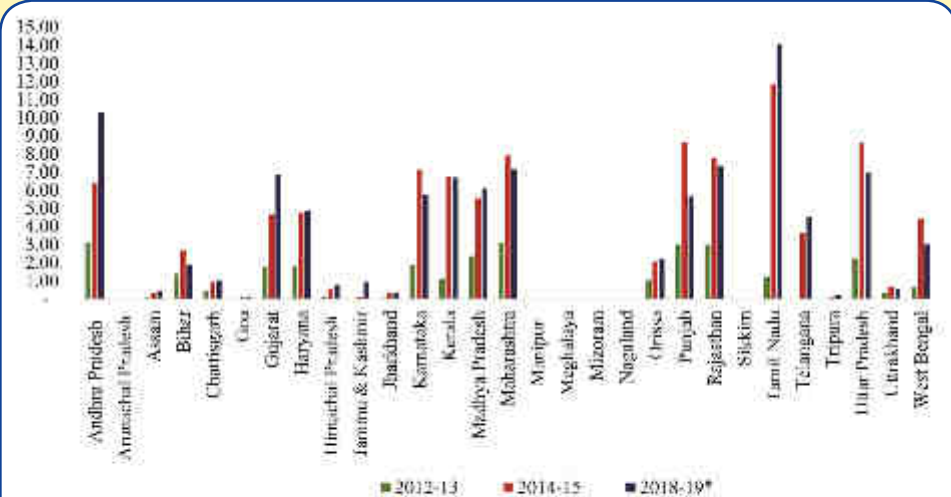
Note: NLH: Number of Operational Land Holdings; AH: Area Operated by Operational Land Holdings.

- Operational holding defined as all land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to title, legal form, size or location.
- As per Phase-I results of the Agriculture Census, 2015-16, the number of operational holdings, i.e. land put to agricultural use, has increased to 14.6 crore in 2015-16 from 13.8 crore in 2010-11, thereby registering an increase of 5.3%.
- The share of marginal holdings (less than 1 ha) in total operational holdings increased from 62.9% in 2000-01 to 68.5% in 2015-16, while the share of small holdings (1 ha to 2 ha) decreased from 18.9% to 17.7% during this period. Large holdings (above 4 ha) decreased from 6.5% to 4.3%.
- The area operated by the marginal and small holdings increased from 38.9% in 2000-01 to 47.4% in 2015-16, while that of the large holdings decreased from 37.2% to 20% during this period.
- Further, the share of operational holdings cultivated by women has increased from 11.7% in 2005-06 to 13.9% in 2015-16. The marginal and small holdings operated by women farmers together constitute 27.9% of total operational holdings cultivated by women.

7. Percentage of Agricultural Credit Disbursement

Key Facts

- The access to timely credit or finance is a critical determinant of profitability of agriculture. If credit is not available to purchase seeds at the time of sowing, or if lack of credit delays the administering of fertilizers, it can severely impact agricultural productivity.
- The regional distribution of agricultural credit in India showed that the distribution of credit is highly skewed. It is seen that the distribution of agricultural credit is low in North Eastern, Hilly and Eastern States. The share of North Eastern States has been less than one per cent in total agricultural credit disbursement.
- The small and marginal holdings constitute majority (more than 85%) of total operational holdings in the Eastern region, North-eastern region and Central region, which warrants greater distribution of agricultural credit disbursement to this region.
- The government has been making efforts to enhance the flow of credit to the agriculture sector and they are bearing fruits. Since the crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is linked to availing of crop loans, the farmers would stand to benefit from both farmer oriented initiatives of the government, by accessing the crop loans.



Source: Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

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GENERAL STUDIES
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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

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7:30 AM & 6 PM**

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