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SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

I. THE LOOMING FEAR OF GLOBAL TRADE WAR

Why in News?

In a retaliatory move, India raised tariffs on a slew of items in retaliation for the US imposing higher levies on some products shipped from the country, echoing steps taken by China, the European Union and other trading partners. The import duty on chickpeas and Bengal gram has been increased to 60%, while that on lentils has been hiked to 30%. The import duty hike would be effective from August 4th 2018.

Introduction

The recent intensification of trade tensions started in early March with the United State's announcement of its intent to levy steel and aluminum tariffs for national security reasons. The announcement has fed into several bilateral negotiations aimed at reducing U.S. trade deficits with individual trading partners. These initiatives will do little, however, to change the multilateral or overall U.S. external current account deficit, which owes primarily to a level of aggregate U.S. spending that continues to exceed total income.

With the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), establishment of rule-based trading system progressively led to removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers on imports. Protectionism not only became history, it was also being considered as a curse. Whenever a country tried to impose tariff or non-tariff barriers to imports, the affected

countries may submit petition to the dispute settlement body of WTO and invariably the countries imposing tariff and non-tariff barriers were made to bend, as they faced prosecution by way of sanctions and penalties.

However, in the past couple of years, the United States, the greatest proponent of WTO and free trade, is turning protectionist. The U.S. President Donald Trump has been saying time and again, that he would stop all those imports, which are ruining US industries; and for that he would not hesitate to impose heavy import duties. Therefore, the protectionist policies being adopted by the US are termed 'trade war'.

Trump's Trade War and Global Order

On March 8, 2018, President Trump announced a 25 percent tariff on steel imports and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum. America is the world's largest steel importer. On March 26, 2018, Trump exempted South Korea from the steel tariff. The U.S. ally is the third largest foreign supplier of steel. In return, South Korea agreed to amend the 2012 bilateral trade agreement. South Korea agreed to double its import quota for U.S. cars. Argentina, Australia and Brazil were also exempted. The United States has a trade surplus with Australia. At first, Trump said Canada and Mexico would be exempt until the NAFTA renegotiations were finalized. Canada is the largest source of U.S. steel imports. Mexico is the fourth largest.

Trump initially delayed the tariff against the European Union (EU) until June 1, 2018. He wants the U.S. ally to cut its 10 percent tariff on U.S. autos. He also asked the EU to set quotas on its steel exports. But on May 31, 2018, Trump announced the tariff would be imposed on Canada, Mexico and the EU. On June 22, the EU imposed tariffs on \$3.2 billion of American products. It targeted imports like bourbon, motorcycles and orange juice that will impact Trump's political base. On June 21, Germany proposed an end to the EU's 10 percent tax on U.S. auto imports. In return, Trump must forget about imposing a 25 percent border tax on European auto imports. Both moves follow the April 21, 2018, EU upgrade of its trade agreement with Mexico. Once signed, it will remove tariffs from almost all trade between the two areas. Mexico will also impose tariffs on imports from the United States. It will target industries in areas that supported Trump. These include flat steel, lamps and pork products.

Trump used a 1962 Congressional power that allowed a President to curb imports that threaten national security. The Commerce Department reported that dependence on imported metals threatens the U.S. ability to make weapons. But the Aerospace Industry Council said Trump's tariffs would raise costs for the military and exporters. The tariffs could also threaten national security by dampening economic growth. A strong economy is necessary to increase U.S. military spending.

U.S. Trade War with China

Because of the onslaught of Chinese imports, where Chinese products are dominating in most of the countries, the US is not the only country whose industries are getting affected. Out of 164 member countries of WTO 130 countries are facing trade deficit with China as their imports from China are exceeding their exports. As a result industry is getting ruined in most of the countries and unemployment is on the rise. However, the dilemma is that all these countries that have not raised the tariff on imports from China are elsewhere, it is only the US that is trying to stop imports from China by raising tariffs. The US is increasing tariff on imports coming from all countries, which is causing huge worry to the other countries of the world. This has been the general belief that to increase growth in the world, the solution lies in growth of international trade.

The WTO

The World Trade Organization came into being in 1995. One of the youngest of the international organizations, the WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the Second World War.

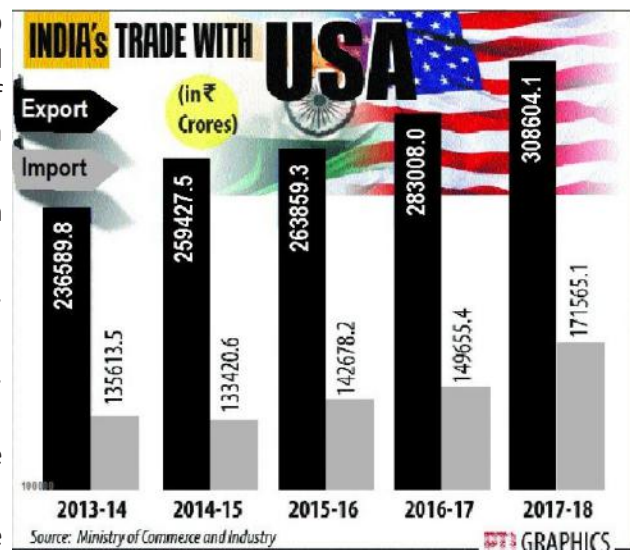
The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

On March, 2018, Trump asked China to develop a plan to reduce the \$375 billion U.S. trade deficit by \$100 billion. On April 3, 2018, the Trump administration announced 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imported electronics, aerospace and machinery. China retaliated hours later. It announced 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of U.S. exports to China. These also won't go into effect immediately. China's tariffs strategically targeted

106 products. The Trump administration presented China with a list of demands. It asked China to:

- End subsidies to tech companies.
- Stop stealing U.S. intellectual property.
- Cut tariffs on U.S. goods by 2020.
- Open China to more U.S. investment.
- Reduce the trade deficit by \$200 billion by 2020.

These demands are at odds with China's goal of becoming a tech leader. On the other hand, China does want to reduce its trade deficit. China's economic reform plan is to become less reliant on exports. On May 10, China agreed to import more U.S. products.



Trade War and India

As duties hiked by the U.S. on certain steel and aluminium products would have implications of about \$241 million on India, the raise in tariffs proposed by India too would have an equal implication on the U.S.. India has now submitted a revised list of 30 items – including motorcycles, certain iron and steel goods, boric acid and lentils – to the WTO on which it proposes to raise customs duty by up to 50%. Earlier in May, India proposed to raise duties by up to 100% on 20 products such as almonds, apple and specific motorcycles imported from the US. The additional duty proposed to be hiked on these items ranges from 10% to 100%.

India's exports of steel and aluminium products to the U.S. stood at about \$1.5 billion every year. Its exports to the U.S. in 2016-17 stood at \$42.21 billion, while imports were \$22.3 billion.

India is the 21st largest agricultural export market for the U.S.. Total American exports of agricultural products to India totaled \$1.3 billion in 2016. Leading items in agricultural products category that are imported by India from U.S. include: tree nuts (\$522 million), cotton (\$250 million), pulses (\$144 million), fresh fruit (\$72 million) and planting seeds (\$32 million). India has also dragged the

Trade Protectionism

Trade protectionism is a type of policy that limits unfair competition from foreign industries. It's a politically motivated defensive measure. In the short run, it works. But it is very destructive in the long term. It makes the country and its industries less competitive in international trade. Free trade is the opposite of protectionism - it means as few tariffs as possible, giving people the freedom to buy cheaper or better-made products from anywhere in the world.

Advantages: If a country is trying to grow strong in a new industry, tariffs will protect it from foreign competitors. That gives the new industry's companies time to develop their own competitive advantages. Protectionism also temporarily creates jobs for domestic workers. The protection of tariffs, quotas, or subsidies allows domestic companies to hire locally. This benefit ends once other countries retaliate by erecting their own protectionism.

Disadvantages: In the long term, trade protectionism weakens the industry. Without competition, companies within the industry have no need to innovate. Eventually, the domestic product will decline in quality and be more expensive than what foreign competitors produce.

U.S. to the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement mechanism over the imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium.

Impact on India

Incentive to increase production always comes from increase in demand, of which international demand is very vital. With the help of international trade, nations can specialise in the production of commodities, which they can produce most efficiently. And with the help of foreign exchange earned from the sale of such commodities these countries can import those commodities in case of which they don't enjoy advantage of production efficiency.

- However, with the U.S. imposing tariff on imports coming from other countries and therefore attempting to effectively curb imports to protect its own industries, may go a long way in disturbing supply of foreign exchange to other countries, which would ultimately hurt the growth of international trade.
- India's export to U.S. is nearly 15 percent of its total exports.
- In 2017-18 India exported nearly US\$48 billion to the U.S., whereas its import from the U.S. was US\$26.6 billion. The U.S. is a big market for not only India but also many other countries of the world. Due to restrictions imposed by the U.S., rupee may get weakened as supply of foreign exchange would get adversely affected.
- In the past few years India has been fulfilling our demand for foreign exchange by way of exports of goods and services, remittances coming from non-resident Indians (NRIs) and also by Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and was generally saved from significant depreciation of Indian rupee.

- However, because of trade war initiated by the U.S., supply of foreign exchange may get disturbed causing payment problems resulting in depreciation of rupee.
- The U.S. is even imposing restrictions on immigration of Indian people by bringing changes in their visa rules. As a result of these measures our young people working in the U.S. are getting adversely affected, which may affect not only our youth serving in software industry, but also remittances by NRIs, coming into India.

What India can Do?

War has to be seen as war only. As such if the U.S. is trying to restrict our exports, India also needs to protect itself. We must understand that our major trade deficit comes from China. Therefore, without giving any concessions to China we need to increase our trade relation with other countries to boost the supply of foreign exchange. We may have to impose protective tariff on Chinese imports.

However, this is also true that most of our imports from America are high technology imports, such as nuclear reactors, boilers and aircraft, reduction of which may go against our development efforts. However, the U.S. needs to understand that consumer products from India are beneficial for American consumers. Similarly, BPO and software exports from India etc. tend to reduce the cost of American companies. Therefore, it may be suicidal for the U.S. to impose restrictions on imports of goods and services from India.

Protectionism is not always Bad

It is correct that free trade, if honestly adopted, can benefit all. The argument that if we continue to protect the inefficient domestic industry,

inefficiencies will creep into the system, hindering healthy industrial development, is also valid. However, we find that countries are not honestly adopting free trade. If the government is able to safeguard and promote the domestic industry while following international trade agreements and using the flexibilities available therein, it will be a welcome step.

Free trade cannot be one sided. We must understand that every cloud has a silver lining. As trade war has begun in the world, countries may once again start learning self reliance, which may increase production at home and revival of domestic industries. Taking cue from the U.S., India can also strive to restart many of its fading industries such as telecom, electronics, chemicals and others, which slowed down due to huge inflow of Chinese imports in the name of 'free trade'.

Way Forward

Even retaliatory tariffs aimed at pushing back the U.S. may only perpetuate the vicious negative-sum game instead of bringing the war to an end. Mr. Trump's rejection of the G-7 communique that endorsed a "rules-based trading system" for the world suggests there may be no offer of truce from his side any time soon. Nevertheless, global powers must try their best to bring an end to the ongoing trade war before it gets out of hand. Each national government can do much on its own to promote stronger, more resilient and more inclusive growth. Multilateral cooperation remains essential, however, to address a range of challenges in addition to the governance of world trade. These other challenges include climate change, infectious diseases, cyber-security, corporate taxation and control of corruption—among others. Global interdependence will only continue to grow and unless countries face it in a spirit of collaboration, not conflict, the world economy cannot prosper.

Instead, the prospect of trade restrictions and counter-restrictions threatens to undermine confidence and derail global growth prematurely. While some governments are pursuing substantial economic reforms, trade disputes risk diverting others from the constructive steps they would need to take now to improve and secure growth prospects. But in the long term, a full-fledged trade war is bad news. It invariably leads to a higher inflationary

and low growth scenario. Inflation is generally good for assets such as gold, while having a negative impact on currency and some sectors in the equity market. Even in the absence of excess global imbalances, however, coping with inequitable trade practices, including intellectual property concerns, requires dependable and fair dispute resolution within a strong rule-based multilateral framework. There is room to strengthen the current system

rather than risk bilateral fragmentation of international trade. Plurilateral arrangements, if consistent with multilateral rules, can also provide a useful springboard to more open trade.

General Studies Paper- II

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



2. STATUS OF TRANSGENDERS IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

India's first government-sponsored poetry meet for transgenders, 'Transgender Poets' Meet', is set to be held in Kolkata on July 17, 2018. Six transgender poets and writers from West Bengal will be participating in the event, organised by Sahitya Akademi, an organization under the Union Culture Ministry.

Introduction

Discriminations faced by homosexuals in our society are at various levels; beginning from within their homes to outside world as a whole. Their entire life is a struggle only because they are born with a particular sexual orientation which is different from others. In fact it is proved through various scientific or psychological studies that such behaviors are perfectly natural.

The shift in the understanding of homosexuality from sin, crime and pathology to a normal variant of human sexuality occurred in the late 20th century. The American Psychiatric Association, in 1973 and the World Health Organisation, in 1992, officially accepted its normal variant status. Many countries have since decriminalised homosexual behavior and some have recognised same-sex civil unions and marriage.

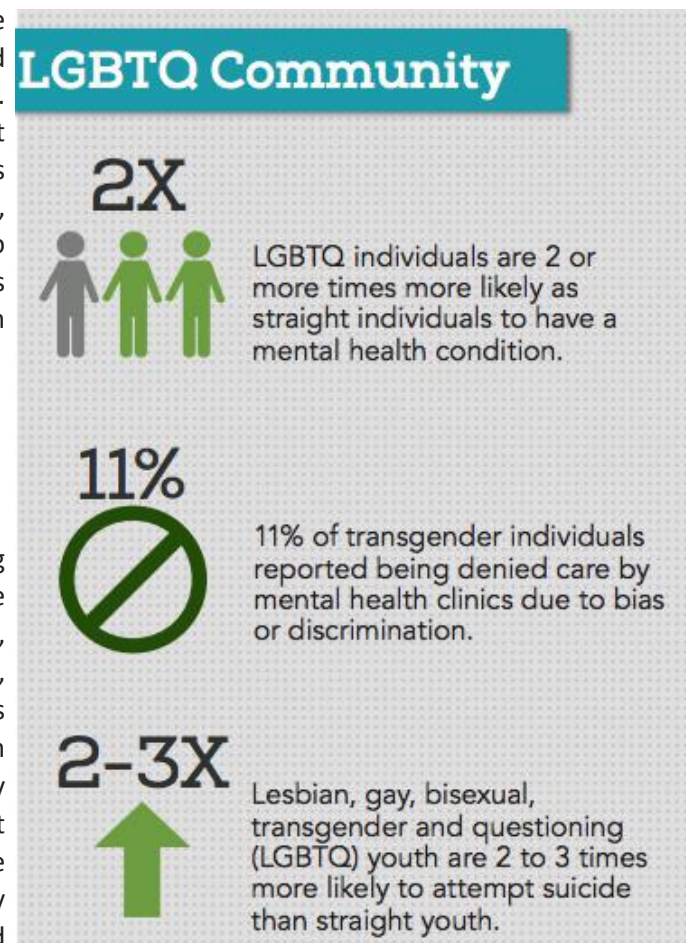
The landmark judgment of the Delhi High Court, which declared that Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code violates fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution, was in keeping with international, human rights and secular and legal trends. However, the anti-homosexual attitudes of many religious and community leaders reflect the existence of widespread prejudice in India. Prejudice against different lifestyles is part of many cultures, incorporated into most religions and is a source of conflict in Indian society.

Homosexuality and Indian Culture

India has a long tradition of tolerance for all kinds of beliefs, faiths, philosophies, orientations and ways of living. Though India is a deeply religious country but at the same time it is also a country which has accepted

non- religious communities as well. In ancient India there was a place for all kinds of diverse cultures, arts and literatures; the society was very assimilative.

Our society is a very complex one; at one side we are most modern of societies of the world with all the



liberal thoughts and beliefs but at on another level we are the most conservatives of societies of the world. We specially avoid facing so-called taboo social issues such as pre-marital sexual relationship, live-in relationship, inter-caste or inter-religion marriages etc. Homosexuality is also one of the most avoided or detested issues in our society. Even the mentioning of the terms Gays or Lesbians is a strict no-no. Thus, the society as whole has not accepted persons with different or so-called unnatural sexual behavior.

At one place we have purely and strictly religious painting and sculptors like at Konark or at Jagannath Puri temples and at another place we have monuments like Khajuraho which is famous world over for its erotic arts and sculptors; this also includes sculptors with homosexual activities. This shows that not only all types of sexual orientations were there in ancient past but people were so tolerant and broad minded that paintings and sculptors depicting the same sex love-making were being freely created and displayed.

But our modern society somehow has become less tolerant towards anything which is not regular or common according to their collective perception; whether we study society's behavior towards religious minorities such as Islam or Christianity or its behavior towards sexual minorities such as gays, lesbians or bisexuals. In all such cases, it can be found that people in minority are the target of the people in majority and harassment or discrimination against such minorities is widely prevalent.

What is Homosexuality?

It is natural tendency that persons of one gender are sexually or emotionally attracted towards persons with opposite gender i.e. males are attracted towards females and vice versa. But sometimes and in some cases this

sexual or emotional attraction is not towards opposite sex rather it is towards the same sex persons. This same sex attraction or orientation is known as 'Homosexuality' and persons with such orientation are called as 'Homosexuals'. Homosexuals can be persons of both the sexes i.e. Gays (male-male) and Lesbians (female-female). Another term LGBT is also commonly used for persons with homosexual orientations; LGBT being abbreviation of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Trans-genders.

Human sexuality is complex. The acceptance of the distinction between desire, behavior and identity acknowledges the multidimensional nature of sexuality. The fact that these dimensions may not always be congruent in individuals suggests complexity of the issues. Bisexuality, both sequential and concurrent and discordance between biological sex and gender role and identity add to the issues. Medicine and psychiatry employ terms like homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality and transsexuality to encompass all related issues, while current social usage argues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), which focuses on identities.

Causes of Homosexuality

The reasons for such type of sexual behavior or choice are not yet fully known but several researches have been done and different experts have found different results or theories. The reasons may be biological, psychological or both.

- **Biological Reasons:** Several scientists have concluded that one is born with a particular kind of sexual orientation and it is in the genes. Thus it is a natural phenomenon. There may be a factor of genetics in determining one's sexual choice but other factors might also be there.

- **Social and Psychological Factors:** It is a fact that socio-cultural environment affects the development of a child in significant ways. One's family, friends, society and experiences decides how one views life, how one feels and how he or she acts. Thus psychological factors are also very important in determining one's sexual preferences.

But it is true that not one single factor but combination of many things determines one's sexual orientation. And whatever be the reason as it is natural for a person to decide what kind of food he/she wants to eat, what kind of living he/she wishes to have; similarly, it is also natural that with whom he/she wants to have sexual relationship either with opposite sex or with same sex.

Discrimination against LGBT Community

Religions and traditions make it harder for LGBTs to compete for opportunities or to even enjoy peace just being who they are. Stigma for LGBTs is deeply ingrained in our societies making the enactment of laws insufficient for the community to be treated equally. Yet, the LGBT community is changing systemic discrimination around the world with the help of a growing NGOs fighting for LGBT rights pitching in for community causes.

- The community is already subjected to abuse and discrimination by both the state and society at large.
- They have to live in constant fear of illegal detention, harassment, blackmail and extortion, often at the hands of local law enforcement.
- Sex, gender, age, ethnicity and religion add to the complexity of issues faced.
- The stages of the life cycle (childhood, adolescence, middle and old age), family and relationships present diverse concerns.

- In most circumstances, the psychiatric issues facing gay, lesbian and bisexual people are similar to those of the general population.

What Challenges do Transgender People Face?

Lack of Legal Protection: State legislatures across the country are debating – and in some cases passing – legislation specifically designed to prohibit transgender people from accessing public bathrooms that correspond with our gender identity, or creating exemptions based on religious beliefs that would allow discrimination against LGBTQ people.

Poverty: In too many cases, this lack of legal protection translates into unemployment for transgender people.

Harassment and Stigma: The LGBTQ community still faces considerable stigma based on over a century of being characterized as mentally ill, socially deviant and sexually predatory.

Anti - transgender Violence: According to the 2013 National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs report on hate violence against lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities, 72 percent of the victims of LGBTQ or HIV-motivated hate violence homicides in 2013 were transgender women and 67 percent were transgender women of color.

Barriers to Healthcare: A Health disparities among transgender people is very limited, not meeting the needs of the transgender community.

Identity Documents: The wide-spread lack of accurate identity documents among transgender people can have an impact on every area of their lives, including access to emergency housing or other public services.

Homosexuality Laws in India

India has a very dynamic and progressive Constitution which in a way is the backbone of this very vast and complex nation. The Indian Constitution provides rights and protections to each and every citizen of this country whether he is in majority or in minority. The Constitution treats everyone equally without any discrimination. It is the duty of the State to ensure that no one should be discriminated against.

LGBT community persons are in minority and they too have equal constitutional rights. But their right to equality and right to get equal treatment in the society are violated on regular basis. Not only society as whole but state machinery also treat them differently, especially police. They are regular victim of rights violations. They are deprived of their basic human right and right to life which includes right to enjoy life properly.

- In 1862 when Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code came into force. Drafted by Thomas Babington Macaulay, then head of the Law Commission, it is based on Britain's own former anti-sodomy laws and archaic 19th century Victorian morality. This section criminalises any form of sexual activity "against the order of nature" and can be used at any time to harass and incarcerate same-sex couples.
- By 2004, the community became increasingly organised and was ready to take the fight for equal rights out in public.
- Back in 2006, India's influential elite sent an open letter demanding that Section 377 be scrapped. Among these were people like author Arundhati Roy, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, poet Vikram Seth and journalist Rajdeep Sardesai.
- In 2008, LGBTQ-rights campaigners in India released a statement

on how colonialism and the oppression of queer Indians worked hand in hand.

- The result of efforts by the Naz Foundation in 2001, the Delhi High Court passes a landmark judgment on July 2, 2010, by reading down Section 377 of the IPC. In effect, it granted equal rights to those seen as 'sexual minorities' and was one of the most affirming moments for LGBTQ Indians.
- In 2013, LGBTQ Indians looked on in anguish as the Supreme Court overturned the Delhi High Court's progressive judgement on Section 377, in effect reinstating the colonial law all over India. It was a massive blow to the community – especially for those who came out of the closet after 2009 and found themselves vulnerable in a largely homophobic nation once more.

Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860

Section 377 of the IPC says: Unnatural offences: "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine." Therefore, section 377 criminalizes homosexual activity and makes it punishable with as high punishment as life imprisonment.

On January 10, 2018, India's Supreme Court declared it would re-examine Section 377 of the Indian Penal code, which bans "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman, or animal" — an act currently punishable by life imprisonment. The idea that same sex relations went "against the order of nature" came from a 16th century English law, passed down from when India was a colony of the British Empire.

The court emphasized its previous findings that any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression violates

the convention. Furthermore, to uphold the rights to privacy, nondiscrimination and freedom of expression, the court said, countries must establish simple, efficient procedures that allow people to change their names and gender markers in official documents through a process of self-declaration, without invasive and pathologizing requirements such as medical or psychiatric evaluation or divorce.

Conclusion

After everything that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people experienced in 2017 — from roundups and torture in Chechnya to antigay witch hunts in Egypt and Indonesia, closure of queer-friendly health facilities in Tanzania and a concerted effort by the Trump administration to roll back equal rights in the United States — it seemed only fair that 2018 would start off with a small glimmer of hope.

But particularly where judiciaries are independent, politically neutral and grounded in an understanding of and respect for international human rights law, they can provide a pathway to change. After a year in which the rights of sexual and gender minorities were under attack in much of the world, often in the name of religion

or vaguely defined morality, courts may become a critical counterpoint in upholding equal protection and privacy rights.

Recognition by the state of one's gender identity is vitally important in guaranteeing trans peoples' full enjoyment of their human rights, including protection against violence, torture and ill-treatment; the right to health, education, employment, shelter and access to social security; as well as the right to freedom of expression and association."

Way Forward

India, in 21st century is trying to become a super power and the world leader; in fact it has all the potential to become one. But this potential would not be realized until and unless we as a society will not be able to freely accept and discuss so-called taboo issues such as homosexuality. And for that to happen above all mentality of the people will have to be changed. The first step is sex education in schools and at homes. A child must feel comfortable to discuss his/her problems or issues related to sexual matters and even their sexual choices with their parents or teachers. Therefore, not only children but grown-ups or adults need more education and sensitization as far as matters related to sex are concerned.

Law enforcement agencies such as police also need sensitization so that they will be able to appreciate the genuine concerns of LGBT people. Similarly, our media and film fraternity are required to be more considerate while depicting such people in their shows and films respectively. In fact they can play a very important role in imparting knowledge and disseminating true information about LGBT people and their sexual choices so that society could get a real picture of their situation and conditions. Apart from all these, the most important single step in eliminating the stigma over LGBT people is to decriminalize section 377 of the IPC so that they could have a normal regular life like others and avail their basic human rights without harassment or discrimination.

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.



3. CHANGING PERCEPTION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Why in News?

During the holy month of Ramzan the government of India had announced conditional ceasefire and asked the security forces not to launch operation against the terrorists.

The suspension of operations in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been called off by the government. Its fate was obvious ever since when journalist Shujaat Bukhari and a young soldier, Aurangzeb, were brutally killed.

Background

Launched in 2017, 'Operation All Out' is a special offensive designed by security forces to flush out militants from Jammu and Kashmir. Security forces have killed nearly 200 militants since the launch of the offensive.

In Jammu and Kashmir, soldiers continue to lose their lives almost daily in spite of all actions being taken by the Army. It is either by Pakistan breaking the ceasefire at will or by their sponsored terrorists targeting security

forces. The Hurriyat, creating of which has been claimed to have been the best decision of the Pakistan army as claimed by Assad Durrani, their former ISI chief, sponsors terrorists and stone throwers who target security forces at will. Tying security forces' hands, claiming stone throwers are our own but misguided people, only adds to their problems. Protecting and financing the Hurriyat only gives them the strength to continue challenging the writ of the state.

The government, which proudly professes the surgical strike as a means of garnering votes, appears to be lost in curbing Pakistan's actions, both internally and externally.

Internal and External Facets

Pakistan plays a key role in keeping the conflict alive; its Army gives unstinted support to terror groups. In the absence of any incentive and an almost complete breakdown of diplomacy between the two countries, some of us feel that the only option left to deter Pakistan is to keep up military pressure along the Line of Control (LoC). However, it appears that the government has taken the position that the 2003 ceasefire must be respected. The two Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) had talks on May 29 and agreed to "fully implement the Ceasefire Understanding of 2003 in letter and spirit".

Unfortunately, the 2003 agreement was only verbal, so there is no "letter and spirit" to it. This has kept it fragile. For the ceasefire to succeed, it must be based on some strong principles that promote confidence between the two armies. As long as infiltration continues, forward patrols are attacked by groups from across the border and soldiers killed, there can be no peace among troops facing off on the LoC.

It is essential that the two DGMOs meet and formalise an agreement in which Pakistan agrees to do more to seal off its border to prevent terrorists from entering India. It is obvious that Pakistan will be reluctant to do this, but it must be put on the spot or exposed for the whole world to see. There must also be greater interaction between the local commanders of the two armies — for instance, flag meetings can be held along the border. Often it is local dynamics that trigger firing, which then escalates and spreads to other areas. If confidence can be built between local officers, it will enhance peace. An example can be taken from Ladakh where regular border meetings with Chinese officers have been instrumental in keeping the border calm.

Persistent Conflicts

Ethnic and national conflicts entail two major aspects — defined by scholars as a socio-political aspect and a socio-psychological aspect — with the latter no less crucial than the former. The socio-psychological aspect pertains to a wide range of issues relating to the community, including a community's sense of identity and self-perceptions, its fears and sense of collective threats, perceived past and portrayal of its role in the conflict. The socio-political aspect involves issues such as land, natural resources, economic and political dominance. Despite the complexity of the socio-political matters, in situations of intractable conflict it is the socio-psychological aspect, as well as history, that dominates the relationship between the involved adversaries and plays a central role in interpreting and fuelling persistent animosity.

According to the Israeli scholar Daniel Bar-Tal in (prolonged and violent) conflicts the involved societies evolve a culture of conflict of which the dominant parts are societal beliefs of collective memories and of ethos of conflict, as well as collective emotional orientation. These narratives are selective, biased and distorted as their major function is to satisfy the societal needs rather than provide an objective account of reality.

A similar situation is evident in J&K. In Kashmir, perceptions have been generated of a government being at war with its people. Given this reality, it should be clear that issues like good governance and development, while important, need to be accompanied by measures that address the socio-psychological aspects of the people of all regions of the state. This has been a key weakness in our approach and the separatists, along with some politicians, have made the situation worse by continuously exploiting existing societal beliefs and collective memory, rather than pointing to their dangers.

Militancy Motivators

A confidential report — based on a detailed study conducted by the J&K Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) — has profiled local youths in the Valley who have become militants. The report has also debunked the traditional understanding of Kashmir's militancy and sought a rethink. The report found that the wave of recruitments is not based or driven by pan-Islamic, Wahhabi or Salafi Islam and Islamic State ideology as the surge is only seen in South Kashmir and there too in identifiable areas. If it would have been ideology driven, then pan-Kashmir footprints would have been seen.

For example, the perception that well-educated youth and from economically affluent families are joining militancy does not seem true. Quite interestingly and contrary to the set beliefs, he is not the product of madrasas. Majority of these militants are government school read, negating the general perception that madrasas are beds of radicalisation.

Key Highlights of the Report

- 32 per cent of youths who joined militancy had passed Class X. 19 per cent were undergraduates and graduates while post-graduates constitute 7 per cent.
- The remaining 7 per cent were without any education.
- Nobody had studied in a full time Madrasa. 74 per cent had never visited Darsgah or Madrasa for any formal education.
- 56 per cent had studied in government schools, 34 per cent had studied in both government and private schools, 6 per cent had studied in private schools.
- 71 per cent were Hanafiya in their religious inclination. Only about 3 per cent were Salafi and about 23 per cent had Jamaat-i-Islami leanings.

Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) was the biggest recruiter of militants in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017. The studies

analysed about 156 militants recruited between 2010-2015 and two studies of the situation since 2016 when terrorist Burhan Wani was killed and about 265 militant recruits unleashed a new wave of violence in the valley.

The studies found that only 2% of the militants had ever studied at a madrasa or religious school as much as 64% of the recruits had not indicated strong religious inclinations before becoming militants. Only 3% of those surveyed through interrogations or questions put to their friends and families had identified themselves as “Salafist” or “Wahabbi” the more radical ideologies followed by pan-Islamic terror groups like Al-Qaeda and Islamic state.

Crisis in Valley

Accustomed to periodic outbursts of “anti-India sentiment” in the Valley, the tendency in Delhi has generally been to see all these agitations as similar in nature. This ignores both ground realities and the region’s history of violence and turbulence. Today, the main issue in Kashmir’s dialectics is not so much accession to India, as the erosion of Jammu and Kashmir’s “special status” as well as the centrality of Article 370. Consequently, when agitators today talk of “azadi” — and demand an end to Delhi’s rule — there are subtle differences in the tone and tenor of the slogans, which has to be factored into any calculation of what the present unrest in the Valley signifies.

Dissatisfaction is writ large across the state. The degree of resentment against the Indian state is probably at one of its highest points ever. A feeling has been deliberately generated that Delhi currently shows even less understanding of the concerns of locals than many of its predecessors. The Hizbul Mujahideen has, meanwhile, re-emerged as the most important underground militant outfit, though both the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed are simultaneously very active. These underground outfits utilise and exploit the social

network to generate further unrest. A major difference between what is happening today and what occurred during previous “waves” is the impact of radical Islamist propaganda which is being pushed via the Internet.

Stone Pelting

Stone-pelting in Kashmir has become a full-fledged industry wherein the cadres of Hurriyat and its constituent groups have organised themselves at district, tehsil, wards and mohalla levels and leaders at appropriate stages have formed an armed wing represented by masked stone-pelters, consisting mainly of youth of Kashmir Valley.

The stone-pelting incidents between January and April had risen by over 55% compared to incidents during the same period last year. According to figures, January-April 2018 saw 245 incidents of stone-pelting on the CRPF alone, in which 71 personnel were injured. This would roughly translate to an over 55% spike over the 162 such incidents in January-April 2017. Stone-pelting typically rises in summer, between May and August. Before April, the cold and the snow restrict movements in the open.

A Multi-pronged Approach

Looking at the internal situation in J&K, it is obvious that a multi-pronged approach involving both kinetic and population-centric measures is required. Perhaps the simplest in terms of understanding is the need to target the terrorists who have vitiated the atmosphere in the state. The security forces are confident and capable of dealing with this threat — 250-300 terrorists in the state can carry out a few high-profile terror attacks but are simply incapable of forcing any revolutionary change.

A little more complicated is the law and order situation in dealing with stone-pelting mobs. The injuries and deaths which inevitably follow these clashes lead to a repeated cycle of violence. However, there is no option

but to check this with a firm hand. If the writ of the state is seen as weak, the population will distance itself from the government.

Meanwhile, the government must look at meeting the aspirations of the larger population with a view towards long-term conflict resolution. This is the most complex task, with many competing narratives being offered as solutions. When faced with this dilemma, it is sometimes helpful to go back to understanding why ethnic conflicts often defy solutions.

The government also needs to embark on a strong perception-changing programme that challenges the existing narratives, brings out the horrific cost of conflict to the people and the benefits of peace and cooperative relations. Concrete steps by the government are a must. We often think of social media as the answer to all our perception-shaping issues but without follow-up action, the impact of social media can soon fade.

Way Forward

India would need to change its approach in countering Pakistani actions. It should seek to create an intense environment for Pakistan to make its ceasefire violations costly in terms of casualties. Across the border, India must send forth a firm message that its threshold of tolerance has been crossed.

The conflict in J&K defies simple solutions. Among the many actions required to be taken on the military, economic, political and social fronts, dealing with the psychological aspects of affected communities is critical. Memories and perceptions are perhaps the biggest hindrances to reconciliation and must be addressed by showing greater empathy.

General Studies Paper- III

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



4. ZERO BUDGET FARMING: A SUSTAINABLE METHOD

Why in News?

In early June, the government of Andhra Pradesh has launched a scale-out plan to transition 6 million farms/farmers cultivating 8 million hectares of land from conventional synthetic chemical agriculture to Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) by 2024, making Andhra Pradesh India's first 100 per cent natural farming state. This is an unprecedented transformation towards sustainable agriculture at such a massive scale. Zero Budget Natural Farming also aims to create the human and social capital necessary for vibrant and inclusive agricultural production.

Background

Favourable topography of soil and climate are vital for agricultural activity. In early 2016, Sikkim was declared India's first fully organic State. But organic agriculture often involves addition of large amounts of manure, vermin-compost and other materials that are required in bulk and need to be purchased. These turn out to be expensive for most small farm holders. The changes taking place in Andhra Pradesh are a systematic scaling up of farming practices based on agro-ecological principles in opposition to the dominant chemical agriculture. Changes at this scale require many different elements to come together, but open-minded enlightened political leaders and administrators are fundamental.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the top five states in terms of farmer suicides. Agriculture, today, accounts for almost 70 per cent of the world's freshwater consumption. The use of external inputs by adoption of uniform, hybridised and genetically modified crop varieties erodes genetic diversity of seeds and reduces their capacity to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Prevailing agricultural practices such as mono-cropping decrease soil moisture content are causing tremendous stress on water resources. These practices, coupled with widespread farmland degradation, make agriculture a major contributor to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change. Alternative low-input farming practices have emerged in pockets across the world promising reduced input costs and higher yields for farmers, chemical-free food for consumers and improved soil fertility. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is one such low-input, climate-resilient type of farming that encourages farmers to use low cost locally-sourced inputs, eliminating the use of artificial fertilisers and industrial pesticides. Natural farming was first popularised by the Japanese scientist and philosopher, Masanobu Fukuoka, who practiced it on his family farm in the island of Shikoku.

Introduction

The programme is a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on 'no poverty', 'clean water and sanitation', 'responsible consumption and production' and 'life on land'. It is led by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) – a not-for-profit established by the government to implement the ZBNF programme – and supported by the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) – an innovative partnership between UN Environment, BNP Paribas and the World Agroforestry Centre.

The Andhra Pradesh government is showing true leadership in transitioning one of India's first "Green Revolution" states into one of India's first natural farming states. The scale-out of ZBNF will promote regenerative agriculture, improve soil biodiversity and productivity and ensure decent

livelihoods to smallholder farmers, who grow so much of the food people consume but receive so little reward for their labour.

This is an unprecedented transformation towards sustainable agriculture on a massive scale and the kind of bold change we need to see to protect the climate, biodiversity and food security. The official launch of the ZBNF scale-out programme marked an unprecedented commitment by the state to promote the scale-out of climate-resilient, regenerative agriculture in a broader effort to transform and protect local food systems and long-term well-being of farmers.

Considering its impressive scale, an effective shift to a 100% natural farming state with 8 million hectares free of chemical contamination will achieve transformative impacts in India. In addition, it will provide a blueprint for an inclusive agricultural model, which takes into account diversity of people along with agro-climatic conditions and can be adapted to varying global contexts to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change. Moreover, as 14 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are dependent on the status of natural resources, the health of communities, access to secure nutrition and empowerment of women, ZBNF constitutes an effective cross-sectoral strategy for achieving SDGs targets.

Zero Budget Natural Farming in India

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a set of farming methods and also a grassroots peasant movement, which has spread to various states in India. It has attained wide success in Southern India, especially the Southern Indian state of Karnataka where it first evolved. The movement in Karnataka

state was born out of collaboration between Mr Subhash Palekar, who put together the ZBNF practices and the state farmers association Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), a member of La ViaCampesina (LVC).

ZBNF builds on agro-ecological principles, that are at the heart of sound integrative, systems science, with the promise of resilient and productive landscapes that offer the kinds multiple benefits for society and ecology that our planet sorely needs today from all of its landscapes.

The neoliberalization of the Indian economy led to a deep agrarian crisis that is making small scale farming an unviable vocation. Privatized seeds, inputs and markets are inaccessible and expensive for peasants. Indian farmers increasingly find themselves in a vicious cycle of debt, because of the high production costs, high interest rates for credit, the volatile market prices of crops, the rising costs of fossil fuel based inputs and private seeds. Debt is a problem for farmers of all sizes in India. Under such conditions, 'zero budget' farming promises to end a reliance on loans and drastically cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for desperate farmers. The word 'budget' refers to credit and expenses, thus the phrase 'Zero Budget' means without using any credit and without spending any money on purchased inputs. 'natural farming' means farming with Nature and without chemicals.

What is Zero-Budget Natural Farming?

Natural farming is a closed system, one that demands no human-supplied inputs and mimics nature. Natural farming relates to fertility farming, natural and organic farming, sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, eco-agriculture and permaculture but must be distinguished from biodynamic agriculture. Natural farming is an ecological farming approach

established by Masanobu Fukuoka. Fukuoka distilled natural farming into five principles: no tillage, no fertilizer, no pesticides or herbicides, no weeding and no pruning.

It is also referred to as the Fukuoka Method the natural way of farming "do-nothing farming". The title refers not to lack of effort, but to the avoidance of manufactured inputs and equipment. Natural farming is related to fertility farming, organic farming, sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, ecoagriculture and permaculture but should be distinguished from biodynamic agriculture. The system exploits the complexity of living organisms that shape each particular ecosystem. Fukuoka saw farming both as a means of producing food and as an aesthetic or spiritual approach to life, the ultimate goal of which was, the cultivation and perfection of human beings. The farmers could benefit from closely observing local conditions.



Four Wheels of ZBNF: The father of ZBNF and Padma Shri Awardee, Sh. Subash Palekar has provided four important non-negotiable guidelines:

- **Bijamrita:** Seed treatment using local cowdung and cow urine.
- **Jiwamrita:** Applying inoculation made of local cowdung and cow urine without any fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Mulching:** Activities to ensure favorable microclimate in the soil.
- **Waaphasa:** Soil aeration.

Type of System	Implication for Resources and Environment
Integrated Farming System	➤ Waste and garbage reduction ➤ Recycling of inputs among farm activities ➤ Effective use of limited land
Organic Farming	➤ Revival of soil fertility ➤ Health impact on producers and consumers ➤ Quality control of products and production process
Nature Farming	➤ Natural ecological balance ➤ Eradication of chemical residues ➤ Complete nutrient cycle within farm
Agroforestry	➤ Use of soil nutrients from forest ➤ Preservation of forestland and biodiversity ➤ Watershed and recreational values ➤ Solution to deforestation problem
New Theory Farming	➤ Diversification of production and resources ➤ Effective land and water use ➤ Self-sufficiency and reduction of social impact

Agriculture and Economy

Agriculture is the most important sector of Indian Economy. Indian agriculture sector accounts for 18 per cent of India's gross domestic product (GDP) and over 58 per cent of the rural households depend on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood. The share of primary sectors (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery) is estimated to be 20.4 per cent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) during 2016-17 at current prices. GVA from the sector is estimated to have grown at 3 per cent in FY18. India is the world's largest producer of pulses, rice, wheat, spices and spice products. India has many areas to choose for business such as dairy, meat, poultry, fisheries and food grains etc. India has emerged as the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world.

- Gross Value Added by agriculture, forestry and fishing is estimated at Rs 17.67 trillion (US\$ 274.23 billion) in FY18.
- Agriculture and allied sector's GVA at constant 2011-12 prices grew a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 2.75 per cent between FY12-18.
- Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58 per cent of India's population.
- As per Union Budget 2018-19, allocation of Rs 57,600 crore (US\$ 8.9 billion) was made for the Agriculture Ministry.

Importance of Agriculture in India

For any country's economic development, it is important to understand the contributing sectors. These are categorized under:- primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities.

- **Primary activities** include all those connected with extraction and production of natural resources.

Agriculture, fishing and gathering are good examples.

- **Secondary activities** are concerned with the processing of primary resources. Manufacturing of steel, baking of bread and weaving of cloth are examples of this activity.
- **Tertiary activities** provide support to the primary and secondary sectors through trade, transport, banking and advertising services.
- **Quaternary activities** are related to knowledge based services which usually include services like, information technology, research and development (R&D), consultation etc.

Government Initiatives to Promote Agriculture

Some of the recent major government initiatives in the sector are as follows:

- In March 2018, the government of India extended the urea subsidy to the farmers till 2020 with the aim of ensuring supply of urea at statutory controlled prices. Urea subsidy for 2018-19 is estimated at Rs 45,000 crore (US\$ 6.95 billion).
- The implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will be made faster and the government is aiming to increase the coverage under the scheme to 50 per cent of gross cropped area in 2018-19.
- The government of India is going to provide Rs 2,000 crore (US\$ 306.29 million) for computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) to ensure cooperatives are benefitted through digital technology.
- Around 100 million Soil Health Cards (SHCs) have been distributed in the country during 2015-17 and a soil health mobile app has been launched to help Indian farmers.
- With an aim to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, the

government of India is introducing a new AGRI-UDAAN programme to mentor start-ups and to enable them to connect with potential investors.

- The government of India has launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) with an investment of Rs 50,000 crore (US\$ 7.7 billion) aimed at development of irrigation sources for providing a permanent solution from drought.
- The government of India plans to triple the capacity of food processing sector in India from the current 10 per cent of agriculture produce and has also committed Rs 6,000 crore (US\$ 936.38 billion) as investments for mega food parks in the country, as a part of the scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA).
- The government of India has allowed 100 per cent FDI in marketing of food products and in food product e-commerce under the automatic route.
- A new platform for selling agricultural produce named e-RaKam has been launched by the government of India and will operate as a joint initiative of Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited and Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC).

Conclusion

As both a social and environmental programme, it aims to ensure that farming – particularly smallholder farming – is economically viable by enhancing farm biodiversity and ecosystem services. It reduces farmers' costs through eliminating external inputs and using in-situ resources to rejuvenate soils, whilst simultaneously increasing incomes and restoring ecosystem health through diverse, multi-layered cropping systems. Natural farming is the future of farming and will

play a key role in global food security by 2050.

Zero budget natural farming also aims to create the social capital necessary for vibrant and inclusive agricultural production, by establishing farmers' federations and self-help groups and placing farmers at the forefront of knowledge creation and dissemination. Most of the Indians are directly or indirectly depending on the agriculture. Some are directly attached with the farming and some other people are involved in doing business with these goods. India has

the capacity to produce the food grains which can make vast difference in Indian economy. India is expected to achieve the ambitious goal of doubling farm income by 2022. The agriculture sector in India is expected to generate better momentum in the next few years due to increased investments in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, warehousing and cold storage. To achieve targeted mark by the government it needs to provide support in case of land, bank loans and other machineries to the small farmers along with the big farmers with this

we can expect some improvement in Indian economy.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Major crops - cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems - storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.



5. THE MENACE OF MOB LYNCHING IS CONTINUED

Why in New?

About 10 people have been killed in two months in mob lynching in India. Most of these lynchings took place due to mobs reacting to rumours. Doctored content, fake alerts and sensationalised messages are all it takes to fuel mass suspicion.

Introduction

India, being the largest democracy in the world, is the outcome of the principle of the rule of law and aspires to establish an egalitarian social order. Democracy has been best defined as "the government of the people, by the people, for the people", it expects prevalence of genuine orderliness, positive propriety, dedicated discipline and sanguine sanctity by constant affirmance of constitutional morality which is the pillar stone of good governance. Democracy requires us to respect and develop the free spirit of human being which is responsible for all progress in human history. The success and failure of democracy depends largely on the extent to which civil liberties are enjoyed by the citizens in general. The role of law is to protect each member of society from his or her fellow members, thereby preventing their rights and liberties

from being encroached upon. An individual's fundamental right did not get diminished just because he belongs to another religion/caste.

Our country is run by the constitution and the constitution of a country provides the basis for the governance of the country. The constitution contains the law and principles according to which a state is governed. The constitution of India begins with a preamble, it promises justice, liberty, equality, fraternity and the unity and integrity of the nation. The preamble sets out the ideological aspirations of the people. The constitution also guarantees fundamental rights in Part III, which must be protected. The purpose of fundamental rights is to create an egalitarian society, to free all citizens for coercion or restriction by society to make liberty available for all. These fundamental rights are generally available against the state. Article 21 is considered to be the most precious fundamental right of every person. It is the heart and soul of the Indian Constitution, which speaks of the rights to life and personal liberty. Respect for life, liberty and property is not merely a norm or a policy of the State but an essential requirement of any civilized

society and encroachment upon personal liberty should be prevented in any manner.

Our country is governed by the rule of law. According to which no person can be punished without the authority of law. No one has right/authority to lynch any person. Preservation of life is the most important right for an individual and the state have to protect it. But nowadays we see that in the name of cow protection, beef eating, love jihad and fake news on social media, self proclaimed cow vigilante groups and people related to special ideology groups merely on the basis of suspicion are lynching particular community or taking the law into their hands. Sometime these incidents are supported by some political leaders also for the politics of vote. These incidents are a blot on the face of our democracy because we have a democracy, not mobocracy in India.

Killing of any person by a mob is the negation of the rule of law. In the case of National Human Rights Commission v. State of Gujarat and others, (2009) the Apex Court observed: "Communal harmony is the hallmark of a democracy. No religion teaches hatred. If in the name of religion, people are killed, that is essentially a slur and

blot on the society governed by the rule of law. The Constitution of India, in its Preamble refers to secularism. Religious fanatics really do not belong to any religion. They are no better than terrorists who kill innocent people for no rhyme or reason in a society which as noted above is governed by the rule of law."

Understanding the mob

Three terms then become critical: the mob, the spectacle and the spectator. It is as if the mob has taken over history and myth, combining the worst of nature and culture. There is no equivalent of the hero in history, as in the warrior or the satyagrahi. There is no concept like class or state, just the mob waiting for a random trigger. The mob's double is the crowd. There is little to choose from — one plays the perpetrator and the other the spectator. Both are hungry for the spectacle.

The only reminder that we live in a society subject to constitutional rules is the policeman. The policeman too can merge into the background and play the spectator indifferent to spectacle. His indifference, his boredom have an edge as he sits as if waiting for his favourite serial. The victim, by the very label Dalit, Muslim or woman, is the only social category; the scapegoat marked for violence. The lynch mob has not only overtaken law and order but also overwhelmed history and civics. The only humanity might be with the victim, in his vulnerability, in his desperation to communicate, in his scream, in his powerlessness, protests against brute force and against the fact that law, morals, language, rules, prayer are all helpless. A god might listen out of pity or even habit, but not a mob. Depraved human behaviour makes savage animal behaviour look tame. Animals rarely demand excess, but excess is the first signal of the mob.

The criminal justice administration must perform its duty by punishing perpetrators of crime/lynchers without any delay to inspire confidence and

create an attitude of respect for the rule of law. But unfortunately many a time the police is not ready to register the FIR. If police registers an FIR, either a very weak case is made out or there are so many flaws in the case prepared that it cannot stand on the judicial scrutiny of the court and it ultimately helps the accused in acquittal. Ultimately the victim could not get justice. Justice eludes the victims. The criminal justice administration should maintain balance in the society in order to prevent crime and deliver justice to the victim. But in India criminals have realised that the possibility of punishment is too remote and hence they are flouting laws and orders. If government wants to uphold the rule of law in the country, it should prosecute and punish the criminals, otherwise it would be difficult to get any reasonable rule of law in the country.

The Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan as a story does not only belong to the Bible. Like all great religious tales, it is universal, producing vernacular variations everywhere. Society, it argues, cannot be made of similarity and uniformity but it crucially needs difference and the celebration of difference to keep society alive. As the South African philosopher A.C. Jordan advised, "one needs to reinvent the stranger constantly to keep society alive." Gagandeep Singh, the policeman at Ramnagar, plays the good Samaritan. At a time when police brutality is at its prime as in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, the policeman and the citizen become "others" to each other. To this we add the distance between a fundamentalist mob and its victim. When a policeman like Gagandeep Singh rescues a victim, the fable of the Good Samaritan is enacted once again.

What is Mob Lynching?

It is a violent punishment or execution, without due process, for real or alleged crimes. Lynching is a modern

form of tribalism, where enemies — differentiated by religion, race, caste or ideology — are bracketed for elimination. The typical lynch mob would be made up of local citizens; a core group would actually carry out the crime, while many of the town's residents would look on. The spectators often included "respectable" men and women and children were often brought to lynchings. A lynching victim might be shot, stabbed, beaten, or hanged; if he was not hanged to death, his body would often be hung up for display. Local police and even members of the armed forces, either could not or would not intervene to stop a lynch mob from taking the law into its own hands. Not infrequently, a lynching would conclude with a loud, rowdy demonstration among the assembled crowd. The clear message in each lynching was that the mob was in control.

Vigilantism

Taking the law into one's own hands and attempting to effect justice according to one's own understanding of right and wrong; action taken by a voluntary association of persons who organize themselves for the purpose of protecting a common interest, such as liberty, property, or personal security; action taken by an individual or group to protest existing law; action taken by an individual or group to enforce a higher law than that enacted by society's designated lawmaking institutions; private enforcement of legal norms in the absence of an established, reliable and effective law enforcement body.

The foundation of the Indian legal system rests on the rule of law, a concept embodied in the notion that the India is a nation of laws and not of men. Under the rule of law, laws are thought to exist independent of, and separate from, human will. Even when the human element factors into legal decision making, the decision maker is expected to be constrained by the law in making his or her decision. In other words, police officers, judges, and juries should act according to the law and not according to their personal preferences or private agendas.

Legislation

There can be no government without order; there can be no order without law. It is the constitutional responsibility of the government to provide governance and maintain law and order and the responsibility lies on the state to protect life and property of the citizens. In this regard the police have the predominant role to play. Basically the success of the constitution largely depends upon the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal justice administration. The criminal justice administration is the backbone of a peaceful society. The society should be made free from crimes so that every citizen of our country can lead a peaceful life and enjoy their rights. It is only possible through efficient criminal justice administration, which is one of the cornerstones of good governance.

It is true that at present there is no law that criminalises mob killings. The Indian Penal Code has provisions for unlawful assembly, rioting and murder but nothing that takes cognisance of a group of people coming together to kill (a lynch mob). It is possible, under Section 223 (a) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), to prosecute together two or more people accused of the same offence committed in the course of the "same transaction". But the provision falls far short of an adequate legal framework for prosecuting lynch mobs.

Civil Society Campaign

Masuka: The groundswell of public disgust at the lynchings crystallised under the banner of the National Campaign Against Mob Lynching (NCAML), which has initiated a campaign for a law against mob lynching. Also known as 'Masuka', short for Manav Suraksha Kanoon (law to protect humans), a draft of the proposed legislation is currently up on the internet, awaiting suggestions from the public. **Not in My Name:** Citizen groups in over nine Indian cities came together to condemn the growing trend of lynching under the banner "Not in my name".

Conclusion

Mob Lynching should be stopped as it promotes violence, hatred, war etc. Lynching is not at all healthy for a country and its society. People should understand that every life is important. Killing someone on just a suspicion is not justified. Also, people should not take law in their own hands. Courts and police are there to give punishment. Using violence is not the option left. People can change the society even by speaking.

Lynch mobs have come to threaten not just lone lives but the vitality of the nation itself. This cannot continue and the trend must be put down. Political leaders must make it absolutely clear that they themselves and the governments they lead will not tolerate mob frenzy whipped up in whatever name and that they put the unity of the people, social peace, law and order above all other considerations. Failure to discharge this duty would vitiate the conditions required for society to function and the economy to prosper. There should be an act to provide for effective protection of the Constitutional rights of vulnerable persons, to punish acts of lynching, to provide for special courts for the expeditious trial of such offences, for rehabilitation of families of lynching and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Way Forward

India is the land of Buddha, Mahavira and Gandhi, which has preached to the world about non-violence. The Indian culture has always acknowledged and respected the value of human life. "Ahimsa Paramo Dharma" which means "non-violence is the path of religion", is a great saying of Mahabharata, which was further popularised by the father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. But violence in form of massacre and mob lynching have also been witnessed in India. These crimes need to be curbed to protect the democracy of the nation.

- It is necessary that the government has to form the anti-lynching

squad to prevent these kinds of lynching throughout India. It is also necessary that 'Anti-lynching law' should be passed by the Parliament.

- Unless the law is made by Parliament, the Supreme Court should take suo moto cognizance and issue directions for preventing these incidents to instill confidence among the minorities/dalits.
- Being the guardian of the constitution, it is the duty of the judiciary to protect the rights as prescribed by the constitution. The rule of law can only prevail, if people and institutions respect and follow the laws.
- It is the duty of government in a democratic set up to protect the people from domestic and foreign threats, it must perform its duty to fulfil the aspirations of the citizens of the nation.
- The answer to the problem of mob lynching does not lie in a new dedicated law but in police reform.
- The problem is not the law but enforcement of the law.

The intensity with which the incidents of man slaughter are increasing we require special laws to address the offence of mob lynching and massacre. And the ordinary laws of the nation are not practically sufficient to control the offences of these nature.

General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Social empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.

General Studies Paper- IV

Topic: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.



6. GAMING DISORDER: NEW MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

Why in News?

The World Health Organization included "gaming disorder" as a new mental health condition in the 11th edition of its International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). ICD-11 will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2019 for adoption by Member States and will come into effect on 1 January 2022. This release is an advance preview that will allow countries to plan how to use the new version, prepare translations, and train health professionals all over the country.

Introduction

As computers have become more sophisticated over the decades, so too have video games. While many people think of video games as a pastime enjoyed by children and teenagers, the Pew Research Center found that 49% of adults play video games on either their computer, television, game console, or a portable device such as a cell phone or tablet. Other research has found that approximately 88% of American youth play video games and 8.5% of children and teens, ages 8 to 18, show signs of video game addiction. Because video games and video game addiction are relatively new problems, there is very little information and few treatment options available—but internet and gaming addiction treatment centers do exist for those who need them.

Gaming disorder may be a newly recognised condition, but disordered gaming is anything but new. In 2010, a Korean couple was arrested for fatal child neglect spurred by an obsession with Prius Online. Five years earlier, another Korean man collapsed and died after a 50-hour session playing StarCraft in an internet cafe. Use of the internet, computers, smartphones and other electronic devices has

dramatically increased over recent decades and this increase is associated not only with clear and tremendous benefits to the users and societies, but also with documented cases of excessive use which often has negative health consequences.

Rapid and extensive proliferation of the internet has resulted in better opportunities for research, communication and information. Useful to some extent, this modern day technological wonder has largely caused decline in physical and mental well-being owing to its potential for causing addiction in the form of pornography, excessive gaming, chatting for long hours, gambling and online shopping.

ICD-11 category will give us a chance to learn how to identify and diagnose the disorder. In a 2017 study of gamers, only 2.4% of the participants had at least five of the symptoms needed to be diagnosed with a gaming disorder.

What is Gaming Disorder?

Gaming disorder is characterized by a pattern of persistent or recurrent gaming behaviour ('digital gaming' or 'video-gaming'), which may be online (i.e., over the internet) or offline, manifested by:

- 1) Impaired control over gaming (e.g., onset, frequency, intensity, duration, termination, context).
- 2) Increasing priority given to gaming to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other life interests and daily activities.
- 3) Continuation or escalation of gaming despite the occurrence of negative consequences.

For gaming disorder to be diagnosed, the behaviour pattern must be of sufficient severity to result in significant impairment in

personal, family, social, educational, occupational or other important areas of functioning and would normally have been evident for at least 12 months.

International Classification of Diseases

The World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is a medical classification list, containing codes and definitions for diseases, signs and symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases. Its 10th revision, ICD-10, began in 1983 and was completed in 1992. WHO has released of ICD. It included a new disorder that will prove controversial: the gaming disorder. It is classified under disorders due to substance use or addictive behaviors, alongside the gambling disorder.

Why is Gaming Disorder being Included in ICD-11?

A decision on inclusion of gaming disorder in ICD-11 is based on reviews of available evidence and reflects a consensus of experts from different disciplines and geographical regions that were involved in the process of technical consultations undertaken by WHO in the process of ICD-11 development. The inclusion of gaming disorder in ICD-11 follows the development of treatment programmes for people with health conditions identical to those characteristic of gaming disorder in many parts of the world and will result in the increased attention of health professionals to the risks of development of this disorder and, accordingly, to relevant prevention and treatment measures.

Should all people who engage in gaming be concerned about developing gaming disorder?

Studies suggest that gaming disorder affects only a small proportion of people who engage in digital- or

HOOKED ON

Gaming disorder is a mental illness now

SYMPTOMS

Preoccupied about getting back to the game  Displaying restless and aggressive behaviour when not playing	Poor academic and work performance Headaches and fatigue due to lack of sleep Loss of appetite and poor diet Weight gain or loss
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video-gaming activities. However, people who partake in gaming should be alert to the amount of time they spend on gaming activities, particularly when it is to the exclusion of other daily activities, as well as to any changes in their physical or psychological health and social functioning that could be attributed to their pattern of gaming behaviour.

Addiction Warning Signs

Spending a lot of time gaming doesn't necessarily qualify as an addiction. Eighty percent of the world can play games safely. According to the Center for On-Line Addiction, warning signs for video game addiction include:

- Playing for increasing amounts of time.
- Thinking about gaming during other activities.
- Gaming to escape from real-life problems, anxiety, or depression.
- Lying to friends and family to conceal gaming.
- Feeling irritable when trying to cut down on gaming.

In addition, video game addicts tend to become isolated, dropping out of their social networks and giving up other hobbies. It's about somebody

who has completely withdrawn from other activities.

Effects of Video Games on Children

As gaming becomes more mainstream and as technology develops further, the number will inevitably increase. It's become undeniable that at some point, children will be exposed to gaming at an early age. As various studies have been conducted, individuals managed to produce a few good and bad effects of video games for kids.

Positive Effects

Quick Thinking: Children who play action games tend to make quick and correct decisions. This is especially useful when caught in intense situations.

Increased Accuracy: Action games are especially helpful in this regard, as they train the brain to make faster decisions without sacrificing accuracy.

Improved Strategizing: Strategy games, fighting games and role-playing games allow children to develop a sense of strategy that'll be more helpful when situations call for it.

Linguistic Development: In countries where English isn't the

native language, games allow for the development of their knowledge of English. Games also help out in reading comprehension and the like.

Developed Patience, Concentration and Perseverance: Video games that are more difficult than most will challenge a child's well-being, allowing them to be more emotionally mature in the future.

Negative Effects

Violence: Children who play violent video games tend to have increased aggressive thoughts. Violence in video games has been a pressing issue since the industry gained popularity. Violent video game effects supposedly include mass shootings and school disturbances. **Social Isolation:** Young children may also prefer to stay indoors instead of going outside, as they'd want to spend most of their day playing video games. They may neglect their studies and responsibilities in the process.

Attention Span Problems: Although games increase focus and concentration, children may not have enough of those for other things, as they become more impulsive and detached.

Behavioral addiction

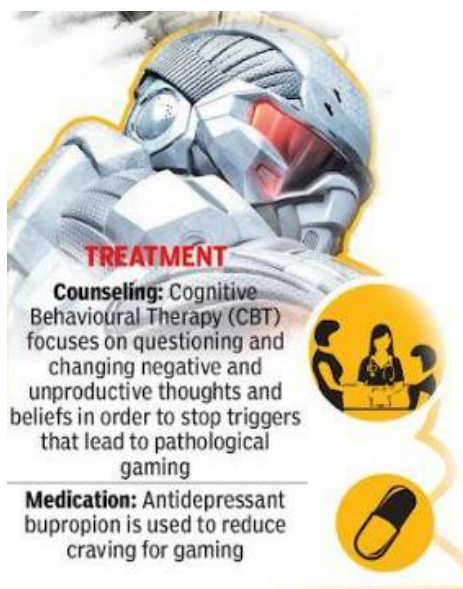
Behavioral addiction refers to several mental health conditions in which a person engages in a particular behavior repeatedly; even if the behavior causes them harm—it may seem as if they simply cannot resist engaging in it. Common behavioral addictions—also known as process addictions—include gambling addiction, shopping addiction, hoarding, and kleptomania (impulsive stealing). While the compulsivity associated with behavioral addictions may seem uncontrollable, treatment options are available to those who suffer from them.

Treatment Options Gamers

Treatment for video game addiction is similar to treatment used for other types of behavioral addictions. Counseling and behavior modification

are two of the most important components of a compulsive gaming rehabilitation program. Individual counseling helps compulsive gamers address their behavior and motivates them to work toward reducing their compulsions to play, and family therapy helps compulsive gamers address family issues that may contribute to their addiction. The goal of these therapy sessions is to help the gamer learn to cope with the addiction and engage in positive activities in place of gaming.

All experts maintained that playing video games or mobile games increases a player's dopamine levels. Dopamine is a brain chemical responsible for controlling emotions and feelings of pleasure. The addict loses track of time and continues playing. Video game addiction treatment programs often use behavioral modification techniques to help people suffering from video game addiction recognize when they are most vulnerable to engaging in excessive gaming and turning to healthier options. There are also therapeutic boarding schools for children and teenagers, as well as wilderness therapy programs that help people struggling to overcome video game addiction.



Recommendations to Avoid Bad Impact of Video Games on Children

- Impact of video games on children depends on the content involved in game and time spent for playing video games. It is very necessary for parents to be ensured about content of video games that are being played by their children.
- There should be no violence or other aggressive object in video games that have a negative impact on mind of children. Parents or educators should allow the children for playing such video games that have different learning and educational values. With this, there should be a time limit for the children to play the video games.
- Time limitation is very crucial for the children; because of this parents can control different bad impacts of video games on their children and also promote physical activities and outdoor games in their daily life. It is because children will be able to spend time outside for playing outdoor games and make good relationships in society.
- It should be prohibited to play the games at late night that will be useful to improve their concentration and focus. It will help them to make their children to be more physical active and develop their social skills.
- Parents should encourage their children to play outdoor games and make them understand the importance of those games in spite of video games.
- In addition to this, they should monitor video games ratings that will help them to select appropriate games according to age of their children. It will help them to curb on bad influence of video games

on their children. Therefore, to monitor and control the time spent on playing video games can be useful for avoiding their negative impacts on children.

Conclusion

There are different positive and negative impact of video games on mentality, behavior and health of children. Video games play an important role in improving learning, creativity, exploratory, strategic thinking and problem solving skills of children. On the other hand, they also develop violent, hostile and aggressive behavior and isolate the children from the society that have a bad impact on physical and mental health of children. In order to omit the occurrence of negative effects of video games on children, parents should supervise the content of video games played and determine a particular limited time to play this fun related activity for children.

Games like Blue Whale became an addiction which spread across countries like Argentina, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia etc. Reports showed suicide of a 13-year-old child who used his PlayStation wire as the final challenge of this game. One can say that nothing is better than gaming done with mindful involvement. Parents must take careful measures to control such addiction which sometimes leads to admitting their children in rehab centers.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.



7. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A CRUEL REALITY OF INDIA

Why in News?

The Department of Social and Behavioural Research, National AIDA Research Institute (NARI), along with other Indian scientists working at various US-based universities, jointly studied instances of domestic violence among 100 young women, married for 18 months or less, in the city slums, with an objective to understand possible reasons for this trend. The study was aimed at devising mechanisms to minimise domestic violence among the economically weaker sections of society. India is the world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour, according to a poll of global experts released on June, 2018.

Introduction

Women across India - from executives in gleaming corporate towers to those toiling behind closed doors of middle-class homes, in factories or farms - face the same dangers of sexual violence and harassment. At least 20 million women have left the workforce of Asia's third-largest economy since 2005 partly due to their poor treatment. India has shown utter disregard and disrespect for women. Cases of crimes against women, including rape, sexual assault, acid attacks and dowry deaths, rose by nearly 40% to 338,954 between 2012 and 2016, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. Crimes against women in India spiked more than 80 percent between 2007 and 2016, according to government data. Nearly 40,000 rapes were reported in 2016 despite a greater focus on women's safety after the fatal gang rape of a student in New Delhi in 2012 that sparked nationwide protests and led to tougher laws against sexual abuse.

About Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is not physical violence alone. Domestic violence is any behavior the purpose of which is to gain power and control over a spouse, partner, girl/boyfriend or intimate family member. Abuse is a learned behavior; it is not caused by anger, mental problems, drugs or alcohol, or other common excuses.

Domestic violence is about power and control. A feminist analysis of woman battering rejects theories that attribute the causes of violence to family dysfunction, inadequate communications skills, women's provocation, stress, chemical dependency, lack of spiritual relationship to a deity, economic hardship, class practices, racial/ethnic tolerance, or other factors. These issues may be associated with battering of women, but they do not cause it. Removing these factors will not end men's violence against women.

Batterers behave abusively to control their partner's behavior, thereby achieving and maintaining power over their partners and getting their own needs and desires met quickly and completely. There are also many secondary benefits of violence to the batterer. A batterer may choose to be violent because he finds it fun to terrorize his partner, because there is a release of tension in the act of assault, because it demonstrates manhood, or because violence is erotic for him. Violence is a learned behavior and batterers choose to use violence. The victim is not part of the problem.

Four widespread cultural conditions allow and encourage men to abuse women. These are:

- Objectification of women and the belief that women exist for the 'satisfaction of men's personal,

sexual, emotional and physical needs'.

- An entitlement to male authority with a right and obligation to control, coerce and/or punish her independence.
- That the use of physical force is acceptable, appropriate and effective.
- Societal support for his dominance, controlling and assaultive behavior. By failing to intervene aggressively against the abuse, the culture condones the violence.

Types of Domestic Violence

When the general public thinks about domestic violence, they usually think in terms of physical assault that results in visible injuries to the victim. This is only one type of abuse. There are several categories of abusive behavior, each of which has its own devastating consequences. Lethality involved with physical abuse may place the victim at higher risk, but the long term destruction of personhood that accompanies the other forms of abuse is significant and cannot be minimized.

Control: Controlling behavior is a way for the batterer to maintain his dominance over the victim. Controlling behavior, the belief that he is justified in the controlling behavior and the resultant abuse is the core issue in abuse of women. It is often subtle, almost always insidious and pervasive.

Physical Abuse: Physical abuse is any physically aggressive behavior, withholding of physical needs, indirect physically harmful behavior, or threat of physical abuse.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse is using sex in an exploitative fashion or forcing sex on another person. Sexual violence including rape as a weapon of war; domestic rape; rape by a stranger;

the lack of access to justice in rape cases; sexual harassment and coercion into sex as a form of corruption.

Non-Sexual Violence: Including conflict-related violence and forms of domestic physical and mental abuse.

Health: Including maternal mortality, lack of access to healthcare, lack of control over reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

Discrimination: Including job discrimination, inability to make a livelihood, discriminatory land, property or inheritance rights, lack of access to education and lack of access to adequate nutrition.

Culture & Religion: Including acid attacks, female genital mutilation, child marriage, forced marriage, punishment/retribution through stoning or physical abuse or mutilation and female infanticide/foeticide.

Human Trafficking: Including domestic servitude, forced labour, forced marriage and sexual slavery.

Economic Abuse: Financial abuse is a way to control the victim through manipulation of economic resources. Controlling the family income and either not allowing the victim access to money or rigidly limiting her access to family funds. Spending money for necessities (food, rent, utilities) on nonessential items (drugs, alcohol, stereo equipment, hobbies).

What Leads to Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence against women is an age old phenomenon. Women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. Violence has long been accepted as something that happens to women. Cultural mores, religious practices, economic and political conditions may set the precedence for initiating and perpetuating domestic violence, but ultimately committing an act of violence is a choice that the individual makes out of a range of options.

Although one cannot underestimate the importance of macro system-level forces (such as cultural and social norms) in the etiology of gender-based violence within any country, including India, individual-level variables (such as observing violence between one's parents while growing up, absent or rejecting father, delinquent peer associations) also play important roles in the development of such violence. The gender imbalance in domestic violence is partly related to differences in physical strength and size. Moreover, women are socialized into their gender roles in different societies throughout the world. In societies with a patriarchal power structure and with rigid gender roles, women are often poorly equipped to protect themselves if their partners become violent.

Effects of Domestic Violence on Women

The effects of domestic violence on women go beyond the immediate physical injuries they suffer at the hands of their abusers. Frequently, domestic violence survivors suffer from an array of psychosomatic illnesses, eating disorders, insomnia, gastrointestinal disturbances, generalized chronic pain and devastating mental health problems like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Physical and Mental Health Impacts: Women who have been exposed to violence have a greater risk of developing a range of health problems including stress, anxiety, depression, pain syndromes, phobias and somatic and medical symptoms.

Economic Impacts: Domestic and family violence is a huge economic burden for the nation.

Homelessness: Women and their children are often forced to leave their homes to escape domestic and family violence and can experience extensive trauma – they are physically, emotionally and psychologically

affected by not only the loss of their homes but also disruption to their social connections and their children's schooling and friendships.

The Impacts of Sexual Violence: The impacts of sexual violence are varied, profound and can be very long-lasting. It can have a major effect on the victim's relationships and social life and a number of different short- and long-term impacts on the victim's physical health, including: injury; pain disorders; disturbed sleep; infections; gastrointestinal problems; sexual and reproductive health issues (including STIs); headaches; and some kinds of chronic diseases.

Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Domestic violence includes harming or injuring a woman in a domestic relationship; be it physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse.

Therefore, what do we read between the lines?

Only a female can be a victim, adult males who have been in a domestic relationship with the aggrieved woman and male and female relatives of the husband/male partner can be made the respondent, live-in relationships are also protected.

Remedies: Inform the protection officer, file an application and make use of government official's duties towards her, make use of shelter homes, medical facilities and counselling if necessary.

Rights to the Aggrieved under the Act:

- Right to reside in the shared household.
- Protection orders issued to the respondent, for the victim's safety.
- Residence orders be issued against the respondent as to whether or not he may stay.
- Monetary relief.

- Full custody of children may be given to the victim, with visiting hours for the respondent.
- Penalty to respondent for not following orders.
- Penalty to protection officer for not taking action.

Women's and Girls' Rights

Multiple high-profile cases of rape across the country during the year once again exposed the failures of the criminal justice system. Nearly five years after the government amended laws and put in place new guidelines and policies aimed at justice for survivors of rape and sexual violence, girls and women continue to face barriers to reporting such crimes, including humiliation at police stations and hospitals; lack of protection; and degrading "two-finger" tests by medical professionals to make characterizations about whether the victim was "habituated to sex."

Rape survivors also lack adequate support services including health care, quality legal assistance and compensation. While women and girls should have access to safe abortions if they become pregnant after rape, several rape victims have had to petition courts in 2017, including in Delhi and Chandigarh, seeking safe abortion when denied by doctors.

In a setback for women's rights, in July the Supreme Court passed several directives on section 498A of the penal code—the anti-dowry law—to curb what it said was "abuse" of the law, directing police not to make arrests until complaints are verified by family welfare committees, bodies the court recommended be comprised of members of civil society, not police.

Addressing Domestic Violence

An effective response to violence must be multi-sectoral; addressing the immediate practical needs of women experiencing abuse; providing long-term follow up and assistance; and

focusing on changing those cultural norms, attitudes and legal provisions that promote the acceptance of and even encourage violence against women and undermine women's enjoyment of their full human rights and freedoms.

The health sector has unique potential to deal with violence against women, particularly through reproductive health services, which most women will access at some point in their lives. However, this potential is far from being realized. Few doctors, nurses or other health personnel have the awareness and the training to identify violence as the underlying cause of women's health problems.

The health sector can play a vital role in preventing violence against women, helping to identify abuse early, providing victims with the necessary treatment and referring women to appropriate care. Health services must be places where women feel safe, are treated with respect, are not stigmatized and where they can receive quality, informed support. A comprehensive health sector response to the problem is needed, in particular addressing the reluctance of abused women to seek help.

Conclusion

The strategy of the Indian state towards a problem and particularly that of women, is to rely largely on law and often only on law. The responsibility of the state ends with the drafting of the required laws, whereas the problems relating to women, particularly domestic violence, are socio-economic and cultural problems which demand a multi-faceted approach. Multiplication of laws relating to women has led to the problem of overlapping, legal dilemmas and legal confusion. Moreover, to overcome the problem of socio-economic and cultural hurdles, it is desirable to adopt a human rights approach to women's problems. It is only through the human rights perspective that one can help safeguard human dignity and create

a "violence-free home" leading to a "violence-free society".

Way Forward

- Responses to domestic violence need to address the issue of acceptability of violence as a feature of gender relations in the marital home. Unless the norms of acceptability of violence are broken, women will continue to experience physical and psychological violence.
- Greater access to economic resources and education are important preconditions for women to have greater options in negotiating conflict within the marriage.
- The site of first response to violence – which includes members of the natal family, the marital family, neighbors, co-workers and social and community groups—must be strengthened. These are the community members who can make a difference by not condoning violence with their silence and by responding positively to a woman's effort to seek help.
- Lastly, it is critical that community responses are grounded in a human rights framework to ensure every woman's freedom from violence.

General Studies Paper- I

Topic: Social empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.

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.



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

The Looming Fear of Global Trade War

Q1. What is trade protectionism? What are advantage and disadvantage of trade protectionism? Discuss the impact of US protectionism on India.

Hints:

- Trade protectionism is a type of policy that limits unfair competition from foreign industries. It's a politically motivated defensive measure. In the short run, it works. But it is very destructive in the long term. It makes the country and its industries less competitive in international trade. Free trade is the opposite of protectionism - it means as few tariffs as possible, giving people the freedom to buy cheaper or better-made products from anywhere in the world.
- Advantages of protectionism
 - ♦ An advantage of protectionism is that it keeps the domestic economy rolling. Since there is a decrease in imports, domestic firms have less competition, and so are able to continue. The domestic economy will also be strengthened because unemployment will be down due to the domestic firms and they will be able to produce and sell more goods with a lot less difficulty, giving firms less reason to decrease its costs by decreasing its workforce. Those with jobs will continue to consume while allowing the economy to flow.
 - ♦ Protectionism makes domestic firms less competitive in the export market, as import barriers raise domestic prices through higher costs for mediocre inputs this means that export products also become more expensive and decrease in market share against the international competition.
- Disadvantages of protectionism
 - ♦ Consumers pay more with protectionism. Without a system of competitive pricing, domestic companies are free to raise their prices without raising the quality of their goods. When a business has no competition then the consumer is left without options.
 - ♦ Trade protectionism limits consumer access to foreign goods and non-domestic companies that

offer unique products and services are also subject to the restrictions.

- ♦ Protectionism can cause a retaliation reaction from other nations, ruining vital relationships between nations. A clear example of this would be the relationship between USA and China, when the US put boundaries on the Chinese tires, China retaliated by putting up barriers against different U.S. goods such as their chicken. This kind of hostility between nations decreases the specialization between two nations, eventually damaging the economy.
- India was not exempted. In a world where trade success will be built not on rules, but, rather, on relationships, India has distinct advantages. There appears to be good chemistry between them.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cautioned on that in a scenario of rising protectionism in developed countries, the greatest deterioration in corporate balance sheets would occur in China, India and South Africa. If protectionist pressures increase, the combination of declining global trade and growth would increase corporate vulnerability and borrowing costs that may lead to financial stability risks in these economies.
- In countries such as India with limited fiscal space to boost growth, growth-friendly fiscal consolidation should continue by reorienting public expenditure away from untargeted subsidies, especially on food and fertilizers, towards capital and social spending.

Status of Transgenders in India: An Overview

Q2. Transgender people face staggering levels of poverty, discrimination and violence. What are the steps taken by the government for the equal rights of the transgender community?

Hints:

- Discriminations faced by homosexuals in our society are at various levels; beginning from within their homes to outside world as a whole. Their entire life is a struggle only because they are born with a particular sexual orientation which is different from others. In fact it

is proved through various scientific or psychological studies that such behaviors are perfectly natural.

- Human sexuality is complex. The acceptance of the distinction between desire, behavior and identity acknowledges the multidimensional nature of sexuality. The fact that these dimensions may not always be congruent in individuals suggests complexity of the issues. Bisexuality, both sequential and concurrent and discordance between biological sex and gender role and identity add to the issues. Medicine and psychiatry employ terms like homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality and trans-sexuality to encompass all related issues, while current social usage argues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), which focuses on identities.
- Religions and traditions make it harder for LGBTs to compete for opportunities or to even enjoy peace just being who they are. Stigma for LGBTs is deeply ingrained in our societies making the enactment of laws insufficient for the community to be treated equally. Yet, the LGBT community is changing systemic discrimination around the world with the help of a growing NGOs fighting for LGBT rights pitching in for community causes.
 - ♦ The community is already subjected to abuse and discrimination by both the state and society at large.
 - ♦ They have to live in constant fear of illegal detention, harassment, blackmail and extortion, often at the hands of local law enforcement.
 - ♦ Sex, gender, age, ethnicity and religion add to the complexity of issues faced.
- The landmark judgment of the Delhi High Court, which declared that Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code violates fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution, was in keeping with international human rights and secular and legal trends. However, the anti-homosexual attitudes of many religious and community leaders reflect the existence of widespread prejudice in India. Prejudice against different lifestyles is part of many cultures, incorporated into most religions and is a source of conflict in Indian society.
- In 2013, LGBTQ Indians looked on in anguish as the Supreme Court overturned the Delhi High Court's progressive judgement on Section 377, in effect reinstating the colonial law all over India. It was a massive blow to the community – especially for those who came out of the closet after 2009 and found themselves vulnerable in a largely homophobic nation once more.
- On January 10, 2018, India's Supreme Court declared it would re-examine Section 377 of the Indian Penal code, which bans "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman, or animal" — an act currently punishable by life imprisonment.

- India, in 21st century is trying to become a super power and the world leader; in fact it has all the potential to become one. But this potential would not be realized until and unless we as a society will not be able to freely accept and discuss so-called taboo issues such as homosexuality. And for that to happen above all mentality of the people will have to be changed.

Changing Perception in Jammu and Kashmir

Q3. Looking at the internal situation in Jammu & Kashmir, it is obvious that a multi-pronged approach involving both kinetic and population-centric measures is required. Comment.

Hints:

- During the holy month of Ramzan the government of India had announced conditional ceasefire and asked the security forces not to launch operation against the terrorists. The suspension of operations in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been called off by the government. Its fate was obvious ever since when journalist Shujaat Bukhari and a young soldier, Aurangzeb, were brutally killed.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, soldiers continue to lose their lives almost daily in spite of all actions being taken by the Army. It is either by Pakistan breaking the ceasefire at will or by their sponsored terrorists targeting security forces.
- Ethnic and national conflicts entail two major aspects — defined by scholars as a socio-political aspect and a socio-psychological aspect — with the latter no less crucial than the former. The socio-psychological aspect pertains to a wide range of issues relating to the community, including a community's sense of identity and self-perceptions, its fears and sense of collective threats, perceived past and portrayal of its role in the conflict. The socio-political aspect involves issues such as land, natural resources, economic and political dominance. Despite the complexity of the socio-political matters, in situations of intractable conflict it is the socio-psychological aspect, as well as history, that dominates the relationship between the involved adversaries and plays a central role in interpreting and fuelling persistent animosity.
- A similar situation is evident in J&K. In Kashmir, perceptions have been generated of a government being at war with its people. Given this reality, it should be clear that issues like good governance and development, while important, need to be accompanied by measures that address the socio-psychological aspects of the people of all regions of the state. This has been a key weakness in our approach and the separatists, along with some politicians, have made the situation worse by continuously exploiting existing societal beliefs and collective memory, rather than pointing to their dangers.

- Today, the main issue in Kashmir's dialectics is not so much accession to India, as the erosion of Jammu and Kashmir's "special status" as well as the centrality of Article 370. Consequently, when agitators today talk of "azadi" — and demand an end to Delhi's rule — there are subtle differences in the tone and tenor of the slogans, which has to be factored into any calculation of what the present unrest in the Valley signifies.
 - The government must look at meeting the aspirations of the larger population with a view towards long-term conflict resolution. This is the most complex task, with many competing narratives being offered as solutions. When faced with this dilemma, it is sometimes helpful to go back to understanding why ethnic conflicts often defy solutions.
 - The government also needs to embark on a strong perception-changing programme that challenges the existing narratives, brings out the horrific cost of conflict to the people and the benefits of peace and cooperative relations. Concrete steps by the government are a must. We often think of social media as the answer to all our perception-shaping issues but without follow-up action, the impact of social media can soon fade.
 - The conflict in J&K defies simple solutions. Among the many actions required to be taken on the military, economic, political and social fronts, dealing with the psychological aspects of affected communities is critical. Memories and perceptions are perhaps the biggest hindrances to reconciliation and must be addressed by showing greater empathy.
- agriculture and permaculture but must be distinguished from biodynamic agriculture. The word 'budget' refers to credit and expenses, thus the phrase 'Zero Budget' means without using any credit and without spending any money on purchased inputs. 'Natural farming' means farming with Nature and without chemicals.
- Four wheels of ZBNF: The father of ZBNF has provided four important non-negotiable guidelines:
 1. Bijamrita: Seed treatment using local cowdung and cow urine.
 2. Jiwamrita: Applying inoculation made of local cowdung and cow urine without any fertilizers and pesticides.
 3. Mulching: Activities to ensure favorable microclimate in the soil.
 4. Waaphasa: Soil aeration.
 - This is an unprecedented transformation towards sustainable agriculture on a massive scale and the kind of bold change we need to see to protect the climate, biodiversity and food security. The official launch of the ZBNF scale-out programme marked an unprecedented commitment by the state to promote the scale-out of climate-resilient, regenerative agriculture in a broader effort to transform and protect local food systems and long-term well-being of farmers.
 - As both a social and environmental programme, it aims to ensure that farming — particularly smallholder farming — is economically viable by enhancing farm biodiversity and ecosystem services. It reduces farmers' costs through eliminating external inputs and using in-situ resources to rejuvenate soils, whilst simultaneously increasing incomes and restoring ecosystem health through diverse, multi-layered cropping systems. Natural farming is the future of farming and will play a key role in global food security by 2050.
 - Most of the Indians are directly or indirectly depending on the agriculture. Some are directly attached with the farming and some other people are involved in doing business with these goods. India has the capacity to produce the food grains which can make vast difference in Indian economy. India is expected to achieve the ambitious goal of doubling farm income by 2022.

Zero Budget Farming: A Sustainable Method

Q4. What is Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)? How, ZBNF could help Andhra Pradesh and India make significant progress towards climate resilient agriculture. Discuss.

Hints:

- In early June, the government of Andhra Pradesh has launched a scale-out plan to transition 6 million farms/farmers cultivating 8 million hectares of land from conventional synthetic chemical agriculture to Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) by 2024, making Andhra Pradesh India's first 100 per cent natural farming state. This is an unprecedented transformation towards sustainable agriculture at such a massive scale. Zero Budget Natural Farming also aims to create the human and social capital necessary for vibrant and inclusive agricultural production.
- Natural farming is a closed system, one that demands no human-supplied inputs and mimics nature. Natural farming relates to fertility farming, natural and organic farming, sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, eco-

The Menace of Mob Lynching is Continued

Q5. Lynching and mobviolence are due to dehumanisation. This dehumanisation is conditioned by the social, economic and political conditions of a society at a particular moment in time. The increasing cases of mob violence in India have to be analysed.

Hints:

- About 10 people have been killed in two months in mob lynching in India. Most of these lynchings took place due to mobs reacting to rumours. Doctored content, fake alerts and sensationalised messages are all it takes to fuel mass suspicion.
- India, being the largest democracy in the world, is the outcome of the principle of the rule of law and aspires to establish an egalitarian social order. Democracy has been best defined as “the government of the people, by the people, for the people”, it expects prevalence of genuine orderliness, positive propriety, dedicated discipline and sanguine sanctity by constant affirmance of constitutional morality which is the pillar stone of good governance.
- Three terms then become critical: the mob, the spectacle and the spectator. It is as if the mob has taken over history and myth, combining the worst of nature and culture. There is no equivalent of the hero in history, as in the warrior or the satyagrahi. There is no concept like class or state, just the mob waiting for a random trigger. The mob’s double is the crowd. There is little to choose from — one plays the perpetrator and the other the spectator. Both are hungry for the spectacle.
- Mob violence becomes possible because conditions are created for the perpetrators to dehumanise a fellow human being. This dehumanisation is conditioned by the social, economic and political conditions of a society at a particular moment in time. The increasing cases of mob violence in India have to be analysed within these frameworks.
- The mob lynchings in India indicate a similar psychological mania: the killers are often the ones who show no remorse in recording and publicising their crime. In the recent incident of lynching, a policeman was recording the crime (albeit with good intentions) instead of taking any concrete measures to save the two victims. This indicates a chillier dimension to the bystander effect. These incidents can also be ascribed as a failure of the state machinery and the loss of faith in the judiciary by the public. The district administration’s inaction in addressing the tension created by the rumour of child-lifters indicates a serious lapse on their part.
- Mob lynching should be stopped as it promotes violence, hatred, war etc. Lynching is not at all healthy for a country and its society. People should understand that every life is important. Killing someone on just a suspicion is not justified. Also, people should not take law in their own hands. Courts and police are there to give punishment. Using violence is not the option left. People can change the society even by speaking.
- Lynch mobs have come to threaten not just lone lives but the vitality of the nation itself. This cannot continue and the trend must be put down. Political leaders must make it absolutely clear that they themselves and the governments they lead will not tolerate mob frenzy

whipped up in whatever name and that they put the unity of the people, social peace, law and order above all other considerations. Failure to discharge this duty would vitiate the conditions required for society to function and the economy to prosper. There should be an act to provide for effective protection of the Constitutional rights of vulnerable persons, to punish acts of lynching, to provide for special courts for the expeditious trial of such offences, for rehabilitation of families of lynching and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.

Gaming Disorder: New Mental Health Condition

Q6. Recently the World Health Organization included "gaming disorder" as a new mental health condition in the 11th edition of its International Classification of Diseases. It's time to take a holistic view of gaming addiction. Discuss.

Hints:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) added gaming disorder to its latest draft of the International Classification of Diseases, a highly regarded compendium of medical conditions. A decision on inclusion of gaming disorder in ICD-11 is based on reviews of available evidence and reflects a consensus of experts from different disciplines and geographical regions that were involved in the process of technical consultations undertaken by WHO in the process of ICD-11 development.
- The inclusion of gaming disorder in ICD-11 follows the development of treatment programmes for people with health conditions identical to those characteristic of gaming disorder in many parts of the world and will result in the increased attention of health professionals to the risks of development of this disorder and, accordingly, to relevant prevention and treatment measures.
- As computers have become more sophisticated over the decades, so too have video games. While many people think of video games as a pastime enjoyed by children and teenagers, the Pew Research Center found that 49% of adults play video games on either their computer, television, game console, or a portable device such as a cell phone or tablet.
- Other research has found that approximately 88% of American youth play video games and 8.5% of children and teens, ages 8 to 18, show signs of video game addiction. Because video games and its addiction are relatively new problems, there is very little information and few treatment options available—but internet and gaming addiction treatment centers do exist for those who need them.

- As gaming becomes main-stream and as technology develops further, the number will inevitably increase. It's become undeniable that at some point, children will be exposed to gaming at an early age. As various studies have been conducted, individuals managed to produce a few good and bad effects of video games for kids.
- Children who play violent video games tend to have increased aggressive thoughts. Violence in video games has been a pressing issue since the industry gained popularity. Violent video game effects supposedly include mass shootings and school disturbances.
- Young children may also prefer to stay indoors instead of going outside, as they'd want to spend most of their day playing video games. They may neglect their studies and responsibilities in the process.
- There are different positive and negative impact of video games on mentality, behavior and health of children. Video games play an important role in improving learning, creativity, exploratory, strategic thinking and problem solving skills of children. On the other hand, they also develop violent, hostile and aggressive behavior and isolate the children from the society that have a bad impact on physical and mental health of children. In order to omit the occurrence of negative effects of video games on children, parents should supervise the content of video games played and determine a particular limited time to play this fun related activity for children.
- ♦ Homelessness: Women and their children are often forced to leave their homes to escape domestic and family violence and can experience extensive trauma – they are physically, emotionally and psychologically affected by not only the loss of their homes but also disruption to their social connections, and their children's schooling and friendships.
- Provoking Factors: Domestic violence against women is an age old phenomenon. Women were always considered weak, vulnerable and in a position to be exploited. Violence has long been accepted as something that happens to women. Cultural mores, religious practices, economic and political conditions may set the precedence for initiating and perpetuating domestic violence, but ultimately committing an act of violence is a choice that the individual makes out of a range of options.
- Remedies: An effective response to violence must be multi-sectoral; addressing the immediate practical needs of women experiencing abuse; providing long-term follow up and assistance; and focusing on changing those cultural norms, attitudes and legal provisions that promote the acceptance of and even encourage violence against women, and undermine women's enjoyment of their full human rights and freedoms.
- The health sector has unique potential to deal with violence against women, particularly through reproductive health services, which most women will access at some point in their lives. However, this potential is far from being realized. Few doctors, nurses or other health personnel have the awareness and the training to identify violence as the underlying cause of women's health problems.
- The health sector can play a vital role in preventing violence against women, helping to identify abuse early, providing victims with the necessary treatment and referring women to appropriate care. Health services must be places where women feel safe, are treated with respect, are not stigmatized and where they can receive quality, informed support.
- Way Forward: The strategy of the Indian state towards a problem and particularly that of women, is to rely largely on law and often only on law. The responsibility of the state ends with the drafting of the required laws, whereas the problems relating to women, particularly domestic violence, are socio-economic and cultural problems which demand a multi-faceted approach. It is only through the human rights perspective that one can help safeguard human dignity and create a "violence-free home" leading to a "violence-free society".

Domestic Violence: A Cruel Reality of India

Q7. What do you understand by domestic violence? Discuss the impact of domestic violence on women, factors provoking a particular form of domestic violence and remedies for the same.

Hints:

- Domestic violence is not physical violence alone. Domestic violence is any behavior the purpose of which is to gain power and control over a spouse, partner, girl/boyfriend or intimate family member. Abuse is a learned behavior; it is not caused by anger, mental problems, drugs or alcohol, or other common excuses.
- The impacts of domestic violence are:
 - ♦ Physical and mental health impacts: Women who have been exposed to violence have a greater risk of developing a range of health problems including stress, anxiety, depression, pain syndromes, phobias and somatic and medical symptoms.
 - ♦ Economic impacts: Domestic and family violence is a huge economic burden for the nation.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL

1. India BPO Promotion Scheme

The government of India is planning to expand its BPO promotion scheme under the Digital India initiative. The government will now increase the capacity under the scheme to one lakh seats from the current 48,000 seats. It has not only created new job opportunities but also ensured that people in smaller towns find employment closer home. Allocation of 31,732 seats for BPO units operating from smaller towns have created new employment avenues with potential to offer nearly 200,000 direct and indirect jobs to youth under India BPO

promotion scheme and North East BPO promotion scheme.

Currently, most revenue by this sector is generated from, in and around, the metropolitan areas of Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune. Other parts of the country, having availability of talent pool and infrastructure, are yet to reap the benefits of this global boom.

About Scheme

The India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), envisaged under Digital India

Programme, seeks to incentivize establishment of 48,000 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across the country. It would help in capacity building in smaller cities in terms of infra & manpower and would become basis for next wave of IT/ITES led growth. This scheme has potential to create employment opportunities of around 1.5 lakh direct jobs considering three shift operations. It may also create good number of indirect jobs. ■

2. Van Dhan Kendras

The government has proposed to set up 3,000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 self-help groups across the country under a scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training for value addition of forest produce. It is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produces, the true wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan with an estimated value of Rs 2 Lakh crore per year.

Objective

The initiative aims to promote (Minor Forest Produce) MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal

gatherers and artisans. It mainstreams the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level. Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.

Implementation

The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as nodal department at the central level and TRIFED as nodal agency at the national level. At state level, the state nodal agency for MFPs and the district collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation

at grassroot level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. The importance of MFPs for this section of the society can be gauged from the fact that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on MFPs for food, shelter, medicines and cash income. It provides them critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless ■

3. National Targets for Off-shore Wind Power

To give confidence to the wind industry, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has declared medium and long term target for off-shore wind power capacity additions, which are 5 GW by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030. While this may look moderate in comparison to India's on-shore wind target of 60 GW and its achievement of 34 GW and solar target of 100 GW by 2022, this would still be challenging considering the difficulties in installing large wind power turbines in open seas.

The offshore wind farming is attractive because of several reasons

such as stronger winds for efficient generation of power; no impact on real estate value of land as in case of onshore wind farming; its ability to fulfil the demand of the heavily populated coastal regions and no significant environment costs.

Globally, 17-18 GW of offshore wind power has been installed, led by countries such as the UK, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and China. There has also been a fall in offshore wind tariff in the recent years in some of these markets.

About National Off-Shore Wind Policy

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy had notified National Off-Shore Wind Policy in October 2015 to realize the offshore wind power potential in the country. With this, it has been authorized as the nodal ministry for use of offshore areas within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country and the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has been authorized as the nodal agency for development of offshore wind energy.

■

4. 'Pariwarta' Scheme for Power Sector

The government is planning to warehouse stressed power projects totalling 25,000 megawatts (MW) under an asset management firm to protect the value of the assets and prevent their distress sale under the insolvency and bankruptcy code till demand for power picks up. State-run Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd (REC) has identified projects with a total debt of around Rs 1.8 trillion as part of the scheme, which is under government consideration and has been tentatively named Power Asset

Revival through Warehousing and Rehabilitation, or 'Pariwarta'. The 'Pariwarta' scheme is inspired by the Troubled Asset Relief Programme, or TARP, which was introduced in the US during the 2008 financial crisis.

What does the proposed plan aim to do?

The proposed plan aims to stem the rise in bad loans in the power sector. These stressed power projects will be housed under an asset management and rehabilitation company (AMRC)

that will be owned by financial institutions. While the promoter's equity will be reduced to facilitate a transfer of management control to the financial institutions, the lenders will convert their debt into equity. The AMRC will manage the projects and may ask utilities such as NTPC Ltd to operate and maintain them. The AMRC will charge a fee and help complete projects that are stranded for lack of funds.

■

5. Al-Qaida and Other Terror Outfits

The government has banned terror organisation al-Qaida in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and all its manifestation under the stringent anti-terror law – Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Both al-Qaida in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham-Khorasan (ISIS-K), an Afghanistan-based affiliate of ISIS, have been declared unlawful by the Union Home

Ministry as they were found to be radicalising Indian youths for 'global jihad' and encouraging terror acts on Indian interests. Currently, 39 terror outfits including ISIS, LeT, Jaish and BKI have been banned under the UAPA.

About UAPA

The UAPA was framed in 1967. It has been amended twice since: first in 2008 and then in 2012. This law is aimed

at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India. Its main objective is to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India. The Act makes it a crime to support any secessionist movement or to support claims by a foreign power to what India claims as its territory.

■

6. Ambubachi Mela

Ambubachi Mela, a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess is being held at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati. Kamakhya, atop Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's

companion. The temple's sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni — female genital — symbolised by a rock.

The ritualistic fair celebrating the goddess' period is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India.



The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called 'Tuloni Biya', meaning small wedding. Ambubachi Mela is also an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene. ■

About Ambubachi Mela

It symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya. There is no idol in the temple; the goddess is worshipped in the form of a yoni-like stone over which a natural spring flows. It is also known as Siddha Kubjika, the goddess is a Hindu tantric goddess of desire who evolved in the Himalayan hills. She is also identified as Kali and Maha Tripura. The festival is also known as 'Mahakumbh of the East' as it draws lakhs of devotees from all over the world. ■

7. Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two Navies. The first edition will be inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral

Sunil Lanba during his visit there from June 24 to 29. The commencement of CORPAT is a major step towards enhanced operational interaction between both Navies. Naval cooperation between



India and Bangladesh has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span which includes operational interactions through port calls, passage exercises along with capacity building, capability enhancement and training initiatives. ■

Over the last few years, the Indian Navy has expanded its assistance to countries in the region through material support, training, EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance, provisioning of platforms, hydrographic assistance and joint exercises and offering slots in professional training courses. The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. It also conducts EEZ surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles on their request. ■

INTERNATIONAL

1. OPEC

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has agreed to increase its daily output to address the problem of rising crude oil prices. The cartel's output would be increased by about a million barrels a day beginning in July.

OPEC members had in late 2016, it is worth noting, agreed to a historic deal to cut output by 1.2 million barrels a day in order to end a supply glut and raise the price of oil.

What necessitated this move?

Countries across the world have been vocal in recent months about the need to bring down rising oil prices that threaten to put the global economy under stress. Emerging markets such as India that has been affected by the rising cost of oil imports have also been exerting pressure.

About OPEC

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was

founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the founder members of the organization. These countries were later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018). ■

2. Remove DEBRIS Spacecraft

The first spacecraft to demonstrate active space debris-removal technologies — such as a harpoon, a net and a drag sail — in orbit has been released from the International Space Station to commence its mission.

The Remove DEBRIS mission will perform four experiments, including the first harpoon capture in orbit and

a net that will be used on a deployed target. The team will also test a vision-based navigation system that uses cameras and LiDaR technology to observe CubeSats that will be released from the main spacecraft. Finally, the RemoveDEBRIS craft will deploy a large sail that will drag it into the Earth's atmosphere, where it will be destroyed.

A microsatellite called here Remove SAT, will release, capture and deorbit two space debris targets, called DebrisSats, in sequence using various rendezvous, capture and deorbiting technologies thus demonstrating in orbit, key ADR technologies for future missions in what promises to be the first ADR technology mission internationally. ■

3. The United Nations Human Rights Council

The United States withdrew from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) accusing it of a "chronic bias against Israel". U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley slammed Russia, China, Cuba and Egypt for thwarting U.S. efforts to reform the council. She also criticized countries which shared U.S. values and encouraged Washington to remain, but "were unwilling to seriously challenge the status quo." It is the latest U.S. rejection of multilateral engagement after it pulled out of the Paris climate

agreement and the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The US problem with the body is twofold: the make-up of its membership and what it considers a disproportionate focus on allegations of human rights abuses committed by its ally, Israel.

In 2006, when the council was established, then-US President George W Bush refused to join because the organisation included members accused by Washington of human rights violations.

About UNHRC

The UN body was established in 2006 with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights around the globe, as well as investigating alleged human rights violations. There are 47 countries in the Human Rights Council, elected by the U.N.'s General Assembly with a specific number of seats allocated for each region of the globe. Members serve for three-year terms and can serve only two terms in a row. ■

4. UNISPACE+50

UNISPACE+50 was held recently to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and highlight past and future space-related actions. It was a chance to assess results following the three prior

UNISPACE conferences, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999 and consider how the future course of global space cooperation can benefit everyone on Earth. The event aimed at shaping the UN's comprehensive 'Space 2030' agenda.

Space 2030 Agenda

It will map out how spaceflight and space-related activities can help achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, through the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. ■

5. COMCASA and BECA

The US side has pressed the Indian side to sign the two foundational agreements for defence cooperation: Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), earlier known as the Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA); and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). India and the US have so far signed only one foundational agreement: Logistical Exchange

Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).

About COMCASA

It is a "technology enabler" to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication and electronic systems to India as well as ensure secrecy of its C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems from leaking to other countries like Russia.

About BECA

It refers to Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation. This agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.

There are widespread fears that the use of American C4ISR systems could compromise India's tactical operational security, enabling the US to keep track of Indian warships and aircraft. ■

6. Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028

United Nations and government of Republic of Tajikistan have jointly organised a high-level Conference on "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028". It discussed key water related issues of sustainable development goals adopted by UN member countries. In order to accelerate efforts towards meeting water-related challenges, the United Nations General

Assembly declared 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development". The Water Action Decade commenced on World Water Day, 22 March 2018 and will end on World Water Day, 22 March 2028.

The objectives of the decade focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for

the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects. It will also focus on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ■

7. Protect Earth from Giant Asteroids

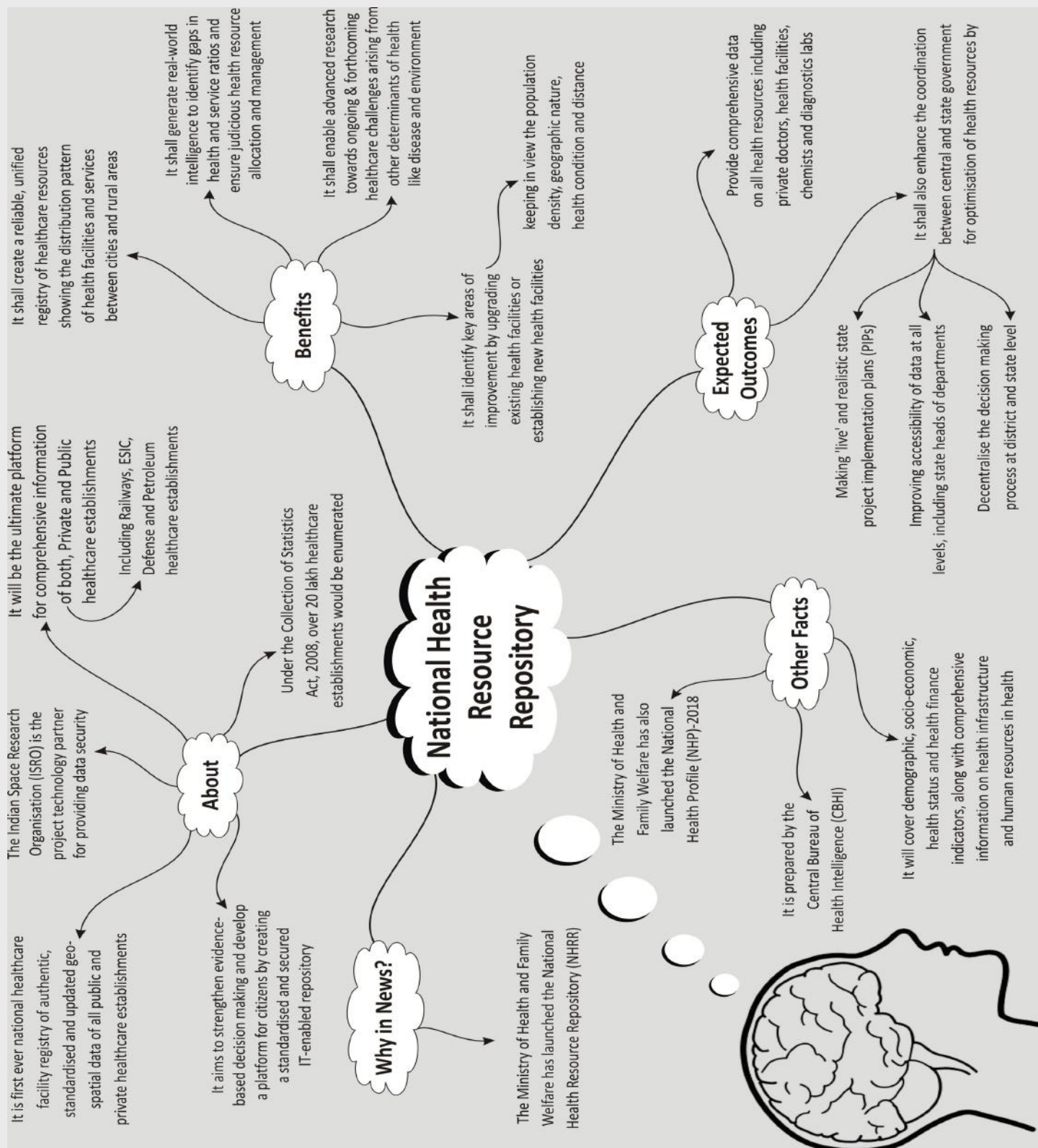
NASA has revealed its plan to protect Earth from asteroids that could wipe out entire continents. The world needs better ways of spotting the asteroids and then swatting them out of our way. It outlines five strategic goals for reducing the risk of an impact. It includes:

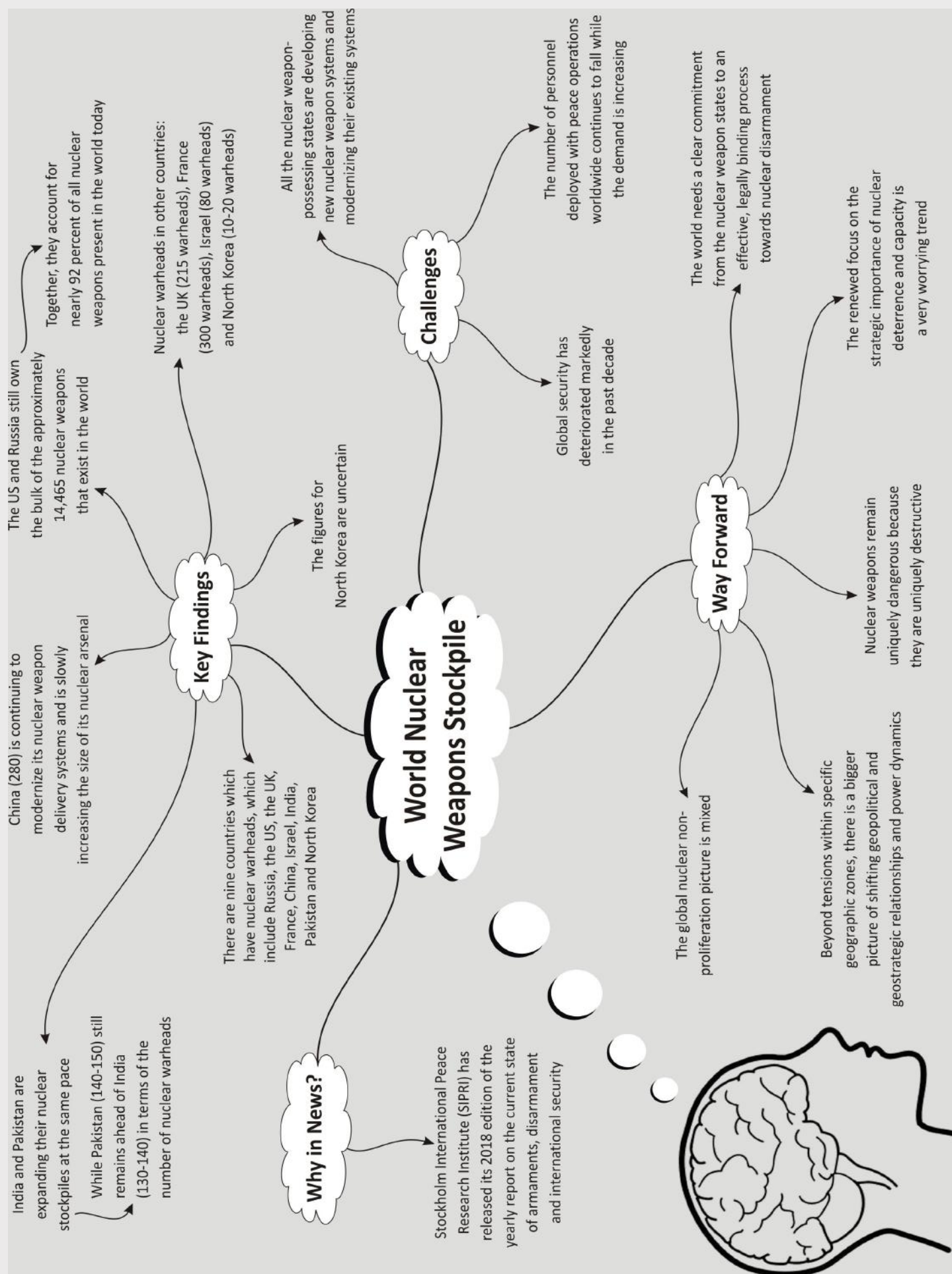
- Enhance NEO detection, tracking and characterization capabilities.

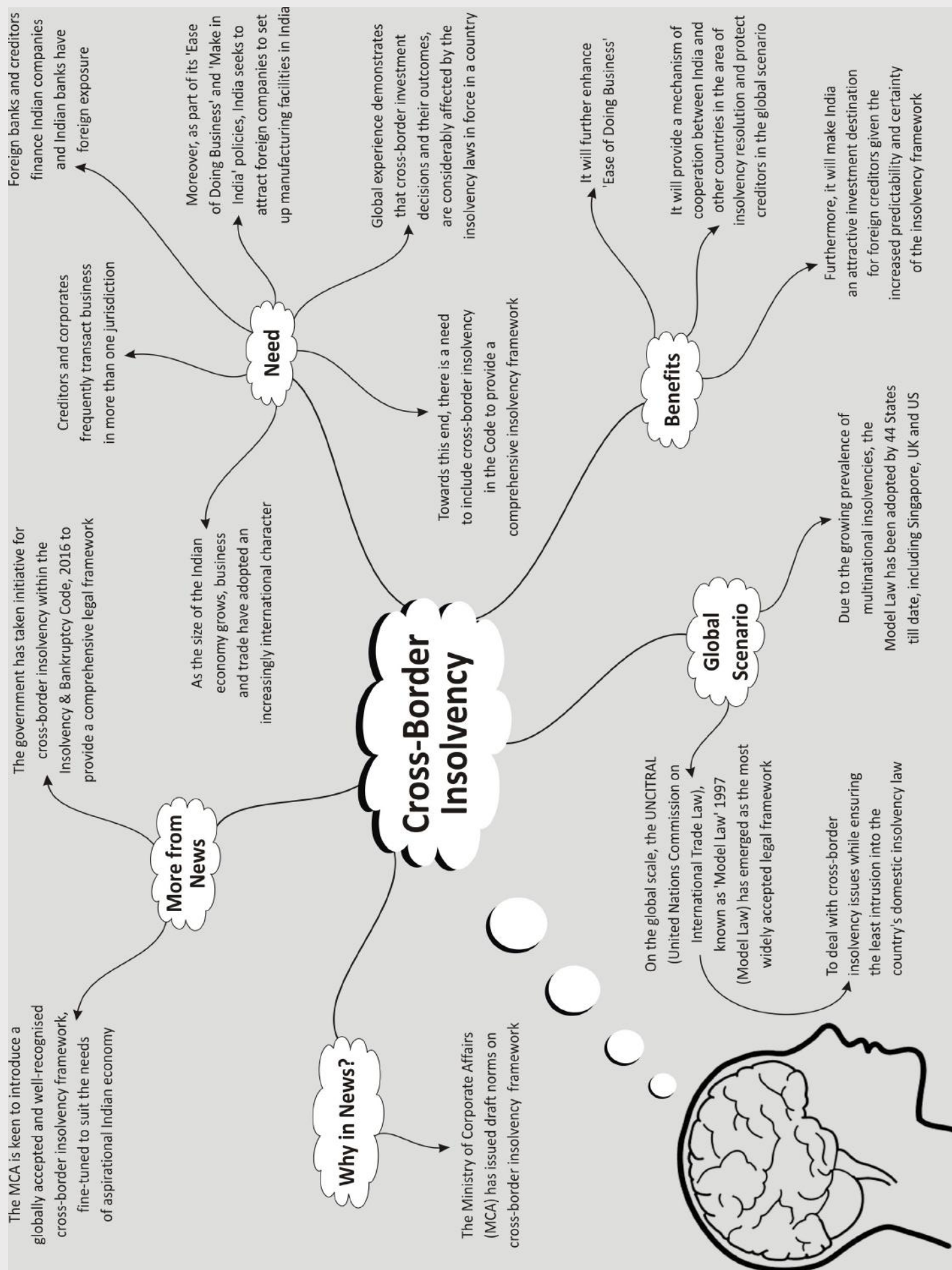
- Improve NEO modeling prediction and information integration.
 - Develop technologies for NEO deflection and disruption missions.
 - Increase international cooperation on NEO preparation.
 - Establish NEO impact emergency procedures and action protocols.
- Asteroid hunting astronomers

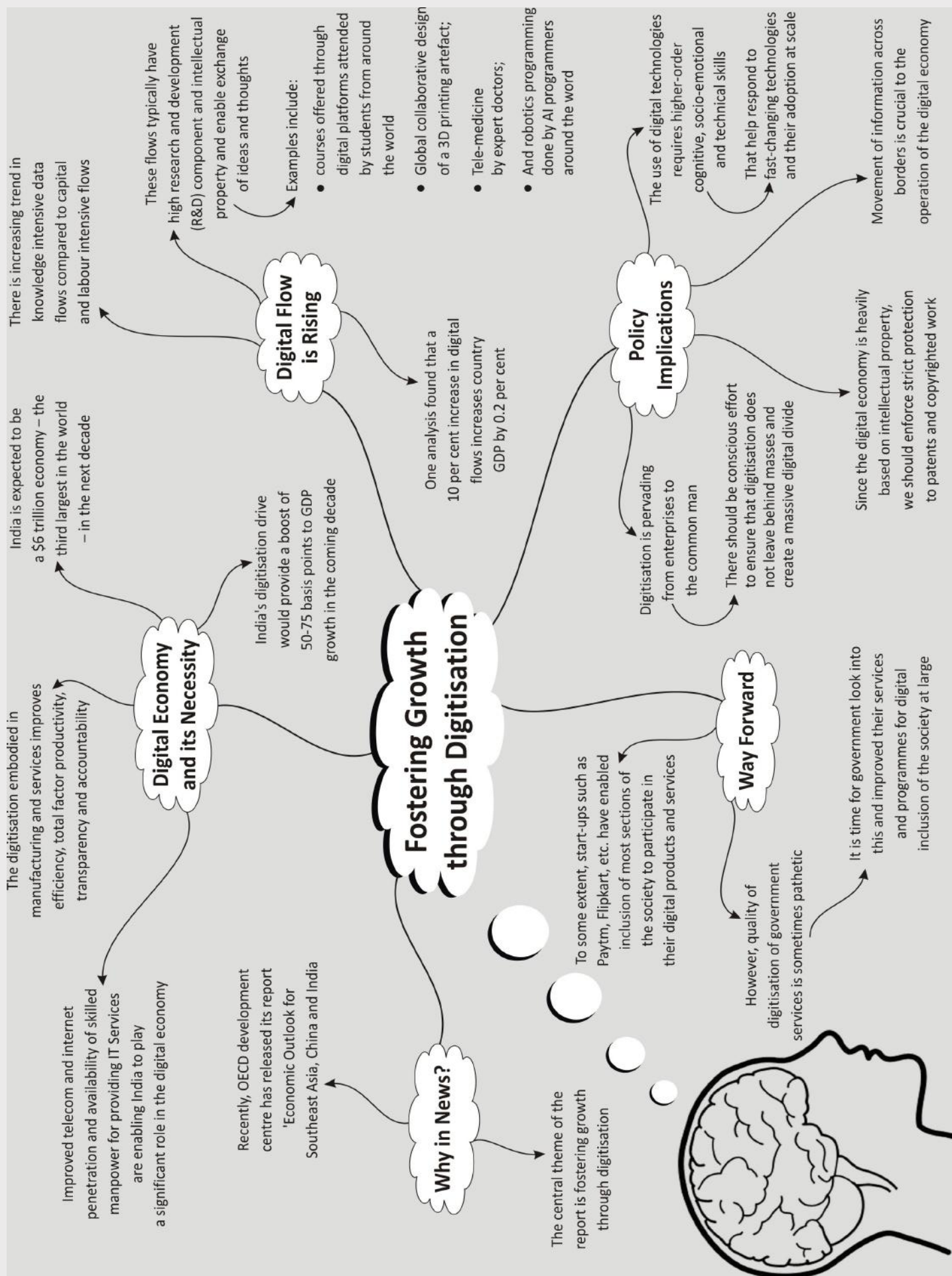
have already found more than 8,000 near-Earth objects measuring at least 460 feet (140 meters) across — large enough to cause potential risk. Smaller asteroid impacts may be less catastrophic, but they can still cause significant damage. ■

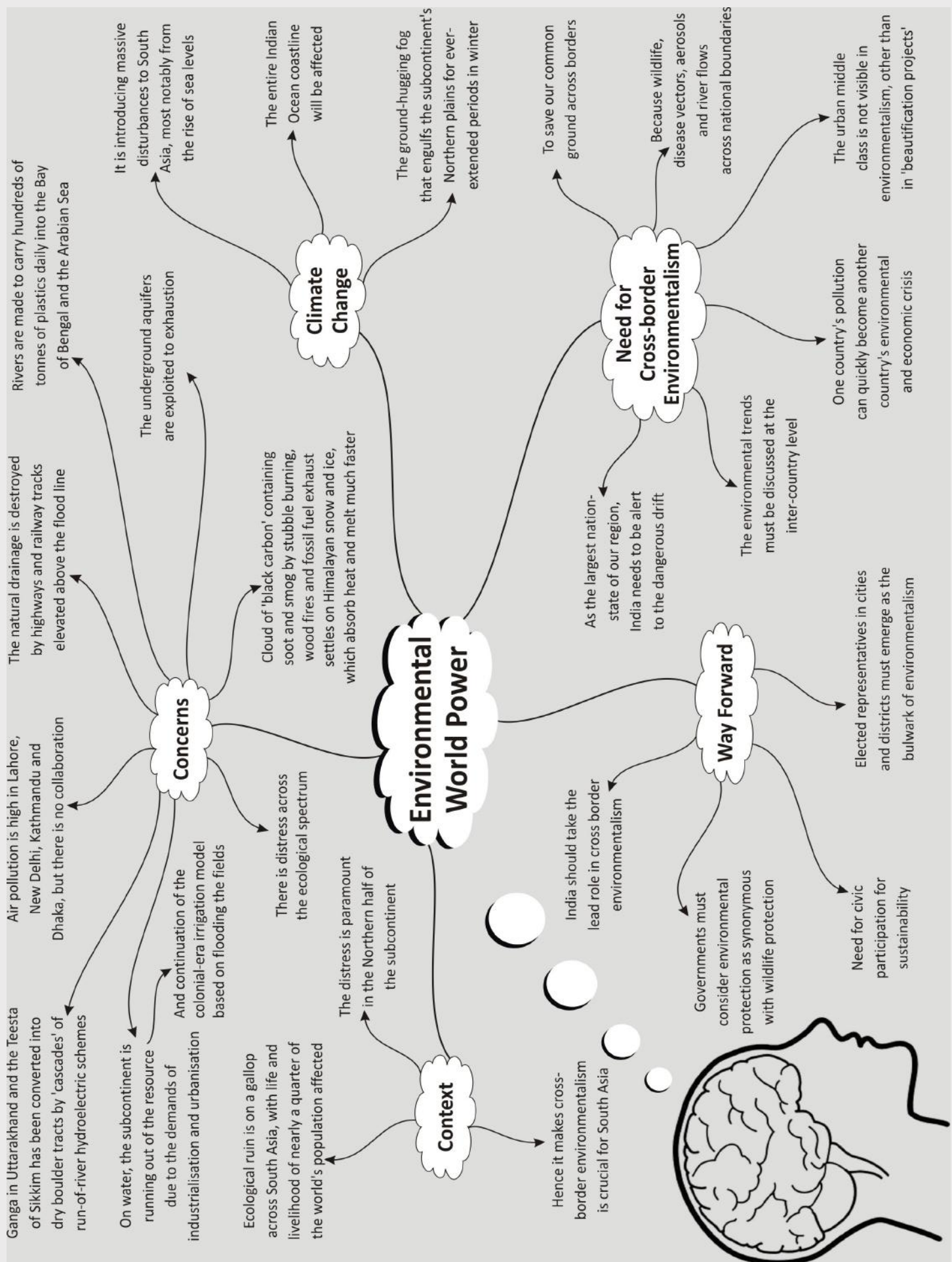
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

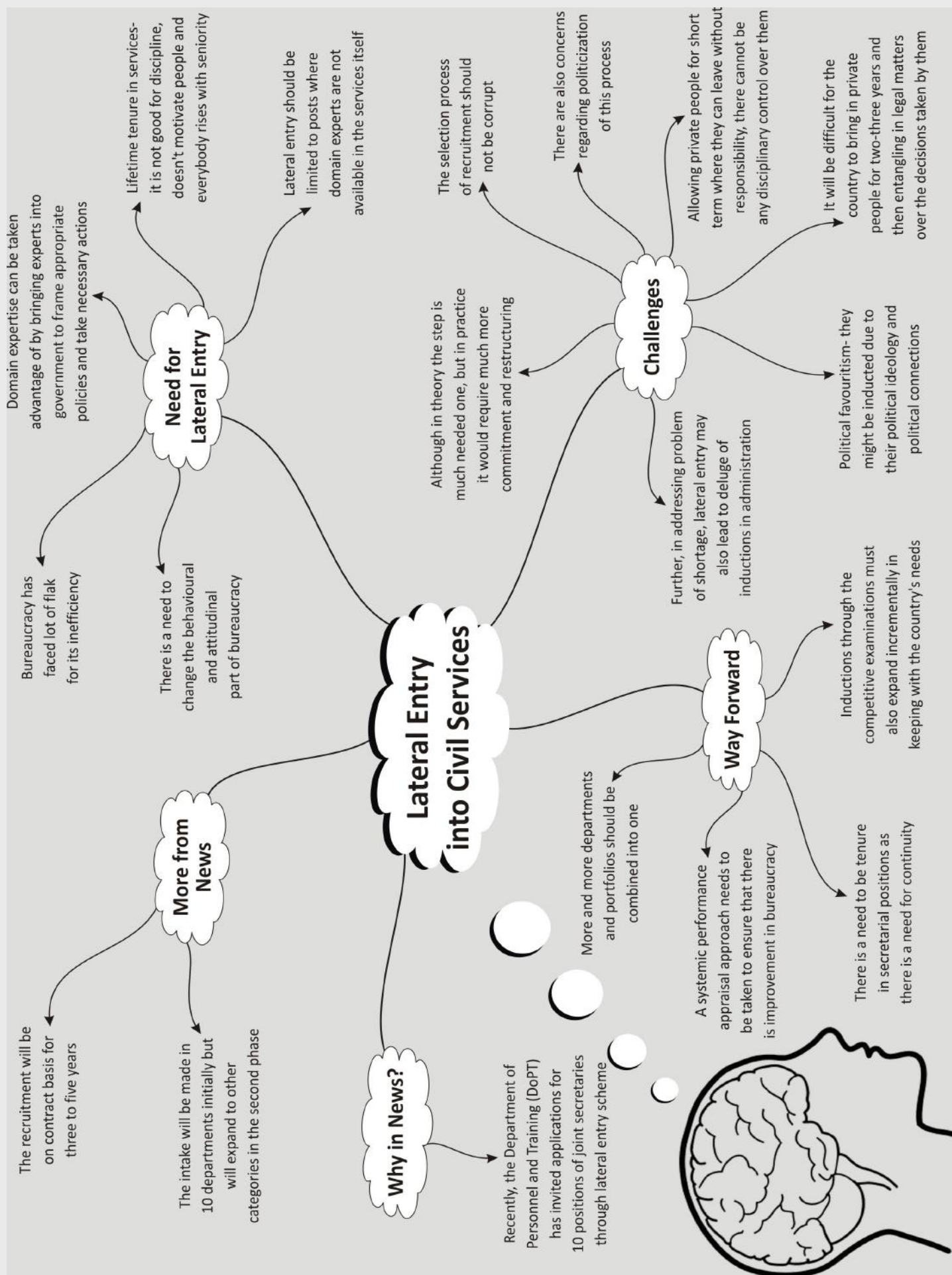


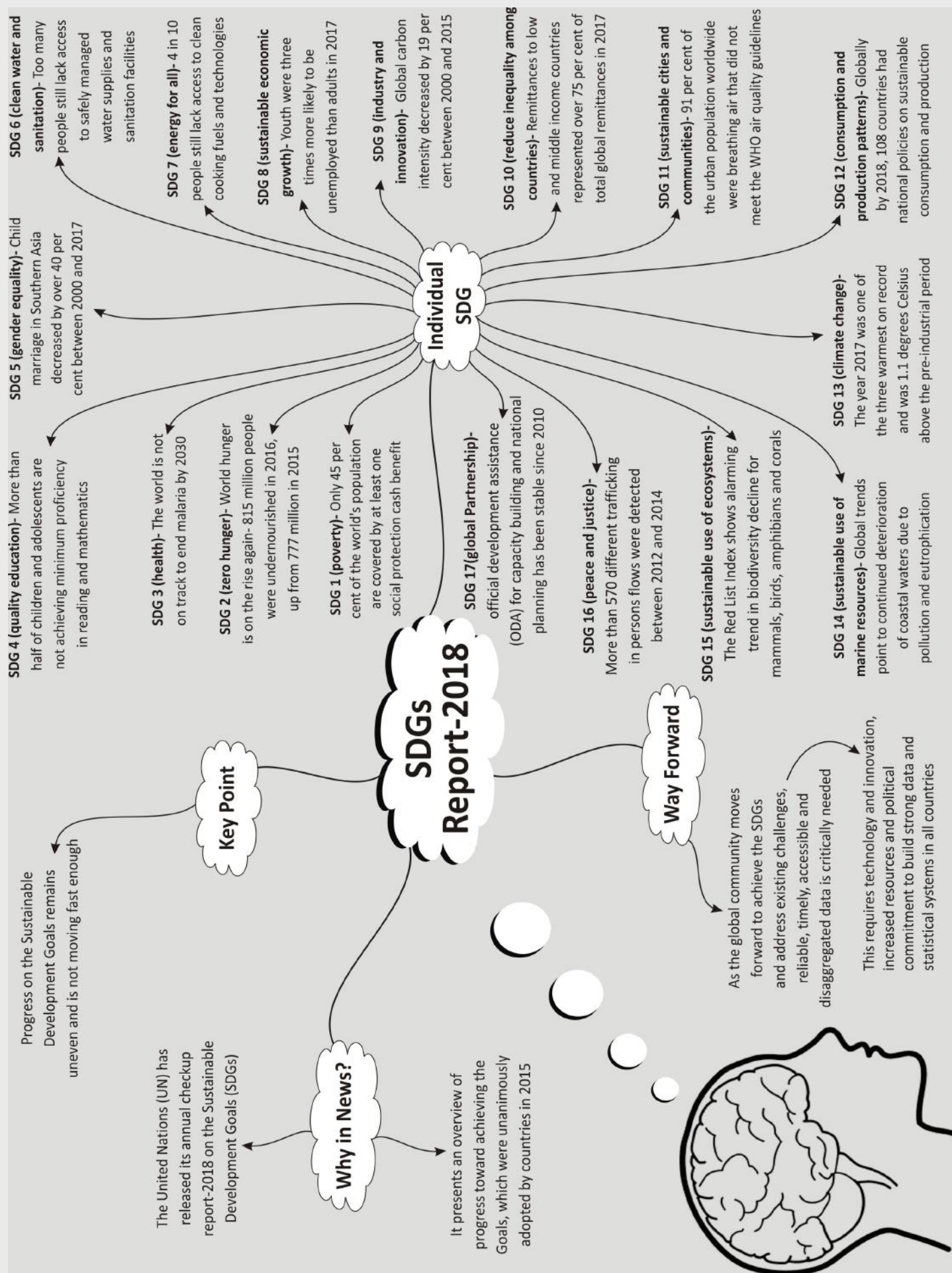












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

National Health Resource Repository

Q1. With reference to the 'National Health Resource Repository', consider the following statements:

1. It aims to develop a platform for citizens by creating a robust, standardized and secured Information Technology (IT)-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.
2. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner for providing data security.

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 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR), the first ever registry in the country registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner for providing data security.

World Nuclear Weapons Stockpile

Q2. Recently Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its 2018 edition on the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. There are ten countries which have nuclear warheads.
2. The US and Russia still constitute nearly 95% of all nuclear weapons that exist in the world.
3. India and Pakistan are expanding their nuclear stockpiles, while Pakistan still remains ahead of India in terms of the number of nuclear warheads.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are not correct.

There are nine countries which have nuclear warheads. They include Russia, the US, the UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. The US and Russia still constitute a major share of approximately 14,465 nuclear weapons that exist in the world. Both together account for nearly 92% of all nuclear weapons.

Statement 3 is correct. The two South Asian neighbors and traditional rivals India and Pakistan are expanding their nuclear stockpiles at the same pace, while Pakistan still remains ahead of India in terms of the number of nuclear warheads.

Cross-Border Insolvency

Q3. With reference to the cross border insolvency framework, consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft norms on cross-border insolvency framework.
2. It will provide a mechanism of cooperation between India and other countries in the area of insolvency resolution and protect creditors in the global scenario.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. In order to strengthen the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs released a draft on cross-border insolvency that would help banks access overseas assets of a company undergoing resolution. The draft favours adoption of the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws) model on dealing with cross-border insolvency.

Statement 2 is correct. The inclusion of the cross-border insolvency framework will further enhance 'ease of doing business' rank, provide a mechanism of cooperation between India and other countries in the area of insolvency resolution and protect creditors in the global scenario.

Fostering Growth Through Digitisation

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India':

1. It is flagship report of World Bank, on regional economic growth, development and regional integration in Emerging Asia.
2. According to the report, improved telecom and internet penetration, availability of skilled manpower are enabling India to play a significant role in the digital economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. The central theme of the recent report on 'Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India', released by OECD development centre, is fostering growth through digitisation.

Statement 2 is correct. According to the report, improved telecom and Internet penetration, availability of skilled manpower for providing IT services, entrepreneurship exhibited in building ICT start-ups, along with government embracing ICT in its operations and services are enabling India to play a significant role in the digital economy.

Environmental World Power

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Brown cloud is made up of 'black carbon' containing soot and smog sent up by stubble burning, wood fires, fossil fuel exhaust, as well as dust kicked up by agriculture, vehicles and wind.
2. India was the global host country to mark World Environment Day-2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both Statements are correct. Brown cloud is made up of 'black carbon' containing soot and smog sent up by stubble burning, wood fires, smokestacks and fossil fuel exhaust, as well as dust kicked up by winter agriculture, vehicles and wind. It rises up over the plains and some of it settles on Himalayan snow and ice, which absorb heat and melt that much faster. India was the global host country to mark World Environment Day-2018.

Lateral Entry into Civil Services

Q6. With reference to the lateral entry into civil services, consider the following statements:

1. Lateral entry has been used in the past to harness top talent from outside the civil services.
2. In 2005, the second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) recommended an institutionalized, transparent process for lateral entry at both the Central and state levels.

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. Lateral entry has been used in the past to harness top talent from outside the civil services. Examples are former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Arvind Subramanian and Raghuram Rajan.

While the first Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), in 1965 and the second ARC, in 2005, had recommended an institutionalized, transparent process for lateral entry at both the Central and state levels.

SDGs Report- 2018

Q7. Recently the United Nations (UN) has released its annual checkup report-2018 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals is moving fast enough to meet the ambitious 17 goals.
2. The world is on track to end malaria by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Both statements are not correct. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals remains uneven and is not moving fast enough to meet the ambitious 17 goals on poverty, health and equality by 2030. For the first time in more than a decade, there are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.

The world has spent decades fighting to eradicate malaria and has formally committed to doing so by 2030. But despite the remarkable progress that has been made, the emergence of insecticide-resistant mosquitoes and drug-resistant strains of the disease itself show that much work remains to be done.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Which country will host the 2018 ICC Women's World T20 tournament?

–West Indies

2. Who was crowned as the India's first Tribal Queen?

–Pallavi Durua

3. The Sindhu Darshan Mahotsav is celebrated at which place?

–Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir)

4. Which country's researchers developed the world's smallest computer "Michigan Micro Mote"?

–United States

5. The Government has launched the Mohanpura Irrigation Project in which state?

–Madhya Pradesh

6. Which state launched the Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) for farmers?

–Gujarat

7. Who was crowned as the Femina Miss India World 2018?

–Anukreethy Vas

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SEVEN PERFECT QUOTES

(IMPORTANT FOR ESSAY AND ANSWER WRITING)

"Without your involvement you can't succeed. With your involvement you can't fail."

—APJ Abdul Kalam

"One of the most difficult things is not to change society — but to change yourself."

—Nelson Mandela

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

—Mother Teresa

"When you're testing to see how deep water is, never use two feet."

—Benjamin Franklin

"Doubt everything. Find your own light."

—Gautama Buddha

"Poverty is not just a lack of money; it is not having the capability to realize one's full potential as a human being."

—Amartya Sen

"Looking at small advantages prevents great affairs from being accomplished."

—Confucius

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SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM

Answer each of the following questions in 200 words:

- Q1. The challenge for the 15th Finance Commission is to strike a balance between those who need and those who perform. Discuss it in the light of the concerns of Northeastern states of India.
- Q2. As Nepal walks tightrope between India and China, India must focus on delivering on its own commitments to Kathmandu. Discuss.
- Q3. Despite the increase in per capita income levels over time, the problem of malnutrition persists in India. Comment.
- Q4. What is “Billion Tree Tsunami (BTT)”? Discuss how it holds many lessons which can be incorporated in other such environmental protection programmes.
- Q5. Bangladesh capital’s transformation of the water services sector, that connects the urban poor to the piped network, has lessons for cities in India. Discuss.
- Q6. Discuss how the recently released draft on cross-border insolvency will ensure an effective resolution mechanism in place for cross-border insolvency.
- Q7. Moving forward on the path to electrifying mobility is a complex issue and requires all stakeholders to work together. Discuss the road map for electric vehicles in India.

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AN INTRODUCTION

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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 vastly different from academic examination and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here one single move may invariably put one ahead of many others who lag behind. Dhyeya IAS is manned with qualified & experienced faculties besides especially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

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