

PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

December : 2019/ Issue- 1

WIND ENERGY IN INDIA

Scope and Challenges

- Electoral Bonds : Bringing Transparency or Opacity
- Insights into Poverty in Rural India
- Child Rights in India : An Appraisal
- Digital Democracy : Posing Threat to Liberal Democracy
- Emerging Employment Patterns in 21st Century India
- Strategic Disinvestment : Is it Strategically Right



DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

COMPREHENSIVE ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES (CAIPTS)

TARGET 2020

OFFLINE & ONLINE

Key features of CAIPTS

- The CAIPTS will contain a total of 28 tests (Fully applied and based on UPSC Pattern)
28 Tests = 13 Applied Tests (including 1 Revision Test and 1 UPSC-CSE Prelims Previous Year Paper based) + 10 Full Length GS Tests (including 2 UPSC-CSE Prelims Previous Year Paper based) + 5 CSAT Tests (including 2 UPSC-CSE Prelims Previous Year Paper based)
- Applied level tests will be based on standard references which will enhance the analytical ability of the aspirants.
- 8 full length and 2 Previous Year based papers will cover the entire syllabus and match the level of UPSC-CSE prelims examination. It will further enable the aspirants for their better evaluation of learning outcome.
- In addition to this, the unique feature of DHYEYA IAS CAIPTS, is, **four full length tests based on UPSC CSE prelims question papers of past 25 years**. These tests will drive the aspirants' motives to go through the previous years question papers which is one of the important aspects of CSE preparation. It will also assist them to understand the changing nature of the questions asked in the examination.

Total 28 Tests

13 Applied Tests (including 1 Revision Test and 1 UPSC-CSE Prelims Previous Year Paper based)	10 Full Length GS Tests (including 2 UPSC-CSE Prelims Previous Year Paper based)	5 CSAT Tests (including 2 UPSC-CSE Prelims Previous Year Paper based)
--	--	--

635, Ground Floor, Main Road Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 | Call: 011-49274400, 9205274741

For more details visit: www.dhyeyaias.com

DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



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

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

Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder
Dhyeya IAS



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

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

Q H Khan
Managing Director
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



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

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 previous issues and more are yet to come.

Ashutosh Singh

Managing Editor

Dhyeya IAS

Send us your suggestions, comments, views and feedback for guiding us towards continuous improvement & enhancement of 'Perfect 7' on

 **9990772422**



PREFACE

Dhyeya family feels honoured to present you 'Perfect 7' - a panacea for Current Affairs. '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)

December 2019 | Issue: 01

Founder & CEO

Vinay Kumar Singh

Managing Director

Q.H.Khan

Chief Editor

Qurban Ali

Managing Editor

Ashutosh Singh

Editors

Omveer Singh Chaudhary,
Rajat Jhingan, Jeet Singh, Avaneesh Pandey,

Editorial Support

Prof. R. Kumar

Lead Authors

Rama Shankar Nishad, Ajay Singh, Ahamad Ali,
Dharmendra Mishra

Authors

Sanjan Gotam, Ashraf Ali, Vivek Shukla,
Swati Yadav, Ranjeet Singh, Anshu Chaudhary,
Giriraj Singh, Saumya Upadhyay

Chief Reviewers

Prerit Kant, Anuj Patel, Rajhans Singh

Design & Development

Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Punish Jain

Promotion & Advertisement

Gufran Khan, Rahul Kumar

Layout & Graphics

Vipin Singh, Krishna Kumar,
Nikhil Kumar, Ramesh Kumar

Computer Operators

Krishna Kant Mandal

Articles Support

Mrityunjay Tripathi, Priya Singh,
Rajni Singh, Lokesh Shukla,
Preeti Mishra, Ravi Ranjan, Prabhat

Office Assistants

Hari Ram, Sandeep, Rajeev Kumar

Content Office

DHYEYA IAS
302, A-10/11, Bhandari House,
Near Chawla Restaurants,
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009



Contents

Seven Important Issues & Subjective Questions Based on Them.....1-23

- Wind Energy in India : Scope and Challenges
- Electoral Bonds : Bringing Transparency or Opacity
- Insights into Poverty in Rural India
- Child Rights in India : An Appraisal
- Digital Democracy : Posing Threat to Liberal Democracy
- Emerging Employment Patterns in 21st Century India
- Strategic Disinvestment : Is it Strategically Right

Seven Brain Boosters & MCQ's Based on Them 24-32

Seven Important Facts for Prelims 33

Seven Practice Questions for Mains Exam 34

Seven Important News35-37

Seven Important Highlights from PIB38-40

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

Our other initiative



Hindi & English
Current Affairs
Monthly
News Paper



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

SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

1. WIND ENERGY IN INDIA : SCOPE AND CHALLENGES

Why in News?

The global offshore wind capacity is set to increase fifteen-fold by 2040 to reach about \$1 trillion of cumulative investment, according to the recent International Energy Agency (IEA) report. This increase is contributed by falling costs, supportive government policies and rapidly progressing technology, such as larger turbines and floating foundations, according to the Offshore Wind Outlook 2019.

Introduction

India's well-developed wind power industry has the capability and experience to help meet the country's climate and energy security goals. With the total wind installed capacity of around 35,815 MW as of 30th April 2019, India is the world's fourth largest country in terms of total wind installations after China, the USA and Germany. Wind power has become one of the key renewable energy sources for power generation in India, contributing a share of at least 6-7% to the country's electricity generation mix at present.

India has made great strides in improving access to modern energy in recent years. Since 2000, India has more than halved the number of people without access to electricity and doubled rural electrification rates. Nonetheless, around 240 million people, or 20% of the population, remain without access to electricity. Wind power can play an important role

in the coming decade to bring a clean and indigenous source of power to the people.

To date, the growth of the Indian wind sector has largely been led by private sector investment. The policy and fiscal support from the government has helped the industry to take the necessary business risks to advance the sector and galvanize investment in more and more states. Further, the government's vision of promoting a diversified manufacturing sector in India through the 'Make In India' initiative has had the wholehearted support of the wind power industry. The move to put manufacturing at the heart of India's growth model means a large rise in the energy needed to fuel India's development. The wind industry can not only provide much needed high-skilled jobs but also bring abundant clean and cheap power generation into the energy mix of the future.

Offshore Wind Outlook 2019

According to Offshore Wind Outlook 2019 report by IEA the global offshore wind market is set to expand significantly over the next two decades, growing by 13% per year in the Stated Policies Scenario and faster still in the Sustainable Development Scenario. In the Sustainable Development Scenario, cumulative spending in the offshore wind sector rises by half to \$1.3 trillion between 2019 and 2040 relative to the Stated Policies Scenario.

In the Stated Policies Scenario, offshore wind growth is concentrated in six regions, reflecting policy ambitions, available wind resources and the improving economics of offshore wind. Europe and China lead the offshore wind market with over 70% by 2040 of installed capacity, while there is significant expansion in the United States, Korea, India and Japan, which between them capture about one-quarter of the global market.

As of mid-2019, many regions have adopted policy targets for offshore wind to 2030. The European Union has the strongest ambitions to 2030, with targets in individual member states totalling 65-85 GW by 2030. China's Five-Year plans are encouraging provinces to expand their construction capacities for offshore wind to 2020, while state-level targets set the course for rapid growth in the United States. India, Korea and Chinese Taipei also have ambitious targets, while other countries, including Japan and Canada, are laying the groundwork for future offshore wind development. In 2018, China had already surpassed European countries in annual installations with 1.8 GW. China is aiming to install 10 GW of offshore wind energy by 2020. Similarly, Japan, South Korea and India have a target of installing 10 GW, 12 GW and 30 GW respectively by 2030.

The Asian markets are predicted to add 100 GW in offshore wind by 2030. Offshore wind is set to establish itself in a number of new markets in the Asia Pacific region, outside of China. In

the Stated Policies Scenario, countries including Korea, India and Japan account for close to 60 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2040.

Wind Energy In India

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has a mandate to carry out wind resource assessments across India. In 2010, it created first ever Indian Wind Atlas in collaboration with Riso, Denmark. At first, it assessed wind potential of 49,130 MW at 50m above ground level. Later, it modified its calculations and estimated that the installable wind potential capacity is around 102,788 MW at 80m above ground level. It also estimated the wind power potential at 100m height as 302,251 MW. These estimations have been arrived given the 2% land availability for all states except for Himalayan states, Northeastern states and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Under The IEA New Policies Scenario, India's wind power market would reach 50 GW by 2020 and 102 GW by 2030. Wind power would then produce close to 105 Terrawatt-hour (TWh) every year by 2020 and 294 TWh by 2030, and help save 63 million tons of CO₂ in 2020 and 177 million tons in 2030.

Off-shore and Onshore Wind

Offshore wind power, sometimes referred to as offshore wind energy, is when wind over open water, usually in the ocean, is used to generate power. Wind farms are constructed in bodies of water where higher wind speeds are available. Onshore wind power refers to turbines that are located on land and use wind to generate electricity. They are generally located in areas where there is low conservation or habitat value.

Advantages of Offshore Wind:

- ◆ Windmills can be built that are larger and taller than their onshore

counterparts, allowing for more energy collection.

- ◆ They tend to be far out at sea, meaning they are much less intrusive to neighbouring countries, allowing for larger farms to be created per square mile.
- ◆ Typically out at sea, there is a much higher wind speed/force allowing for more energy to be generated at a time.
- ◆ There are no physical restrictions such as hills or buildings that could block the wind flow.

Disadvantages of Offshore Wind:

- ◆ The biggest disadvantage of an offshore wind farm is the cost. Offshore wind farms can be expensive to build and maintain and because of their hard to reach locations, they are susceptible to damage from very high-speed winds during storms or hurricanes which is expensive to repair.
- ◆ The effect of offshore wind farms on marine life and birds are not yet fully understood.
- ◆ Offshore wind farms that are built closer to coastlines (generally within 26 miles) can be unpopular with residents as it can affect property values and tourism.

Advantages of Onshore Wind:

- ◆ The cost of onshore wind farms is relatively cheap, allowing for mass farms of wind turbines.
- ◆ The shorter distance between the windmill and the consumer allows for less voltage drop off on the cabling.
- ◆ Wind turbines are very quick to install, unlike a nuclear power station, which can take over twenty years, a windmill can be built in a matter of months.

Disadvantages of onshore Wind:

- ◆ One of the biggest issues of onshore wind farms is that many

deem them to be an eyesore on the landscape.

- ◆ They don't produce energy all year round due to often poor wind speed or physical blockages such as buildings or hills.
- ◆ The noise that wind turbines create can be compared to as the same as a lawnmower often causing noise pollution for nearby communities.

Opportunities In Offshore Wind

- ◆ Offshore wind power capacity is set to increase by at least 15-fold worldwide by 2040, becoming a \$1 trillion business.
- ◆ The promising outlook for offshore wind is underpinned by policy support in an increasing number of regions.
- ◆ The synergies between offshore wind and offshore oil and gas activities provide new market opportunities.
- ◆ Offshore wind can help drive energy transitions by decarbonising electricity and by producing low-carbon fuels.
- ◆ Technology has come a long way since windmills were used centuries ago to mill grain or pump water. Modern wind turbines are highly evolved versions and the utility-scale ones are over 100 metres tall and can power thousands of homes.
- ◆ Offshore wind is set to be competitive with fossil fuels within the next decade, as well as with other renewables including solar PV.

Government Policy

The power from green sources such as wind and solar are aimed to fulfill several goals such as energy security, economic development, climate change mitigation, rural development and employment generation. To keep the wind program on track, in 1982, the government established the Department of Non-conventional

Energy Sources (DNES), under the Ministry of Energy. In 2006, the ministry was renamed as the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The government started with the demonstration projects to attract private investment in the sector. From the commencement of the wind program, a market-oriented strategy was implemented. It didn't involve itself in the direct execution and functioning of wind power projects; rather it worked out the strategy to encourage the involvement of private firms. Over US\$ 42 billion investment was made in renewable energy in India during last 4 years. Several Reforms has been taken by the goovenemnt to improve wind power generation sector, such as:

- ◆ Transparent bidding and facilitation for procurement of solar and wind power through tariff based competitive bidding process have led to significant reduction in cost of solar and wind power.
- ◆ Government waived the Inter State Transmission System charges and losses for inter-state sale of solar and wind power for projects to be commissioned by March 2022. This will encourage setting up of the projects in states that have greater resource potential and availability of suitable land.
- ◆ For optimizing land use and harnessing solar and wind energy potential optimally, we have notified Solar-Wind hybrid policy. This policy will help in better harnessing of renewable energy resources and to an extant also address renewable energy variability, The Ministry has also brought out one tender for setting up 2000 MW solar-wind hybrid in existing projects;
- ◆ Off-shore from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat coast provides among the best locations from wind power generation. In order to harness



this potential we have formulated offshore wind power policy and expression of interest for initial 1GW off-shore wind power have already been issued;

- ◆ The Green Energy Corridor projects seek creation of grid infrastructure for renewable power evacuation and to reshape grid for future requirements. The intra state transmission scheme (InSTS) being implemented by eight renewable rich states with an investment of Rs. 10,141 crores will set up about 9400 km transmission lines and substations of total capacity of approx. 19000 MVA to be completed March 2020.

Barriers To Wind Energy Development

While there is strong support from the central government for increased uptake of renewable energy, there remain a number of barriers to wind power reaching its full potential and the fulfillment of the ambitious targets for 2022 and beyond. A part of this is due to the fact that in local parlance the power sector is a 'concurrent' subject, meaning that both central and state governments exercise control. The reality is that it is often the states and local utilities which play the larger role.

Most of the state level power sector utilities in India are not in good financial health and are unable to comply with the National Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) announced in 2016. Delayed payments of up to six months or more by certain state utilities (DISCOMs) are also an on-going concern. The government has floated the idea of a Performance Based Initiative (PBI) which would be of particular use to financially distressed DISCOMs, where the DISCOM would receive payments from central government for the timely payment of tariffs and other performance related issues.

Further, recent interconnections between key southern states in India have at least created the wires which would facilitate the transfer of power from windy states to other parts of the country. More are needed, but in addition to wires there needs to be both a mechanism and an incentive to trade renewable power, to assist with overall system reliability as well as load balancing. A truly effective interstate market, properly incentivized, would be major boost to the renewables sector and the Indian power system as a whole.

Land acquisition and title-clearing continues to be a challenge for most onshore installations in India, and the

reform of this sector is long overdue. Sourcing affordable debt finance remains a challenge. High interest rates and limited availability of affordable debt are challenges for developers as well as Original Equipments Manufacturers (OEMs) in the country. Until now, equity investors have filled the gap sufficiently, but there are limits, and having a healthy mix of debt and equity will put projects in a stronger position.

Conclusion

Worldwide, wind energy is accepted as one of the most developed, cost-effective and proven renewable energy

technologies to meet increasing electricity demands in a sustainable manner. While onshore wind energy technologies have reached a stage of large scale deployment and have become competitive with fossil fuel based electricity generation, with supportive policy regimes across the world, exploitation of offshore wind energy is yet to reach a comparable scale. India has achieved significant success in the onshore wind power development, with over 23 GW of wind energy capacity already installed and generating power.

India is surely and steadily moving towards complying with its climate

change commitments under the Paris Agreement (COP21). India's pledge at the climate summit stated the country's intention to follow "a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at a corresponding level of economic development". To this end, India has established goals to expand its use of renewable energy and more efficient technologies.

General Studies Paper- III

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



2. ELECTORAL BONDS : BRINGING TRANSPARENCY OR OPACITY

Why in News?

The controversy over electoral bonds has resurfaced, after a five-part investigative series by Nitin Sethi that was published in HuffPost India. The series alleged that the government lied, bent rules and repeatedly ignored objections raised by various stakeholders.

Introduction

In the 21st century, money plays an increasingly larger role in elections. This was not so about 50 years ago. Today, India spends more on elections than the U.S. with a per capita GDP that is 3% of the U.S. Today, having more money does not guarantee success, but, at the other extreme, having no money certainly guarantees defeat. Some party may win a one-off election by spending very little, but sustaining victory over several elections requires funds. To reach voters, candidates and parties use hoardings and advertisements on printed, electronic and social media. They hold election rallies. They travel and have to pay party workers. Government introduced the electoral bonds scheme nearly three

years ago, ostensibly to rid the system of black money. But the electoral bonds scheme that was introduced has several loopholes and was objected to by several political parties and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Election Commission (EC).

In 2017, the then RBI Governor wrote to the then Finance Minister that "allowing any entity other than the central bank to issue bearer bonds, which are currency-like instruments, is fraught with considerable risk and unprecedented even with conditions applicable to electoral bonds." The EC warned that this would allow illegal foreign funds to be routed to political parties.

Electoral Bond Scheme

Government introduced an Electoral Bond Scheme in January 2018, purportedly with a view to cleansing the prevailing culture of political sponsorship.

An electoral bond is designed to be a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note — in effect, it will be similar to a bank note that is payable to the bearer on demand and free of interest. It can

be purchased by any citizen of India or a body incorporated in India.

The bonds will be issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore and will be available at specified branches of State Bank of India. They can be bought by the donor with a KYC-compliant account. Donors can donate the bonds to their party of choice which can then be cashed in via the party's verified account within 15 days.

Every party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State election will be allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India. Electoral bond transactions can be made only via this account.

The bonds will be available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in the beginning of every quarter, i.e. in January, April, July and October as specified by the Central Government. An additional period of 30 days shall be specified by the Central Government in the year of Lok Sabha elections.

Benefits

The stated objective of electoral bonds is to reduce opaqueness in political funding in the country. The information on how much a political party gets funding and how does it spend it – has never been in public domain. Some efforts like making donations via cheques have not resulted into desired outcomes and the share of anonymous funding of political parties is still in vogue. The electoral bonds scheme is meant to change this. First, it will bring transparency in political funding as the names of the donors will be maintained by the banks. Second, secrecy of the donors will help more people to take this route which otherwise make them wary of attack by the opposition parties. Third and most importantly it will take India towards digital and cashless economy. Fourth, it will be a step towards bringing reforms in political funding.

Why are They Controversial?

Electoral bonds will not bear the name of the donor, nor can the beneficiary party be revealed. In other words, the whole process will be anonymous. Moreover, the following restrictions that were done away with after the introduction of the electoral bond scheme:

1. Earlier, no foreign company could donate to any political party under the Companies Act
2. A firm could donate a maximum of 7.5 per cent of its average three year net profit as political donations according to Section 182 of the Companies Act
3. As per the same section of the Act, companies had to disclose details of their political donations in their annual statement of accounts.

The government moved an amendment in the Finance Bill to ensure that this provision would not

be applicable to companies in case of electoral bonds.

Thus electoral bonds allow all Indian companies, including shell companies which have no business but to channel money to political parties, individuals as well as other legal entities, such as trusts, can now anonymously buy unlimited amounts of electoral bonds and quietly hand them over to a political party of their choice to encash. Foreign companies can also now route money to Indian political parties.

Under Section 13A of the IT Act, companies contributing through electoral bonds will not even be required to keep records of such donations, and if no records are mandatorily maintainable, no questions can presumably be asked by IT authorities. Even more, the RPA Act has been amended to exempt parties to inform EC of any amount received above Rs 2,000, if made through electoral bonds. The result is complete financial opacity: EC cannot name the donors, and the IT department, even if questioned under the RTI Act, can claim confidentiality granted to assesses.

The government claims that since these bonds are purchased through banking channels the scheme will eliminate the infusion of black money into electoral funding. But not only is this argument palpably false, as a simple reading of the scheme's terms shows us, the programme also virtually endorses corruption in political funding. Consider, for example, the fact that the scheme allows for complete anonymity of the donor. Neither the purchaser of the bond nor the political party receiving the donation is mandated to disclose the donor's identity. Therefore, not only will, say, the shareholders of a corporation be unaware of the company's contributions, but the voters too will have no idea of how, and through whom, a political party has been funded.

The scheme is equally destructive in its subversion of the fundamental rights to equality and freedom of expression. There's no doubt that the Constitution does not contain an explicitly enforceable right to vote. But implicit in its guarantees of equality and free speech is a right to knowledge and information. Our courts have nearly consistently seen "freedom of voting" as distinct from the right to vote, as a facet of the right to freedom of expression and as an essential condition of political equality. In the absence of complete knowledge about the identities of those funding the various different parties, it's difficult to conceive how a citizen can meaningfully participate in political and public life.

The institutionalizing of equality through the principle of one person one vote, and through the creation of the universal adult franchise, was critical to building India's republican structure. When the power of that vote is diluted through opacity in political funding, democracy as a whole loses its intrinsic value.

Steps towards Transparent Political Funding

This is the first time the government has acknowledged that there is non-transparency of political funding. Transparent method of political funding is vital for the system of free and fair elections and even after 70 years of independence the country has not been able to evolve transparent funding to political parties. Like we expect the vegetable vendor and the auto driver to accept payments digitally the same should be followed by political parties. The corruption in political funding is against the moral and ethical principles.

In order to make our whole election process more transparent, the next step could be that every rupee donated to political parties should be accounted through digital transactions.

State funding of elections have been discussed several times and several committees have recommended and the most talked about committee is the Indrajit Gupta Committee of 1999. It said the state funding to elections will be feasible when there is internal democracy with the political parties. The report pitched for the need to devise appropriate framework for regulation of political parties before state funding of elections is attempted.

There should be state funding of political parties based on their performance not state funding of elections. Say for every vote the political party is given Rs 100, so that the total amount will be more than the money the political parties have raised through corruption and dubious means. Donating to a National Electoral Fund and the details of the donors will be kept secret. By donating to the National Electoral Fund, it will be like donating to the nation and not to any political party. From this fund the money can be distributed to the political parties based on their performance and the percentage of votes they obtain so that there will be complete transparency. There can be tax benefit for those who donate to the fund.

Conclusion

The Preamble of the Constitution declares India to be a Democratic

Electoral Bonds Scheme Notified

To help cleanse the political funding system in the country

Nature

- Bearer instrument in the nature of a Promissory Note
- Interest free banking instrument

Eligibility

- A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India
- On fulfillment of all the extant KYC norms
- By making payment from a bank account



Value

- Issued/ Purchased in multiples of Rs.1,000, Rs.10,000, Rs.1,00,000, Rs.10,00,000 and Rs.1,00,00,000
- Available from the Specified Branches of the State Bank of India (SBI)

Lifespan

- Shelf life of only 15 days
- Can be used for making donation only to the political parties registered u/s 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951

Period of Purchase

- Available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October, as may be specified by the Government

Republic. Democracy is the basic feature of the Indian Constitution. Democracy is sustained by free and fair elections. Only free and fair elections to the various legislative bodies in the country can guarantee the growth of a democratic polity. Thus, the Supreme Court has time and again asked the legislature and the election commission to bring about reforms in the process of election funding to prevent the influx of black money in the election process. Successive governments have promised electoral reforms and have setup committees to look into the matter. It is imperative that the authorities enforce these reforms and cleanse our electoral process of the vicious circle of corruption and black money that threatens the very foundation of our democracy. Unless drastic and radical steps are taken to cleanse public offices

by the government, political parties and people at large, corruption will continue to corrode the vitals of the country.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

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

○○○

3. INSIGHTS INTO POVERTY IN RURAL INDIA

Context

Rural poverty in India has been the subject of discussion in recent times. Low increase in prices of agricultural commodities and the slower increase in rural agricultural wages have been seen by some as signs of a crisis for the rural poor.

Introduction

India is predominantly a rural country. As per the 2011 Census, 68.8 per cent of country's population and 72.4 per cent of workforce resided in rural areas. Rural economy constitutes 46 per cent of national income. Despite the rise of urbanisation more than

half of India's population is projected to be rural by 2050. Thus growth and development of rural economy and population are a key to overall growth and inclusive development of the country. Traditionally, agriculture is the prime sector of rural economy and rural employment. The transition in composition of output and occupation

from agriculture to more productive non-farm sectors is considered as an important source of economic growth and transformation in rural and total economy.

These changes have taken place in spheres, such as land reforms, agriculture, animal husbandry, supplies and marketing, village industries, rural leadership, village administration, etc. With the help of the rural development pro-grammes, a cultivator is able to take advantage of the modern technological facilities in his agricultural operations. These cultivators are now using modern agricultural implements and high-yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers. Several other welfare services were introduced, such as opening up of schools, primary healthcare centres, improving the means of transport and communication, and spread of mass media services to rural areas, etc. These welfare services have materially affected the rural life.

Poverty In Rural India

As per the Eleventh National Development Plan of India more than 300 million people in India are poor. With great efforts, India has managed to reduce the number of poor from 55% in 1973 to about 27% (326 million poor) in 2004. According to the recent estimates (2011-12), 216.5 million people in rural areas are poor. And still, close to one third of the total population in India lives below the poverty line and majority of poor lives in villages and rural India. India's the poorest state is Chhattisgarh where 40% of the population lives below the poverty line. 61% of poor population of India lives in seven states i.e. Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Though 30% of rural population lives in a chronic condition of poverty but in the last three decades some improvement in the number has been

seen because of anti-poverty schemes and migration from rural to urban areas. Scheduled castes and tribes are the worst sufferers of rural poverty. Recently the Planning Commission has also revised the poverty line for rural as well as urban areas. The new poverty line for rural areas is Rs 27 and for urban areas it is Rs 30 per day.

Causes and Effects of Rural Poverty

The nature of rural economy in India is such that it is extensively dependent on agriculture. Most of the people in rural areas are involved in agriculture which in turn is dependent on the vagaries of nature. In India, agriculture is largely reliant on monsoon which is unpredictable and can also get erratic. This often leads to insignificant yield or excess yield of a crop (which cannot be properly consumed). Shortage of irrigation facilities and recurring droughts add to the woes of farmers and they are hard pressed for money throughout the year. Many take loans which they struggle to repay. Sometimes, the situation gets so bad that many farmers end up committing suicide. The effects of abject rural poverty are such that many rural areas are devoid of even basic facilities like sanitation, infrastructure, communication, and education.

Personal attributes of people also contribute to the spread of poverty. For instance, a lot of people living in rural areas do not maintain good hygiene. This in turn leads to illnesses and to treat them, people end up spending huge sums of money and again get caught in the vicious cycles of poverty. Unwillingness to work, lack of education, alcohol and substance abuse, getting involved in anti-social activities, all lead to poverty in different ways. Another very crucial reason for widespread poverty is extreme population growth in rural areas and

among poor families. Big families find it difficult to sustain economically and have to live off limited means.

Challenges in developing Rural Economy

Several countries around the globe are facing economic slowdown and they have announced stimulus packages to revive the slackening growth of their economies. Each country has its unique problems and reasons for slowdown. In India, it is the rural economy which is at the core of the problems involving the economic slowdown. The major challenges influencing economic slowdown in rural economy includes:

- ◆ The government, has not given equal attention to the rural sector which is very much under stress and grew at the low rate of 2% in the last quarter.
- ◆ Low international commodity prices have led to low price realisation from sale of farm products in India, and farmers have not been able to recover costs of farming. Agricultural wages have been stagnant because of stagnant farm incomes.
- ◆ Many rural job seekers are barely literate and are school dropouts. This is because of the pathetic state of primary education in villages. Even though there are many government schemes for skill development, few students land up with jobs in government or private sector after training. Lack of skill stands in the way of their getting stable jobs in the towns and cities.
- ◆ Shortage of food processing industries and viable handicrafts and handloom production in the villages is another reason for the dismal job scenario in the rural sector.
- ◆ Women are not able to earn extra income because rural

transportation and mobility remain inadequate.

Hence after giving a boost to the manufacturing sector through corporate tax cut, the task remains to revitalise the rural sector and the government's help is needed to create non-farm employment by facilitating food processing and other allied industries. Guaranteeing Rs. 6,000 per year to each poor farmer through PM-KISAN may help a little but more money is needed to revive the farmers' demand.

Government Rural Poverty Alleviation Initiative

Several poverty alleviation programmes in India meant to address poverty alleviation directly or indirectly have been launched by the incumbent government such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - a financial inclusion scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana - a housing scheme for the rural poor, the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) - aimed at increasing pension scheme beneficiaries in India, the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) - aimed at fostering infrastructure development in rural areas, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) - a crop insurance scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana - aimed at attracting irrigation investments, the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) - for skill development of rural youth, being some examples.

Many of these schemes are quite nascent and performance evaluations of these schemes are rather difficult. In the decades shortly after the turn of the century, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and the Public Distribution System (PDS) are prominent examples of the running policies for poverty alleviation in rural India. Before the MGNREGA and the PDS working

under new legislation, the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) represent some of the older schemes aimed at benefitting poor people in rural India. The MGNREGA came into force in 2006 and the scheme guarantees 150 days of paid work a year to people in rural areas. The policy aims to improve opportunities for rural people in gaining employment by providing guaranteed wage employment for unskilled manual work. By 2018, 1.5 million households were registered under the MGNREGA.

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is another programme that helps in improving the quality of life of impoverished populations in India. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 ties up with the PDS for distribution of food in India for providing subsidized food grains. About 50 per cent of the urban population and about 75 per cent of the rural population is covered by the purview of the Act and beneficiaries are entitled to receive 5 kg of food grains in a month per person at subsidized rates of Rs 3/2/1 per kg of rice, wheat or coarse grains respectively. The Act has been implemented in all of the states and union territories in India and the government claims that out of a coverage target of 813.4 million people, the policy has reached 807.2 million people in total for both rural and urban areas (Gol, 2018). There are some discrepancies however, over the implementation of certain provisions of the Act by some states

Multidimensional Poverty Elimination Approach

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, and as such, strategies to reduce it should recognise and address its different manifestations. Indicators like nutrition, child mortality,

years of schooling, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, and assets determine multi-dimensional poverty in Rural India. The following approaches, conceived and evolving over time, can be considered part of the developmental efforts to address the multidimensional aspects of rural poverty, recognising the role of agriculture as an important sector:

- ◆ **Inclusive value chain development:** These models are based on the integration of broader dimensions of agricultural production and natural resources management—for example, passing on increased shares of export prices to producers, including input provisions, storing, processing, transportation, trade and distribution.
- ◆ **Income diversification and employment generation:** Promotion of non-farm activities with the aim of providing additional support for poor farmers, through infrastructure development, investments in small industries, fostering local food markets and services; and investment by public-private partnerships in rural areas for the generation of labour intensive sectors. The generation of off-farm employment was a critical piece of China's success in reducing poverty.
- ◆ **Combining social assistance with economic inclusion interventions:** To address the inequitable distribution of resources and market failures, including access to assets, land, animals, labour, tools and human capital; enhance access to liquidity and credit; reduce the burden of care; and improve the ability to manage risk.
- ◆ **Local and territorial development:** A territorial approach to development recognises the complexity of social, political, economic and environmental interactions within a territory

and works to empower local stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to natural resource and developmental challenges, including poverty reduction.

- ◆ **Participatory community development:** It requires active engagement of all members of the community; building critical consciousness; advocating for the inclusion of women, children and illiterate, poor and excluded people; opening spaces for involvement in decision-making; and building political capabilities for democratic engagement.
- ◆ **Basic investments (services and infrastructure):** Ensuring the provision of adequate services for education, health care, roads and connectivity to urban spaces.
- ◆ **Social assistance:** Social protection instruments for poor and extremely poor people. This includes information systems and data collection instruments, enabling governments to identify poor and vulnerable people. This can be developed at territorial level, including community targeting mechanisms.

◆ **Productive inclusion:** Initiatives that enable poor people to access economic opportunities in different sectors. This entails agricultural development and fostering the sustainable management of resources, including agro-ecological zoning.

◆ **Pro-poor value chain development:** Identification of job-intensive value chains at territorial level, in agriculture (crop, fisheries, forestry etc.) as well as within the environmental sector. The different components of a multisectoral strategy need to reinforce each other.

Way Forward

Rural poverty needs to be eliminated not only due to a moral imperative or to ensure citizenship and rights to rural people, but because it is at the core of several interlinked processes affecting opportunities for development and peace in rural and urban areas. The World Bank (2018) recently published a call to consider various ways of measuring poverty to better understand it and address the challenge of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030, ensuring sustained

pathways towards improving the well-being of populations living in poverty. It also called for more urgent initiatives, because at the current pace, this goal will likely not be achieved. To kick-start the rural economy, we must formulate policies that focus on helping people emerge from an existence of perpetual disadvantage through incentives not hand-outs. A bridging of the urban-rural divide is imperative for long-term sustainable growth of the economy. To ensure inclusive economic growth, the government needs to urgently focus on transforming the agrarian economy to pull the maximum number of people out of subsistence farming and give them a much more remunerative role.

General Studies Paper- III

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

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

○○○

4. CHILD RIGHTS IN INDIA : AN APPRAISAL

Why in News

'International Children's Rights Day' or 'Universal Children's Day' was celebrated by the United Nations on 20 November every year. This day is celebrated to promote international solidarity, awareness of children and welfare of children. In India, it is held on 14 November every year as a tribute to, Jawaharlal Nehru, fondly known as Chacha Nehru among children. On this day, many educational and motivational programs are held across India, by and for the children.

United Nations and Child Rights

This year, 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the UN General Assembly. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (commonly abbreviated as the CRC or UNCRC) is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of

eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation. CRC was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 20th, 1989.

In order to accentuate the importance of the convention, in 2019, the document has been stored in synthetic DNA. The capsule containing the DNA will be kept in one of the safest places in the world, in the permafrost at the Arctic World Archive in Svalbard, Norway. Nick Goldman,

Senior Scientist at EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in Cambridge, UK is one of the scientists who first developed methods for storing large amounts of data in DNA and is responsible for encoding the Convention into a DNA-based format. Nations that ratify this convention are bound to it by international law. Compliance is monitored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is composed of members from countries around the world. Once a year, the Committee submits a report to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, which also hears a statement from the CRC Chair, and the Assembly adopts a Resolution on the Rights of the Child.

In 2000, more than a decade after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations General Assembly adopted two Optional Protocols on critical issues of growing concern: the involvement of children in armed conflict and the use of children for sale, prostitution and pornography. A large majority of United Nations Member States are parties to these Optional Protocols, both of which entered into force in 2002. A third Optional Protocol, which was adopted in 2011 and entered into force in 2014, allows children to bring complaints about violations directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Child Rights

United Nations educational guides for children classify the rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the "3 Ps": Provision, Protection, and Participation. Right to Survival: A child's right to survival begins before a child is born. According to Government of India, a child life begins after twenty weeks of conception. Hence the right to survival is inclusive of the child rights to be born, right to minimum standards

of food, shelter and clothing, and the right to live with dignity.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children – that India ratified in 1992 – all children are born with fundamental rights.

- ◆ Right to Survival – to life, health, nutrition, name, nationality
- ◆ Right to Development – to education, care, leisure, recreation, cultural activities
- ◆ Right to Protection – from exploitation, abuse, neglect
- ◆ Right to Participation – to expression, information, thought, religion

The four basic principles on which these above mentioned rights are based are:

1. Non-discrimination (Article 2)
2. Best Interest of the Child (Article 3)
3. Right to Life Survival and Development (Article 6)
4. Right to be Heard (Article 12)

Challenges for Children in India

Children, owing to their developing mind are vulnerable to the environment they are in. It is of utmost importance that such environment is made suitable for their growth and development, regardless of whether such child is in conflict with law or not and be given adequate care and protection of the law. No nation can flourish if children of such nation suffer, therefore India with the help of various international, national and state mechanisms tries to secure the rights of the children. Following are the challenges which stare into the child rights in India:

- ◆ **Hunger** affects each one of us but it affects the children all the more. There is a paradoxical situation in India. At one hand, over a third (40%) of the food produced in

India is wasted according to United Nations Development Programme and on other hand, one third of the children are malnourished. According to Global Hunger Index (GHI) of 2019, India is at 102nd position, behind its neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

- ◆ **Mortality:** It has been proven that diarrhoea and respiratory tract infection are two leading causes of death of under-5 years of age children in India. It has been proved scientifically that malnourished children are more prone to all kind of infection including tuberculosis because they are lack of adequate body resistance to fight with the infection. Nutrition related factors contribute almost a half (45%) of deaths in children under-5 years of age.
- ◆ **Child labour:** According to 2011 national census of India, out of total child population of nearly 260 million under-14 years of age group, 10.1 million are working as child labourers. About 70% of child labour is involved in agriculture and its related sector. Child labour is common in small shed operation in unorganised sectors like firework, silk, mining, carpet and bidi industries etc. Though the child labour and regulation act was passed in 1986 and later on amended in 2016 but in spite of that the practice of child labour has not been abolished completely, though it has been reduced.
- ◆ **Sexual assault:** The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019 seeks to protect children from sexual offence such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. Though the punishment for such offence is imprisonment between seven years to life, and a fine but even this act is unable to control

this heinous crime. One out of three girls is facing some sort of sexual offense in form of physical, emotional or verbal in nature in India. Such offences are happening almost daily in our country.

- ◆ **Health education and nutrition** are the fundamental needs of all individual irrespective of caste, creed, region and religion. They are inter related and are the foundation stones for the growth of the individual as well as the nation.
- ◆ Though **right to education** to all children between 6 to 14 years and additional incentives like scholarship to underprivileged children are guaranteed by constitution of India, still 32 million Indian children have never been to schools, according to an official report.

Constitutional and Institutional Safeguards

The first step to fulfill the rights of children can be found in the Constitution of India. There are a number of articles that address various needs of children as outlined below. The articles are divided into two categories: Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. National Mechanisms Fundamental Rights are justifiable in a court of law and are negatives that prohibit the states from doing thing. The courts are bound to declare a law as invalid if it violates a fundamental right. Directive principles are positive suggestions for states, and are not justifiable in a court of law.

Fundamental Rights

- ◆ **Article 14-** The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India.
- ◆ **Article 15-** The State shall not discriminate against any citizen.

Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provisions for women and children.

- ◆ **Article 21-** No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- ◆ **Article 21 A-** The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6-14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.
- ◆ **Article 23-** Traffic in human beings and beggary and other forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with the law.
- ◆ **Article 24-** No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- ◆ The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act was notified on 13th December 2002, making free and compulsory education a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

Directive Principles

- ◆ Article 39(e) & (f) direct that the state policies are directed towards securing the tender age of children.
- ◆ Article 45 states that the state shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
- ◆ Article 47- The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties
- ◆ Article 51A mentions that it shall be the fundamental duty of the parent and guardian to provide

opportunities for education to his child or as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen.

- ◆ Article 243G read with Schedule 11 - provide for institutionalization of child care by seeking to entrust programmes of Women and Child Development to Panchayat (Item 25 of Schedule 11), apart from education (item 17), family welfare (item 25), health and sanitation (item 23) and other items with a bearing on the welfare of children.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005). National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

The Commission visualizes a rights-based perspective flowing into National Policies and Programmes, along with nuanced responses at the State, District and Block levels, taking care of specificity and strengths of each region. In order to touch every child, it seeks a deeper penetration to communities and households and expects that the ground experiences gathered at the field are taken into

consideration by all the authorities at the higher level. Thus the Commission sees an indispensable role for the State, sound institution-building processes, respect for decentralization at the local bodies and community level and larger societal concern for children and their well-being.

Various Acts for Enabling Child Rights

- ♦ **Guardians and Wards Act, 1890:** The act supersedes all the laws regarding guardianship of a child. It is a universal code specifically designed for Muslims, Parsis, Christians and Jews as their personal laws don't allow full adoption but only guardianship.
- ♦ **Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Amended in 1979):** It restrains child marriage until the minimum age, i.e. 21 for male and 18 for female, has been attained by them. It applies to the people of all the religions.
- ♦ **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (Amended in 1986), 1956:** This act with respect to children deals with person(s) who procure or attempt to procure any child for prostitution or person(s) who are found with a child in a brothel (it is presumed child has been detained for the purpose of prostitution) and punishes them. It also provides for the due care of rescued children.
- ♦ **The Women's and Children's (Licensing) Act, 1956:** The Act was enacted with an object to protect women and children from exploitation and inhuman activities going on in institutions. It mandates the institutions for women and children to get a license from the licensing authority before establishing or maintaining the institution.
- ♦ **National Policy for Children, 1974:** It is the first written policy for the children in India. It aims at providing better enforcement of constitutional rights of the children along with those granted by the CRC. Some of the provisions include free education, comprehensive health and nutritious plans, etc.
- ♦ **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976:** The act aims at eradicating the bonded labour system in India which exploits the weaker sections of society, especially children.
- ♦ **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986:** This act regulates the working conditions for children in employment and prohibits working of children in certain kinds of employments.
- ♦ **National Policy on Child Labour, 1987:** The act endeavours to eradicate child labour from Indian society wherever necessary.
- ♦ **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000:** This act is one of the important acts in India for the children in need of care and protection and also children in conflict with the law. It requires that the state provides free legal support to the juveniles, and proper care and protection is provided to those in need. It also calls for a child-friendly approach in adjudication and disposition of matters involving children.
- ♦ **The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Act, 2000:** The main objective of the Act is to regulate and prevent the pre-natal sex determination in order to prevent female foeticide.
- ♦ **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012:** The act aims at punishing the offenders who are guilty of sexual offences against children below the age of 18 years

of age. It also lays down procedures for the trial, such as, the name of child victim shall not be disclosed, proceedings of the case are to be conducted in court with cameras recording the trial, accused is not to be kept in-front of the child victim during examination or cross-examination, etc.

Way Forward

Violations of the child's right to protection take place in every country and are massive, under-recognized and under-reported barriers to child survival and development, in addition to being human rights violations. Children subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect are at risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV/AIDS infection, educational problems, displacement, homelessness, vagrancy and becoming poor parents later in life. However, there are several remaining challenges need to address

The 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a moment in which to celebrate the many historic gains that the world has made for children since 1989. But not all children have benefited equally, with the poorest and most disadvantaged falling behind their more fortunate peers. It is time to recommit to the Convention and step up efforts to ensure that the rights of every child are realized in the next 30 years.

General Studies Paper- II

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



5. DIGITAL DEMOCRACY : POSING THREAT TO LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Context

In 2016 Facebook played pivotal roles in the election of Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines, the Brexit referendum and the Electoral College victory of Donald Trump in the United States. The shocks of 2016 awakened journalists and regulators to the ways that social media undermines democracy. After a decade of shallow proclamations of their democratic potential, it's clear that Facebook, Twitter and Google are, in fact, posing threats to democracy. With the upcoming December 2019 elections in the United Kingdom and the November 2020 elections in the United States, again the concept of 'Neutrality of Digital Democracy' needs a critical appraisal.

Introduction

Over 2,500 years after the birth of democracy in Ancient Greece, and just a few hundred years after its resurgence at the end of the medieval times, we are transitioning into a 'digital democracy'. We are toddlers in this new period, learning how to walk in the digital spaces of an intangible territorial sovereignty, where the digital borders are blurry but play a role on the democratic infrastructure inside physical borders.

These digital technologies, combined with the pervasiveness of corporate algorithms, have created a social and economic infrastructure that has increasingly taken power away from government as more citizens sign onto terms and conditions of the platforms they 'digitally' inhabit. While this has taken away layers of bureaucracy in some aspects, it has brought more power to individuals to deliver their messages to broader audiences, sell their products to larger

markets, learn new skills for free through many digital mediums, enjoy more forms of digital entertainment and connect with like-minded people across the world.

However, as the spaces we inhabit (with our attention) have shifted from physical to digital, we have entered the sovereignty of those digital spaces, and their respective algorithms, which have increasingly become the mediators of our lives. They suggest who to date, what job to apply to, what home appliance to buy and which political candidate to vote for. The concerns are being raised even for the future of liberal democracy in this era of digital revolution.

The recent analysis and developments has identified four such potential threats to liberal democracy in the context of digitization. First, digital technologies and the pervasiveness of corporate algorithms have led to a shift in power away from states. Yet many states are leveraging digital tools to exert increasing control. Second, as large technology companies gain unprecedented market and political power, they are also becoming dominant conduits for the flow of information while having little to no responsibility for the content that they host. Third, the echo chambers resulting from platform structures are threatening to deepen social fissures, replicating and creating self-affirming communities shielded from opposing views. Finally, the algorithms increasingly used in public and private sector decision making are opaque, with little transparency of their inner workings or accountability for their outcomes. Let us analyse them one by one.

Potential Threats to Liberal Democracy

Increasing Control of State through Digital Tools

A rising number of countries are exercising extreme control over the flow of information. This takes place through bans and the disruption of internet and website access, the denial of digital anonymity, restrictions on and the manipulation of content, or the spread of disinformation and propaganda. Ensuring a free and open internet is critical for realizing its democratizing and emancipatory benefits. In 2018, there were an estimated 196 internet shutdowns in 25 countries. This number is on the rise, from 75 in 2016 and 106 in 2017. The official justifications for shutdowns in 2018 were overwhelmingly cited as safety, followed by national security, action against fake news and hate speech, and school exams.

The countries that used this measure most in 2018 include India, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq and Ethiopia. India's shutdown of the internet in Kashmir in August 2019 was the 51st shutdown in the country this year. Besides the significant social impacts of such internet blackouts, the economic impacts are estimated to have cost the economy 3 billion US Dollars between 2012 and 2017.

In addition to access to the internet, anonymity online is critical for protecting individual freedom of expression and the right to privacy. Globally, states are implementing measures that weaken anonymity including bans on the use and dissemination of encryption technologies. Pakistan, for instance, implemented the 2016 Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, which prohibits

the use of encryption tools that provide anonymity.

Some countries are introducing licensing and registration requirements. Examples include Vietnam, which in 2015 established the Law on Network Information Security requiring companies trading in civil encryption goods to obtain special business licenses. Similarly, Malawi introduced a registration requirement for companies providing encryption services, as well as a requirement of disclosing the technical details of the encryption technologies. Further, several countries including the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia are attempting to weaken encryption tools through the creation of 'backdoors'. Several countries mandate the localization of personal data and the local storage of encryption keys. The debate around encryption and the dichotomy between privacy and security remain unresolved. Encryption policies must strike a balance between national security and individual freedoms.

Disinformation campaigns and content manipulation by state and non-state actors are increasing. State propaganda is often fabricated and disseminated using paid content contributors and bots. 32 of the countries studied in the Freedom House 2018 report were found to have pro-government commentators manipulating online discussions. China is believed to have hired nearly 2 million 'pseudo-writers' to contribute deceptive content to social media sites. A recent study estimates that these authors fabricate and publish nearly 500 million comments a year. Their main objective is to strategically distract social media users from contentious topics.

Influence campaigns across borders by both state and non-state actors are threatening the legitimacy and trust in democratic systems. State-sanctioned influence campaigns include efforts

such as defamation (delegitimizing public figures), public persuasion (trying to influence public opinion), and polarization (leveraging social and political divides, and undermining confidence in democratic institutions). The Russian online influence campaign during the American presidential election in 2016 is one example of this. Popular social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have repeatedly been used in such efforts.

Technology Companies Gaining Political and Market Power

While technology equips states with new levers of control, technology companies such as Facebook, Google, Apple and Amazon are also gaining political and market power, and regulators are struggling to keep pace. Large technology companies have become prominent arbiters of the flow of information. For example, two thirds of Americans get at least part of their news from Facebook.

Technology companies have largely been able to eschew liability for the content that they host. The business models of big technology companies rely on targeted advertisements, which require the collection of unprecedented amounts of information about their users. This model favours content that spreads quickly, in many instances this is malicious, false and harmful content.

New policies aimed at holding platforms liable for the content on their sites are a step in the right direction. France's Rapid Response Law, which requires technology platforms to cooperate with law enforcement in the removal of false information. Germany's Network Enforcement Law mandates companies with 2 million or more users to remove content that is deemed to be against German law within 24 hours. Care must be taken that new legislation is aimed at improving the flow of true information online, while protecting individual freedoms.

For example, fake-news legislation introduced in a number of countries including Malaysia has been used to silence dissent. Such efforts must also address the human behaviour aspects of the spread of misinformation online.

The Risk of 'Echo Chambers'

Individualized advertising and the network structure of social media risk creating echo chambers. Technology companies and social media platforms filter content that they believe a user does not want to see. Users are therefore exposed primarily to opinions that they agree with. While this keeps users engaged on a site, it also poses the risk of polarization, particularly around political issues. Individuals are organizing around likeminded people online, shielded from opposing perspectives. This contradicts the open discourse between different opinions which lies at the heart of democracy. It remains unknown, however, to what extent these echo chambers are replicating offline communities. If we want to break through these virtual echo chambers, we need greater awareness of how to engage with opposing viewpoints online.

It is believed that the internet has empowered individuals by creating more avenues for political participation and political voice. A critical part of political voice is being heard. The complex network of links and search engine algorithms mean that online traffic coalesces around a few dominant sources, not unlike traditional media. While people can write blogs to express their political views online, that does not mean that they are being read. Importantly, not everyone has the needed skills to participate in online discussions, let alone shape democratic discourse.

The space for free speech online and offline is under threat everywhere by both the left and the right. In many instances, differing views are not only

seen as wrong, but increasingly they are seen as 'evil'. Open dialogue and debate is needed and a minimalist approach to regulating speech should be taken, with the exception of the incitement of violence.

Opacity in Algorithmic Decision-Making

As individuals generate ever increasing amounts of data online, machine learning is enabling the processing of vast amounts of information. Algorithms are permeating new areas of our lives and are increasingly being used in decision-making processes. In the public sector, algorithms are used to make decisions such as tuition and financial aid, criminal justice, and public housing eligibility. In the private sector, examples of algorithmic decision-making include assessment of insurance and loan eligibility. The outcomes of such decisions have significant implications for individuals, organizations and communities.

Algorithmic decision-making is often favoured for its supposed objectivity, efficiency and reliability. Yet, the knowledge fed into these systems, the assumptions and values embedded in the data through collection, and the models risk replicating human bias. Machine learning decision systems modelled on historic data also risk re-enforcing discriminatory biases.

A pertinent example is the use of algorithm-based risk assessment tools in the United States criminal justice system. COMPAS - Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions - has been used in assessing the risk of criminal recidivism and thus for determining eligibility for parole. Research shows that COMPAS correctly predicted the rate of recidivism just 61 percent of the time.

The implications of algorithmic bias on individual lives and society are significant. The use of algorithms and machine learning are on the rise in the private and public sectors. This means that our lives, our opportunities, and risks are increasingly impacted by algorithms which the general population does not understand. Therefore, greater transparency and accountability for the bases of algorithmic decision-making is crucial. This will require greater explainability, validation and monitoring, legislative change, and increased public debate. It might mean greater disclosure of human involvement in algorithmic design to expose inbuilt assumptions, as well as create more individual accountability. Transparency and monitoring of data would mean providing information on the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, representativeness, uncertainty and limitations of data used. Finally, inferences drawn from the outcomes such as the margin of error, the rate of false positives and false negatives, and

the confidence values can and should be disclosed.

Conclusion

Democracy is not only about individual voice or decision-making by majority, it is just as much about the rule of law, representative democracy, limiting the power of individuals, and protection of minority rights. With that in mind, we must continue to assess the impacts of digital transformations on multiple aspects of democracy and democratic processes. The aforementioned article pondered upon four such challenges, including the exploitation of digital tools by states, the rising power of technology companies, the isolationist impacts of individualized social-media and news feeds, and the applications of algorithmic decision-making. Finally, we must consider the challenges that the digital domain presents for liberal democracy as both unique, and as extensions and replications of existing issues.

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.

○○○

6. EMERGING EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS IN 21ST CENTURY INDIA

Context

This Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has launched a new regular employment-unemployment survey, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) during April, 2017 with certain changes in survey methodology, data collection

mechanism and sampling design vis-à-vis the earlier quinquennial (once in every five years) Employment and Unemployment surveys of NSSO.

The PLFS has been launched with an objective of measuring quarterly changes of various labour market statistical indicators in urban areas as

well as generating annual estimates of these indicators both for rural and urban areas, which can be used for policy making. The first Annual Report (July 2017 – June 2018) covering both rural and urban areas giving estimates of all important parameters of employment was released on May

2019. There is a decline in the absolute number of workers in the economy which has been a major cause of concern.

Introduction

The employment and unemployment surveys undertaken by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) are the primary source of statistics on labour force, activity participation of the population and structure of employment and unemployment in the country. The architecture of these surveys provides the measurement of labour force indicators in cross classification of age, gender, education, industry, etc.

Ever since the results of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 became public — they showed that unemployment in India was at a 45-year high — there has been vigorous

public debate about the true state of unemployment in the country. Ever since the independence of the country, there has not been a population census (1951 to 2011) or an NSS that reported an absolute decline in the number of workers except in the latest PLFS 2017-18.

Education is emerging as a much stronger differentiator in the Indian labour market that seems to be in tandem with the neo-liberal economic policies of “betting on the strong” in creating economic opportunities, largely in urban areas, through the market mechanism.

There seems to be alarming picture being created on unemployment rate when the comparison is made between the Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS) of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). But these two are different surveys having different methodologies and ever more different weights. Comparing these findings are similar to comparing apples and oranges.

NSSO has computed unemployment rate every 4-5 years since 1972-73. These data are computed separately for men and women, in urban and rural areas, using two different sets of questions. One set is based on the usual status of employment, and the other on the current weekly status. Based on the usual status question, male unemployment in rural areas in the nine NSSO rounds from 1972 to 2011 was between 1.2% and 1.8% — always below 2%. For the first time in the last 47 years, in 2017-18, based on the PLFS survey, the unemployment rate crossed the 2% mark. Not by a small margin, but by a factor of three.

The weights used in PLFS and EUS are different. The weights of EUS, on the other hand, are based on expenditure/livelihood of households. The PLFS weights are based on the education level of households and give a larger weight to households with more 10th grade pass members aged 15 or above.

Highlights of Periodic Labour Force Report

- ◆ About 70.7 per cent of the persons in India belonged to rural areas.
- ◆ The average household size in India was about 4.2. It was about 4.3 in rural India and about 3.9 in urban India.
- ◆ The sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males) in India was 956. It was 952 in rural India and 965 in urban India.
- ◆ Persons aged 15-29 years, who are considered as the youth, accounted for 27.4 per cent of rural males, 27 per cent of rural females, 28.2 per cent of urban males and 27.8 per cent of urban females.
- ◆ Literacy rate in both rural and urban areas was higher among males than females: in rural areas, literacy rate was 80.7 per cent among males compared to 64.5 per cent among females and in urban areas, literacy rate was 91.6 per cent among males compared to 81.6 per cent among females.
- ◆ About 54.9 per cent of the rural males, 18.2 per cent of the rural females, 57 per cent of the urban males and 15.9 per cent of the urban females were in the labour force in usual status.
- ◆ The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in usual status was about 34.7 per cent at the all-India level. It was about 35 per cent in rural areas and 33.9 per cent in urban areas.
- ◆ Share of self-employed among workers in usual status (ps+ss) was about 57.8 per cent among rural males, 57.7 per cent among rural females, 39.2 per cent among urban males and 34.7 per cent among urban females.

Employment and Unemployment: Key Indicators

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Proportion Unemployed (PU):** It is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed in the population.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Activity Status- Usual Status:** The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period. When the activity status is determined on the basis of the reference period of last 365 days preceding the date of survey, it is known as the usual activity status of the person.
- **Activity Status- Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.

Usual Unemployment Rate for 2017-2018

Sector	Male	Female
Rural	5.8	3.8
Urban	7.1	10.8

Unemployment Rate among Educated People (Usual Status) Age: 15 and Above; Education : Secondary and Above		
Sector	Male	Female
Rural	10.5	17.3
Urban	9.2	19.8

- ◆ In rural areas, average wage earnings per day by casual labour engaged in works other than public works ranged between Rs. 253 to Rs. 282 among males and nearly Rs. 166 to Rs. 179 among females. In urban areas, average wage earnings per day by casual labour engaged in works other than public works ranged between Rs. 314 to Rs. 335 among males and nearly Rs. 186 to Rs. 201

Worrying Scenario of Job Loss

Using the 68th round of the NSS in 2011–12, the total number of workers in the Indian economy to be 467.72 million and 461.54 million for 2017–18, based on the PLFS data. This means that there has been a net job loss, in terms of workers, of 6.18 million. The Indian labour market, including the self-created employment opportunity of “self-employed” has four core segments in terms of location (rural and urban) and gender (male and female). The job loss is due to the fall in employment of women in rural areas to the extent of 24.71 million. All the other three categories, including women in urban areas gained as a result of additional employment. The significant increase in employment is for men and women in urban areas, around 11%, compared to the situation in 2011–12.

As per the National Industrial Classification (NIC), there are 20 economic/industry groups at the two-digit level that would give us a reasonable idea of the job losses and gains. The most important point to note is that, overall, five out of the 20 sub-sectors of the economy witnessed a net job loss, the most important of which is the primary sector of agriculture

and allied activities and mining and quarrying, followed by the other productive sectors of manufacturing.

The dynamic process of job creation and destruction is explained by the interaction between growth in output and growth in employment. The annual growth in output—measured by gross value added (GVA)—is close to 6.91%. However, employment growth is negative and that leads us to characterise the period as one of “job-loss growth.”

- ◆ The job-loss growth is a result of the net decline in jobs in five sectors of the economy that, however, accounted for 65% of total employment (in 2011–12).
- ◆ Agriculture, given its high share in employment, emerges as the biggest loser in terms of the absolute number of jobs lost.
- ◆ Manufacturing, despite high growth in output, has also been one of job loss that has affected the men.
- ◆ Despite the impressive growth in many sectors, except construction, a number of them failed to generate employment to such an extent that should have not only compensated for the decline in agriculture but also to provide more jobs to those entering the labour force.

State of Unemployment

The unemployment rate amongst men and women in both the categories of urban and rural is at the highest since 1972. The reported surge in the unemployment rates is almost more than three times among rural men and more than the double among rural women as per the usual status since 2011-2012.

The agriculture sector continued to register a decline of employment at the rate of 4.5 million pa (about 27 million in total) during 2011-12 and 2017-18. Manufacturing recorded a 3.5 million decline in jobs during 2011-12 and 2017-18. For youth, Labour

Force Participation Rate (LFPR) fell from 44.6 per cent to 38.3 per cent, and Work Participation Rate (WPR) fell from 42 per cent to 31.4 per cent during the same period. According to the study, for each level of education, the unemployment rate increased by 2017-18—among illiterates to 7.1 per cent to 8.3 per cent for youth having up to primary education, 13.7 per cent with middle education, 14.4 per cent with secondary, 24 per cent with higher secondary education, 35.8 per cent for graduates and 36.2 for postgraduates. Unemployment rate soared for those who are more educated. Unemployment rate among rural educated males since 2011-12 has increased three times to 5.7% from 1.7%. Surprisingly those who have higher degree of education and those who are completely non-literate, have same level of unemployment rate. On the reverse, the unemployment among rural non-literate female has reduced and for literate urban females the unemployment rate is same as per the level of 2011-2012.

Labour force participation, or people working or looking for jobs in the age group of 15-29 years, has been declining and touched 36.9% in 2017-18 as more among them, especially females, enrolled for higher studies. The rising unemployment rate despite falling labour force participation for the youth is more worrying.

The situation of increasing the unemployment is alarming due to the following reasons:

- ◆ Ability of India's economy to absorb the incremental working age population into the workforce has been declining since 2004–05 with the last period of six years showing a negative trend.
- ◆ It has led to a situation of increasing the share of those out of the workforce that was close to 40% in 2005 to around 105% in 2018.
- ◆ The process of declining absorption of additional working

age population, that is, potential labour force, has a strong gender dimension.

Government Initiative in Job Creation

Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. The Government has also recently constituted Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development among others.

The current economic reforms initiative "specifically geared towards employment generation — e.g. the emphasis on road construction (a labour-intensive activity); the MUDRA initiative (provision of loans to small entrepreneurs); the housing initiative as well as the policy to increase employment via a wage subsidy to employers" and concluded that "over

2.3 NDA-II years, the economy is estimated to have added 8.7 million jobs per year. As a reference, during 2004/5 and 2009/10 the economy (added) 2.8 million jobs per year".

Way Forward

Despite the politically-charged nature of the debate around jobs, we need to debunk one needless myth: India's problem is not one of jobless growth. Jobs has grown and shrunk in cyclical manner. To address the issue of jobs and employment the policy making and capability enabling structures need to be in tandem. We must first get our hands on the right high-frequency data. Without this, we can't even define the nature of our jobs problem. The solution starts with the diagnosis itself. NSSO has since started with regular publishing of data, the policy makers can address the problem and adapt the policies accordingly. A balance between capital intensive and labour intensive sectors on policy level need to be maintained. Too much focus on GDP numbers has led to investments in automations and capital intensive industries and has shifted the focus of growth from number of jobs to percentage increase in GDP. Further is accepting the fact that, agriculture can no longer support half the population, and the fresh pressure on jobs will come from rural workers migrating to urban areas for jobs. Thereby policies for the gig economy and other informal urban

sectors should come in early. While technology will surely create some jobs somewhere, what it does in the short-term is polarize jobs (the demand will be for very high skills, or very average skills, with middle-skilled jobs being phased out). This is why cyber-security, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning experts are in short supply, while jobs at the bottom-end are proliferating. This is visible when you look out of any urban window and you see Ubers and Olas providing thousands of jobs, and Flipkart, Amazon, Swiggy and Big Basket delivery boys whizzing past every few minutes. "Blue collar" service jobs are booming in logistics, warehousing, home services, mobility, retailing, etc. obs that will disappear are middle skill ones like plain-vanilla java coders or bank branch staff and telecom back-office workers, as technology upgradation and business consolidation gather pace in India. Labour market reforms, labour market information system and reforms in labour laws along with encouragement to the entrepreneurial sector will be the issue of jobs.

General Studies Paper- III

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



7. STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT : IS IT STRATEGICALLY RIGHT

Why in News?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved five PSUs – Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDCIL) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) – for strategic sales recently.

While Central government will cede full management control to buyers in the case of oil marketing company BPCL, SCI and CONCOR, it will transfer its 74.2% stake in THDC India Limited (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation of India) and its 100% stake in NEEPCO to another public sector unit and power distribution major, NTPC Ltd.

What is a Strategic Sale?

A strategic sale by a government is one where the management control is ceded to the buyer. A divestment could be stake sale to a buyer, via an initial public offering or a direct deal, but in which the government still retains majority and management control.

A strategic sale is also different from cases where the government transfers

majority stake but only to another PSU over which it has control, as happened recently with HPCL (bought by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) and with Tehri Hydro and NEEPCO in the latest round.

History of Disinvestment in India

Since liberalisation began in India in 1991 under then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, the country saw a steady flow of disinvestment decisions. However, privatisation, where buyers took over management control, began later under the National Democratic Alliance governments. Arun Shourie, the country's first Disinvestment Minister, gave an impetus to the exercise. He is credited with the privatisation of Maruti, Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and Hindustan Zinc through the strategic sale process.

Governmental Framework

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at its meeting approved the new policy under which the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) under the Ministry of Finance has been made the nodal department for the strategic stake sale in October this year.

Till now, PSUs for strategic sale were identified by NITI Aayog. From now, DIPAM and NITI Aayog will jointly identify PSUs for strategic disinvestment. Also, DIPAM secretary would now co-chair the inter-ministerial group on disinvestment, along with the secretary of administrative ministries concerned. This has done with a view to streamlining and speeding up the process, reducing the role of administrative ministries which often used to place hurdles in the path of major stake sales.

About DIPAM

The Department of Disinvestment was one of the Departments under the

Ministry of Finance. It was renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) in April, 2016.

The mandate of the Department is as follows:

- ♦ All matters relating to the management of Central Government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- ♦ All matters relating to the sale of Central Government equity through offer for sale or private placement or any other mode in the erstwhile Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Rationale behind Disinvestment of PSUs

Some political parties that come to power believe that "the government has no business being in business". That is, the government's role is to facilitate a healthy business environment but the core competence of a government does not lie in selling fuel or steel at a profit. That is one reason that divestment is often a priority item in the election manifesto of such parties.

Two, with governments always having to spend more than they earn through taxes and other means, additional income from the proceeds of a stake sale is always welcome. This is especially so in the case of India now, where it has fallen to the government to spend higher amounts on infrastructure to boost economic growth, along with its commitments on health and education.

It is true that this is like selling the family silver and that at some point there would be nothing left to sell and cushion the fiscal deficit with, but the argument is, the government should not have been funding these companies in the first place.

While government presence may be a necessary evil in strategic sectors

such a defence or oil exploration, there's really no call for it to be running fuel retailing outlets, building ships or running container freight operations.

Government presence in such non-strategic sectors not only distorts competitive dynamics for private players, it also results in consumers and taxpayers bearing the brunt of inefficient PSU operations. While strategic sale deals in the past have seen a few mis-steps, they've also yielded convincing success stories like Hindustan Zinc's, which has seen a hundred-fold increase in its profits on the back of a six-fold expansion in capacities, since its takeover by Vedanta in 2002.

Insights of Current Move

The proceeds from these stake sales will help the Centre move closer to achieving its disinvestment target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore for this year. Of the five companies, the stake sale in BPCL is likely to be the biggest draw. The sale will be of interest not only to domestic firms, but also to major international players as well. According to some estimates, the government could fetch around Rs 63,000 crore from its stake sale in the company, more than half of its total disinvestment target for the year. Add to that proceeds from the stake sale in the Container Corporation and the Shipping Corporation, and the Centre may well end up earning more than Rs 70,000 crore through these three firms alone.

So far this year, the government has been able to garner only Rs 17,364 crore or 16.5 per cent of its budgeted disinvestment target as per data from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. Coming at a time when the Centre is facing huge shortfalls in both direct and indirect tax revenues, and its gross tax revenues have grown by a mere 1.5 per cent in the first half (April to September) of the current financial year, the determined

push to meet its disinvestment target is welcome.

India is currently facing an economic slowdown in which indirect tax collections are below par. The government has cut corporate tax rates hoping that companies will use these savings for price cuts or dividend payouts, or for investments that create jobs. As consumption is highly muted, the Central government may look to place more disposable cash in the hands of the taxpayer through lowering personal income tax rates. As a result of cut and to-be-cut tax rates, the government would have less and less cash for its own expenditure in infrastructure and the social sector.

Further, if the fiscal deficit goes out of hand, the sword of Damocles — of global rating agencies lowering the country's investment grade — could fall on India's neck. This would make any future foreign currency loans costlier, both for the country and for large Indian conglomerates whose fortunes rise and fall with the local economy. Here is where proceeds from strategic sales give the government extra spending cushion.

Concerns Raised on the Recent Move

The recent approval of strategic disinvestment of the government's shareholding in five public sector enterprises can at best be described as an expedient exit. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had made clear in July's Budget speech that select and strategic disinvestment would "remain a priority" and the Cabinet's decision to sell the Centre's entire 53.29% ownership in BPCL, all of its 63.75% holding in SCI and 30.8% of its stake in CONCOR is an attempt at ensuring the actualisation of this policy approach. Still, the underlying rationale behind this government's disinvestment programme remains hazy.

It would be perfectly understandable if the aim was to exit unprofitable, non-strategic businesses. BPCL, however, is a profitable refiner and oil marketing company that has consistently paid a healthy dividend. It has also made investments in upstream energy resources and holds interests in overseas hydrocarbon blocks. To that extent, a full sale now deprives the government of all upside potential.

Also, the cabinet's decision to carve out and exclude the company's 62% holding in Assam's 3-million metric tonnes per annum Numaligarh refinery would surely pare the price it could get from a prospective buyer. And the lack of an explanation for the logic behind the move also hints at politics taking precedence over any economic interest, especially given the ruling party's keenness to strengthen its newfound sway in the restive northeastern States.

With just a little over four months left in the financial year, how the government intends to actually complete the transaction — from appointment of advisers, to deciding on the pricing mechanism and initiating a transparent bidding process before finalising a buyer — this fiscal is another big question. While the transfer of the government's stakes in THDC India Limited and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation to the captive buyer, state-owned NTPC, will obviously go through in time, it is the market sale of the bigger-ticket stakes that could pose a challenge.

The move is already seeing predictable rumblings of protest from PSU insiders who are likening the disinvestment of profit-making PSUs to the 'sale of family silver' and flagging the risk of cronyism.

Way Forward

Centre should stick to its guns with its view that the 'government has no business being in business'. To allay

concerns of cronyism, the strategic sale process needs to be transparent with a minimum reserve price that does justice to the valuable assets being auctioned off. A third-party valuation of every PSU's assets and a minimum number of bidders (say five), should be necessary pre-conditions to going ahead with each sale. It is also necessary for the Centre to recognize that, when it cedes majority equity in profit-making entities it is effectively giving up substantial future rights over these firms' earnings and dividend payouts which result in a substantial opportunity cost to the exchequer.

It would be best to sequester the substantial sums raised from such strategic sales from the Union Budget, so that they aren't frittered away in interest or salary payouts but are reinvested prudently in long-term infrastructure assets that can yield enduring returns to the economy. The Government of India already has a readymade sovereign wealth vehicle in the form of the professionally managed National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, into which it can redirect these disinvestment proceeds.

To maximize profit, government should draw a more ambitious, better laid out, medium-term plan for disinvestment, rather than approaching it as merely an arrangement for plugging its revenue gaps. It should draw up a list of potential candidates and release an advance calendar, indicating the period of disinvestment. This would help draw in more buyers. Further, the proceeds from disinvestment should be used only for the creation of new assets, not to meet its revenue expenditure.

General Studies Paper- III

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



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

1. Wind Energy in India : Scope and Challenges

Q. India's well-developed wind power industry has the capability and experience to help meet the country's climate and energy security goals. Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ The global offshore wind capacity is set to increase fifteen-fold by 2040 to reach about \$1 trillion of cumulative investment, according to the recent International Energy Agency report.
- ◆ India has made great strides in improving access to modern energy in recent years. India's well-developed wind power industry has the capability and experience to help meet the country's climate and energy security goals.
- ◆ With the total wind installed capacity of around 35,815 MW as of 30th April 2019, India is the world's fourth largest country in terms of total wind installations after China, the USA and Germany.
- ◆ Over US\$ 42 billion investment was made in renewable energy in India during last 4 years. Several Reforms has been taken by the government to improve wind power generation sector.
- ◆ While there is strong support from the central government for increased uptake of renewable energy, there remain a number of barriers to wind power reaching its full potential and the fulfillment of the ambitious targets for 2022 and beyond.
- ◆ A part of this is due to the fact that in local parlance the power sector is a 'concurrent' subject, meaning that both central and state governments exercise control. The reality is that it is often the states and local utilities which play the larger role.

2. Electoral Bonds : Bringing Transparency or Opacity

Q. What are electoral bonds? Assess their efficacy in bringing transparency to electoral funding.

Hints:

- ◆ An electoral bond is designed to be a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note — in effect, it will be similar to a bank note that is payable to the bearer on demand and free of interest. It can be purchased by any citizen of India or a body incorporated in India.
- ◆ The bonds will be issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 crore and will be available at specified branches of State Bank of India. They can be bought by the donor with a KYC-compliant account.
- ◆ Donors can donate the bonds to their party of choice which can then be cashed in via the party's verified account within 15 days.
- ◆ The stated objective of electoral bonds is to reduce opaqueness in political funding in the country. It will bring transparency in political funding as the names of the donors will be maintained by the banks.
- ◆ Secrecy of the donors will help more people to take this route which otherwise make them wary of attack by the opposition parties. It will take India towards digital and cashless economy. Fourth, it will be a step towards bringing reforms in political funding.
- ◆ Through the electoral bonds, there is no limit to the amount companies can donate, and the requirement for such firms to have existed for the last three years on a profit-making basis has also been deleted.
- ◆ The scheme is equally destructive in its subversion of the fundamental rights to equality and freedom of expression. In the absence of complete knowledge about the identities of those funding the various different parties, it's difficult to conceive how a citizen can meaningfully participate in political and public life.

3. Insights into Poverty in Rural India

Q. Discuss the major challenges influencing economic slowdown in rural economy.

Hints:

- ◆ Several countries around the globe are facing economic slowdown. Each country has its unique problems and reasons for slowdown. In India, it is the rural economy

which is at the core of the problems involving the economic slowdown.

- ◆ The major challenges influencing economic slowdown in rural economy includes government, has not given equal attention to the rural sector which is very much under stress and grew at the low rate of 2% in the last quarter.
- ◆ Low international commodity prices have led to low price realisation from sale of farm products in India, and farmers have not been able to recover costs of farming. Agricultural wages have been stagnant because of stagnant farm incomes.
- ◆ Many rural job seekers are barely literate and are school dropouts. This is because of the pathetic state of primary education in villages. Even though there are many government schemes for skill development, few students land up with jobs in government or private sector after training. Lack of skill stands in the way of their getting stable jobs in the towns and cities.
- ◆ Shortage of food processing industries and viable handicrafts and handloom production in the villages is another reason for the dismal job scenario in the rural sector.
- ◆ Women are not able to earn extra income because rural transportation and mobility remain inadequate.

4. Child Rights in India : An Appraisal

Q. Examine the child right protection regime in India. Also discuss various government initiatives in this regard.

Hints:

- ◆ The first step to fulfill the rights of children can be found in the Constitution of India. There are a number of articles that address various needs of children starting from Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy itself.
- ◆ The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act protect all children under the age of 18 years from procedural hassles in cases of offences done by and against them.
- ◆ Several authorities have been set up under the Juvenile Justice Act, namely Special Juvenile Police Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice boards, Special Homes etc.
- ◆ State Child Protection Societies (SCPS) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) have been set up under the scheme as fundamental units for implementation at State and District levels respectively.

- ◆ Prominent government initiatives includes, National Health Mission: RMNCH+A, Routine Immunisation (RI), Mission Indradhanush, Measles & Rubella vaccine introduction, Mother Infant Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Risk Communication for Public Health in Emergencies and Disease Outbreaks (Zika and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome), Childhood Pneumonia and Anemia, Communication Framework on Menstrual Hygiene Management.
- ◆ Right to Education: To address the poor uptake of Right to Education (RTE) entitlements, capacity development of master trainers, RTE facilitators, and network partners. The programmes, emphasising the rights approach, mobilised community support and involvement for promoting children's education and monitoring progress of RTE interventions.
- ◆ Swachh Bharat Mission: SHACS (Sanitation Hygiene Advocacy and Communication Strategy), DWACS (Drinking Water Advocacy and Communication Strategy).

5. Digital Democracy : Posing Threat to Liberal Democracy

Q. Identify some potential threats to liberal democracy in the context of digitization.

Hints:

- ◆ Over 2,500 years after the birth of democracy in Ancient Greece, and just a few hundred years after its resurgence at the end of the medieval times, we are transitioning into a 'digital democracy'.
- ◆ Digital technologies, combined with the pervasiveness of corporate algorithms, have created a social and economic infrastructure that has increasingly taken power away from government as more citizens sign onto terms and conditions of the platforms they 'digitally' inhabit.
- ◆ Many countries are leveraging digital tools to exert increasing control and surveillance over citizens.
- ◆ Large technology companies has gained unprecedented market and political power, they are also becoming dominant conduits for the flow of information while having little to no responsibility for the content that they host.
- ◆ The echo chambers resulting from platform structures are threatening to deepen social fissures, replicating and creating self-affirming communities shielded from opposing views.

- ◆ The algorithms increasingly used in public and private sector decision making are opaque, with little transparency of their inner workings or accountability for their outcomes.

6. Emerging Employment Patterns in 21st Century India

Q. What are the emerging employment patterns in India? Discuss it in the context of recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey.

Hints:

- ◆ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has launched a new regular employment-unemployment survey, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) during April, 2017 with certain changes in survey methodology, data collection mechanism and sampling design.
- ◆ The PLFS has been launched with an objective of measuring quarterly changes of various labour market statistical indicators in urban areas as well as generating annual estimates of these indicators both for rural and urban areas, which can be used for policy making.
- ◆ About 70.7 per cent of the persons in India belonged to rural areas.
- ◆ The average household size in India was about 4.2. It was about 4.3 in rural India and about 3.9 in urban India.
- ◆ The sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males) in India was 956. It was 952 in rural India and 965 in urban India.
- ◆ About 54.9 per cent of the rural males, 18.2 per cent of the rural females, 57 per cent of the urban males and 15.9 per cent of the urban females were in the labour force in usual status.
- ◆ The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in usual status was about 34.7 per cent at the all-India level. It was about 35 per cent in rural areas and 33.9 per cent in urban areas.
- ◆ Share of self-employed among workers in usual status (ps+ss) was about 57.8 per cent among rural males,

57.7 per cent among rural females, 39.2 per cent among urban males and 34.7 per cent among urban females.

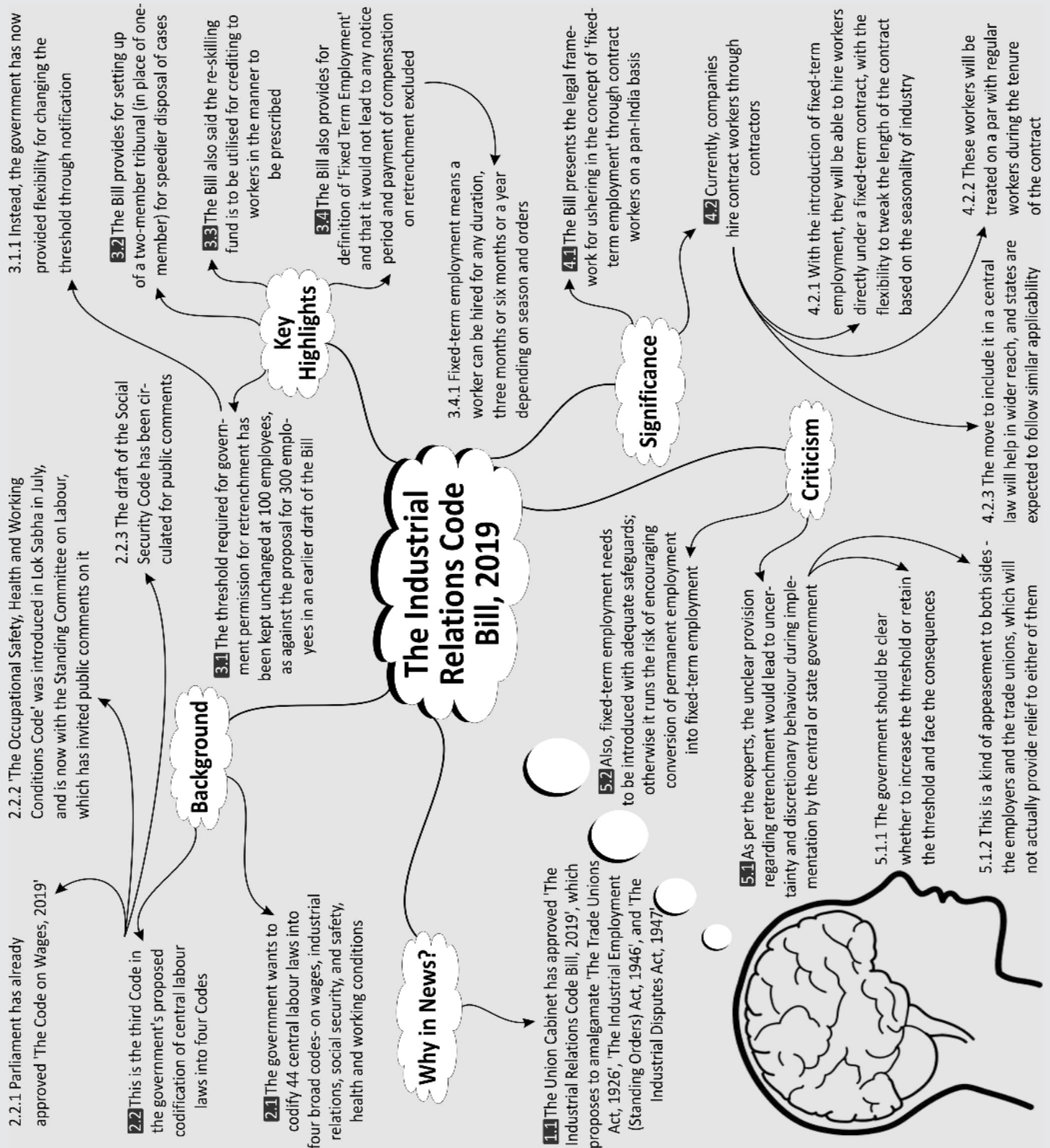
7. Strategic Disinvestment : Is it Strategically Right

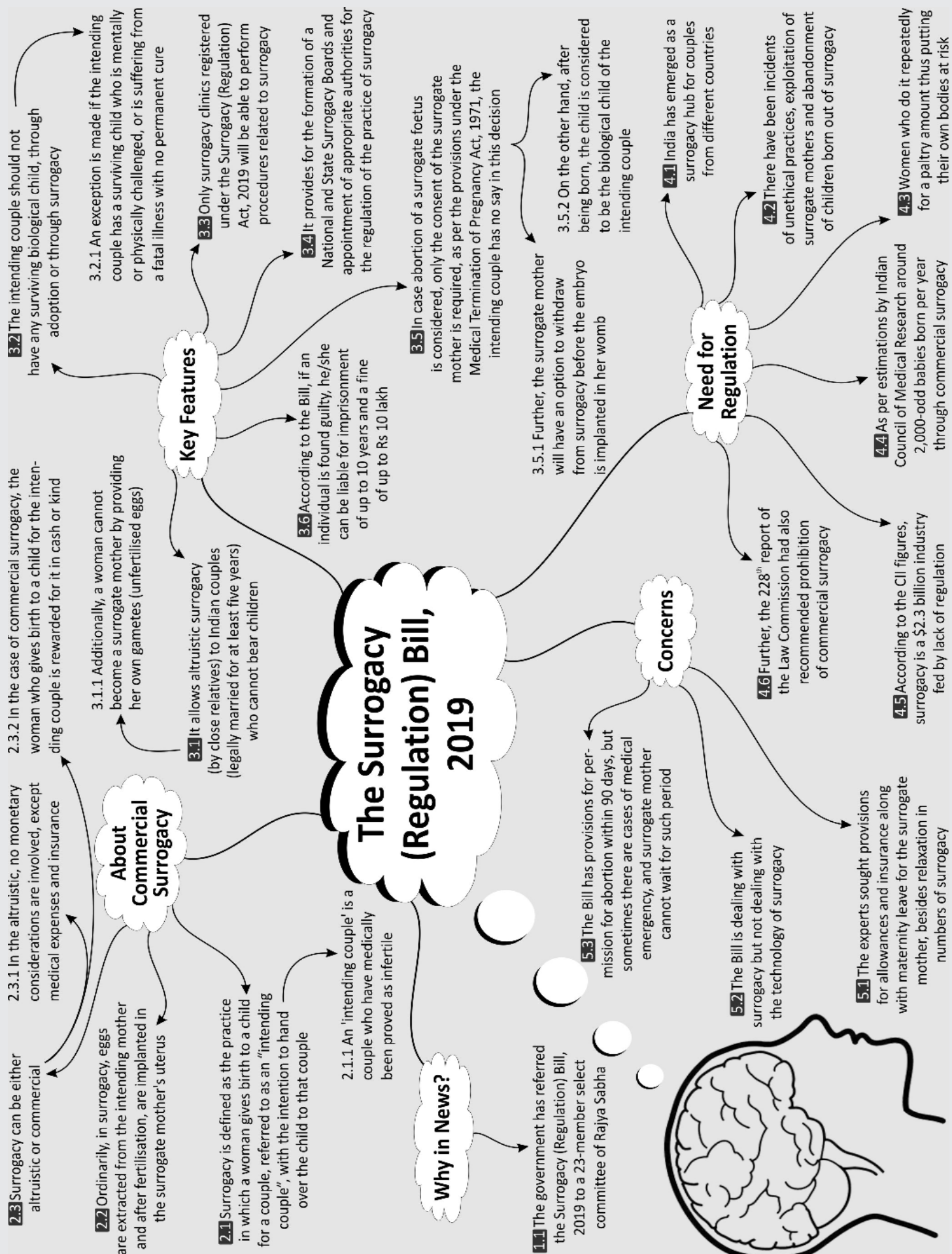
Q. Critically analyze the rationale behind the recent cabinet decision to divest its share in various PSUs.

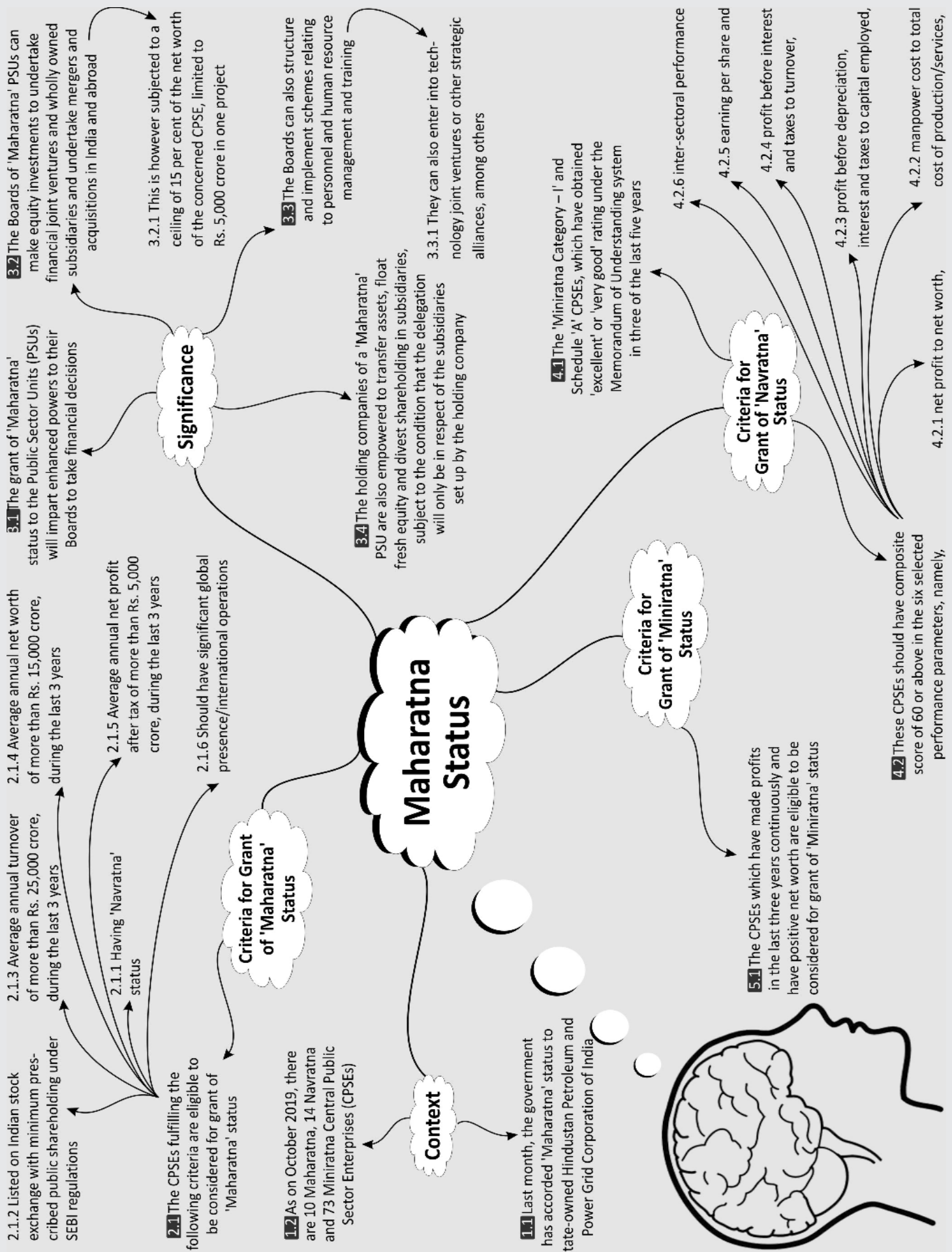
Hints:

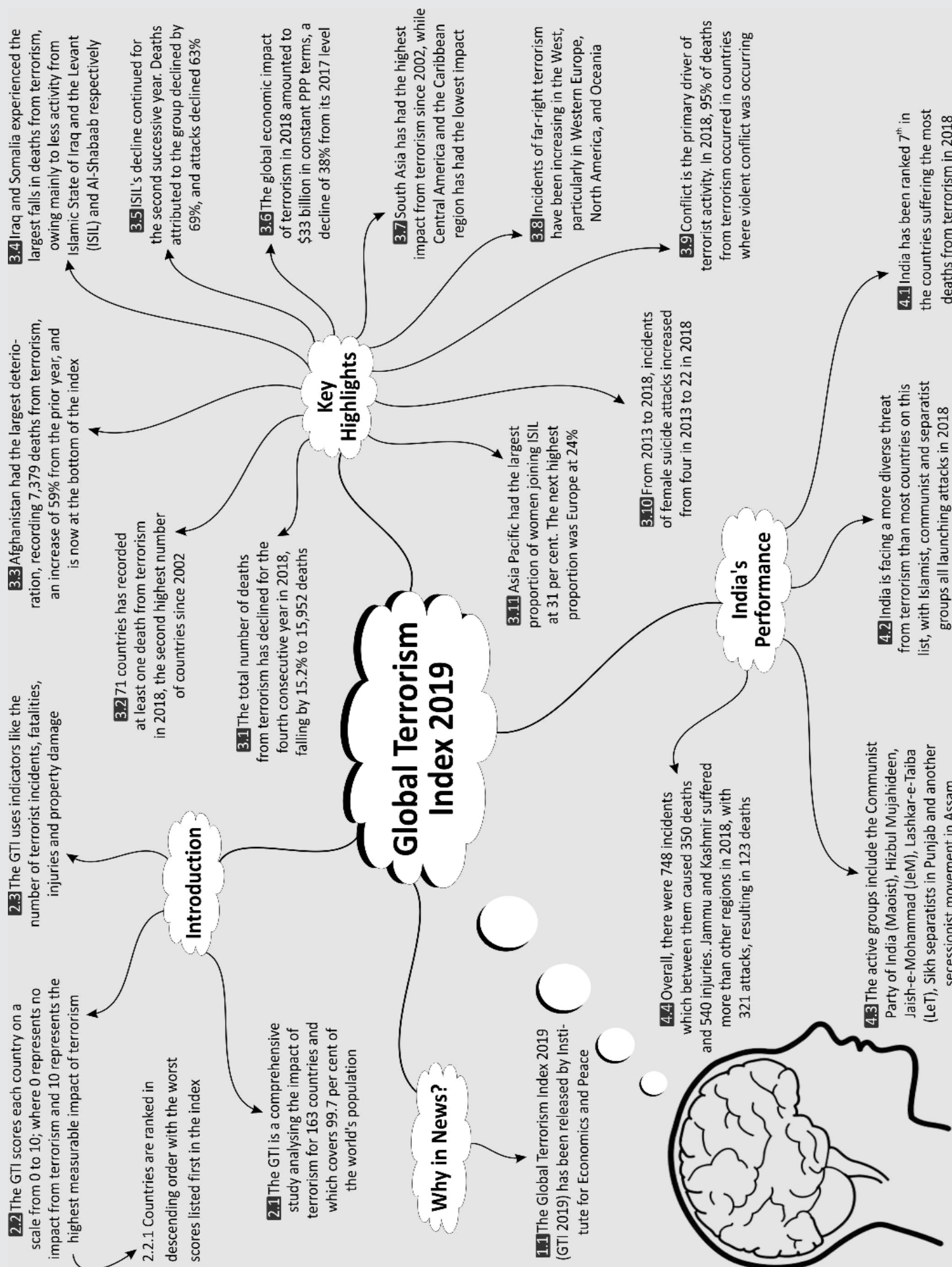
- ◆ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved five PSUs – Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDCIL) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) – for strategic sales recently.
- ◆ The government's role is to facilitate a healthy business environment but the core competence of a government does not lie in selling fuel or steel at a profit. That is one reason that divestment is often a priority item.
- ◆ With governments always having to spend more than they earn through taxes and other means, additional income from the proceeds of a stake sale is always welcome.
- ◆ It would be perfectly understandable if the aim was to exit unprofitable, non-strategic businesses. BPCL, however, is a profitable refiner and oil marketing company that has consistently paid a healthy dividend.
- ◆ With just a little over four months left in the financial year, how the government intends to actually complete the transaction — from appointment of advisers, to deciding on the pricing mechanism and initiating a transparent bidding process before finalising a buyer — this fiscal is another big question.
- ◆ It would be best to sequester the substantial sums raised from such strategic sales from the Union Budget, so that they aren't frittered away in interest or salary payouts but are reinvested prudently in long-term infrastructure assets that can yield enduring returns to the economy.

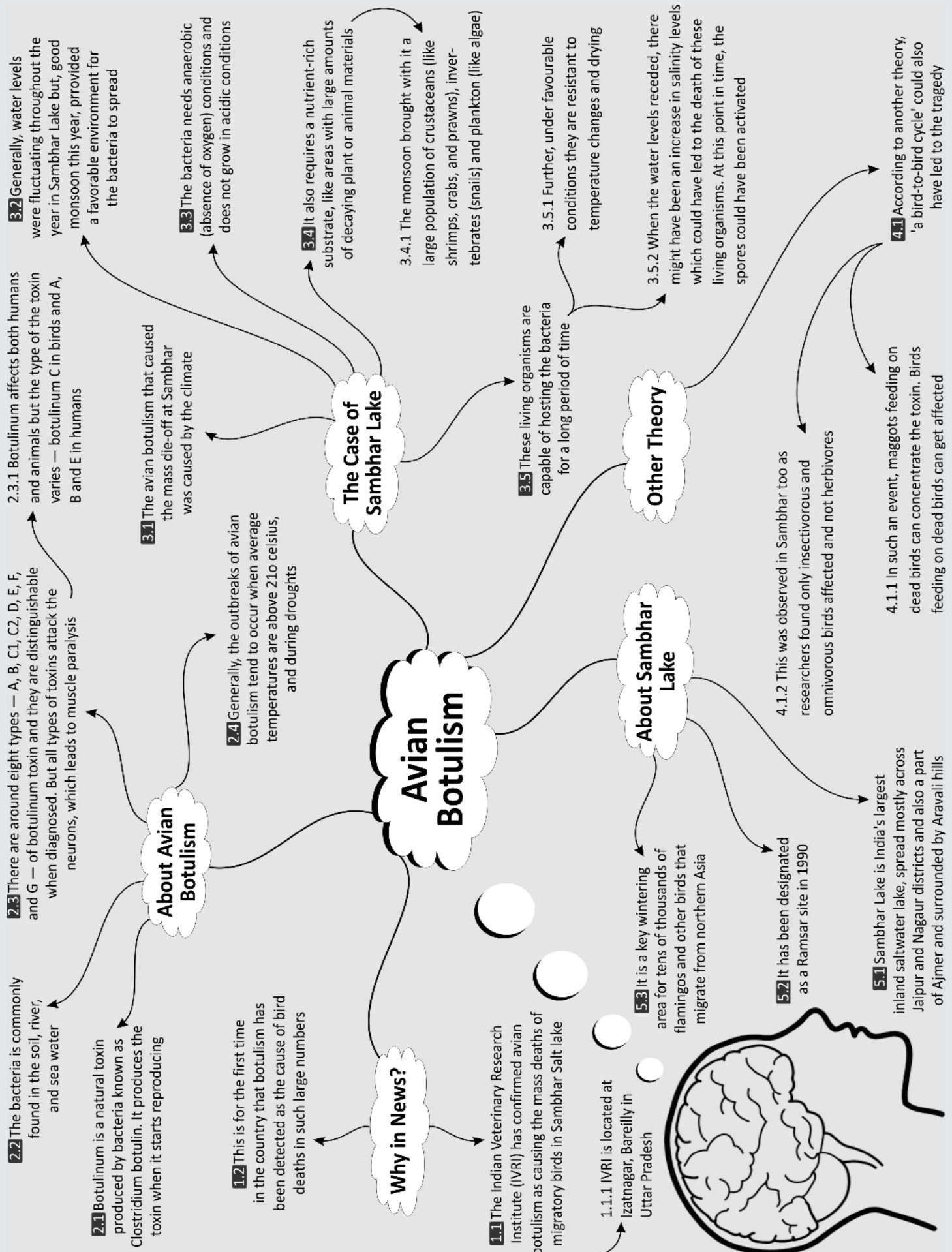
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

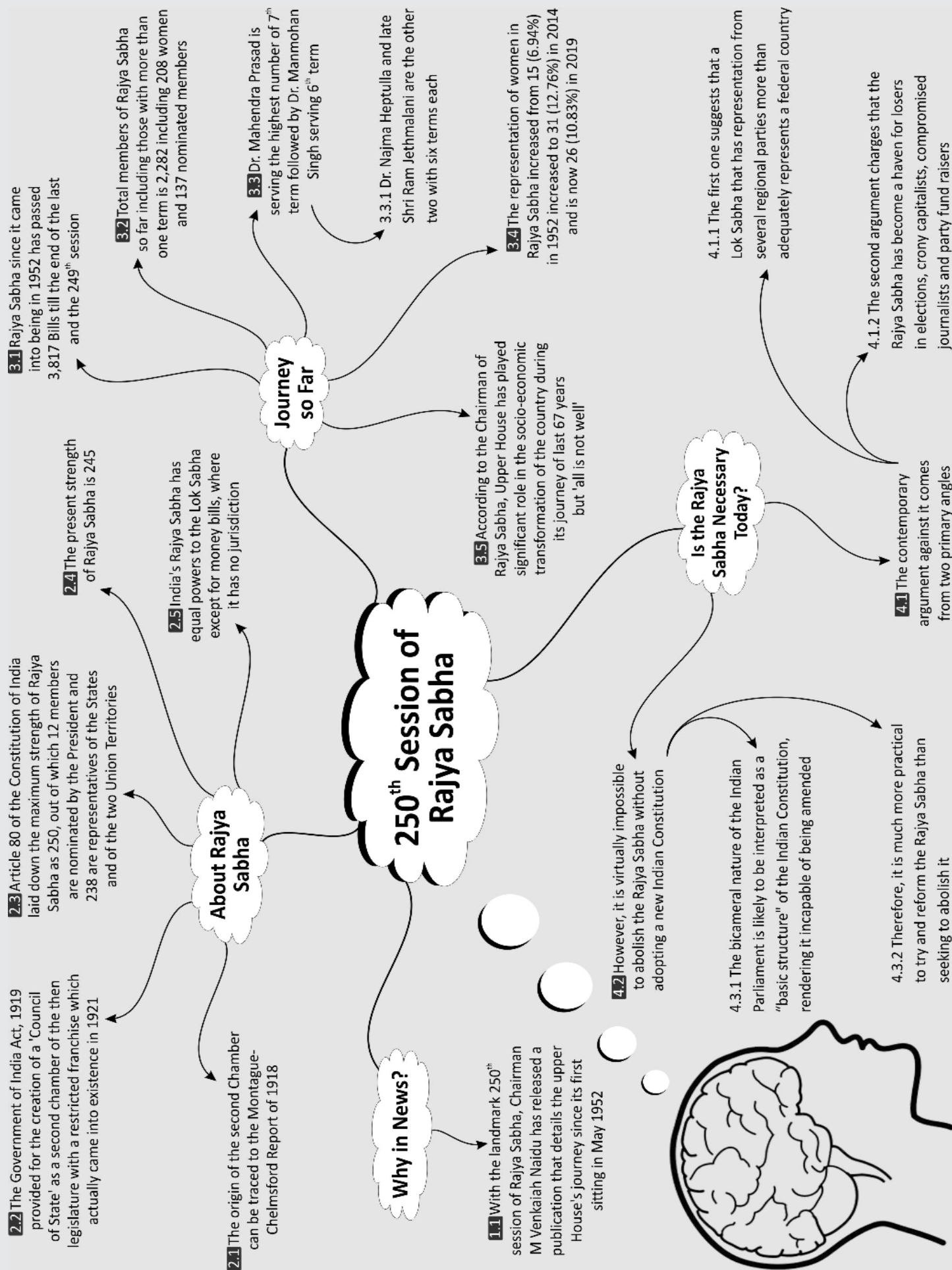


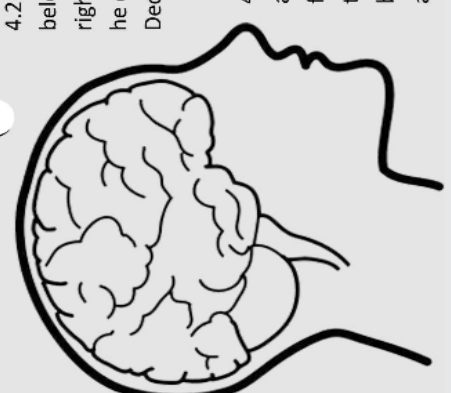
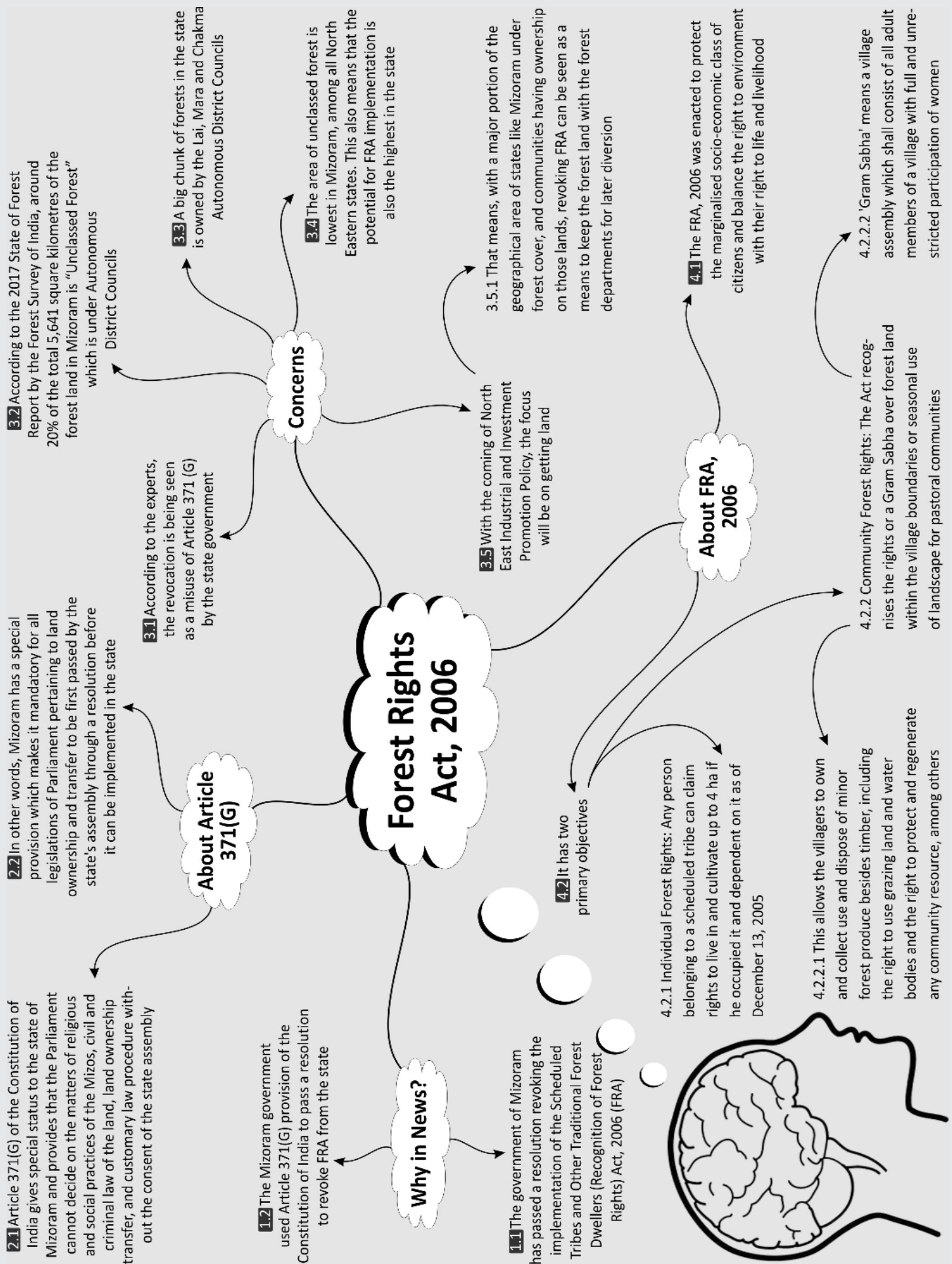












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS (Based on Brain Boosters)

The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019

Q1. Consider the following statements with respect of 'The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019':

1. The code has retained the threshold on the worker count at 100 for prior government approval before retrenchment.
2. This is the third Code in the government's proposed codification of central labour laws into four Codes.

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 code has retained the threshold on the worker count at 100 for prior government approval before retrenchment, but it has a provision for changing 'such number of employees' through notification.

The government wants to codify 44 central labour laws into four broad codes - on wages, industrial relations, social security, and safety, health and working conditions. This is the third Code in the government's proposed codification of central labour laws into four Codes.

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019

Q2. With reference to 'the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019', consider the following statements in this regard:

1. It allows altruistic surrogacy to Indian couples who cannot bear children.
2. In case abortion of a surrogate foetus is considered, only the consent of the surrogate mother is required.
3. But, after being born, the child is considered to be the biological child of the intending couple.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the Above

Answer: (c)

Explanation: All statements are correct. It allows altruistic surrogacy (by close relatives) to Indian couples (legally married for at least five years) who cannot bear children.

In case abortion of a surrogate foetus is considered, only the consent of the surrogate mother is required, as per the provisions under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, the intending couple has no say in this decision.

On the other hand, after being born, the child is considered to be the biological child of the intending couple.

Maharatna Status

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Maharatna' PSUs are empowered to transfer assets, float fresh equity and divest shareholding in subsidiaries.
2. Currently, there are 10 Maharatna and 14 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. The grant of 'Maharatna' status to the Public Sector Units (PSUs) will impart enhanced powers to their Boards to take financial decisions. The Boards of 'Maharatna' PSUs can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad. This is however subjected to a ceiling of 15 per cent of the net worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to Rs. 5,000 crore in one project.

As on October 2019, there are 10 'Maharatna', 14 'Navratna' and 73 'Miniratna' CPSEs in India.

Global Terrorism Index 2019

Q4. Consider the following statements with respect of the 'World Terrorism Index 2019':

1. It has been published by the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and Office of Counter Terrorism of United Nations.

2. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the most impacted by terrorism in 2018, replacing Iraq which had held that position since 2004.
3. India has been ranked 7th in the countries suffering the most deaths from terrorism in 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only b) 3 only
- c) 2 only d) None of the Above

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect. Global Terrorism Index 2019 (GTI 2019) has been released by Institute for Economics and Peace.

Afghanistan had the largest deterioration, recording 7,379 deaths from terrorism, an increase of 59% from the prior year, and is now at the bottom of the index. For the first time since 2003, Iraq was not the country most impacted by terrorism.

Statement 3 is correct. India has been ranked 7th in the countries suffering the most deaths from terrorism in 2018. India faces a more diverse threat from terrorism than most countries on this list, with Islamist, communist and separatist groups all launching attacks in 2018.

Avian Botulism

Q5. The word 'avian botulism' is recently mentioned in the media. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. Avian Botulinum is a natural toxin produced by bacteria known as Clostridium botulin.
2. The bacteria are commonly found in the soil, river, and sea water.
3. The toxin has been recognised as a major cause of mortality of migratory birds in Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements are correct. Botulinum is a natural toxin produced by bacteria known as Clostridium botulin. It produces the toxin when it starts reproducing. The bacteria are commonly found in the soil, river, and sea water.

The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) has confirmed avian botulism as causing the mass deaths of migratory birds in Sambhar Salt lake.

250th Session of Rajya Sabha

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. The bicameral nature of the Indian Parliament can be abolished through Article 368 of the Indian constitution.
2. The origin of the second Chamber can be traced to the Montague-Chelmsford Report of 1918.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The bicameral nature of the Indian Parliament is likely to be interpreted as a "basic structure" of the Indian Constitution, rendering it incapable of being amended.

Statement 2 is correct. The origin of the second Chamber can be traced to the Montague-Chelmsford Report of 1918. The Government of India Act, 1919 provided for the creation of a 'Council of State' as a second chamber of the then legislature with a restricted franchise which actually came into existence in 1921.

Forest Rights Act, 2006

Q7. Consider the following statements with respect of 'Forest Rights Act, 2006':

1. Any person belonging to a scheduled tribe can claim rights to live in and cultivate up to 4 ha if he occupied it and dependent on it as of December 13, 2005.
2. The Act recognises the rights of a Gram Sabha over forest land within the village boundaries or seasonal use of landscape for pastoral communities.

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 FRA, 2006 has two primary objectives. Individual Forest Rights: Any person belonging to a scheduled tribe can claim rights to live in and cultivate up to 4 ha if he occupied it and dependent on it as of December 13, 2005

Community Forest Rights: The Act recognises the rights of a Gram Sabha over forest land within the village boundaries or seasonal use of landscape for pastoral communities.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Who has been awarded the 28th Bihari Puraskar for the year 2018 for her novel Swapnapash?

–Manisha Kulshreshtha (for her novel Swapnapash)

2. 'Bougainville' autonomous region, recently in news, belongs to which country?

–Papua New Guinea

3. 'Living root bridges' recently in news, belongs to which state of India?

–Meghalaya

4. The book 'R N Kao: Gentleman Spymaster' is authored by?

–Nitin A. Gokhale

5. Which State Government has decided to constitute State Folk Art Council recently?

–Chhattisgarh

6. The Oxford Word of the Year 2019 is?

–Climate Emergency

7. Which State government has decided to legalise the cultivation of cannabis?

–Madhya Pradesh

○○○

SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS EXAM

1. Pharmaceutical effluents pollute freshwaters and endanger both marine and human life. Discuss.
2. UNEP Emissions Gap report is a serious indictment of how little has been done to combat and contain climate change. Discuss.
3. Discuss briefly the laws that are in place to tackle illegal non-citizens in the country. Why was the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 amended? Explain.
4. India has been successful in increasing access to school, but now the focus must shift to quality. Analyse the statement in the backdrop of 'learning poverty'.
5. Critically analyze the rationale, feasibility and moral legitimacy for a nationwide register of citizens.
6. Examine whether integration of Artificial Intelligence in Law a boon or bane.
7. The 15th Finance Commission has been granted an extension to craft a revised formula for sharing central tax collections with Indian states. Examine the complexities of its mandate.

○○○

SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. WHO Study on Physical Activities among Adolescents

World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the first ever trends for adolescent insufficient physical activity.

Key Trends

More than 80% of school-going adolescents globally did not meet current recommendations of at least one hour of physical activity per day – including 85% of girls and 78% of boys.

Some of the lowest levels of insufficient activity in boys were found in Bangladesh, India and the USA. The report note that the lower levels of insufficient physical activity in Bangladesh and India (where 63% and 72% of boys were insufficiently active in 2016, respectively) may be explained by the strong focus on national sports like cricket.

However, the USA rates (64%) may be driven by good physical education in

schools, pervasive media coverage of sports, and good availability of sports clubs (such as ice hockey, American football, basketball, or baseball). For girls, the lowest levels of insufficient activity were seen in Bangladesh and India, and are potentially explained by societal factors, such as increased domestic chores in the home for girls.

The countries showing the greatest decreases in boys being insufficiently active were Bangladesh (from 73% to 63%), Singapore (78% to 70%), Thailand (78% to 70%), Benin (79% to 71%), Ireland (71% to 64%), and the USA (71% to 64%). However, among girls, changes were small, ranging from a 2 percentage-point decrease in Singapore (85% to 83%) to a 1 percentage-point increase in Afghanistan (87% to 88%).



Recommendations

The study recommends that:

- ◆ Urgent scaling up is needed of known effective policies and programmes to increase physical activity in adolescents;
- ◆ Multisectoral action is needed to offer opportunities for young people to be active, involving education, urban planning, road safety and others.

2. Tourist Arrivals in India

Ministry of Tourism has provided statistics regarding foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India.

Key Highlights

Bangladesh, the United States (US), and the United Kingdom were the top three countries from where foreign tourists arrived in India in 2018.

The Ministry's data also exhibit a consistent increase in overall foreign tourist arrivals as well as foreign exchange earnings over the years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Among individual states, Tamil Nadu saw the most visits by foreign tourists in 2018 — over 60 lakh in that year. Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh followed, with over 50 lakh and 37 lakh visits respectively. Delhi, in the fourth place, saw 27 lakh tourist visits. Rajasthan in the last place saw around 17 lakh tourists visit the state.

In 2017, arrivals from Bangladesh increased significantly to 21,56,557 from 12,80,409 in the previous year.

In 2018, the number further went up to 22,56,675. The trend from

Pakistan showed a sharp contrast, with numbers falling from 1,04,720 in 2016 to 44,266 in 2017, and further dropping to 41,659 in 2018.

The fee collected in the US billion dollars from per million FTAs differs for the three years in focus. In 2016, 8.80 FTAs generated 22,923 billion in fees. While in 2017, 10.04 FTAs equalled to 27,310 billion dollars in fees. The year 2018, saw an all-time increase with 10.56 FTAs coinciding with 28,586 billion fees.

3. Campaign to make Kerala Antibiotic Literate

The Kerala government as part of its antimicrobial resistance strategic action plan (KARSAP) has launched a mega campaign to create awareness of antibiotics among public.

Key Highlights

The campaign aims to turn Kerala into an 'antibiotics literate state' by 2020.

KARSAP's framework was drawn up by experts on the lines of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and India's action plan on antimicrobial resistance. These action plans focus on a 6-point strategic framework, which includes awareness

and understanding, optimising the use of antibiotics and research and collaboration.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) means that microbes or organisms which create diseases develop resistance to the antibiotics that are used to treat them.

In simple terms, the ability of a microbe to withstand an antibiotic is referred to as resistance. The causes of antibiotic resistance are complex, using an antibiotic in an unreasonable dose

does not kill all the organisms as may be expected. These organisms undergo mutation and develop resistance in multitudinous ways such as, reducing affinity to drug, synthesising enzymes and efflux pumps, varying its own proteins and membrane permeability, altering metabolic pathways and so on. Other bacteria acquire these antibiotic-resistant genes through processes of transformation, transduction and conjugation. These continue to propagate and resistance to multiple drugs appears in some organisms, giving rise to superbugs. ■

4. K-12 Education Transformation Framework

Microsoft has launched its 'K-12 Education Transformation Framework' to facilitate comprehensive digital transformation of schools in India.

Key Highlights

The framework is aimed at providing education leadership, government decision makers, teachers and most importantly learners, tools to achieve the ambitious change many schools seek, and to thoughtfully integrate technology in powerful and productive ways.

The framework comprises four pillars -- leadership and policy, modern teaching and learning, intelligent environments and technology blueprint. To help school principals initiate their journey of digital

transformation, the programme will offer a series of workshops based on each of these pillars. Education leaders in more than 50 countries have already adopted the framework to help plan their learning strategies.

The future of learning will be profoundly social, personalised, and supported by teachers and technology. This change starts with schools creating flexible environments that empower students to learn skills important in life and work such as communication, creation, using technologies, working in teams, problem solving and resilience.

Digital Initiatives for Higher Education

SWAYAM: It is a programme initiated by government to achieve the

three cardinal principles of education policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan: Every institution to adopt atleast 5 villages and help in translating their knowledge for the use of the rural poor.

National Digital Library: The objective of this programme is to collect and collate metadata and provide full text index from several national and international digital libraries, as well as other relevant sources. It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media. ■

5. NITI Aayog on \$5 Trillion Economy

According to NITI Aayog, the road to a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 is beset with many speed-breakers.

Key Highlights

NITI Aayog said that the nominal GDP growth which is a measure of growth

without accounting for inflation has to be at least 12.4% on average if the target of \$5 trillion economy by 2025 has to be reached. However, the current rate was a mere 8% in the first quarter of the current financial year.

The domestic investment and consumption which are the only dependable drivers for revival of the economy has slowed down due to real estate sector. The slowdown in the domestic market is also because of limited availability of capital with



the banks which are tied down due to high non-performing assets in heavy industry and infrastructure. However, a declaration in investment is visible, primarily in the household sector, due almost entirely to real estate.

Present Status

In 2014, India's GDP was \$1.85 trillion. Today it is \$2.7 trillion and India is the

sixth-largest economy in the world.

Can India achieve the target by 2024?

The answer would depend essentially on the assumption about economic growth. If India grows at 12% nominal growth (that is 8% real GDP growth and 4% inflation), then from the 2018 level of \$2.7 trillion, India would reach

the 5.33 trillion mark in 2024.

However, there's a glitch. Last year, India grew by just 6.8%. This year, most observers expect it to grow by just 7%. So India must keep growing at a rapid pace to attain this target. ■

6. Satellites to Assess Pollution Status

The Imager payload on-board Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) INSAT-3D & 3DR satellites is used to monitor Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD), which is indicator of particles and smoke from biomass burning affecting visibility and increase of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration in the atmosphere. It is found that AOD, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations are higher over Indo-Gangetic Plain covering parts of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during October and November. High concentration of these pollutants is seen originating from parts of Punjab and Haryana during stubble burning.

ISRO has been carrying out monitoring of stubble burning since 2015. Using medium resolution Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellite

data, stubble burned area maps are generated at the end of stubble burning activity in Kharif season.

What is AOD?

Aerosol optical depth is a measure of the extinction of the solar beam by dust and haze. In other words, particles in the atmosphere (dust, smoke, pollution) can block sunlight by absorbing or by scattering light. AOD tells us how much direct sunlight is prevented from reaching the ground by these aerosol particles. It is a dimensionless number that is related to the amount of aerosol in the vertical column of atmosphere over the observation location. A value of 0.01 corresponds to an extremely clean atmosphere, and a value of 0.4 would correspond to a very hazy condition. ■

About PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀

Particulate matter (PM), also called particle pollution, is a general term for extremely small particles and liquid droplets in the atmosphere.

PM_{2.5} is the dry mass concentration of particles smaller than 2.5 µm and PM₁₀ are the particles with a diameter of 10 micrometers and they are also called fine particles. An environmental expert says that PM₁₀ is also known as respirable particulate matter.

Primary sources are incomplete combustion, automobile emissions, dust, cooking. The secondary sources are chemical reactions in the atmosphere. ■

7. Sea Level along Indian Coast Rose by 8.5 cm in Last 50 Years

Responding to a question on whether several cities will be submerged as temperatures are rising due to global warming, the Minister of State for Environment said that sea level along the Indian coast has risen by 8.5 cm in the last five decades.

Key Highlights

On an average, the sea level along the Indian coast is considered to be rising at about 1.70 mm/year meaning thereby that during the past 50 years, the sea level along the Indian coasts has risen by 8.5 cm.

Further, satellite altimetry and model simulations showed that the North Indian Ocean (NIO) also exhibits decadal variability. During the last decade (2003-2013) it experienced sea level rise at a rate of 6.1 mm/year.

The rising sea levels can exacerbate the coastal inundation along the low lying areas during extreme events such as tsunami, storm surge, coastal flooding and coastal erosion. However, the coastal areas that might get inundated due to the rising sea level need to be evaluated based on their elevation above mean sea level. Since

no long term data on land subsidence or emergence are available for these locations, the rate of increase of sea level due to climate change cannot be attributed with certainty.

Global Experience

A report of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had warned that global sea levels are set to rise by at least 1m by 2100 if carbon emissions go unchecked, submerging hundreds of cities, including Mumbai and Kolkata, and in some cases entire countries. ■

SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. Patent Prosecution Highway Programme

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for adoption of Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme by the Indian Patent Office (IPO) under the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks, India (CGPDTM) with patent offices of various other interest countries or regions. The programme will initially commence between Japan Patent Office (JPO) and Indian Patent Office on pilot basis for a period of three years only.

Under this Pilot programme, Indian Patent Office may receive patent applications and certain specified technical fields only, namely, Electrical, Electronics, Computer Science, Information Technology, Physics, Civil,

Mechanical, Textiles, Automobiles and Metallurgy while JPO may receive applications in all fields of technology.

PPH programme would lead to the following benefits for the Indian IP office:

- ♦ Reduction in time to dispose patent applications.
- ♦ Reduction in pendency of patent applications.
- ♦ Improvement in quality of search and examination of patent applications.
- ♦ An opportunity for Indian inventors including MSMEs and Start ups of India to get accelerated examination of their patent

applications in Japan.

- ♦ The ambit of the programme may be extended in future, as decided by the Commerce & Industry Minister. The patent offices will frame their own guidelines for implementation of the programme.

What is a Patent?

A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application.

2. National Institute of Sowa Rigpa

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa in Leh as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

Key Objective

The objective is to establish the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) as an apex Institute for Sowa-Rigpa with aim of bringing a valid and useful synergy between Traditional Wisdom of Sowa-Rigpa and modern science, tools and technology. It will help to promote interdisciplinary research & education of Sowa-Rigpa.

Significance

The setting up of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa would provide an impetus for the revival of Sowa-Rigpa in the Indian Sub-continent. The Institute will also provide opportunities for students of Sowa-Rigpa not only in India but also from other countries.

This will facilitate quality education, scientific validation, quality control & standardization and safety evaluation of Sowa-Rigpa products, standardized Sowa-Rigpa based tertiary health delivery and to promote interdisciplinary research & education of Sowa-Rigpa at undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral levels.



About Sowa -Rigpa

Sowa-Rigpa is a traditional medical system of the Himalayan belt in India. It has been popularly practiced in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling (West Bengal), Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Ladakh and now all over India.

3. Mission of “Green Steel”

During the Indian Steel Association Conclave 2019, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel has asked the Steel industry in the country to work towards the mission of Green Steel.

Key Highlights

World is in midst of industrial revolution 4.0. Big data, digitisation, artificial intelligence are fundamentally changing the economy and society. Even in wake of such large-scale disruptions, steel continues to play an important role in building modern economy.

Indian economy is consumption-driven, and as the economy size increase, the steel consumption is going to get big impetus. Further, steel

consumption in the country is set to rise.

The government of India has launched a collaborative campaign “Ispati Irada” for brand building to increase appropriate usage of steel in the country.

About Green Steel

‘Green Steel’ refers to a steelmaking process that lowers greenhouse gas emissions, cuts costs and improves the quality of steel. This can be done through usage of gas in place of coal, recycling steel etc. Therefore, Ministry of the Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project' in the Eastern India, which can provide gas to all the Steel plants, located in the area. The

gas will help in replacing coal in steel making process as usage of coal leads to large amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Steel Production: Global Scenario

According to the World Steel Association, China's crude steel production for July 2019 was 85.2 Mt, an increase of 5.0% compared to July 2018. India produced 9.2 Mt of crude steel in July 2019, an increase of 1.7% compared to July 2018. Japan produced 8.4 Mt of crude steel in July 2019, down 0.4% on July 2018. South Korea's crude steel production was 6.0 Mt in July 2019, a decrease of 2.1% on July 2018.

4. Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)

The inaugural edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)', between the Qatari Emiri Navy and the Indian Navy Forces, was held in Doha.

Key Highlights

From the Indian side Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS Trikand and Patrol Aircraft P8-I took part in this exercise. INS Trikand is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and is under

the Operational Command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, based at Mumbai. The P8-I Maritime Patrol Aircraft incorporates the latest technology for Maritime Surveillance.

The Qatari Emiri Naval Forces participated in this Exercise include the versatile Anti-Ship Missile equipped Barzan Class Fast Attack Craft along with Rafale multi-task fighter aircraft.

Background

India and Qatar have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relation, sharing common developmental and cultural values. The inaugural edition of the Bilateral Maritime Exercise between the two navies would further strengthen the robust defence co-operation between the two countries, Especially in the fight against terrorism, maritime piracy and maritime security.

5. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Parliament has passed the 'Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019.'

Key Highlights

It will amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951. The Act provides for the erection of a

National Memorial in memory of those killed or wounded on April 13, 1919, in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar. In addition, it creates a Trust to manage the National Memorial. The original Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act of 1951 was enacted by Parliament for the management of the National

Memorial to remember those killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on April 13, 1919.

The President of the Indian National Congress no more has to be a permanent member of the trust. The Act provides that the three trustees nominated by the central government

will be trustees for a period of five years and will be eligible for renomination. The Bill allows the central government to terminate the term of a nominated trustee before the expiry of the period

of his term without assigning any reason.

The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill said that only the leader of the largest opposition

party will be made a trustee. Further, it clarifies that when there is no Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party will be the Trustee.

6. 50th Conference of Governors

The 50th Conference of Governors has concluded at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Key Highlights

The conference took keen interest in tribal welfare issue and pointed out that policies for tribal uplift had to be tailored in accordance with local requirements.

Five Groups of Governors submitted their reports on these issues, and deliberated and identified actionable points in which governors can play a facilitating role.

On November 26, 70th anniversary of our Constitution, the government of India launched a campaign to create awareness about fundamental duties among the citizens. Therefore, all Raj Bhavans will celebrate the Constitution Day in an effective manner and Governors will play a major role in creating awareness about fundamental duties among the people.

Fundamental duty of every citizen protect the natural environment including water resources like forest, lake and

river. It is also a constitutional duty to continuously strive for excellence in all areas for the progress of country. Individual and collective efforts for excellence in the areas of higher education, agriculture, inclusive growth and governance will give impetus to public welfare.

Significance

The post of Governor is the most important link in our federal system. Governors have a role in ensuring better coordination between centre and states. The President also made suggestions to Governors to make their respective Raj Bhavans more interactive and accessible to ordinary people and representatives of different organs of the state.



7. Global Bio-India Summit, 2019

India's first largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate, – the Global Bio-India (GBI) Summit, 2019 was held in New Delhi. It was organized by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology along with its Public Sector Undertaking, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). The associated partners for this event were Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Invest India.

Key Highlights

Biotechnology is recognized as the sunrise sector- a key driver for

contributing to India's USD 5 Trillion economy target by 2025.

The Summit provided an opportunity to showcase the potential of India's biotech sector to the international community, identify, create opportunities and deliberate on the key challenges in the areas of Bio-pharma, Bio-Agri, Bio-Industrial, Bio-Energy and Bio-Services and allied sectors.

Background

Biotechnology has emerged as an integral part of the Indian bio-economy.



The estimated value of biotechnology sector was USD 44.47 billion in 2017 with a recorded growth of 6.8% from 2016. The projected target for the government is to reach the market size value of USD 100 billion by 2025. Currently, Indian biotech industry holds 3% of the global market share and is 3rd largest in Asia-Pacific region.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Primary Indicators of Global Progress towards SDG 7 Targets

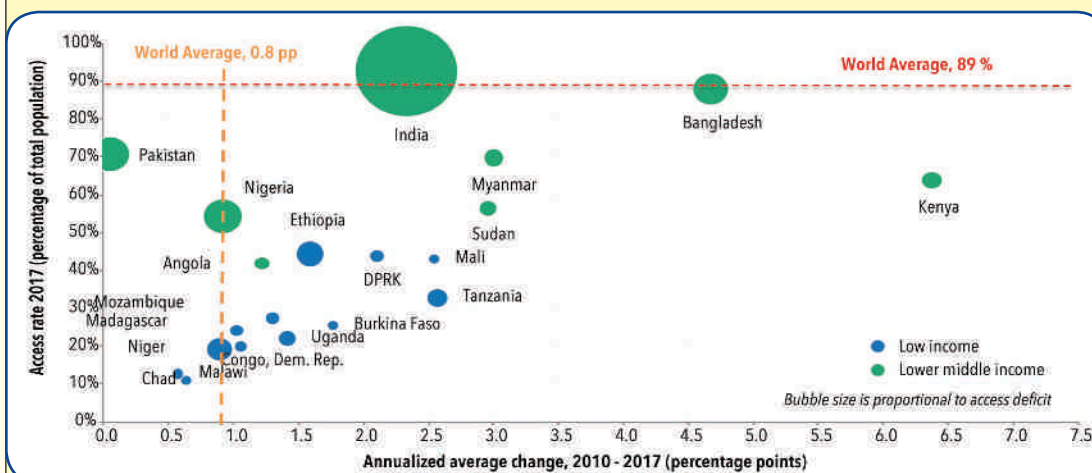


Key Facts

- The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 7.1 is to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services (7.1.1 focuses on the proportion of the population with access to electricity and 7.1.2, on the proportion relying primarily on clean fuels and technologies for cooking). Target 7.2 is to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Target 7.3 is to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

2. The Largest Electricity Access Deficit over the 2010-2017

Key Facts



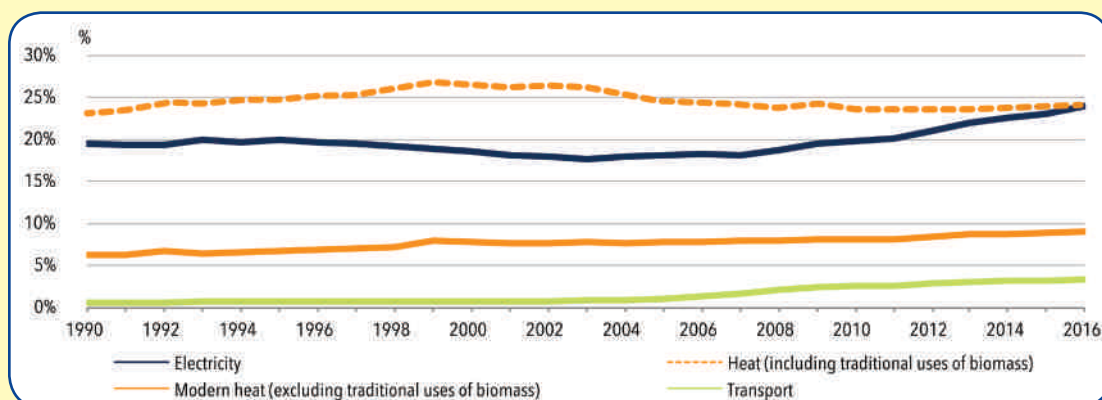
- With significant efforts across the developing world, the global electrification rate reached 89% in 2017 (from 83% in 2010), still leaving about 840 million people without access. The progress amounts to an average annual electrification rate of 0.8 percentage points, and newly gained access for more than 920 million people since 2010.

- Electrification efforts have been particularly successful in Central and Southern Asia, where 91% of the population had access to electricity in 2017. Access rates in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Eastern and Southeastern Asia, climbed to 98% in 2017.
- Among the 20 countries with the largest populations lacking access to electricity, India, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Myanmar made the most significant progress since 2010.
- Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the largest access deficit: here, 573 million people—more than one in two—lack access to electricity. The region is also home to the 20 countries with the lowest electrification rates. Burundi, Chad, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Niger were the four countries with the lowest electrification rates in 2017.
- Progress in electrifying inner cities has been slow, and most informal settlements are still supplied through fragile distribution networks. The rural access rate of 79% in 2017 was lower than the urban access rate of 97%. To reach remote areas, off-grid solutions are essential; these include solar lighting systems, solar home systems, and—increasingly—mini-grids.

3. The Largest Access to Clean Cooking Fuels Deficit over the 2010-2017

Key Facts

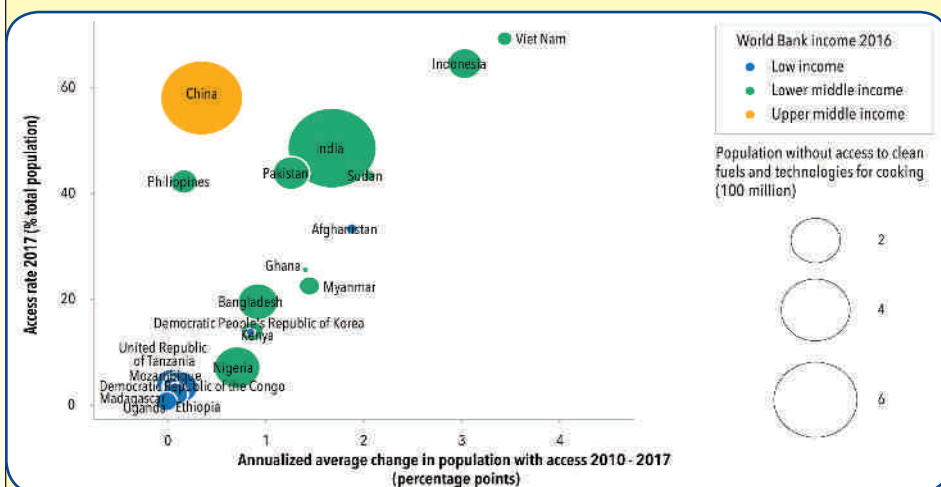
- The share of the global population with access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking increased from 57% in 2010 to 61% in 2017.
- Looking at individual countries, in absolute terms, India and China account for the largest shares of the global population without access to clean cooking, at 25% and 20%, respectively. These two countries alone are home to 1.3 billion people without access to clean cooking solutions.



- Meanwhile, in 6 of the 20 countries with the largest access deficits—the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, and Tanzania—less than 5% of the population uses clean fuels and technologies as their primary means of cooking.
- The business as usual pathway will not meet the universal access goal by 2030. Based on the projections of current and planned policies, the IEA estimates that 2.2 billion people will still be dependent on inefficient and polluting energy sources for cooking. Most of this population will reside in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- To achieve universal access by 2030, greater use of liquid petroleum gas would be appropriate in urban areas (accounting for an estimated 92% of new connections) since population density justifies the necessary investment in infrastructure.
- Further, to reach universal clean cooking targets by 2030 and outpace population growth, the annual average increase in access must rise to 3 percentage points, from the rate of 0.5 percentage points observed between 2010 and 2017.

4. Renewables' Share of All Energy Consumed, 1990-2016

Key Facts



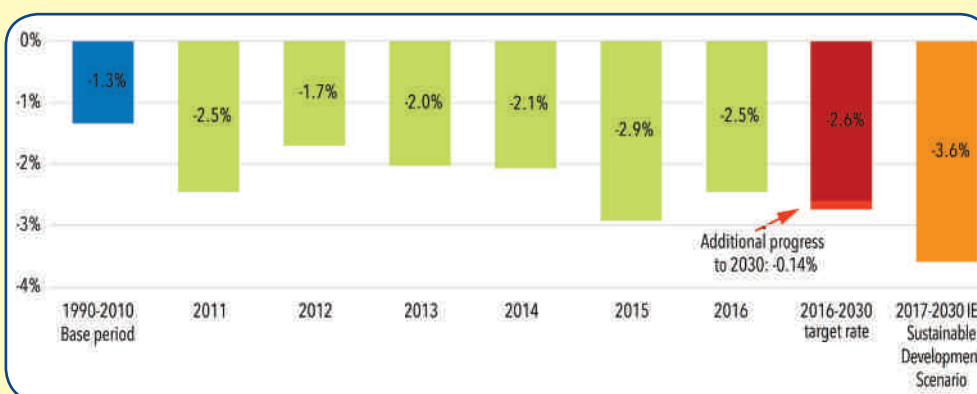
- In 2016, the share of renewables in total final energy consumption increased at the fastest rate since 2012 and reached almost 17.5%. In 2016, the share of modern renewables (that is, excluding these traditional uses of bioenergy) in total energy consumption reached 10.2%, up from 8.6% in 2010, while the share of traditional uses of biomass declined to 7.3% from 7.9%.
- Of the three end uses of renewables—electricity, heat, and transport—the use of renewables grew fastest with respect to electricity, driven by the rapid expansion of wind and solar technologies.

- The share of renewables in electricity consumption increased by 1 percentage point to 24% in 2016. This was the fastest growth since 1990, more than double that of 2015. Hydropower remains the largest source of renewable electricity, accounting for 68% in 2016. It is followed by wind, bioenergy, solar and geothermal.
- The share of renewables in heat remains the highest among the three end uses. That share surpassed 24% in 2016, an increase of 0.5% year on year. However, most of the share reflects traditional uses of biomass. Only 9% of heat was generated from modern renewables in 2016. The share of renewable energy in transport remains lowest: it increased by 0.1% year on year to reach 3.3% in 2016. Electricity generated from renewable sources also grew, linked to rail and the rapid increase of electric vehicles.
- Despite remarkable progress over the past decade, renewables still face persistent financial, regulatory, and sometimes technological barriers. To ensure that the renewables-based energy transition is inclusive in all respects, gender considerations need to be mainstreamed in energy sector policies, education and training programmes, and private sector practices.

5. Growth Rate of Primary Energy Intensity

Key Facts

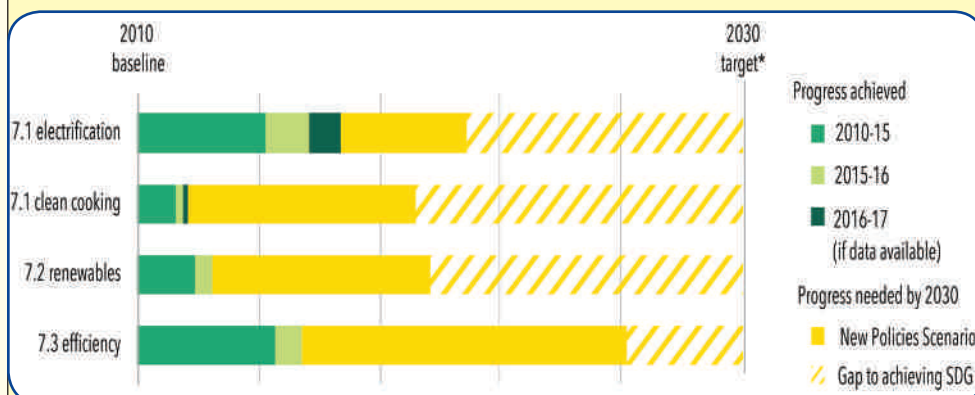
- Rates of improvement in global primary energy intensity—defined as the percentage drop in global total primary energy supply per unit of gross domestic product—were more sustained in 2010-2016 (falling by more than 10%) than they had been in 1990-2010.



- Global primary energy intensity was 5.1 MJ/USD in 2016, a 2.5% improvement from 2015. Yet this lags behind the annual rate of improvement to 2030 targeted by SDG 7.3, which now exceeds 2.7% and it is estimated that further declines in the rate of improvement have been observed in 2017 and 2018, with the rate of improvement in 2018 falling to a mere 1.3%.
- The rate of improvement in global primary energy intensity is also influenced by supply-side factors—chief among them efficiency in fossil fuel generation and reductions in the losses incurred in the transmission and distribution of electricity.
- Looking ahead, improvements in energy intensity are likely to fall short of the SDG 7.3 target, leaving a large portion of potential benefits unrealized. Given current and planned policies, energy intensity improvements are projected to average 2.4% per year between 2017 and 2030.
- In the IEA's Sustainable Development Scenario, in which cost-effective energy efficiency potentials are maximized, the rate of intensity improvement between 2017 and 2030 reaches 3.6%.

6. Progress toward SDG 7 since 2010, in Relation to 2030 Targets

Key Facts



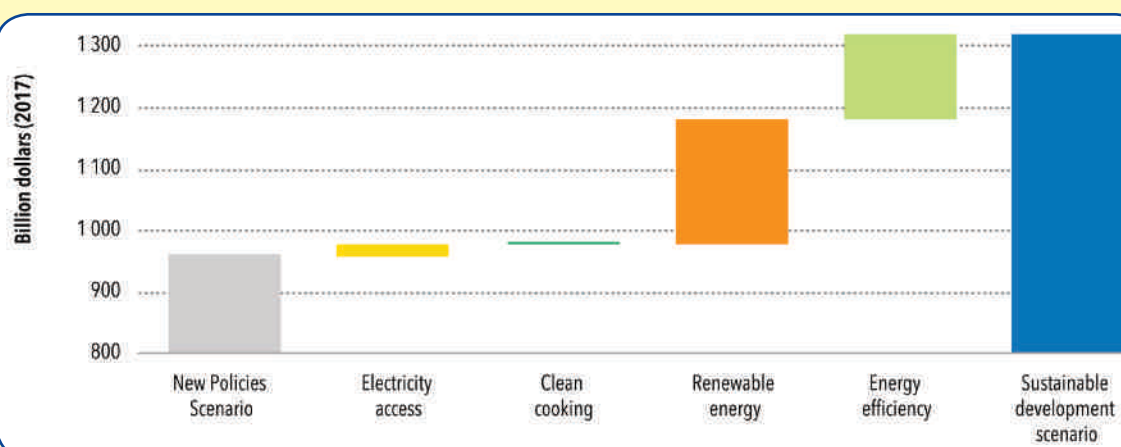
- The world is currently not on track to meet SDG 7. Under the assumptions of the New Policies Scenario, despite notable recent progress toward expanding electricity access, particularly in developing Asia, and improvements in energy intensity across major regions, policy efforts are expected to fall short of all four SDG 7 targets. Progress on SDG indicator 7.1.2 (clean cooking) and SDG target 7.2 (renewables) is lagging behind the required pace.

- Under the New Policies Scenario, an estimated 2.2 billion people would still lack access to clean cooking solutions, and the share of modern renewables would reach 15% by 2030.
- Progress on SDG indicator 7.1.1 (electricity) and target 7.3 (energy efficiency) is expected to be better, but more efforts are needed to meet the targets in all regions.
- While the outlook under the New Policies Scenario falls short of SDG 7, the Sustainable Development Scenario works backward to identify what it would take to deliver this goal in a cost-effective way.
- In the Sustainable Development Scenario, by 2030 universal access to both electricity and clean cooking solutions is achieved, the share of modern renewables reaches 22% of total final energy consumption (TFEC), and annual energy intensity improvements accelerate to an average rate of 3.6% per year.

7. Investments needed to Achieve SDG 7

Key Facts

- In the New Policies Scenario, total energy sector investments in energy access, renewable energy, and energy efficiency are estimated to average \$950 billion per year between 2018 and 2030.



- Investments in energy access represent just \$31 billion of this total, with investments in electricity access accounting for the vast majority (97%) of the spending; the remainder would go toward clean cooking. However, achieving universal energy access by 2030 would require \$55 billion per year, with \$4 billion going toward expanding access to universal clean cooking solutions.
- Total additional spending for meeting SDG 7 is estimated in the Sustainable Development Scenario at an average of around \$400 billion per year, of which over \$200 billion per year is needed to increase the share of renewables in total final energy consumption to 22%, and another \$140 billion per year for end-use efficiency.
- The combination of lower energy use from efficiency and higher shares of renewables leads to a reduction in fossil fuel use of about 2,350 Mtoe and total fuel savings of \$280 billion per year. The higher up-front investments in energy efficiency and renewables are only marginally higher than the resulting savings in fuel purchases, highlighting the economic viability of meeting SDG 7.

सिविल सेवा परीक्षा के सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण खंड
करेंट अफेयर्स के लिए ध्येय आईएएस आपके समक्ष प्रस्तुत करता है



परीक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से जरूरी करेंट अफेयर्स से जुड़ी तमाम
महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी के लिए सब्सक्राइब करें ध्येय आईएएस यूट्यूब चैनल को

AN INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

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

Face to Face Centres

DELHI (MUKHERJEE NAGAR) : 011-49274400 | 9205274741, **DELHI (RAJENDRA NAGAR)** : 011-41251555 | 9205274743, **DELHI (LAXMI NAGAR)** : 011-43012556 | 9205212500, **ALLAHABAD** : 0532-2260189 | 8853467068, **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ)** 9506256789 | 7570009014, **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR)** 7234000501 | 7234000502, **GREATER NOIDA RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY** : 9205336037 | 9205336038, **BHUBANESWAR** : 8599071555, **SRINAGAR (J&K)** : 9205962002 | 9988085811

Live Streaming Centres

BIHAR: PATNA – 6204373873, 9334100961 | **CHANDIGARH** – 9216776076, 8591818500 | **DELHI & NCR** : FARIDABAD – 9711394350, 1294054621 | **GUJARAT**: AHMEDABAD - 9879113469 | **HARYANA**: HISAR – 9996887708, 9991887708, KURUKSHETRA – 8950728524, 8607221300 | **MADHYA PRADESH**: GWALIOR -9993135886, 9893481642, JABALPUR- 8982082023, 8982082030, REWA –9926207755, 7662408099 | **MAHARASHTRA**: MUMBAI -9324012585 | **PUNJAB**: PATIALA - 9041030070, LUDHIANA – 9876218943, 9888178344 | **RAJASTHAN**: JODHPUR - 9928965998 | **UTTARAKHAND**: HALDWANI-7060172525 | **UTTAR PRADESH**: ALIGARH – 9837877879, 9412175550, AZAMGARH - 7617077051, BAHRAICH - 7275758422, BAREILLY - 9917500098, GORAKHPUR - 7080847474, 7704884118, KANPUR - 7275613962, LUCKNOW (ALAMBAGH) - 7518573333, 7518373333, MORADABAD - 9927622221, VARANASI - 7408098888



YouTube **dhyeyaias**

dhyeyaias.com



/dhyeya1

STUDENT PORTAL

Dhyeya IAS Now on Telegram



We're Now on Telegram

Join Dhyeya IAS Telegram

Channel from the link given below

"https://t.me/dhyeya_ias_study_material"

You can also join Telegram Channel through
Search on Telegram

"Dhyeya IAS Study Material"

Join Dhyeya IAS Telegram Channel from link the given below

https://t.me/dhyeya_ias_study_material

नोट : पहले अपने फ़ोन में टेलीग्राम App Play Store से Install कर ले उसके बाद लिंक में
क्लिक करें जिससे सीधे आप हमारे चैनल में पहुँच जायेंगे।

You can also join Telegram Channel through our website

www.dhyeyaias.com

www.dhyeyaias.in



Address: 635, Ground Floor, Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009
Phone No: 011-47354625/ 26 , 9205274741/42, 011-49274400

Subscribe Dhyeya IAS Email Newsletter

(ध्येय IAS ई-मेल न्यूजलेटर सब्सक्राइब करें)

जो विद्यार्थी ध्येय IAS के व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप (Whatsapp Group) से जुड़े हुये हैं और उनको दैनिक अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त होने में समस्या हो रही है | तो आप हमारे ईमेल लिंक Subscribe कर ले इससे आपको प्रतिदिन अध्ययन सामग्री का लिंक मेल में प्राप्त होता रहेगा | **ईमेल से Subscribe करने के बाद मेल में प्राप्त लिंक को क्लिक करके पुष्टि (Verify) जरूर करें** अन्यथा आपको प्रतिदिन मेल में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त नहीं होगी |

नोट (Note): अगर आपको हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों माध्यम में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त करनी है, तो आपको दोनों में अपनी ईमेल से **Subscribe** करना पड़ेगा | आप दोनों माध्यम के लिए एक ही ईमेल से जुड़ सकते हैं |

Join Dhyeya IAS Whatsapp Group by Sending "Hi Dhyeya IAS" Message on 9205336039.

Subscribe Dhyeya IAS Email Newsletter

Step by Step guidance for Subscription:

- **1st Step:** Fill Your Email address in form below. you will get a confirmation email within 2 min.
- **2nd Step:** Verify your email by clicking on the link in the email. (Check Inbox and Spam folders)
- **3rd Step:** Done! you will receive alerts & Daily Free Study Material regularly on your email.

Subscribe



Address: 635, Ground Floor, Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009
Phone No: 011-47354625/ 26 , 9205274741/42, 011-49274400