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SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

I. CO-OPERATIVE BANKS TURNING INTO SMALL FINANCE LENDERS

Why in News?

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow urban co-operative banks (UCB) to convert into small finance banks (SFB), a move aimed at bringing these entities into mainstream banking. Such a move will give UCBs flexibility to open branches, which is currently confined to a limited geography.

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi once said: 'Suppose I have come by a fair amount of wealth – either by way of legacy, or by means of trade and industry – I must know that all that wealth does not belong to me; what belongs to me is the right to an honourable livelihood, no better than that enjoyed by millions of others. The rest of my wealth belongs to the community and must be used for the welfare of the community'. This forms the essence of the co-operative movement which is based on the same principles of community camaraderie, mutual help, democratic decision making and open membership.

A high powered committee on UCB, chaired by former RBI Deputy Governor R. Gandhi, had recommended the voluntary conversion of large multi-state UCBs into joint stock companies as also other UCBs, which meet certain criteria, into small finance banks. Co-operatives, which have often been plagued, by fragile financial health, on the whole, portrayed a sanguine picture in the financial results of the latest year. Following on-going

consolidation efforts, urban co-operative banks exhibited expansion in balance sheet size and recorded improved profitability. Developments in the rural co-operative sector ensured a turnaround in the performance of the apex- level long-term rural credit co-operatives while the short-term rural credit co-operatives continued to exhibit improved performance.

Financial Intermediaries in India

Money needs to be circulated for an economy to be productive. If all savings are hoarded, the surpluses of the community will not be available for investments and this in turn would lead to economic stagnation. Financial intermediaries play an important economic function by facilitating a productive use of the community's surplus money. There are various types of financial intermediaries and their structure comprises of both organized and unorganized sectors. The dominance in terms of financial flows handled by these sectors differs from country to country.

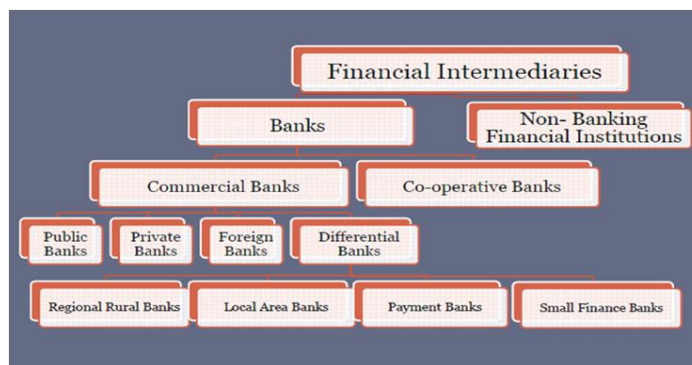
Evolution of the Urban Bank Sector

The main principle of co-operation is: "One for all, all for one". An organisation framed on the principle of co-operation is called a co-operative. A co-operative is a voluntary organisation of people who come together with the objective of mutual co-operation. The nature of this organisation is socioeconomic. The world's famous philosopher Plato has said, "One's own betterment is included in the betterment of others." Similarly Stigman has said, "Leaving all kinds of competitions and removing all mediators in the distribution and production is co-operation."

Although, India is considered to have one of the oldest community-banking movements in the world with UCBs starting way back in 1889, the real growth picked up after this sector was brought under the purview of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act in 1966. The evolution may be broadly divided into three phases - the growth phase, crisis phase and consolidation phase.

Growth Phase (1966-2003): In 1966, there were about 1100 UCBs

with deposits and advances of Rs. 1.67 billion and Rs. 1.53 billion respectively. The Reserve Bank pursued a liberal licensing policy, especially pursuant to the recommendations



of the Marathe Committee, which suggested dispensing the 'one-district, one-bank' approach. This shifted the stance of the policy to assess the 'need and potential' in an area for mobilising deposits and purveying of credit for a new UCB. In 1993, before the liberalisation of the bank licensing policy, there were 1311 UCBs having deposits and advances of Rs. 111.08 billion and Rs. 87.13 billion, respectively, which increased to 1926 UCBs with deposits and advances of Rs. 1020.74 billion and Rs. 649.74 billion, respectively by end-March, 2004. This is because after the liberalisation of licensing norms in May 1993, 823 bank licences were issued up to June 2001.

Crisis Phase (2003-2008):

However, it was observed that nearly one-third of the newly licensed UCBs became financially unsound within a short period. In the light of the experience and the prevailing financial health of the UCB sector after the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank episode, it was announced in the Annual Policy Statement 2004-05 that the Reserve Bank would consider issuance of fresh licences only after a comprehensive policy on UCBs, including an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the sector, was put in place. No fresh licences have been issued thereafter for setting up new UCBs, although the existing applications received from unlicensed UCBs were disposed of.

The RBI introduced the Graded Supervisory Action (GSA) framework in 2003 in lieu of classification of UCBs into Weak and Sick UCBs. Accordingly, UCBs were classified into four grades - Grade I, II, III and IV depending on their financial conditions. GSA envisaged supervisory measures to be taken with respect to UCBs classified in Grade III and IV when certain levels of Capital to Risky Asset Ratio (CRAR), net Non-performing Assets (NPA), profitability or default in Cash Reserve Ratio /

Statutory Liquid Ratio (CRR / SLR) were breached. UCBs were subjected to supervisory action such as prohibition from expansion of area of Operation, Opening new branches, prescribing lower exposure

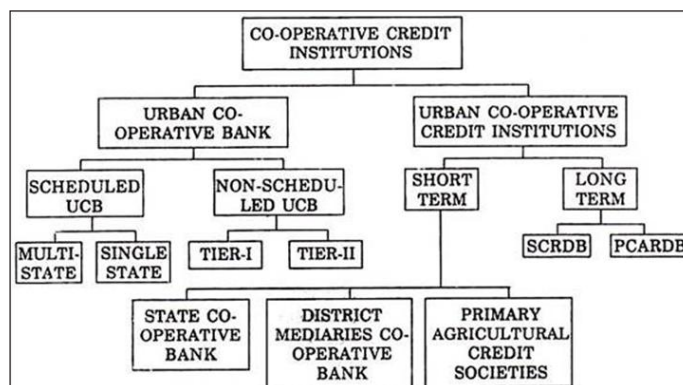
limits and restrictions on dividend based on this classification. With the introduction of Rating Model, GSA was replaced by Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) in 2012 wherein supervisory action was initiated based on various trigger points such as CRAR, gross NPA, Credit-Deposit Ratio (CD) ratio, profitability and concentration of deposits. SAF was reviewed and modified in 2014 by advancing the trigger points for imposing directions and cancellation of licence.

Consolidation Phase (2008 onwards):

As a result of the new initiatives and sustained efforts by RBI, the number of financially weak banks in the UCB sector declined. Further, due to consolidation in the sector on account of closure and merger, the number of UCBs came down from 1770 as at end-March 2008 to 1589 as on March 31, 2014 and further to 1579 by end-March 2015. However, the deposits and advances of urban banks increased from Rs. 1398.71 billion and Rs. 904.44 billion as of end-March 2008 to Rs. 3155.03 billion and Rs. 1996.51 billion, respectively, as on end-March 2014. Incidentally, mergers of as many as 119 UCBs have been effected till date after 2005.

Structure of Cooperative Banking in India

Credit co-operatives, comprising of urban co-operative banks (UCBs) and rural co-operative credit institutions were formed as exclusive institutions to meet specific developmental



objectives embodied in the extension of formal financial services to villages and small towns in India. Their geographic and demographic outreach plays a pivotal role in credit delivery and inclusiveness in the financial system. Yet their share is relatively small in the bank-dominated Indian financial system.

Small Finance Bank

The objectives of setting up of small finance banks will be to further financial inclusion by provision of savings vehicles, and supply of credit to small business units; small and marginal farmers; micro and small industries; and other unorganised sector entities, through high technology-low cost operations.

Scope of Activities

- The small finance bank shall primarily undertake basic banking activities of acceptance of deposits and lending to unserved and underserved sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.
- There will not be any restriction in the area of operations of small finance banks.

RBI Committee for UCBs

The Reserve Bank of India setup high powered committee on Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). The Committee, during deliberations on the specific terms of reference also had occasion to discuss some issues that have relevance to the sector but did not pursue them in detail both because they were not specifically relevant to the aspects that the committee was looking into and also because that

PAYMENT BANKS AND SMALL FINANCE BANKS

Point of Difference	Small Finance Banks	Payment Banks
Acceptance of deposits	Can accept all types of deposits	Can only accept demand deposits
Lending activity	have to lend 75 % of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to Priority Sector Lending (PSL) areas	Cannot undertake lending activities
Target customers	Unserved and under-served section of society	Migrant labour workforce and low income households
Future growth and evolution	Can evolve into universal banks after five years at the discretion of RBI	Not explicitly mentioned

would have delayed the conclusion of the report. The committee therefore has not dealt with these in this report but feels it necessary to highlight them so that they can be taken forward in an appropriate manner and time as determined by the bank. These are:

(i) Role of RBI: At present, no powers are available with RBI for constituting boards of UCBs, removal of directors, supersession of BoD, auditing of UCBs and winding up and liquidation of UCBs. However, such powers for commercial banks are vested with RBI. In addition to these, the Committee identified and deliberated in detail on the problems and issues afflicting the sector including restricted ability of UCBs to raise capital resources and to handle risks, lack of RBI's powers for supervision and regulation of UCBs at par with commercial banks, lack of powers for compulsory/voluntary mergers etc. apart from the basic fault lines in the structure of the urban co-operative banking sector

(ii) Resolution Mechanism: The resolution regime for UCBs exists in a rudimentary form in as much as it ensures pay-outs to small depositors by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) while large depositors' interests are not taken care of fully in the event of cancellation of

the licence of a bank. As belated action accentuates problems of resolution, any prompt corrective action framework should require supervisory action at the initial stages. It is necessary to start with the requirement that UCBs need to frame their recovery and resolution plans within the current legal framework when they are operating on sound lines. The possibility of winding up the banking business of UCBs by RBI directly by appointing DICGC as the liquidator for liquidating the banking business of a UCB may also be explored.

(iii) Umbrella Organisation: The concept of having an "Umbrella Organization" for UCBs in India has been mooted for a long time. In fact the Malegam Committee deliberated on the issue in detail. Some of the members referred to the structure of 'Rabobank' running successfully abroad. The Committee feels that a prerequisite for such successful a umbrella organisation is inherently sound and well-run member institutions. However, the question remains whether the Rabobank kind of model is possible under existing laws in India. Thus, although such a structure has long been envisaged, certain legal hurdles are precluding its implementation.

Reasons for Allowing Conversion of UCB into Joint Stock Bank

Though UCBs were set-up as small banks offering banking services to people of small means belonging to lower and middle classes, the Committee notes that there is an immediate need to chart a future path for the UCBs including a well laid out transition path to convert themselves into universal/niche commercial banks. This transition is required due to the changing financial landscape in the country and also for giving an opportunity to well-run UCBs to play a major role going forward. The Committee deliberated on the following reasons to provide a transition avenue to UCBs and considered the desirability of converting UCBs into joint stock banks:

i) Aspirations of large UCBs: A UCB being a self-help and mutual benefit organisation, in-depth knowledge about its members and business is the cornerstone of the edifice. UCBs are large in numbers, but have a very small market share (about 3%). There were severe restrictions on the expansion of their area of operations. In fact there are 51 Multi state UCBs (including Salary Earners Bank) as on date. With such phenomenal growth, the aspirations of UCBs have also grown and some of them have already expressed a desire to convert to commercial banks.

ii) Conflict of interest: A licence to carry on the banking business under the provisions of the BR Act provides UCBs unlimited access to public deposits for the benefit of their members. With limited liabilities of members (shareholders) restricted to membership shares, the owners become the users of resources, predominantly contributed by non-members (members of the public),

leading to a conflict of interest that needs to be moderated through regulation and supervision.

iii) Decline in co-operativeness: In this connection, a study was conducted by RBI on co-operativeness of co-operative banks which found that the co-operative character of the banks is on a decline as evident from low attendance in AGMs, restrictive practices in admitting new members, low voting turnouts for elections to new managements, re-election of the same management or their family members, unanimous elections and lack of meaningful discussions in AGMs. Thus the UCBs are losing their co-operative character.

iv) Regulatory arbitrage: UCBs are currently regulated under the less stringent Basel I norms as opposed to Basel II and III norms applicable to commercial banks. Regulatory arbitrage may create incentives for large Multi State (MS)-UCBs to have greater leverage. At the same time, applying these stringent norms may render many of the small UCBs short of capital and with limited avenues to raise capital, they may become unsustainable. Equally, if they are working in the co-operative fold and remain within a reasonable size, such stringent norms may not be necessary either.

v) Limited resolution powers of RBI: It may be recalled that failure of the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. (MMCB) in 2001, caused severe damage to the sector. Nevertheless, the bank had to be kept alive for a decade before cancellation of its licence on June 4, 2012, as Reserve Bank does not have full powers for resolution of issues that deal with UCBs. It has no powers for moratorium, amalgamation, supersession and liquidation and in the absence

Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions

The Committee examined the various issues, took the opinion of banks, federations and other stakeholders and makes the following recommendations:

Business Size and Conversion of MS-UCBs into joint stock banks: The Committee feels that a business size of Rs. 20,000 crore or more may be the threshold limit beyond which a UCB may be expected to convert to a commercial bank.

Conversion of other UCBs into SFBs: As per the Committee smaller UCBs voluntarily willing to convert to SFBs can do so irrespective of the threshold limit provided they fulfil all the eligibility criteria and selection process prescribed by RBI and further provided that the small finance banks licensing window is open.

Issue of fresh licences: The Committee unanimously recommends that licenses may be issued to financially sound and well-managed co-operative credit societies having a minimum track record of 5 years which satisfy the regulatory prescriptions set by RBI as licensing conditions. With regard to the concern of providing banking access in unbanked areas, the Committee recommends that RBI may put in place an appropriate set of incentives for existing banks to open branches there.

Board of Management in addition to Board of Directors: The Committee recommends that the concept of BoM put forward by the Malegam Committee has to be one of the mandatory licensing conditions for issuing licenses to new UCBs and in the expansion of existing UCBs.

Entry Point Norms: The Committee also feels that licenses may be issued to well-managed co-operative credit societies which satisfy the following capital requirements:

- To operate as a Multi State UCB- Rs. 100 crore
- To operate beyond two districts and as a state level UCB - Rs. 50 crore
- To operate as district level UCB (upto 2 districts) - Rs. 25 crore
- In case of conversion of co-operative credit societies in unbanked areas and in the North-East, suitable relaxations may be made by RBI.

Depositors as voting members: It was concluded that depositors ought to have a say on the boards of UCBs. For this, a majority of the board's seats be reserved for depositors by making suitable provisions in the bye-laws.

of resolution powers at par with commercial banks, RBI faces constraints when these banks grow.

vi) Capital structure: The capital of UCBs (including MS-UCBs) consists of membership shares and statutory and other reserves (profits ploughed back in the business). The membership shares do not have all the attributes of equity and more importantly 'permanency / perpetuity'. Thus, the availability of capital to cover the losses on a going concern basis is doubtful. Therefore, conversion of large MS-UCBs into joint stock companies could be a way out.

vii) Opportunities for growth: Some of the MS-UCBs are very large vis-a-vis their peers and are comparable to some of the old private sector banks in terms of size and spread.

Though this could be justified in view of softer regulation for UCBs and the constrained legislative framework, large MS-UCBs, which are willing to accept regulations on par with commercial banks, conversion could be an option for carrying on full-scale banking.

Criticism on Conversion of UCBs

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are organised based on the principles of cooperation. UCBs are perceived as banks for people of small means. They cater to the financial needs of local communities and serve the lower and middle strata of population in urban and semi-urban areas, within a limited geographical boundary.

While the UCBs are organized based on the principles of cooperation and are members driven institutions, the Local Area Banks (LABs)/small

banks are set up as corporate entities. It could also, however, be argued that the conversion of UCBs into LABs might dilute the founding principle based on which they were created.

- Firstly, the UCBs are organised on the cooperative principles. These principles would be lost in conversion into a LAB. Moreover, a financial system needs a variety of institutions which enhances stability. Easy conversion of UCBs into LABs or small banks would adversely affect the spirit of cooperation and reduce the diversity in the financial system.
- Secondly, the LAB would work on more commercial consideration and would tend to overlook people of small means and lend on more commercial lines to achieve economies of scale. The focus of

lending of the UCBs, therefore, faces the risk of shifting away from the present clientele of small traders, small businesses to retail loans for vehicle, housing loans and personal loans.

The debate on whether we need small number of large banks or large number of small banks to promote financial inclusion. Small local banks with geographical limitations play an important role in the supply of credit to small enterprises and agriculture. While small banks have the potential for financial inclusion, performance of these banks in India (LABs and UCBs) has not been satisfactory. If small banks are to be preferred, the issues relating to their size, numbers, capital requirements, exposure norms, regulatory prescriptions and corporate governance need to be suitably addressed.

Way Forward

On the whole, setting up stronger UCBs, with good net worth and strong corporate governance, would facilitate extension of banking services in the regions characterized by poor banking outreach. Some UCBs could convert into LABs/small banks if they meet the required prudential requirements. Such banks, freed from dual control and with better ability to raise capital, may be able to further extend the reach of banking services.

General Studies Paper- III

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



2.TIME TO REVIVE IBSA

Why in News?

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) discussed South-South cooperation during an informal meeting in Pretoria and jointly released the IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation to contribute to greater understanding of development cooperation as a common endeavour of the global South. IBSA events planned for 2018-19 to mark the fifteenth-anniversary of the grouping.

Introduction

IBSA is a unique forum which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges. These countries are purely South-South grouping of like-minded countries and committed to inclusive sustainable development, in pursuit of the well-being for their peoples and those of the developing world.

IBSA was formalised and launched through the adoption of the "Brasilia Declaration" on 6 June 2003. Its creation recognised the necessity of a process of dialogue among developing nations and countries of the South to counter their marginalisation. The principles, norms and values underpinning the IBSA Dialogue Forum are participatory democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and the strengthening of multilateralism.

The forum provides the three countries with a platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in the field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others. India, Brazil and South Africa have called upon the global North to honour its Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments fully, scale up existing resources and commit additional resources to provide the necessary means to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "IBSA

shared histories, understanding and beliefs and developmental experiences, and consequently adheres to the principles of South-South Cooperation (SSC) which have been incorporated in IBSA funded projects. Solidarity and the spirit of sharing are the primary motivations for SSC. IBSA partnership based amongst equals which is guided by principles of respect for national sovereignty; national ownership and independence; equality; non-conditionality; non-interference in domestic affairs; and mutual benefit.

IBSA recognizes, inter-alia, capacity building, skills and technology transfer, food security and industrialisation as key to sustainable development. IBSA is bound together by a shared conviction in the universal values of democracy, plurality, diversity, human rights, rule of law and commitment to sustainable development, inclusivity of all communities and gender and respect for international law. "IBSA

recalls all efforts over the decades to bring about greater solidarity among South-South countries, including the Bandung Conference 1955, NAM 1961, UNCTAD, G-77 grouping, BAPA 1978, Nairobi Declaration 2009."

Cooperation in IBSA is on three fronts:

1. **First**, as a forum for consultation and coordination on global and regional political issues, such as, the reform of the global institutions of political and economic governance, WTO/Doha Development Agenda, climate change, terrorism etc.;
2. **Second**, trilateral collaboration on concrete areas/projects, through fourteen working groups and six People-to-People Forums, for the common benefit of three countries; and
3. **Third**, assisting other developing countries by taking up projects in the latter through IBSA Fund.

The success of IBSA reflects an important demonstration effect. It demonstrates, most vividly, the desirability and feasibility of South-South cooperation beyond the conventional areas of exchange of experts and training. IBSA success in contributing to discourse on global issues also shows the importance of engaging with the countries of the South.

Main Objectives

- To alleviate poverty and hunger in nations of the South.
- To develop best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger by facilitating the execution of replicable and scalable projects in interested countries of the global south.
- To pioneer and lead by example the South-South cooperation agenda.

- To build new partnerships for development.

IBSA keeps an open and flexible structure. IBSA does not have a headquarters or a permanent executive secretariat. At the highest level, it counts on the summits of heads of state and government. numerous summits have been held with IBSA having concluded its first round of summits of Heads of State and Government Summits in 2008.

The Summits have been held as follows:

- 1st IBSA Summit - 13 September 2006 - Brasilia, Brazil
- 2nd IBSA Summit - 17 October, 2007 - Tshwane, South Africa
- 3rd IBSA Summit - 15 October 2008, New Delhi, India
- 4th IBSA Summit - 15 April 2010 - Brasilia, Brazil
- 5th IBSA Summit - 18 October 2011 - Tshwane, South Africa
- 6th IBSA Summit 17 October 2017- Durban, South Africa
- 7th IBSA Summit 2017 - India (New Delhi)

What is South-South Cooperation?

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a broad framework for collaboration among developing countries based on the concept of solidarity that breaks the traditional dichotomy between donors and recipients. The formation of SSC can be traced to the Asian-African Conference that took place in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955 which is also known as the Bandung Conference.

However, the idea of South-South cooperation only started to influence the field of development in the late 1990s. Due to the geographical spectrum, activities are known as South America - Africa (ASA) cooperation as well as, in the Asia-Pacific region, South-South cooperation.

The aim of SSC is to create higher levels of capability and economic

opportunity for both the partners. Capacity building and technology transfer continues to drive SSC in the spirit of solidarity among partner countries. South-South Cooperation serves as a complement to and not as a substitute for North-South cooperation, in supporting the acceleration of the development agenda.

IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation

The declaration calls upon the global North to honour its overseas development aid (ODA) commitments fully, scale up existing resources and commit additional resources to provide the necessary means to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IBSA reiterates the balanced emphasis on the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. IBSA recognises, inter-alia, capacity building, skills and technology transfer, food security and industrialisation as key to sustainable development. They stressed the importance of multilateralism and the need to reform global governance structures in order to make them more inclusive, democratic, representative, transparent and responsive to the needs of the South.

United Nations Reform and Security Council Reform: The IBSA underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the global institutions of political and economic governance. They emphasized that no reform of the United Nations will be complete without a reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC), including an expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, with enhanced participation of developing countries therein, in order to better reflect present day realities and to make it representative, legitimate, efficient and effective.

IBSA FUND

The IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) is a pioneering and flagship programmes of IBSA which was established in March 2004 and became operational in 2006. This initiative of the leaders of IBSA is supported and directed by their governments and managed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU-SSC) hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The main objective of the IBSA Fund is to benefit other developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) countries around the world in partnership with the UN. Each IBSA country contributes US\$ 1 million per annum to the Fund.

Projects have been funded in countries such as Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Cambodia, Haiti, Palestine, LAO PDR and Vietnam and range from promoting food security, health, education, capacity building, rural electrification and many more.

Climate Change: IBSA called upon developed countries to fulfill their commitment to provide necessary (means of implementation) financing, technology transfer and capacity building support to developing countries. They further called for maintaining focus on implementation of existing commitments by developed countries in the pre-2020 period, including the ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

The declaration further stated that the IBSA Fund, managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), has thus far partnered 19 countries from the Global South for implementing 26 projects over the last decade with a cumulative contribution of \$35 million, adding that 62.4 percent of the IBSA Fund has been devoted to least developed countries (LDCs).

IBSA vs. BRICS: India's Options

Over the past few years, IBSA has been overshadowed by BRICS. After South Africa joined BRICS, there have been questions about the relevance of IBSA. China has been successfully

influencing South Africa to ignore IBSA and give more attention to BRICS. With China in the lead, the status of BRICS has risen by becoming a counter to G7. Russia and China have shown greater commitment to BRICS and have expended political capital to develop BRICS grouping to counter the Western hegemony. The New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS has added prestige to this association and promise to democratize global governance institutions, like the World Bank and the IMF.

IBSA, on the other hand, has lagged behind due to lack of interest. However, there is a case to revive IBSA. Both the groupings have different multilateral values. BRICS's main role seems to be a counterbalance of the power axis on the world scene with broader economic and political goals. IBSA is a more appropriate platform for India, South Africa and Brazil and the region than BRICS. It is a more substantive partnership with a real focus on each other. In recent years, the IBSA countries have experienced rapid economic growth rates and are increasingly well integrated into global production networks and have internationalized enterprises. There are various sectors where cooperation can bring significant results. Analysts feel that the potential of IBSA is immense, but it has not lived up to it. There is certainly a need for its revival and India being the largest democracy and economy among the IBSA members can play a vital role in coordinating and planning for IBSA revival.

India's Policy Options

As far as India is concerned, BRICS satisfies only a small part of its international vision. It finds BRICS more as a strong economic grouping suited to address global economic issues and a counterbalance to the global balance of power. BRICS satisfies India's geo-economic objectives to increase the volume of trade and commerce with as many countries as possible. However,

it does not provide enough space for convergence on issues, such as UNSC reforms. Moreover, the China factor also prompts it to believe in the IBSA forum politically as well as for other developmental initiatives, as it provides considerably more autonomy. India should strive for a forum where its strategic space is not shadowed by its neighbourhood giant China. IBSA is the appropriate forum to gain control in world affairs. IBSA provides opportunity to strengthen the democratic bloc and contribute in pushing India's aspiration for a global role. India should consider IBSA as important as BRICS and prioritize it. The distinct multilateral utility of IBSA needs to be identified and pursued. It is significant for India's greater role at the UN Security Council and other global platforms. India, being the largest democracy and economy among the IBSA members, can play a vital role in coordinating and planning for IBSA revival. India should enhance its bilateral relations with Brazil and South Africa, which are also being courted by China. It needs to establish effective maritime and civil aviation connectivity and develop a liberal visa scheme. It can work on an IBSA norm to facilitate business and tourism.

Relevance of IBSA

IBSA Maritime cooperation: Since all the three countries have long coast lines, greater emphasis should be laid on naval and maritime cooperation. They need to formalize agreement for providing naval refuelling and docking facilities to merchant ships and naval assets of member nations. Priority should be given to conduct joint anti-piracy efforts in a coordinated manner in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea while securing sea lanes of commerce. Also, maritime security and theatre awareness exercises should be conducted regularly among IBSA countries.

Counter - Terrorism Efforts: IBSA needs to focus on intelligence

gathering across various continents to deal with the scourge of terrorism. As terror organizations have global reach, common strategies for counter-terrorism efforts could be a new area for cooperation among the IBSA countries.

Defence Cooperation: The IBSA member countries regularly conduct naval exercises in the Indian Ocean. Comparatively, this is missing in BRICS. All five members of the group have hardly held a joint naval exercise, though, Russia and China and South Africa and China have conducted exercises regularly, but they were held in their bilateral capacity not in multilateral capacity. At the next Trilateral Commission meeting of the IBSA in South Africa, for which dates are in the process of finalization, defence cooperation and naval exercise between India, Brazil and South Africa should be placed as one of the agenda of the talks. The maritime exercises have been irregular and had been a low key affair.

Trade Cooperation: The combined intra - trade of the IBSA members stands at 26 billion; by 2018, IBSA members' investments shift towards other developing countries than among themselves. This was an issue of the talks between Prime Minister Modi and South Africa's Jacob Zuma in Brazil. India should try to operationalize trade arrangements between India, South African Customs Union (SACU) and Mercosur.

Technological Collaboration

Agro-energy: In the field of agro-energy, agro-fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel have been identified as areas of collaboration in a number of working groups. But so far, there has not been much impact of IBSA. There is a need to formulate action plan for cooperation on agro fuels in the IBSA forum.

Bio-technology and Genetically Modified crops: Both bio-technology and GMO crops have far reaching

implications in the agriculture sector. IBSA can be utilised for joint collaboration in GM crops.

Challenges

It is often argued that the main challenge confronting the IBSA Trilateral Forum is to maintain its relevance in the wake of the emergence of similar groupings, such as the BRICS. In order to overcome this challenge and keep its relevance, the member states should ensure the following:

1. Work collectively towards ensuring regularity in meetings, both at the heads of state and government level as well as ministerial level. Such regularity is important to maintain the distinctiveness of the forum vis-à-vis other groupings.
2. While continuing to engage with other groupings, the member-states of IBSA should work towards strengthening the trilateral forum by coordinating on issues of global importance, particularly on issues like global governance reform, security and development cooperation.
3. Work collectively towards achieving the mandate of the forum i.e. South-South Cooperation by enhancing their commitments to and expediting the implementation of the commitments at different summits and build onto its many achievements, particularly the MERCOSUR-SACU-India Trilateral FTA.
4. Function as a joint lobby group in other groupings of which they are members, including BRICS, G20 etc.

Conclusion

As is evident, the leaders' of the IBSA Trilateral Forum have collectively worked in different sectors over the years. The three countries in the IBSA Forum, with shared political, economic and development history, bring together wide range of complementary

strengths and capabilities which needs to be effectively harnessed for mutual benefit. IBSA Forum is a unique platform for consultation, coordination and cooperation among the three democratic traditions from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Though the geographical distances separate our three countries, there is much convergence in our world views on sustainable development, clean and healthy living, multilateral trading system, Doha Development Agenda, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Progress can be seen in the effective implementation of the IBSA Fund in both developing and least developing countries and the launch of the IBSA Fellowship Programme which illustrates the success of the IBSA Trilateral Forum.

South-South Cooperation is a key element of the IBSA Forum for promoting economic and social development. In this context, the IBSA Dialogue Forum provides an invaluable framework to further trilateral cooperation among the three countries as well as promote the interests of the developing countries, thus contributing to the strengthening and deepening of South-South Cooperation. As a forum created for South-South cooperation, each member should work towards the early resumption of the summit level meetings and ensure more regularity. The 8th Ministerial Meeting has set the groundwork for IBSA events and to reconvene the summit of the head of the states and governments in India in 2018. The future of IBSA will depend on how the IBSA countries fully capitalise this opportunity to build on the successes achieved to date.

General Studies Paper- II

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



3. GREEN GDP: NATURAL CAPITAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Why in News?

Ecological ruin is on a gallop across South Asia, with life and livelihood of nearly a quarter of the world's population affected. India has the wherewithal to become the environmental beacon of the world given its rich legacy of peaceful coexistence with nature. Starting this year, the government will begin a five-year exercise to compute district-level data of the country's environmental wealth. The numbers will eventually be used to calculate every state's 'green' Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Introduction

A few years ago, India suffered a cost of \$550 billion, about 8.5% of GDP, due to air pollution, according to a World Bank report; the cost of externalities such as water pollution and land degradation were possibly far higher. India's environmental diversity and riches are universally recognised but have never been quantified. Starting this year, the government will begin a five-year exercise to compute district-level data of the country's environmental wealth. The numbers will eventually be used to calculate every State's 'green' Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The metric will help with a range of policy decisions, such as compensation to be paid during land acquisition, calculation of funds required for climate mitigation and so on.

Economic growth and increasing anthropogenic pressure on the environment during recent decades have brought to light the double sided and complex dependence of the economy and the environment. Growth of production outputs created demand for increased consumption of resources and energy and consequently increased the anthropogenic pressure on natural

environment. Simultaneously it could bring more financial resources for environmental protection activities, while increased equity of resource allocation could further improve environmental conditions. On the other hand, the state of natural environment can either boost an economic activity in some specific regions or cause a recession and additional expenses for health protection and cleaning of the environment.

Such complex inter-linkages between the economy and the environment demand the establishment of a comprehensive information system for in-depth analysis and mainstreaming sustainability into decision-making of governments, businesses and general public leading to more sustainable and greener economy.

History of Environmental Accounting in India

The subject of environment, however, is too important to be just ignored because a correct metric could not be found. It is for this reason that the search for alternate measures has gained some momentum. One such alternate measure is the Green GDP. The Green GDP was adopted by economic superpowers like China as early as 2004. A Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES) was developed by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of India in the early 1990s. The Compendium of Environment Statistics is being released since 1997.

As per the recommendations of Technical Working Group on Natural Resource Accounting (NRA) in the later 1990s, a pilot project on NRA in the state of Goa was initiated during 1999-2000. Thereafter, resource accounting studies were carried out in 8 states on different set of natural resources.

Later a Technical Advisory Committee was constituted in the year 2010 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh to bring out a Synthesis Report combining the findings of all these studies. The report recommended the preparation of a National Accounting Matrix that would include environmental accounts. The high powered expert group under Partha Das gupta was constituted subsequently in 2011 with the mandate of developing a framework for green national accounts of India and for preparing a roadmap to implement the framework.

Following the guidance of International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) on the framework for of environmental auditing, the supreme audit institution of India – Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) also conducts environmental audit in India. This process was formalised with the introduction of specialized guidelines {MSO (Audit) 2002} for conduct of environmental audits. This laid down broad guidelines to enable India's auditors to examine whether the auditee institutions gave due regard to the efforts of promulgating sustainability development and environmental concerns, where warranted.

Gross Domestic Product

"Gross domestic product (GDP) includes the monetary value of all goods and services which are produced within the geographical boundaries of a given country in a given time frame".

Notice the defining criteria. Production should have happened within the country's boundaries and within a given time period.

In 2009, the Centre announced that it would publish a "green GDP" that would include the environmental costs of degrading and depleting our forests, grasslands and natural stock. An expert programme, sponsored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released

a Compendium of Environment Statistics-2013.

The group recommended that India shift to a system of measuring comprehensive national wealth, which includes items such as human capital, capital equipment and natural capital. However, implementation of such well-founded recommendations has been constrained by the lack of micro-level data on capital formation, particularly in a natural context.

Green GDP Concept

GDP as a common used indicator of economic growth and a basis for decision-making and state policy elaboration is not intended to measure human well being even if treated so by politicians and governments. GDP deals only with economic output and does not consider other important factors significantly impacting human well being and sustainable economic growth such as the state of the environment.

Under the traditional system of national accounts and traditional methods for calculation of gross domestic product consumption of natural capital and environmental degradation are not taken into account in a proper way. Such green macroeconomic indicators (i.e. environmentally adjusted net national product, environmentally adjusted net domestic product, "Green GDP", eco-domestic product, etc.) were calculated for at least a dozen of countries. However, most of the estimations made were undertaken as research projects but not as official estimations by national statistical authorities. Therefore, the methodological algorithm of the general scheme of the calculation of environmentally adjusted GDP could be presented as follows:

$$\text{Green GDP} = \text{GDP} - (\text{CNR} + \text{ED} + \text{EPE})$$

where,

Green GDP - environmentally adjusted gross domestic product,

GDP- gross domestic product,

CNR- consumption of natural resources (decrease of natural resources stocks),

ED- environmental degradation (environmental harm due to economic activity),

EPE- environmental protection expenditures.

Green GDP takes into consideration the environmental impacts on the productivity of the country. It is derived from GDP itself after adjusting the cost of environmental degradation and pollution damage. In other words, Green GDP equals GDP less natural resource depletion less pollution damage. It is pertinent to note two important things with respect to Green GDP.

- First, it provides us with another perspective on GDP and one that can improve environmental protection and rational resource utilization.
- Secondly, sustainable development is the emphasis on Green GDP and this involves not only our generation, but also all future generations.

The main purposes of Green GDP accounting are to provide a more correct measure of welfare and to examine the sustainability of the economy. Now, Green GDP accounting has become a significant basis to develop and implement the sustainable development strategies in the world.

Relevance of Green GDP

The economic growth is definitely important for preserving the environment. However, there are many other factors impacting environmental performance. Among the factors influencing environmental performance the quality of environmental regulatory regime in place and its enforcement, lack of environmentally harmful subsidies,

following the rule of law, elimination of corruption and strength of state's governing structures appear to be significant.

In turn, environmental regulatory regime and environmental policy should be guided by appropriate indicators, which take into consideration both economic and environmental factors, to ensure the green and sustainable path of country's development and transition to a green economy. Such information framework should be a basis for communication of innovative environmental-economic researches and policy options to decision makers and political leaders and for the education of public

What Green GDP Does Not Include?

The idea of having a national account for wealth accrued over a year is accepted in most major economies. Such national accounts (GDP, net national product and gross savings) provide a measure of an economy's performance and form the basis for socio-economic policies, while highlighting the gap between potential and actual economic output. GDP computations indicate the economic activity in a country, with rising GDP growth rate often leading to international prestige. However, such estimates often exclude the variations in natural capital by assuming them to be constant and indestructible. Such natural capital is often self-generating (water, clean air) but needs to be handled in a sustainable way in order to avoid depletion. When it comes to green accounting, there is a tendency to believe that a monetary value will be put on the natural resources. Just like companies have assets like machines and factories, nations also have assets like mountains, forests, rivers and oceans.

However, assets usually denote private ownership. That is the reason

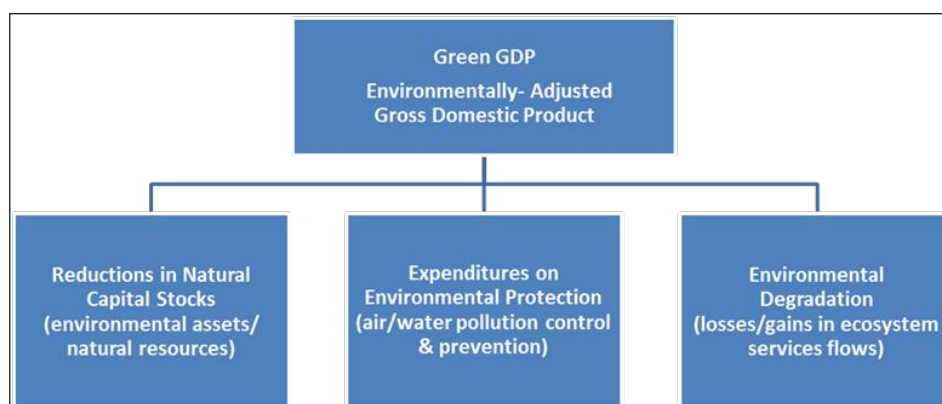
they have value in the first place. In the absence of private ownership, these assets cannot be transferred to other people and hence they would not have any value.

Economic assets like oceans, mountains and forests do not have private ownership. These are public goods that can be enjoyed by everyone at no cost. Hence, valuing these assets and including them in a national balance sheet would not make any sense. Also, on a realistic level it is not possible to count each and every asset and attach a monetary value to it. It must therefore be clear that green GDP is not about building fictitious assets in a country's balance sheet and this is generally excluded from any calculation.

What Does Green GDP Include?

Green GDP includes the services which are provided by the environment. For instance, if any geographical region has a better quality of water than other regions, the people in this region are expected to live healthier and more productive lives. There is a tangible and measurable cost attached to the medical expenses associated with bad water or polluted air. It is therefore possible to set a baseline for the quality of natural resources available in an environment and the benefits that they provide in terms of savings.

Most importantly Green GDP includes a depletion analysis. This is the document which explains the process of depletion of natural resources in an economy. It also explains whether the trend is sustainable or not. This information is valuable to investors who invest based on the natural resources of a country that can be utilized. Depletion of the natural resources would therefore scare investors away maintaining an ecological balance. It must however be noted that depletion analysis is an



information only document. It has no legal backing and the participants are still free to do as they see fit.

Environmental-Economic Accounting

Green GDP is a term used generally for expressing GDP after adjusting for environmental damage. The System of National Accounts (SNA) is an accounting framework for measuring the economic activities of production, consumption and accumulation of wealth in an economy during a period of time. When information on economy's use of the natural environment is integrated into the system of national accounts, it becomes green national accounts or environmental accounting.

The process of environmental accounting involves three steps viz. physical accounting; monetary valuation; and integration with national income/wealth accounts. Physical accounting determines the state of the resources, types and extent (qualitative and quantitative) in spatial and temporal terms. Monetary valuation is done to determine its tangible and intangible components. Thereafter, the net change in natural resources in monetary terms is integrated into the gross domestic product in order to reach the value of Green GDP.

Economic growth is important for human well being and also for the environment as growing income often improves environmental performance of the country. However, more detailed and comprehensive analysis

with consideration of environmental factors should be undertaken to investigate whether economic growth is really accompanied with improving environmental performance or on contrary leads to significant ecological cost of development.

However, even the preliminary estimation of environmental costs of economic growth is very useful for recognizing the current role of natural capital in economic growth and for guiding the transition from extensive economic development pattern to economic growth due to increased efficiency of natural resource consumption. The "Green GDP" cannot yet be directly entered into the system of national accounts. However, the "Green GDP" concept can become a useful tool to assess the environmental and economic policy in the short and long terms, since comparison of environmentally adjusted macroeconomic data and data on final consumption and gross fixed capital formation paves the way for balanced decision making with respect to the sustainability of economic development or conversely for excessive current consumption at the expense of natural resources stocks reduction. And to enhance the development of the "green" economy in the world the consideration of the environmental parameters in the system of macroeconomic indicators should become mandatory and should be a component of a balanced socio-economic and political decision making

process, enhancing its integration with environmental policy.

Why Implement Green GDP?

The major arguments in favor of the Green GDP system that have been cited by researchers and have been accepted by many countries are as follows:

- **Interrelationship between market and nature:** The heart of the Green GDP approach lies in the belief that nature and market are not mutually exclusive variables. In fact both of them have a deep interconnected relationship. Natural resources fuel market growth and excessive market growth has the potential to destroy natural resources. Hence, there is a need to actively manage this relationship between these variables. Also, since measurement is the first step towards management, there is an immediate need for a metric which can measure the relationship between them and summarize it.
- **Comparison across peers and periods:** Countries like China have also stated that Green GDP can be used to make comparisons for the same country across various years or it could be used to compare a country's environmental status with that of another country. The idea is to include reports like depletion analysis in the GDP reports. This will enable analysts to predict even more accurately how the growth of those economies will be affected in the future.
- **Accountability:** Last but not the least it will bring some accountability to government's worldwide. It has become a common practice to ensure that the market system grows while the natural system perishes.

Challenges Facing Green GDP

First of all, a standardized model of green GDP accounting has not yet been achieved, despite many

attempts by researchers. In practice, a green GDP accounting method usually includes five natural resource consumption costs, including arable land, mineral resources, forest, water and fishery resources and two environmental depletion costs, environmental pollution and ecological degradation. However, wherever it has been implemented, the calculating agency has left out one aspect or the other due to lack of available data. The calculations on the future cost of resources are moreover based on well-informed speculations which make it all the more unreliable.

The biggest challenge facing the Green GDP is that of realistic accounting. Since we are essentially measuring the intangible, it is very difficult to estimate the monetary values associated with them. The Green GDP system is not perfect. However, it is developing. While India might have a GDP of \$2.65 trillion in nominal terms, it fails to take into account the externalities of such economic growth. For example, India routinely suffers from high levels of air pollution that impose costs on local transport, health and livability in urban and rural areas. When economic growth leads to the destruction of forests, wetlands and woodlands for agriculture, mining or even urban expansion, it is typically the poorest of the traditional dwellers who suffer. Ecological collapse can soon come, examples being the Darfur region in Sudan and countries in the Horn of Africa. All were subject to rapid socio-economic decline.

Way Ahead

India's annual growth rate of GDP or gross domestic product grew from 7.6% in 2015 to 7.9% in 2016. Going by the general perception, one would believe that a growth in GDP implies a greater availability of goods per capita and hence means greater economic welfare. So, could GDP be synonymous with economic growth or are we just choosing to look at the larger picture?

Since the 1990s, economists all around the world have been deliberating on how to make GDP more inclusive. Born was the concept of Green GDP. It uses the conventional GDP index and deduces the economic costs of environmental pollution and natural resource depletion. Is it going to be a 9% growth that destroys forests, pollutes rivers and displaces livelihoods or is it going to be a 7% growth that protects forests, fosters sustainability and conserves livelihoods? It's high time we ponder over what we will be bequeathing to our future generations.

A few studies have tried to document the ecological services offered by natural capital in India. But we need a 'greater push for empirical studies of the potential value of such ecosystem services'. Adapting our national accounts in line with this framework will help in incorporating the value of the environment in our growth while helping us to focus on developing a feasible transition path to a green economy.

Sustainability has become an important concept in economic growth and development in the world. Sustainable development means the development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Human economy receives its inputs from the natural environment and disposes of its waste to environment; cannot operate without regard for resources and carrying capacity of nature. Sustainable development implies that the use of non-renewable resources should be equally distributed among generations and the use of renewable resources should be to the extent that it does not hamper the capacity of the concerned resource to regenerate itself.

General Studies Paper- III

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



4. MATERNAL MORTALITY IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

India has registered a significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) recording a 22% reduction in such deaths since 2013, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin released on June 7, 2018. The MMR has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016, according to the special bulletin.

Introduction

Reduction of mortality of women is an area of concern for the governments across the globe. The International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 had recommended reduction in maternal mortality by at least 50 percent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and further one half by the year 2015. Verbal Autopsy instruments are administered for the deaths reported under the Sample Registration System (SRS) on a regular basis to yield cause-specific mortality profile in the country. The first report on maternal mortality in India (1997-2003) – Trends, Causes and Risk Factors was released in October, 2006. The present Bulletin, which provides only the levels of maternal mortality for the period 2014-16, is being brought out as a sequel to the previous bulletin (2011-13). With this, the maternal mortality data from SRS is

available for a period of 20 years.

The number of women who die during childbirth in India has come down considerably. With a 22% decline, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has now come down from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016. MMR is the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. Additionally, the report further stated that the decline has been most significant in the Empowered Action Group (EAG) states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh where the ratio came down from 246 to 188.

Census Organization

The office of the Registrar General, India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, apart from conducting population census and monitoring the implementation of registration of births and deaths act in the country, has been giving estimates on fertility and mortality using the Sample Registration System (SRS). SRS is the largest demographic sample survey in the country that among other indicators provide direct estimates of maternal mortality through a nationally representative sample.

Among all the states in the country, Uttar Pradesh has seen the sharpest drop in MMR as from 285 it dropped to 201 deaths per one lakh live births. Along with UP, Assam also recorded a sharp dip in the MMR ratio. However, Assam still remains the state with the highest MMR ratio of 237. Notably, Kerala continued to shine in the new assessment where the SRS recorded an MMR ratio of 46 as against 81 in 2007-09. On a national level, the southern states continued to perform better than the rest where the average recorded MMR is 77, which is close to the country's Sustainable Development Goal of reducing the MMR to 70 by 2030.

India's healthcare services have lagged in this respect in comparison to neighbours like China, Sri Lanka and Maldives. India ranks 129 among 184 nations on maternal mortality

and 145 out of 193 nations on infant mortality, according to the World Bank. Globally, the annual number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births dropped by 44 per cent between 1990 and 2015 — from 385 to 216. The sub-Saharan African region accounted for an estimated 66 per cent (201,000) of global maternal deaths, followed by southern Asia at 22 per cent (66,000 deaths). In fact, only 5 per cent of the world's countries accounted for 59 per cent of the total maternal deaths globally.

What is Maternal Mortality Ratio?

Maternal mortality ratio is an important indicator of development for any nation and as the World Health Organisation puts it, maternal death is the death of a woman while she is pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy.

Complications during childbirth, postpartum bleeding and a lack of access to healthcare facilities are the major causes of death among women of reproductive age in developing countries. In order to understand the maternal mortality situation in the country better and to map the changes that have taken place, specially, at the regional levels, states have been categorized into three groups namely,

- **"Empowered Action Group" (EAG)** states comprising Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand and Assam;
- **"Southern" states** which include Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu;
- **"Other" states** covering the remaining states/UTs as was done in respect of Maternal Mortality Report (1997-2003) and also in the Maternal Mortality Bulletin (2011-2013).

3 Best States

Kerala	46 (61)
Maharashtra	61 (68)
Tamil Nadu	66 (79)

3 Worst States

Assam	237 (300)
UP/U'khand	201 (285)
Rajasthan	199 (244)

India	130 (167)
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MMR per 1 lakh live births
 Figures in bold for 2014-2016
 while in brackets for 2011-2013

It is heartening that the Maternal Mortality Ratio of India has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016. The decline has been most significant in EAG states & Assam from 246 to 188. Among the Southern states, the decline has been from 93 to 77 and in the other states from 115 to 93.

Reducing maternal mortality (improving maternal health) is a Millennium Development goal (MDG. 5). If we compare this MDG to the other equally important MDG of reducing child mortality (MDG. 4) we find a striking contrast. While infant mortality rates (IMR) have been falling steadily in the last few decades.

Role of Women Health and Reproductive Health in women Empowerment

Health is state of complete physical mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity. The health status of women includes their mental & social condition as affected by prevailing norms and attitudes of society in addition to their biological and physiological problems. The causes of maternal mortality are as follows.

- Unwanted, unplanned pregnancies
- Malnutrition high fertility
- Lack of regular medical consult
- Lack of knowledge of health care
- World's 25% of maternal mortality death occur in India & its most of occur in rural area. Nutrition survey in India, indicate that majority of women in India suffer from anemia and other nutrition deficiency.

Infant Mortality: Infant mortality means death of child below 1 year. The factors of infant mortality are age of mother, order birth genetics & environment infant mortality rate decrease over thy year

Child Mortality: Child mortality means death of child before 5 year for 1000 live birth. The child mortality is very high among female as compared to male children

Son Preference: In Indian society

"the birth of a male child is cause for celebration, while the birth of female child is the state of commensuration son is preferred to maintain family's surname and heir to ancestral property. Strong preference for male child is reflecting in health care.

Social Factor of Maternal Death:

Age at marriage, age at child birth, two close pregnancies, family size, poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, ignorance and prejudices lack of maternal service in rural area, shortage of health man power, delivery by untrained dais, poor environmental sanitation por communication and transport facilities, social customs are main social factor.

Preventive and Social Measures

To decrease maternal death following measures must be taken into consideration.

1. Early registration of pregnancy.
2. At least three antenatal checkup before delivery.
3. Dietary supplementation including correction of anemia.
4. Prevention of infection.
5. Prevention of complication hypertension, diabetes and TB.
6. Clean delivery practice.
7. Trained local dais.
8. Institutional delivery.

9. Promotion of family plan.

10. Identification of every maternal death and searching its cause.

Quality of care is not time affected but a continuous process. New approaches such as primary health care are steps in right direction to reduce maternal mortality despite best antenatal care, some women may develop complication without warning signals and require emergency care round the clock maternity hospital for emergency delivery service are equally important.

Women's Rights and Gender Inequalities in Health

The women's political rights variable, takes into account women's right to vote, the right to run for political office, the right to hold elected and appointed government positions, the right to join political parties and the right to petition government officials.

Women's economic rights variable takes into account equal pay for equal work; free choice of profession or employment without the need to obtain a husband or male relative's consent; the right to gainful employment without the need to obtain a husband or male relative's consent; equality in hiring and promotion practices; job security (maternity leave, unemployment

Gender index	Source	Main components
Gender Empowerment Measure	UNDP	1) portion of seats held by women in national parliaments; 2) percentage of women in economic decision-making positions; 3) female share of income
Gender-related Development Index	UNDP	1) life expectancy; 2) educational attainment; 3) adjusted real income – after taking note of inequalities between women and men
The Global Gender Gap Index	World Economic Forum	1) economic participation and opportunity; 2) educational attainment; 3) political empowerment; 4) health and survival
Gender Equity Index	Social Watch	1) education; 2) economy; 3) political empowerment
Social Institutions and Gender Index	OECD	1) discriminatory family code; 2) restricted physical integrity; 3) son bias; 4) restricted resources and entitlement; 5) restricted civil liberties
Gender Inequality Index	UNDP	1) reproductive health; 2) empowerment (political and higher education); 3) labor market participation

benefits, no arbitrary firing or layoffs, etc.); non-discrimination by employers; the right to be free from sexual harassment in the workplace; the right to work at night; the right to work in occupations classified as dangerous; the right to work in the military and the police force.

And finally, women's social rights include a number of internationally recognized rights including the rights to equal inheritance; to enter into marriage on a basis of equality with men; to travel abroad; to obtain a passport; to confer citizenship to children or a husband; to initiate a divorce; to own, acquire, manage and retain property brought into marriage; to participate in social, cultural and community activities; to an education; to choose a residence / domicile; freedom from female genital mutilation of children and of adults without their consent; and the freedom from forced sterilization.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

National Policy for the Empowerment of Women

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-

78) onwards has been marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

The gap in maternal healthcare between urban and rural areas is often blamed for the overall poor scores and the inequalities are also evident through varying maternal mortality ratios across country. The Health Ministry has introduced as well as expanded coverage of various schemes to address these challenges, with its main focus on remote areas. It has also started some new schemes to provide care to women at different stages of pregnancy and increase institutional deliveries to prevent deaths.

After the launch of the National Rural Health Mission in 2005, significant improvements have taken place in building the health infrastructure in the country. The Janani Suraksha Yojna, or the maternity benefit scheme, has brought about a surge in institutional deliveries and financial uptakes in most states. Besides, the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram focuses on adolescent health and improving nutritional status and "Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonise Actions for Nutrition (Poshan)" aims at community - based management of malnourished children. Both the IMR and MMR will improve further as several new health schemes have been introduced. The state is on the right track on integrated health care services. People awareness required to come forward and take benefits of the schemes.

Way Forward

Preventable maternal mortality is still very high in many developing countries, even after falling by almost 50% since 1990 to the present day. Moreover, while IMR has been falling steadily in the last few decades, MMR rates started to fall only in the 1990s after initial stagnation. MMR is a woman specific condition and differences in MMR and female life expectancy advantage across countries are a reflection of differences in gender attitudes across countries.

Regardless of the measures of gender bias or woman's status in society we use including the stated son preference of mothers, women's political rights or the gender intensity of language grammar, the cross country differences in gender inequalities in health outcomes are a reflection of differences in gender bias across societies and go beyond differences in income. The main policy implication is that specific interventions to reduce maternal mortality and improve female health outcomes might be required even in high growth poor countries with high gender prejudice. Quality of care is not time affected but a continuous process. New approaches such as primary health care are steps in right direction to reduce maternal mortality despite best antenatal care, some women may develop complication without warning signals and require emergency care round the clock maternity hospital for emergency delivery service are equally important.

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.

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



5. SATYAGRAHA: 125 YEARS AND STILL RELEVANT

Why in News?

Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa's Pietermaritzburg marking 125 years of 'satyagrah' (movement) by Father of Nation Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Swaraj visited the city that began the journey of Gandhi as a revolutionary. Pietermaritzburg station in South Africa was the station where "Mohandas turned into Mahatma".

The year 2018 is an important year for India-South Africa relations as it marks 25 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the 125th anniversary of the Pietermaritzburg railway station incident and the 100th birth centenary of South African iconic leader, Nelson Mandela.

Background

On the night of June 7, 1893, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a young lawyer then, was thrown off the train's first class "whites-only" compartment at Pietermaritzburg station in South Africa for refusing to give up his seat. A white man had objected to Gandhi travelling in the first class coach in spite of the latter possessing a valid ticket. When Gandhi refused to move to the rear end of the train, he was thrown out. He had stayed at the station that night shivering in cold and the bitter incident had played a major role in Gandhi's decision to stay on in South Africa and fight the racial discrimination being faced by Indians there. His doctrine of Satyagraha subsequently took shape during Gandhi's stay in South Africa.

The term 'Satyagraha' is derived from 'satya' (truth) and 'agraha' (insistence or truth-force) with its practitioners being called Satyagrahis. During his time in South Africa, Gandhi and other satyagrahis went on peaceful marches and presented themselves for

arrest against unjust laws. This became one of the great political tools of the 20th century and even influenced civil rights movement in the United States of America.

Mahatma Gandhi was sentenced to four terms imprisonment in South Africa during his Satyagraha campaigns. When Gandhi was leaving South Africa in 1914, he described Satyagraha as 'perhaps the mightiest instrument on earth'.

Concept of Satyagraha

Mahatma Gandhi coins the term Satyagraha in South Africa for the first time and creates its mansion on the tri- pillars of satya (truth), ahimsa (non-violence) and tapsya (suffering and sacrifice) where satya is the end and ahimsa and tapsya are the means to achieve that end. He relies on the call of the 'voice of conscience' and 'obedience as the law of our being' which enables us to understand the significance of both 'means' and 'end'. And then, he applies it in the Champaran farmers' revolt in order to ensure its effectiveness in the Indian context. Hereafter, Satyagraha becomes a long lasting solution to the problems and hence, Gandhi adopts "Satyagraha" as a moral equivalent to war and conflict with the objective of inculcating goodness in the evil doers. Satyagraha is more than the mere political tool of resistance. It is a holistic approach towards life, based on the ideals of truth and moral courage. None can discard the effectiveness and relevance of Gandhian means; however, it is only the question of its applicability which is worth consideration. Satyagraha theory influenced Nelson Mandela's struggle in South Africa under apartheid, Martin Luther King, Junior's and James Bevel's campaigns during the civil rights movement in the United

States and many other social justice and similar movements. Someone who practices satyagraha is a satyagrahi.

Satyagraha in India

The successful struggle of the erstwhile indigo cultivators of Champaran against European planters introduced to India satyagraha — non-violent civil disobedience as a stratagem of mass politics that Gandhi had experimented with earlier in South Africa. Over the next 30 years, he was to employ satyagraha to galvanise millions into one of history's biggest mass movements against perhaps the greatest imperial power of all time.

Mahatma Gandhi was approached by several leaders from Bihar at the first meeting of the Congress in Lucknow in 1916 with a request to start a movement against the atrocities on farmers in Champaran. He assured them that he would visit the place. He arrived in Patna for the first time on April 10, 1917 and five days later, he reached Motihari, the district headquarters of Champaran, from Muzaffarpur. On April 17, he started his Champaran satyagraha to better the lot of Indigo farmers.

Champaran was the first of 3 movements during 1917-18 that marked the entry of Gandhi — and civil disobedience — in Indian politics.

His next intervention — in the Ahmedabad mill workers' stir — saw the use of another of his signature political weapons: the fast. Millowners wanted to scrap a 'plague bonus', but workers argued it was needed to make up for the wartime increase in the cost of living. Gandhi got the two sides to agree to arbitration, but told workers to go on a strike after the millowners reneged. When the strike started to flag, he went on a fast, telling the workers that if starvation was to be

their lot, he would be the first to face it. The real impact was on the millowners. The moral force of Gandhi's action pressured them to agree to arbitration by a tribunal. The strike ended and the tribunal awarded a 35% raise — the original demand of the workers.

Gandhi's third intervention in this phase was on behalf of farmers in Kheda district, whose appeals for remission of land revenue had been denied despite the fact that drought had cut the yield to below the one-fourth level fixed for full relief under the revenue code. Gandhi told peasants to "fight unto death against such a spirit of vindictiveness and tyranny" and "show that it is impossible to govern men without their consent". As the peasants' tussle waxed and waned, the government secretly ordered recovery of revenue only from those who could pay — and Gandhi, his object fulfilled, called off the agitation.

Relevance of Satyagraha in the 21st Century

Is satyagraha relevant today? There is no simple "yes" or "no" answer to this question. When we try to decide whether it is relevant to the present day society, the fundamental thing we have to consider is the nature of the present-day individual. The concept of satyagraha is related to the social, political, cultural, economic and psychological conditions. Gandhi was well aware of the increasing influence of materialistic considerations on the modern society and individual. According to him, the main objective of satyagraha was to reform the opponent. In the present socio-economic political system, there is a need to wean the individual away from the influence of wealth, luxuries and power. In all walks of life, wherever there is scope for conflict and disharmony, the practice of the principles of truth and nonviolence in the smallest way possible, would

definitely make a great contribution in bringing about peace and harmony.

Satyagraha in terms of Conflict Resolution

Gandhian Satyagraha is the effective weapon for prevent violence and tackles the conflict. Satyagraha is Gandhi's technique of nonviolent activism. The term has variously been translated as passive resistance, nonviolent resistance, nonviolent direct action and even militant nonviolence. The ultimate aim of Gandhian Satyagraha is the reach the higher level of truth in a nonviolent manner. The essence of nonviolent techniques is that it seeks to liquidate antagonism but not the antagonists. Satyagraha is not encouraged in any such violence. Violence seeks to destroy the opponent or at least to injure him and this not the way to convert or reform him.

The aim of Gandhian concept of conflict resolution is to convert the opponent, to change his understanding and his sense of values so that he will join whole heartedly with the nonviolent resister in seeking a settlement truly amicable and truly satisfying to both the parties. The nonviolent resister seeks a solution under which both sides can have complete self-respect and mutual respect, a settlement that will implement the new desires and full energies of both parties. Misunderstandings, coercive tactics, poor communication, suspicion, perception of basic difference in values, increasing the power differences are the main reasons in behind the conflict. Conflict is resolved in a constructive or destructive way.

Gandhian concept of conflict resolution is based in constructive way of problem solving. Gandhian Satyagraha is considered the weapon of the strongest person and it excludes in every form of violence and hatred behaviour.

Conflict is cannot be resolved through mere decision making process and that, being an essential element for bringing out change society; we should not attempt to suppress the conflict. Gandhian concept of conflict resolution is did not seek to end up with conflict, which he valued positively, nor to build conflict free society. He simply claimed that we should target at the roots of conflict and aim at solving its underlying causes. Emerged incompatibility in between the parties, is the main issue of the conflict. Tackling the central cause of the conflict is the basic process in the development of future approaches of conflict resolution. Conflict resolution is aims at the elimination of the source of conflict. Temporary arrangement of conflict resolution is not being existed. Settling the immediate disputes with the underlying conflict cannot be viewed. Basic issue or human need is never be considered in this approach. Fulfillment of human needs will emerge in the form of a mutually satisfied solution.

Satyagraha as an ideal and as a great weapon of conflict resolution will always serve as inspiration to people of all generations to come, worldwide. It may not be possible for ordinary human beings to practise brahmacharya, poverty and simple living in the age of scientific and technological development, but the usefulness of truth and nonviolence will always be relevant wherever the goal is prosperity, welfare and development, because without truth and nonviolence, there cannot be peace and without peace there cannot be development.

Terror and Satyagraha

Terror today dominates state politics, immobilising democracies which are addicted to the security discourse. When the state mirrors the violence of the terrorists, a political

impasse is born. Terror is contemptuous of the body, indifferent to the suffering of the victim. Satyagraha uses the body as the vehicle of truth and uses suffering to create compassion. It offers the dignity of vulnerability to the indifference of terrorism. Terror paralyses through anonymity. It is always masked. Satyagraha is always a face which seeks to communicate. Terror paralyses discourse while satyagraha opens up conversation. Gandhi would always talk to his oppressors while IS would at most “telegram” its ownership of the act of violence. Satyagraha seeks the ethics of responsibility.

Terror owns the act of violence but disowns the responsibility for it. Terror emphasises invulnerability. Satyagraha begins from vulnerability. Terror paralyses agency and satyagraha seeks to revive it. Terror creates shock but no surprise. It fuses politics and technology into repetitive acts of cannibalising bodies. The satyagrahi is constantly inventing. Terror destroys normalcy while the satyagrahi seeks to restore normalcy and in pondering over its delights.

The satyagraha speaks truth to power while terror seeks to challenge power through violence. Satyagraha seeks justice. Terror, at the most, can speak the language of revenge. In fact, terror depoliticises politics by invoking the redundancy of security discourse, while satyagraha is an invitation to politics, to its constant reinventions. The satyagrahi summons speech while terror invites the constant noise of violence.

Satyagraha to Swachhagraha

Following his return from South Africa in 1917, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi launched a satyagraha to counter the oppression of indigo farmers by the colonial state. The

national movement to which Gandhiji gave definite direction incorporated the basic tenets of satyagraha (satya and agraha, meaning truth and its perseverance) and stressed the importance of education, the need to care for one’s health and above all asserted the importance of sanitation.

In his first Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the Father of the Nation by renewing his pledge to make India free from the filth and garbage. He took a solemn vow to realise the Mahatma’s vision of cleaning up the entire nation. He launched a mission to ensure that India’s villages, cities, temples, market places, residential areas, hospitals and tourist spots become clean and appealing when the nation celebrates the 150th birthday of the Father of the Nation.

This indeed is a challenge but it was the need of the hour. Littering had gone on for decades and turned our beautiful land into an eyesore. Poor sanitation is one of the key factors that undermine public health. People seemed to accept unsanitary conditions as inevitable fallout of congestion. However, two of the most populous and most congested cities on the planet, Tokyo and Hong Kong, are as clean as any city in Europe. It was the flawed vision of those who ruled for so long that they never realised the connection between sanitation, hygiene and the poor health of children. It is beyond comprehension that no previous government ever thought of addressing this serious concern which according to the World Health Organisation is the prime reason for India’s high Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

The object of the sanitation movement was to protect the health of children and the nation as a whole. According to the WHO’s estimates

1,17,000 children under five lost their lives in the country in 2015, primarily due to diarrhoeal diseases. Open defecation results in contamination of water because of which children cannot assimilate nutrients. Nearly 39 per cent of India’s children record stunted growth. The chief of UNICEF’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project claims that poor sanitation costs India more than 50 billion dollars a year — this includes the cost of treating water borne diseases.

Way Forward

Gandhi advocated Satyagraha not as a new religion but as a superior means for attaining social harmony and human advancement for peace. This alliance of a pragmatic quest for solutions and a deep spiritual conviction also points to the way in which future generations may be educated in the task of struggling for peace. Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings of Satyagraha and Ahimsa are becoming more popular with the youth of today. In all educational institutions, right from the lowest level to the level of university, it would be worthwhile to teach young people the concept of satyagraha and the principles of truth and nonviolence, as the basic factors contributing to the peace, harmony and welfare of society.

Satyagraha will remain relevant as long as human societies exist. The only question is whether we as citizens are able to grasp its essence, apply it in our own lives and live up to its ideals. We have to be the change we want to see, and we can.

General Studies Paper- IV

Topic: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.



6. UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION AND ITS RELEVANCE

Why in News?

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of United Nations peacekeeping, the flagship enterprise of the Organization described by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as "a proven investment in global peace, security and prosperity". India has lost the highest number of its peacekeepers in various UN peacekeeping operations in the last 70 years, with 163 military, police and civilian personnel from the country laying down their lives in the line of duty. According to the UN, of the 3,737 peacekeepers who have died since 1948, 163 have been from India, the highest total from any troop contributing country.

United Nation: International Peace and Security

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict affected countries and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda. The PBC is composed by 31 Member States, elected from the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. The top financial contributing countries and the top troop contributing countries to the United Nations system are also members.

The United Nations came into being in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN does this by working to prevent conflict; helping parties in conflict make peace; peacekeeping; and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective. The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for

international peace and security. The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies.

Security Council: The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or an act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. The Council also establishes UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

General Assembly: The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. Through regular meetings, the General Assembly provides a forum for Member States to express their views to the entire membership and find consensus on difficult issues. It makes recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority, but other questions are decided by simple majority.

How does the UN Maintain International Peace and Security?

Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation: The most effective way to diminish human suffering and the massive economic costs of conflicts and their aftermath is to prevent conflicts in the first place. The United Nations plays an important role in conflict prevention, using diplomacy, good offices and mediation. Among the tools the Organization uses to bring peace are special envoys and political missions in the field.

Peacekeeping: Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate political processes, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support constitutional processes and the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law and extending legitimate state authority. Peacekeeping operations get their mandates from the UN Security Council; their troops and police are contributed by Member States; and they are managed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and supported by the Department of Field Support at the UN Headquarters in New York. There are 15 UN peacekeeping operations currently deployed and there have been a total of 71 deployed since 1948.

Peacebuilding: United Nations peacebuilding activities are aimed at assisting countries emerging from conflict, reducing the risk of relapsing into conflict and at laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development. The UN peacebuilding architecture comprises the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Peacebuilding Support Office assists and supports the Peacebuilding Commission with strategic advice and policy guidance, administers the Peacebuilding Fund and serves the Secretary-General in coordinating United Nations agencies in their peacebuilding efforts.

United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2017, the PBF has allocated \$772 million to 41 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Business Plan. The PBF works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with flexibility to political opportunities; and catalyze processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.

Countering Terrorism: The United Nations is being increasingly called upon to coordinate the global fight against terrorism. Eighteen universal instruments against international terrorism have been elaborated within the framework of the United Nations system relating to specific terrorist activities. In September 2006, UN Member States adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This was the first time that Member States agreed to a common strategic and operational framework against terrorism.

Disarmament: The General Assembly and other bodies of the United Nations, supported by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, work to advance international peace and security through the pursuit of the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the regulation of conventional arms.

Women, Peace and Security: While women remain a minority of combatants and perpetrators of war, they increasingly suffer the greatest harm. The UN Security Council recognized that including women and gender perspectives in decision-making can strengthen prospects for sustainable peace with the unanimous

adoption of resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The landmark resolution specifically addresses the situation of women in armed conflict and calls for their participation at all levels of decision-making on conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Organized Crime: Transnational organized crime takes many forms from trafficking in drugs, firearms and even people to money laundering and corruption. Today organized crime has diversified, gone global and reached macro-economic proportions, so that it constitutes a threat to peace and security. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Organized Crime Convention) and the three supplementary Protocols -on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and trafficking of firearms.

UN Peace Support Operations(UNPSO)

The United Nations states that the organisation is "to maintain international peace and security and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace and to bring about by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international dispute or situations which may lead to a breach of the peace. The first UN PSO was the deployment of the "UN Truce Supervision Organisation", known as UNTSO in May 1948. The role of the mission, comprising mainly unarmed military observers and mandated under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, was to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The mission is still in operation today.

In 1956 the UN deployed its first armed PSO with the deployment of the "UN Emergency Force" (UNEF) to address the Suez Canal issue. The PSO was established by the first emergency special session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) from 1 to 10 November 1956. The mandate of the force was to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities, including the withdrawal of the armed forces of France, Israel and the United Kingdom from Egyptian territory and, after the withdrawal, to serve as a buffer between the Egyptian and Israeli forces and to provide impartial supervision of the ceasefire. UNEF was withdrawn in May-June 1967, at Egypt's request.

The first large scale PSO was in 1960 with the deployment of the "UN Operation in the Congo" (ONUC). At its peak ONUC had nearly 20 000 military personnel. The mandate of ONUC was amended by UNSC resolution 161 dated 21 February 1961 to "use force" and again vide resolution 169 dated 24 November 1961 to "take vigorous action." During the 1960s and 1970s the UNSC established a number of short term PSOs.

In 1988 the Nobel Committee cited "the peacekeeping forces through their efforts have made important contributions towards the realisation of one of the fundamental tenets of the United Nations. Thus, the world organisation has come to play a more central part in world affairs and has been invested with increasing trust". The UN peacekeepers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Since 1988 there has been a marked increase in the number of UN PSOs with 57 of the 71 taking place since 1988. The new PSOs changed from the "traditional", i.e. deployment of primarily military observers to more complex "multidimensional" which is designed to ensure the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements and assist in laying the foundation

for sustainable peace. At the same time the nature of conflicts changed from inter-state conflicts to intra-state conflicts and civil wars.

At 30 April 2018 there were 14 UN PSOs with seven on the African Continent. A total of 104 043 personnel from 124 countries are deployed in these missions. This comprises 87 916 uniform (76 026 Contingent Troops, 10 632 Police, 1984 Staff Officers and 1 258 Experts on Mission), 12 830 Civilian and 1 308 UN Volunteers. Current cost is \$6.8 billion. This includes logistic support to the African Unions Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

India in International Peace and Security

Historically, India has alternated between active engagement, neutral brokerage and subtle persuasion in attempting to achieve desired conflict management and foreign policy goals with its war-torn neighbours, including Nepal and Sri Lanka. While the immediate post-Cold War period was driven by a mix of liberal internationalism and strategic Realpolitik, India's diplomatic relations with its small state neighbours are now more nuanced, colored by not only domestic experiences of conflict but also by the increasingly transnational nature of non-state insurgent actors in South Asia. This project will examine Indian perspectives on South Asian regional conflicts, and how they influence India's regional and international political role. As an emerging power in Asia, it is important to understand Indian perspectives on peacebuilding, conflict management and human security through its internal conflict management strategies, in anticipation of Indian actions and policies outside of its borders

India has played a pivotal role in the United Nations right from its inception and has aggressively pushed forward the values of the UN Charter. India is

a rising global power and a key role for a rules based international order – the cornerstone of durable peace, stability and security in an interconnected world. India has a great potential for broad and continued co-operation.

India is currently the third largest contributor of military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping, with 6,693 now deployed in Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, the Middle East, South Sudan and Western Sahara. However, the UN owes India USD 92 million for troops, formed police units and contingent-owned equipment as at April 30, 2018. The UN commemorated the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers around the world. Currently, more than 96,000 uniformed personnel from 124 troop and police-contributing countries serve under the blue flag, alongside more than 15,000 international and national civilian staff and nearly 1,600 United Nations volunteers.

India has also begun to expand security cooperation with some of its neighbours, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. It has intensified its engagement with the military forces of its neighbours and has developed with the Maldives and Sri Lanka a trilateral framework for maritime security cooperation. India is currently unlikely to support any regional framework for peacekeeping by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) states collectively. However, much room exists for greater engagement with Bangladesh and Nepal (both of which contribute troops to UN peace operations) on peacekeeping issues. Less probably, such a framework could be extended to Pakistan if and when the Pakistani Army overcomes its reluctance to cooperate with its Indian counterpart.

Way Forward

Any assessment of the role of the UN in the world today would have to begin with a survey of the structures that the UN has created, because the responsiveness of the UN to the issues confronting the world can only be gauged by the effectiveness of its structures. In the larger framework of international relations, the UN is confronted more and more by the emergence of trans-boundary, global issues, involving both states and non-state actors, which make its core function of international cooperation more relevant today than ever before. This includes challenges like terrorism, organized crime, humanitarian disasters and securing the global commons in the maritime, cyber and outer space domains.

Peace and security cannot be seen in isolation from the wider development related issues as it underlined the need for a holistic approach to building peace and preventing conflict. In all the structures of global governance today, decision-making reflects the democratic norms of transparency, accountability and majority voting. Even the IMF has agreed to reform its system by 2019 to enable emerging economies equitable representation in its decision-making. Only the UN Security Council continues to be deadlocked on this issue, which is an aberration in the 21st century, especially when the clear majority of the 193-member states of the UNGA are democracies.

As India's interests widen beyond the subcontinent and India recognizes the need to develop a more cooperative approach to its immediate neighbourhood, the prospect of India's reclaiming and modernizing the British Raj legacy as the regional engine of economic growth and security provider has come closer to realization. As the external context of international

peace operations evolves, it is likely that India will eventually have to recast its approach and demonstrate greater flexibility. The pressure for change will not come from a review of India's peacekeeping tradition or its multilateralism. Instead, the sources of transformation are likely to be the new imperatives of India's national security, the changing nature of its great power

relations, the logic of maintaining a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region, India's growing military capabilities, the renewed awareness of its role as a regional security provider and its increasing weight in the international system. The nature of India's participation in international peace operations can only be one element of the inevitable change in

India's strategic conception of its place in the region and the world.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

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7. GLOBAL PEACE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Why in News?

India's global peace index rank was 137 out of 163 countries in 2017, when the year 2016 was assessed. In 2018, when the year 2017 is assessed, India's rank moved up to 136. This is in line with the performance of some of the South Asian countries. Nepal moved up from 93 to 84, while Sri Lanka moved up too, from position 80 to 67. Pakistan moved from 152 to 151. South Asia experienced the largest regional improvement in peacefulness.

Introduction: Peace in South Asia

South Asia retained its eighth place in the global rankings despite a slight improvement in its overall score. The inequality of peace in the region continued to widen over the year, with the least peaceful nations—Afghanistan and Pakistan—continuing their decline, while the most peaceful—Bhutan and Sri Lanka—continued to improve. In South Asian region, Afghanistan is the most unpeaceful country followed by Pakistan and India. Although India's position vis a vis Sri Lanka was slightly better during 2009 and 2010, the latter made significant strides from 2011 onwards, after the end of the civil war. Bangladesh, often seen as a country with high levels of political violence, has remained significantly more peaceful than India. This has also been the case

of Nepal, which is more peaceful than even the US. The interesting fact is that the generally poor Bhutan has scored very high on GPI belying the logic that affluence and peace are interrelated.

The regional scores on the domains of safety and security and militarisation improved, but ongoing conflicts, particularly internal and external, fought and neighbouring countries relations, deteriorated. However, given the wide disparity between the peace performance of the nations of South Asia, the aggregate data tell an incomplete picture. Bhutan, famous for trying to maximise Gross National Happiness rather than Gross Domestic Product, was once again the most peaceful nation in the region and was the most significant regional riser last year. Strengthening scores on the political terror scale, refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) terrorism impact were only partially offset by a deterioration in external conflicts fought after a border dispute with China flared in the Doklam Pass. The three-month standoff also involved India, which sent troops to the area.

Sri Lanka was again the second most peaceful nation in South Asia and the second largest riser in the region last year. Although the scores for terrorism impact, the incarceration rate and military expenditure improved, there are some worrying signs for the future.

The scores for both refugees and IDPs and political instability deteriorated, a reflection of waning confidence that President Maithripala Sirisena can deliver the reforms his government promised. There are also signs that communal tension is once again on the rise: the government declared a state of emergency in March 2018 to prevent violent demonstrations by radical Buddhist elements of the Sinhalese majority against the country's Muslim minority in the city of Kandy from spreading nationwide.

India, the region's most populous country, recorded a slightly improved overall score. Government efforts to tackle violent crime have paid off with an improved score and falling levels of military expenditure, particularly on weapons imports, resulted in a slight improvement in its Militarisation score. However, the concentration of power in the office of Prime Minister led to a deterioration in India's score for political instability and the country's scores on the political terror scale and internal conflicts fought, at 4 and 4.7 respectively, remain elevated.

At the other end of the scale, the overall scores of Afghanistan and Pakistan continued to deteriorate, in Afghanistan's case for the fifth year running. There is an improvement in Afghanistan's terrorism impact score, reflecting a 9 per cent decrease in the

number of civilian casualties in 2017. However, that may be due to the fact that the Taliban now control more of the country than at any time since 2001 and are resorting to terrorist tactics less frequently, rather than any improvement in the chances for long-term peace.

Pakistan's violent crime and terrorism impact scores improved – the latter for the fifth year running – reflecting the government's success in curbing the violent activities of both criminals and militant groups, gains that also flowed through into an improvement on refugees and IDPs. These gains were offset by rises in military expenditure, the incarceration rate and violent demonstrations. Mass demonstrations, many of which turned violent, are becoming the default mechanism for political and pressure groups to attempt to effect political change.

Bangladesh had the largest deterioration in the region. Improvements in political stability and terrorism impact failed to offset a rapid fall in external conflicts fought and neighbouring countries relations, which were adversely affected by the influx of 700,000 Rohingya refugees from neighbouring Myanmar.

World Peace Scenario

Global Peace Index

Global Peace Index (GPI) measures the relative position of nations' and regions' peacefulness. The GPI ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their levels of peacefulness. The GPI is a report produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and developed in consultation with an international panel of peace experts from peace institutes and think tanks with data collected and collated by the Economist Intelligence Unit. The Index was first launched in May 2007, with subsequent reports being released annually.

The index focuses on the level of societal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict and the

degree of militarization. Analyzation of these criteria revealed that the global level of peace had deteriorated by 0.27 percent in the past year. It also showed that 92 countries deteriorated, while 71 countries improved. The reasons for less peace are increased conflict and crisis in regions such as the Middle East. Six of the world's nine regions became less peaceful, including four of the most peaceful regions: Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific and South America.

On the other end of the spectrum, Syria is the least peaceful country in the world, as it has been for the past five years. Syria is followed by Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq and Somalia. Even the most peaceful region, Europe, has declined in its peacefulness rating. Since 2008, 61 percent of Europe's countries have become less peaceful; in 2017, 23 countries in the region deteriorated. The majority of the decline is in Western Europe. East European peace is actually improving.

Most analysis of peace in the 20th and early 21st century has focused almost exclusively on war and conflict. However, trends in direct conflict alone cannot convey the bigger picture, which includes internal societal unrest, political instability and the level of resources needed to prevent violence.

Concepts of Peace and Violence

The word peace has many connotations. The most commonly accepted definition is "absence of war or violence". Peace is exemplified by terms such as negative peace, positive peace, stable peace and just peace. Boulding defines stable peace as "a situation in which the probability of war is so small that it does not really enter into the calculations of any of the people involved." The distinction between war and peace is not the same as between conflict and non-conflict. "All non-conflict is peace, but

conflict can be divided into war and peace, depending on the nature of taboos involved. In peaceful conflicts, each party's taboos sharp limitations on the amount of damage to do to the other. So conflict is "redistributional situation" where there are gains for some and loss others". Johan Galtung, the father of peace studies defines negative peace as "absence of violence, absence of war" and positive peace as "integration of human society."

He divided violence into two categories, namely direct or personal violence and indirect or structural violence. Structural violence is "unintended harm done to human beings" and "usually this take place as a process, working slowly as the way misery in general and hunger, in particular, erodes and finally kills human beings."

In 1990, Galtung refined the concept of 'structural violence' by introducing 'cultural violence'. Cultural violence is defined as "those aspects of culture, the symbolic sphere of our existence – exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science (logic, mathematics) that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence". Galtung claims that his theory of violence is linked to two aspects of Gandhian ideology "the doctrine of unity of life" and "of unity of means and ends".

Relevance of Peace

Political Instability

The global average gives a sense of the values dominating the world, which play an important part in the stability of governments and peacefulness. Democratic governments are linked to higher levels of social well-being, economic success, peaceful relations with neighbouring countries and lower levels of corruption. Poor countries are more likely to experience

Indicators of peace	
Internal Peace	External Peace
➤ Level of perceived criminality in society. ➤ Number of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people. ➤ Number of homicides per 100,000 people. ➤ Number of jailed population per 100,000 people. ➤ Ease of access to small arms and light weapons. ➤ Level of organised conflict (internal). ➤ Likelihood of violent demonstrations. ➤ Level of violent crime. ➤ Political instability. ➤ Political terror scale. ➤ Volume of transfers of major conventional weapons, as recipient (imports) per 100,000 people. ➤ Terrorist activity. ➤ Number of deaths from organised conflict (internal).	➤ Military expenditure as a percentage of GDP. ➤ Number of armed services personnel per 100,000. ➤ Financial contribution to UN peacekeeping missions. ➤ Nuclear and heavy weapons capability. ➤ Volume of transfers of major conventional weapons as supplier (exports) per 100,000 people. ➤ Number of displaced people as a percentage of the population. ➤ Relations with neighbouring countries. ➤ Number of external and internal conflicts fought. ➤ Estimated number of deaths from organised conflict (external).

coups because of younger political institutions and higher levels of political instability resulting in internal conflict, social unrest or corruption. Legitimate governments, such as those elected by democratic vote, are much less likely to face coups and coup attempts against those governments are less likely to succeed.

Economic Impact of Violence

- The global economic impact of violence was \$14.76 trillion in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in 2017, equivalent to 12.4 per cent of global GDP, or \$1,988 per person.
- The economic impact of violence has increased by 16 percent since 2012, corresponding with the start of the Syrian war and rising violence in the aftermath of the Arab Spring.
- Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq incurred the largest economic cost of violence as a percentage of their GDP at 68, 63 and 51 per cent respectively.
- In the last 70 years, per capita GDP growth has been three times

higher in highly peaceful countries.

- Over the last decade, countries with the largest improvements in peace recorded seven times higher per capita GDP growth than those that deteriorated the most.
- The global economy would be US\$13.87 trillion larger than its current level if low peace countries achieved GDP growth equivalent to highly peaceful countries.
- If the least peaceful countries were to grow at a rate equivalent to that of the most peaceful countries, per capita GDP could be up to US\$527 per capita higher by 2030.

Safety and Security

Of the eleven safety and security domain indicators, nine deteriorated on average between 2008 and 2011 with the worst deterioration being terrorism impact. 62 per cent of countries had terrorism impact scores that deteriorated between 2008 and 2018. This coincided with the rise of ISIS and Boko Haram, escalating conflicts in the Middle East and the rising levels of terrorism in Europe. The

homicide rate indicator had the largest improvement of the two safety and security indicators that did improve over the past decade. Measures of Societal safety and security:

- Level of perceived criminality in society.
- Number of refugees and internally displaced people as a percentage of the population.
- Political instability.
- Political Terror Scale.
- Impact of terrorism.
- Number of homicides per 100,000 people.
- Level of violent crime.
- Likelihood of violent demonstrations.
- Number of jailed population per 100,000 people.
- Number of internal security officers and police per 100,000 people.

Ongoing Conflict

Four of the six ongoing conflict indicators deteriorated between 2008 and 2018. The most notable change occurred on the deaths from internal conflict indicator, which deteriorated by 10.6 per cent. There has been a shift away from external armed conflicts between states to armed conflicts within states. Measuring of ongoing domestic and international conflict

1. Number and duration of internal conflicts.
2. Number of deaths from organised conflict (external).
3. Number of deaths from organised conflict (internal).
4. Number, duration and role in external conflicts.
5. Intensity of organised internal conflict.
6. Relations with neighbouring countries.

Militarisation

Four of the six indicators on the militarisation domain improved. The most noticeable improvements occurred in military expenditure (% of GDP), where 63 per cent of countries improved and the armed services personnel rate, where 73 per cent of countries improved. The armed services personnel rate fell across all four government types, with the largest relative change on average occurring in authoritarian regimes, followed by flawed democracies. There was a slight deterioration in both the weapons exports and weapons imports indicators, the only two militarisation indicators to show a deterioration over the past decade. Weapons exports remain highly concentrated, with 105 countries registering no exports at all for the period 2012 to 2017.

Measures of Militarization:

- Military expenditure as a percentage of GDP.
- Number of armed services personnel per 100,000 people.
- Volume of transfers of major conventional weapons as recipient (imports) per 100,000 people.
- Volume of transfers of major

conventional weapons as supplier (exports) per 100,000 people.

- Financial contribution to UN peace-keeping missions.
- Nuclear and heavy weapons capabilities.
- Ease of access to small arms and light weapons.

Way Ahead

The consequences of war, conflict and unrest are particularly damaging to civilian populations, displacing them within their own state, depriving them of security and stability and preventing them from achieving self-fulfillment and self-realization. The resulting insecurity and instability that follows from these circumstances – lack of basic needs, harsh surroundings and oppressive governments – forces many to turn to violence in defense of their right to survive. These tragic circumstances have increased societal awareness of the need to understand and to prevent the conditions leading to violence.

The threat to peace stems from a multitude of causes including poverty, environmental deterioration and social injustice. There are a variety of factors including economic, political, social,

cultural and environmental grounds from which these causes are founded. Absence of certainty and security in terms of these factors makes it difficult to promote peace. When discussing the need for a shift of mind set, we need to more closely examine the underlying causes that force people to resort to violence, both in order to understand its societal impact and to come up with the proper solutions to reduce its spread.

Peace and security are fundamental to human dignity and development. The sustainable development of any culture is always endangered by insecurity and conflict. Human tragedies result in overwhelmed health systems, the destruction of homes, schools and often whole communities and increased numbers of displaced people and refugees. Education for sustainable development plays a key role in promoting values for peace.

General Studies Paper- III

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

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SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Co-operative Banks Turning into Small Finance Lenders

Q1. Small local banks with geographical limitations play an important role in the supply of credit to small enterprises and agriculture. Conversion of UCBs into small finance bank might dilute the founding principle Of UCBs. Substantiate.

Hints:

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow urban co-operative banks (UCB) to convert into small finance banks (SFB), a move aimed at bringing these entities into mainstream banking. Such a move will give UCBs flexibility to open branches, which is currently confined to a limited geography.
- A high powered committee on UCB, chaired by former RBI Deputy Governor R. Gandhi, had recommended the voluntary conversion of large multi-state UCBs into joint stock companies as also other UCBs, which meet certain criteria, into small finance banks. Co-operatives, which have often been plagued, by fragile financial health, on the whole, portrayed a sanguine picture in the financial results of the latest year. Following on-going consolidation efforts, urban co-operative banks exhibited expansion in balance sheet size and recorded improved profitability. Developments in the rural co-operative sector ensured a turnaround in the performance of the apex- level long-term rural credit co-operatives while the short-term rural credit co-operatives continued to exhibit improved performance.
- Credit co-operatives, comprising of urban co-operative banks (UCBs) and rural co-operative credit institutions were formed as exclusive institutions to meet specific developmental objectives embodied in the extension of formal financial services to villages and small towns in India. Their geographic and demographic outreach plays a pivotal role in credit delivery and inclusiveness in the financial system. Yet their share is relatively small in the bank-dominated Indian financial system.
- The objectives of setting up of small finance banks will be to further financial inclusion by provision of savings vehicles and supply of credit to small business units; small and marginal farmers; micro and small industries; and other unorganised sector entities, through high technology-low cost operations.
- Though UCBs were set-up as small banks offering banking services to people of small means belonging

to lower and middle classes, the Committee notes that there is an immediate need to chart a future path for the UCBs including a well laid out transition path to convert themselves into universal/niche commercial banks. This transition is required due to the changing financial landscape in the country and also for giving an opportunity to well-run UCBs to play a major role going forward.

- The debate on whether we need small number of large banks or large number of small banks to promote financial inclusion. Small local banks with geographical limitations play an important role in the supply of credit to small enterprises and agriculture. While small banks have the potential for financial inclusion, performance of these banks in India (LABs and UCBs) has not been satisfactory. If small banks are to be preferred, the issues relating to their size, numbers, capital requirements, exposure norms, regulatory prescriptions and corporate governance need to be suitably addressed.
- On the whole, setting up stronger UCBs, with good net worth and strong corporate governance, would facilitate extension of banking services in the regions characterized by poor banking outreach. Some UCBs could convert into LABs/small banks if they meet the required prudential requirements. Such banks, freed from dual control and with better ability to raise capital, may be able to further extend the reach of banking services.

Time to Revive IBSA

Q2. A trilateral group founded in 2003 by India, Brazil and South Africa. Now that all IBSA members are also part of BRICS, Why IBSA's continued existence, not simply merge IBSA into BRICS? Discuss.

Hints:

- BRICS satisfies only a small part of its international vision, the three IBSA members have identified themselves as partners because they share a set of fundamental notions about global order.
- As emerging countries that are not yet fully integrated in today's international structures, they all consider current structures to be unjust and in need of reform. While the degree of rejection of some institutions differs – for example, India is far more hostile towards the Non-

Proliferation Treaty (NPT) than Brazil – all three agree that they deserve more institutional responsibility, including permanent seats on the UN Security Council. On this front, they clearly diverge from China and Russia, both of whom are relatively established players – a position that is best symbolized by their status as veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council and recognized nuclear powers in the NPT.

- In addition, all three IBSA members are multiparty democracies and are thus able to freely debate how to implement difficult reforms necessary to boost growth in a messy and complex political context. These matters cannot be discussed openly at BRICS Summits. In the same way, issues related to human rights and civil societies are not mentioned when the BRICS meet. During the 2011 IBSA Summit, the Brazilian President succeeded in including the “Responsibility While Protecting” (a concept that seeks to qualify and refine the “Responsibility to Protect” concept) into the final declaration, something which it promptly failed to do several months later at the 4th BRICS Summit due to Chinese and Russian opposition.
- IBSA provides an intimate setting undisturbed by at times strained bilateral ties – after all, relations between India, Brazil and South Africa are simply too incipient to hit any meaningful roadblocks or clashes of interest. In addition, there is potential for meaningful security cooperation among IBSA members, as military exercises in the Indian Ocean, development projects and working groups in areas such as poverty reduction all show.
- Perhaps IBSA’s greatest value is in bringing India, Brazil and South Africa closer together in a more general sense – allowing think tanks, civil society, academia, public sector specialists and foreign policymakers to engage and develop joint strategies to common problems. Seen from this perspective, IBSA has already been a success as it shifted its members’ attention towards their fellow emerging powers.
- Aware of the fact that IBSA provides a platform to debate how to deliver growth in the context of democracy China is likely to push for IBSA to be replaced by BRICS. Brazil, India and South Africa should resist such a move, even when there overlap between the debates at BRICS and IBSA summits. China’s absence is precisely what makes IBSA an interesting platform for debating global challenges in a different context and also speaks frankly about challenges that cannot be addressed at BRICS summits – including the question of how to deal with the rise of China.
- The BRICS Forum is immensely useful and synergies certainly exist between BRICS and IBSA. Ideas and concepts developed at IBSA summits should be brought into discussions at BRICS summits and vice versa. Topics such as the environment, global governance, economic development and maritime security should be dealt

with at both IBSA and BRICS summits. Yet the benefits of IBSA’s continued existence are too large to ignore and policy makers in Brasília, Delhi and Pretoria should maintain it as they turn into global agenda setters.

- As is evident, the leaders’ of the IBSA Trilateral Forum have collectively worked in different sectors over the years. IBSA Forum is a unique platform for consultation, coordination and cooperation among the three democratic traditions from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Green GDP: Natural Capital in the 21st Century

- Q3. The traditional national economic accounting system and its main indicators GDP has certain limitations, including not reflect human resources and natural assets. Green GDP and real savings can be more realistically reflect a country’s national wealth and to measure the national and regional economic sustainability. Critically analyse.**

Hints:

- Ecological ruin is on a gallop across South Asia, with life and livelihood of nearly a quarter of the world’s population affected. India has the wherewithal to become the environmental beacon of the world given its rich legacy of peaceful coexistence with nature. Starting this year, the government will begin a five-year exercise to compute district-level data of the country’s environmental wealth. The numbers will eventually be used to calculate every state’s ‘green’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Economic growth and increasing anthropogenic pressure on the environment during recent decades have brought to light the double sided and complex dependence of the economy and the environment. Growth of production outputs created demand for increased consumption of resources and energy and consequently increased the anthropogenic pressure on natural environment. Simultaneously it could bring more financial resources for environmental protection activities, while increased equity of resource allocation could further improve environmental conditions. On the other hand, the state of natural environment can either boost an economic activity in some specific regions or cause a recession and additional expenses for health protection and cleaning of the environment.
- Under the traditional system of national accounts and traditional methods for calculation of gross domestic product consumption of natural capital and environmental degradation are not taken into account in a proper way. Such green macroeconomic indicators (i.e. environmentally adjusted net national product, environmentally adjusted net domestic product, “Green

GDP", eco-domestic product, etc.) were calculated for at least a dozen of countries. However, most of the estimations made were undertaken as research projects but not as official estimations by national statistical authorities.

- The economic growth is definitely important for preserving the environment. However, there are many other factors impacting environmental performance. Among the factors influencing environmental performance the quality of environmental regulatory regime in place and its enforcement, lack of environmentally harmful subsidies, following the rule of law, elimination of corruption and strength of state's governing structures appear to be significant.
- The major arguments in favor of the Green GDP system that have been cited by researchers and have been accepted by many countries are interrelationship between market and nature, comparison across peers and periods and accountability.
- The biggest challenge facing the Green GDP is that of realistic accounting. Since we are essentially measuring the intangible, it is very difficult to estimate the monetary values associated with them. The Green GDP system is not perfect. However, it is developing.
- Sustainability has become an important concept in economic growth and development in the world. Sustainable development means the development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Human economy receives its inputs from the natural environment and disposes of its waste to environment; cannot operate without regard for resources and carrying capacity of nature. Sustainable development implies that the use of non-renewable resources should be equally distributed among generations and the use of renewable resources should be to the extent that it does not hamper the capacity of the concerned resource to regenerate itself.

Maternal Mortality in India: An Overview

Q4. Maternal mortality ratio is an important indicator of development for any nation. Reduction of mortality of women is a desired area for the governments across the globe. Discuss the policy options that India should pursue to improve women's health in India.

Hints:

- India has registered a significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) recording a 22% reduction in such deaths since 2013, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin released on June 7, 2018. The MMR has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016.

- Among all the states in the country, Uttar Pradesh has seen the sharpest drop in MMR as from 285 it dropped to 201 deaths per one lakh live births. Along with UP, Assam also recorded a sharp dip in the MMR ratio. However, Assam still remains the state with the highest MMR ratio of 237. Notably, Kerala continued to shine in the new assessment where the SRS recorded an MMR ratio of 46 as against 81 in 2007-09. On a national level, the southern states continued to perform better than the rest where the average recorded MMR is 77, which is close to the country's Sustainable Development Goal of reducing the MMR to 70 by 2030.
- India's healthcare services have lagged in this respect in comparison to neighbours like China, Sri Lanka and Maldives. India ranks 129 among 184 nations on maternal mortality and 145 out of 193 nations on infant mortality, according to the World Bank. Globally, the annual number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births dropped by 44 per cent between 1990 and 2015 — from 385 to 216. The sub-Saharan African region accounted for an estimated 66 per cent (201,000) of global maternal deaths, followed by southern Asia at 22 per cent (66,000 deaths). In fact, only 5 per cent of the world's countries accounted for 59 per cent of the total maternal deaths globally.
- Maternal mortality ratio is an important indicator of development for any nation and as the World Health Organisation puts it, maternal death is the death of a woman while she is pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy.
- The Janani Suraksha Yojna, or the maternity benefit scheme, has brought about a surge in institutional deliveries and financial uptakes in most states. Besides, the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram focuses on adolescent health and improving nutritional status and "Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonise Actions for Nutrition (Poshan)" aims at community-based management of malnourished children. Both the IMR and MMR will improve further as several new health schemes have been introduced. The state is on the right track on integrated health care services. People awareness required to come forward and take benefits of the schemes.
- The main policy implication is that specific interventions to reduce maternal mortality and improve female health outcomes might be required even in high growth poor countries with high gender prejudice. Quality of care is not time affected but a continuous process. New approaches such as primary health care are steps in right direction to reduce maternal mortality despite best antenatal care, some women may develop complication without warning signals and require emergency care round the clock maternity hospital for emergency delivery service are equally important.

Satyagraha: 125 Years and Still Relevant

Q5. 'Satyagraha will remain relevant as long as human societies exist.' Comment.

Hints:

- Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa's Pietermaritzburg marking 125 years of 'satyagrah' (movement) by Father of Nation Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Swaraj visited the city that began the journey of Gandhi as a revolutionary. Pietermaritzburg station in South Africa was the station where "Mohandas turned into Mahatma".
- Mahatma Gandhi coins the term Satyagraha in South Africa for the first time and creates its mansion on the tri- pillars of satya (truth), ahimsa (non-violence) and tapsya (suffering and sacrifice) where satya is the end and ahimsa and tapsya are the means to achieve that end. He relies on the call of the 'voice of conscience' and 'obedience as the law of our being' which enables us to understand the significance of both 'means' and 'end'.
- Is satyagraha relevant today? There is no simple "yes" or "no" answer to this question. When we try to decide whether it is relevant to the present day society, the fundamental thing we have to consider is the nature of the present-day individual. The concept of satyagraha is related to the social, political, cultural, economic and psychological conditions.
- The main objective of satyagraha was to reform the opponent. In the present socio-economic political system, there is a need to wean the individual away from the influence of wealth, luxuries and power. In all walks of life, wherever there is scope for conflict and disharmony, the practice of the principles of truth and nonviolence in the smallest way possible, would definitely make a great contribution in bringing about peace and harmony.
- Gandhian concept of conflict resolution is did not seek to end up with conflict, which he valued positively, nor to build conflict free society. He simply claimed that we should target at the roots of conflict and aim at solving its underlying causes.
- Terror owns the act of violence but disowns the responsibility for it. Terror emphasises invulnerability. Satayagraha begins from vulnerability. Terror paralyses agency and satyagraha seeks to revive it. Terror creates shock but no surprise. It fuses politics and technology into repetitive acts of cannibalising bodies. The satyagrahi is constantly inventing. Terror destroys normalcy while the satyagrahi seeks to restore normalcy and in pondering over its delights.
- The national movement to which Gandhiji gave definite direction incorporated the basic tenets of satyagraha

(satya and agraaha, meaning truth and its perseverance) and stressed the importance of education, the need to care for one's health and above all asserted the importance of sanitation.

- Gandhi advocated Satyagraha not as a new religion but as a superior means for attaining social harmony and human advancement for peace. This alliance of a pragmatic quest for solutions and a deep spiritual conviction also points to the way in which future generations may be educated in the task of struggling for peace. Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of Satyagraha and Ahimsa are becoming more popular with the youth of today.
- Satyagraha will remain relevant as long as human societies exist. The only question is whether we as citizens are able to grasp its essence, apply it in our own lives and live up to its ideals. We have to be the change we want to see and we can.

UN Peacekeeping Mission and its Relevance

Q6. Peace and security are fundamental to human dignity and development, peace and security cannot be seen in isolation from the wider development related issues as it underlined the need for a holistic approach to building peace and preventing conflict. Discuss.

Hints:

- This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of United Nations peacekeeping, the flagship enterprise of the Organization described by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as "a proven investment in global peace, security and prosperity".
- Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate political processes, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support constitutional processes and the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law and extending legitimate state authority.
- Peace and security cannot be seen in isolation from the wider development related issues as it underlined the need for a holistic approach to building peace and preventing conflict. In all the structures of global governance today, decision-making reflects the democratic norms of transparency, accountability and majority voting. Even the IMF has agreed to reform its system by 2019 to enable emerging economies equitable representation in its decision-making. Only the UN Security Council continues to be deadlocked

on this issue, which is an aberration in the 21st century, especially when the clear majority of the 193-member states of the UNGA are democracies.

- As India's interests widen beyond the subcontinent and India recognizes the need to develop a more cooperative approach to its immediate neighbourhood, the prospect of India's reclaiming and modernizing the British Raj legacy as the regional engine of economic growth and security provider has come closer to realization. As the external context of international peace operations evolves, it is likely that India will eventually have to recast its approach and demonstrate greater flexibility.
- The pressure for change will not come from a review of India's peacekeeping tradition or its multilateralism. Instead, the sources of transformation are likely to be the new imperatives of India's national security, the changing nature of its great power relations, the logic of maintaining a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region, India's growing military capabilities, the renewed awareness of its role as a regional security provider and its increasing weight in the international system. The nature of India's participation in international peace operations can only be one element of the inevitable change in India's strategic conception of its place in the region and the world.

Global Peace Continues to Decline

Q7. What is Global Peace Index? Why is India one of the least peaceful countries according to the GPI? Explain.

Hints:

- Global Peace Index (GPI) measures the relative position of nations' and regions' peacefulness. The GPI ranks independent states and territories according to their levels of peacefulness. The GPI is a report produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and developed in consultation with an international panel of peace experts from peace institutes and think tanks with data collected and collated by the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- India's global peace index rank was 137 out of 163 countries in 2017, when the year 2016 was assessed. In 2018, when the year 2017 is assessed, India's rank moved up to 136. This is in line with the performance of some of the South Asian countries. Nepal moved up from 93 to 84, while Sri Lanka moved up too, from position 80 to 67. Pakistan moved from 152 to 151. South Asia experienced the largest regional improvement in peacefulness.
- India, the region's most populous country, recorded a slightly improved overall score. Government efforts to tackle violent crime have paid off with an improved score and falling levels of military expenditure,

particularly on weapons imports, resulted in a slight improvement in its militarisation score. However, the concentration of power in the office of Prime Minister led to a deterioration in India's score for political instability and the country's scores on the political terror scale and internal conflicts fought, at 4 and 4.7 respectively, remain elevated.

- The regional scores on the domains of Safety and Security and Militarisation improved, but ongoing conflict, particularly internal and external conflicts fought and neighbouring countries relations, deteriorated. However, given the wide disparity between the peace performances of the nations of South Asia, the aggregate data tell an incomplete picture.
- Bhutan, famous for trying to maximise Gross National Happiness rather than Gross Domestic Product, was once again the most peaceful nation in the region and was the most significant regional riser last year. Strengthening scores on the political terror scale, refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and terrorism impact were only partially offset by deterioration in external conflicts fought after a border dispute with China flared in the Doklam Pass. The three-month standoff also involved India, which sent troops to the area.
- However, in a period of just one year how a country could transform it from having its worst record to the best is difficult to explain. Since 2008, there has been a decline in India's position. The number of nuclear and heavy weapons a country possesses is another factor. India scores 3 on internal conflict and violent demonstrations. India, the region's most populous country, recorded a slightly improved overall score. Government efforts to tackle violent crime have paid off with an improved score and falling levels of military expenditure, particularly on weapons imports, resulted in a slight improvement in its militarisation score. According to Global Peace Index 2018, India does badly in terms of the conflict factor. The conflict factor relates to the number and duration of conflicts waged within a country which could be civil, interstate, one-sided and non-state conflicts.
- Peace and security are fundamental to human dignity and development. The threat to peace stems from a multitude of causes including poverty, environmental deterioration and social injustice. There are a variety of factors including economic, political, social, cultural and environmental grounds from which these causes are founded. These tragic circumstances have increased societal awareness of the need to understand and to prevent the conditions leading to violence. As India's interests widen beyond the subcontinent and India recognizes the need to develop a more cooperative approach to its immediate neighbourhood for maintaining peace and promoting development.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL

1. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (IRWA)

Based on the observations made by Parliamentary Standing Committee and recommendation made by the National Commission for Women on the basis of consultation with civil society groups and likeminded individuals, Ministry of Women and Child Development has proposed amendments in IRWA keeping in mind the recent technological advancement in the field of communications such as social media platforms, over the top services etc.

The reformulated Bill proposes following amendments in the parent Act:

- Amendment in definition of term advertisement to include digital form or electronic form or hoardings or through SMS, MMS etc.
- Amendment in definition of distribution to include publication, license or uploading using computer resource or communication device.
- Insertion of a new definition to define the term publish.
- Amendment in section 4 to include that 'No person shall publish or distribute or cause to be published or cause to be distributed by any means any material which contains indecent representation of women in any form.'
- Penalty similar to that provided under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Creation of a centralised authority under the aegis of National Commission of Women (NCW).

Background

The government of India has enacted the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (IRWA), 1986 to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements, publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner. Since the enactment of the Act, technological revolution has resulted in the development of new forms of communication, such as internet, multi-media messaging, cable television, over-the-top (OTT) services and applications e.g. Skype, Viber, WhatsApp, Chat On, Snapchat, Instagram etc. ■

2. Jan Aushadhi Suvidha

The government of India launched the 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA', the oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). The affordable sanitary napkins will now become available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 states/UTs. The average price of sanitary napkins available in the market today is around Rs. 8 per pad, whereas now with the launch of the SUVIDHA napkins at Rs. 2.50 per pad, this will go

a long way in making the basic hygiene requirement aid for women affordable for the underprivileged sections.

This is one of the most important requirements in ensuring the health security to that section of women in India who still use unhygienic aids during menstrual period due to non-affordability of some of the popular brands of sanitary napkins available in the market today. Such unhygienic aids cause fungal infections, reproductive tract infection, urinary tract infection,

cervical cancer and also make women vulnerable to infertility.

According to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, about 58 percent of women aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons. Further, about 78 percent women in urban areas use hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period; only 48 percent women in rural areas have access to clean sanitary napkins. ■

3. Ganga Praharis

A new grassroot-level volunteer work force is out there to protect the bio-diversity of river Ganga called Ganga Praharis. A group of 427 trained volunteers are reaching to each and every house in areas along river Ganga to educate them about the importance of protecting river's bio-diversity. They are spread over Ganga basin states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

Roped-in by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun as part of the "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" project being sponsored by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the aegis of the Namami Gange Programme,

these Ganga Praharis are well trained in ecological monitoring of Ganga aqua life, plantation techniques, awareness creation and community mobilization. They were trained through a series of national, state and site level workshops in diverse skills such as ecological surveys, rescue and rehabilitation of aquatic species, awareness meetings, social interactions and green livelihood skills.

Functions

- The Ganga Praharis will be linked to various local environmental authorities, non - governmental stakeholders in their respective states and various other national,

academic and research institutions for their capacity development.

- Not only do these Ganga Praharis performing the task of conserving the deteriorating biodiversity of river Ganga, they are also motivating other people to spread the clean Ganga message, thus, contributing in making clean Ganga mission a mass movement.
- The Ganga Praharis will be the role models in inspiring other members of the community to join hands in the efforts for conservation of the biodiversity of river Ganga. Thus, each Prahari shall work on the model of 'Each One Make Ten'. ■

4. Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN)

In a bid to make Indian cities more sustainable, the NITI Aayog launched a new course on 'Urban Analytics - Evaluating and Measuring Sustainability of Cities' at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. The course was launched under Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN), a program of Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

Key Details

- The course will focus on the challenges faced by cities, which accommodate over half of the world's population.

- The course will provide students with knowledge and resources to understand the implications of urbanization for sustainable development.
- The course will provide students with the knowledge to appreciate the drivers of urban growth and its uneven impact on different places and peoples.
- The course will evaluate the conditions of sustainability in different urban regions using conceptual and analytical tools.
- The course will critically examine

current debates within sustainability as it relates to urban areas and be able to contribute to that debate.

There is a need to harness the potential of urban information system and urban planning for making Indian cities more sustainable. All stakeholders should come forward with innovative and contextual solutions for Indian cities and create a model of a "living lab" by adopting a rural agglomeration in a nearby area which will transform into a township in the near future. ■

5. Rural Sanitation Coverage under Swachh Bharat

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the largest behavior change programme in the world, the rural sanitation coverage of India has now risen to 85%. Through mobilization of rural communities, 7.4 crore toilets have been built across rural India and as an outcome, over

3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). This is significant because, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), sanitation coverage has increased to more than double the coverage at the time of the launch of the Mission.

A recent survey conducted by an independent verification agency across 90,000 households in over 6000 villages has found the usage of toilets in rural India to be 93.4%. Two independent surveys conducted in the past by the Quality Council of India

in 2017 and National Sample Survey Organization in 2016, have pegged the usage of these toilets at 91% and 95% respectively. This success has been achieved due to the difference in approach to sanitation adopted by the Swachh Bharat Mission in comparison to previous sanitation programmes in the country.

About Mission

The Swachh Bharat Mission is the first sanitation programme in the country to measure outcomes (ODF) instead of output (toilets) alone. The SBM's emphasis on behavior change in rural sanitation at the grassroots also leads to rigorous verification and

sustainability of the benefits accrued to rural communities under the progress made. The SBM is a people's movement, a true janandolan and it is this people's participation that has led to the success being witnessed under the Mission. The Mission is on track to achieve an ODF India by October 2019.

6. Lateral Entry into Civil Services

In an apparent bid to bring in expertise from the private sector individuals and infuse talent into the country's bureaucracy, present government has invited "outstanding individuals" to join the government at the joint secretary level at the Centre. According to the DoPT, the recruitment will be on contract basis for three to five years. The intake will be made in 10 departments initially but will expand to other categories in the second phase.

Though the idea of lateral entry of private individuals into the administrative framework has been under discussion for some years now, this is the first move towards implementing the idea, which is generating curious debate on the pros and cons of the move.

The proposal for lateral entry at senior decision-making levels, besides increasing the disconnect between policy making and implementation, will

also result in inequitable sharing of the benefits and burdens of government service, with permanent civil servants left to bear the burden of "humble" implementation and lateral entrants getting access to "glamorous" policy making positions, without having roughed it out in remote and rural India in the rough and tumble of Indian democracy.

7. Seva Bhoj Yojna

The Ministry of Culture has introduced a new scheme namely 'Seva Bhoj Yojna' with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-



20. The scheme envisages to reimburse the central government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) so as to lessen the financial burden of such charitable religious institutions who provide food/prasad/langar (community kitchen)/bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to public/devotees.

The Charitable Religious Institutions such as Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram, Dargah, Matth, Monasteries etc. which have been in existence for at least five years and who serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month are eligible for grant.

INTERNATIONAL

1. 100 Years of Female Suffrage in U.K

Thousands of women turned British cities into rivers of green, white and violet to mark 100 years since the first women won the right to vote in the U.K. In 1918, Parliament enacted the Representation of the People Act, which granted property-owning British women over 30 the right to vote. It would be another decade before women won the same voting rights as men.



2. 'EPIC' Planet

Scientists from ISRO have spotted for the first time a distant planet six times bigger than Earth and revolving around a Sun-like star about 600 light years away. The planet, which has a mass that is 27 times that of Earth, goes around the star in about 19.5 days.

Both the planet and the star, which have been located about 600 light years away from Earth, have been named EPIC. The name of the planet is EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b, while that of the host star is EPIC 211945201 or K2-236. With this discovery, India has joined the elite club of a handful of countries which

have discovered planets around stars. The discovery of these celestial objects was made by measuring the mass of the planet using the indigenously-designed PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search (PARAS) spectrograph, which was integrated with a 1.2 metre telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu.

Key Facts

- The planet is smaller in size than Saturn and bigger than Neptune. Its mass is about 27 times Earth's and six times that of Earth at radius. The scientists estimate that over

60% of its mass could be made up of heavy elements like ice, silicates and iron.

- With this discovery India has joined a handful of countries which have discovered planets around stars.
- The discovery was made using a PRL-designed spectrograph, PARAS, to measure and confirm the mass of the new planet. PARAS is an echelle spectrograph (with resolution of 60,000) designed and developed by the members of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Division of PRL.

3. UN Security Council

The UN General Assembly elected Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa to serve as non-permanent members on the Security Council for two years starting in January. The five new members will replace Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Sweden on the council.

There are 15 members on the UN Security Council, including the five permanent ones -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States and 10 non-permanent members, half of which are elected each year. Each candidate country needed to secure two thirds of the votes in order to clinch a seat.

Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) encompasses five key issues: categories of membership, the question of the veto held by the five permanent members, regional representation, the size of an enlarged Council and its working methods and the Security Council-General Assembly relationship. There

is also a proposal to admit more permanent members.

About UNSC

It is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the

maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions and the authorization of military action

through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

4. Hague Treaty on Inter-country Abduction of Children

The government of India is not yet ready to sign the Hague treaty on inter-country abduction of children by parents fleeing a bad marriage. There has been immense pressure from the U.S. on the government to sign the treaty though the government has long held the view that the decision could lead to harassment of women escaping marital discord or domestic violence. On the other hand, the government is planning to follow the Japan example and put safeguards in place before acceding to the Hague treaty.

A committee constituted by the Centre to examine legal issues involved

in international parental abduction submitted its report in April, opposing a central provision of the Hague Convention. It said that the criterion of habitual residence of the child, which is used to determine whether the child was wrongfully removed by a parent as well as to seek the return of the child to the country of habitual residence, was not in the best interest of the child.

About Hague Convention

- The Hague Convention is a multi-national treaty that seeks to protect

children wrongfully removed by one of the parents from the custody of the other parent.

- It seeks to return children abducted or retained overseas by a parent to their country of habitual residence for the courts of that country to decide on matters of residence and contact.
- The convention shall apply to any child, up to the age of 16 years who is a habitual resident of any of the contacting states.

5. Geo-Intelligence Asia - 2018

The eleventh edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia - 2018 organised by GeoSpatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as knowledge partners and Military Survey as co-organisers, took place in New Delhi on 4th June 2018. The theme of Seminar was 'GeoSpatial : A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security'. The seminar brought together the military, security officials including BSF and police forces, government

and industry together to examine the latest technology solutions and on the critical role of geospatial technology in military and security applications.

About Geospatial Intelligence

Geospatial intelligence is a critical foundation for many aspects of defense and internal security. It offers the capability of monitoring, predicting and countering threats while helping strategize and support various field operations.

- It facilitates multi-source information sharing and integration across agencies and organizations by providing a common framework on which other information is based.
- The use of big data, advanced geospatial

analytics software and sophisticated imaging technologies from (very) high-resolution remote sensing satellites, UAVs and other sensors, enables seamless flow of information in pre-, real-time and post-combat operations.

- Real-time views and insights of impacted regions are key to improving emergency response times, especially in vulnerable areas such as a country's border.
- Geospatial data is invaluable to the border security operations, to deliver accurate situational awareness information, enabling quick and secure decision-making, while mitigating risks, and increasing national security.



6. Historic Singapore Summit

In a first-ever meeting between leaders of the United States and North Korea, Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un signed a comprehensive document pledging to work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, creating history. Both the countries have agreed to joint effort to build a stable and peaceful regime, while Washington has also committed to provide security guarantees to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War, leaders of North Korea and the United States have never met

previously — or even spoken on the telephone.

- Mr. Trump said that the U.S. would end joint military exercises with South Korea, fulfilling a major demand by North Korea that has long claimed they are invasion rehearsals. The President, however, said the sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear tests will remain for now.
- The two sides committed to recovering POW/MIA (prisoners of war and missing in action) remains including the immediate



repatriation of those already identified.

- Reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the DPRK commits to work towards complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

7. Qingdao Declaration

The eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) signed 22 documents including separate pacts on countering terror and deradicalisation, even as India kept itself out of reference on the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the summit joint communique. The Qingdao declaration called for implementing a three-year plan to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. The member countries also

signed a decision to approve the 2018-2023 Anti-Drug Strategy and Action Plan and implement it. The leaders also signed an information pact.

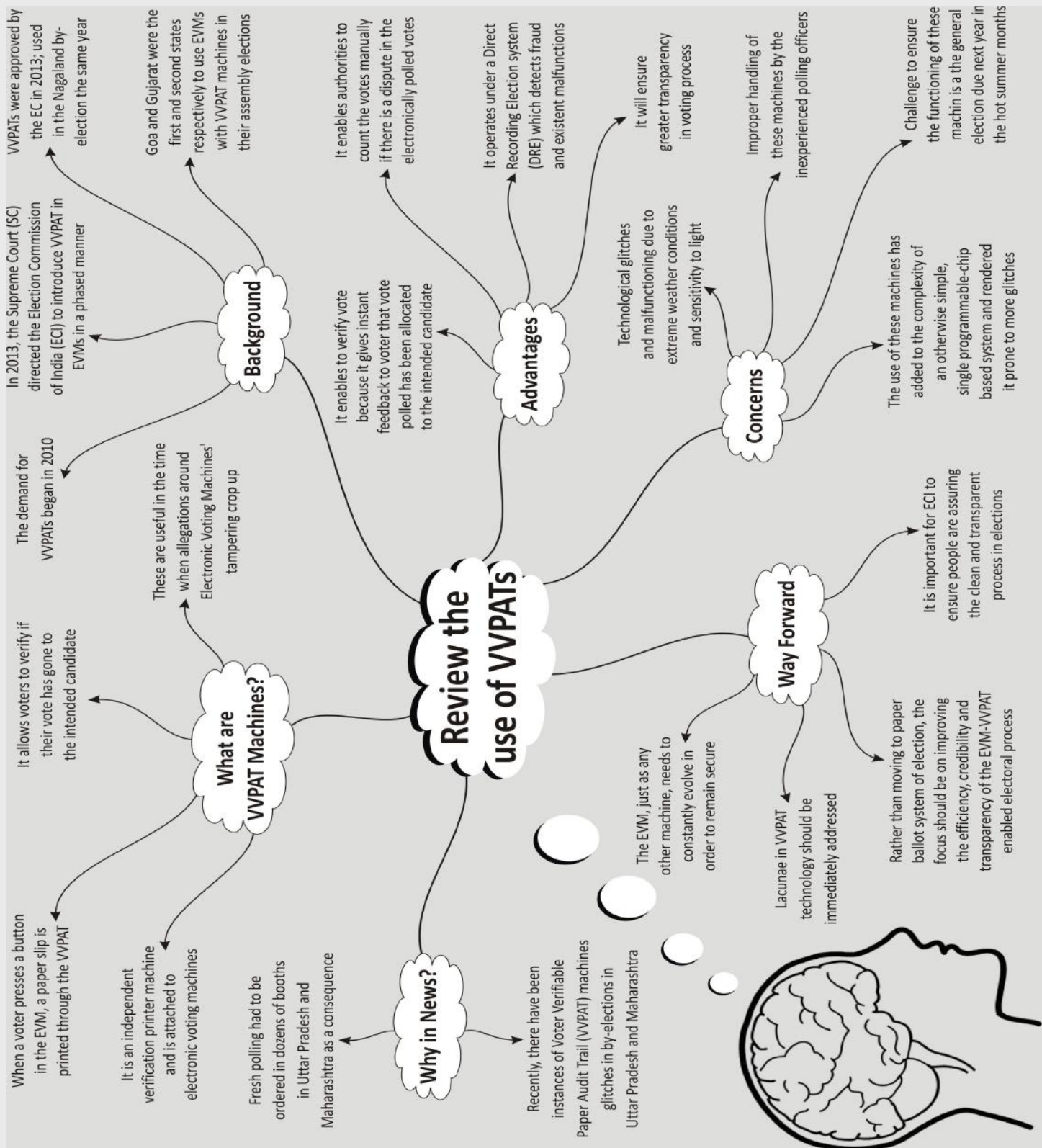
- The declaration calls for reaching consensus for adopting the 'UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism'.
- The SCO leaders also adopted a 'Joint Appeal to Youth', in which they appealed to youths not to get influenced by extremist ideologies.

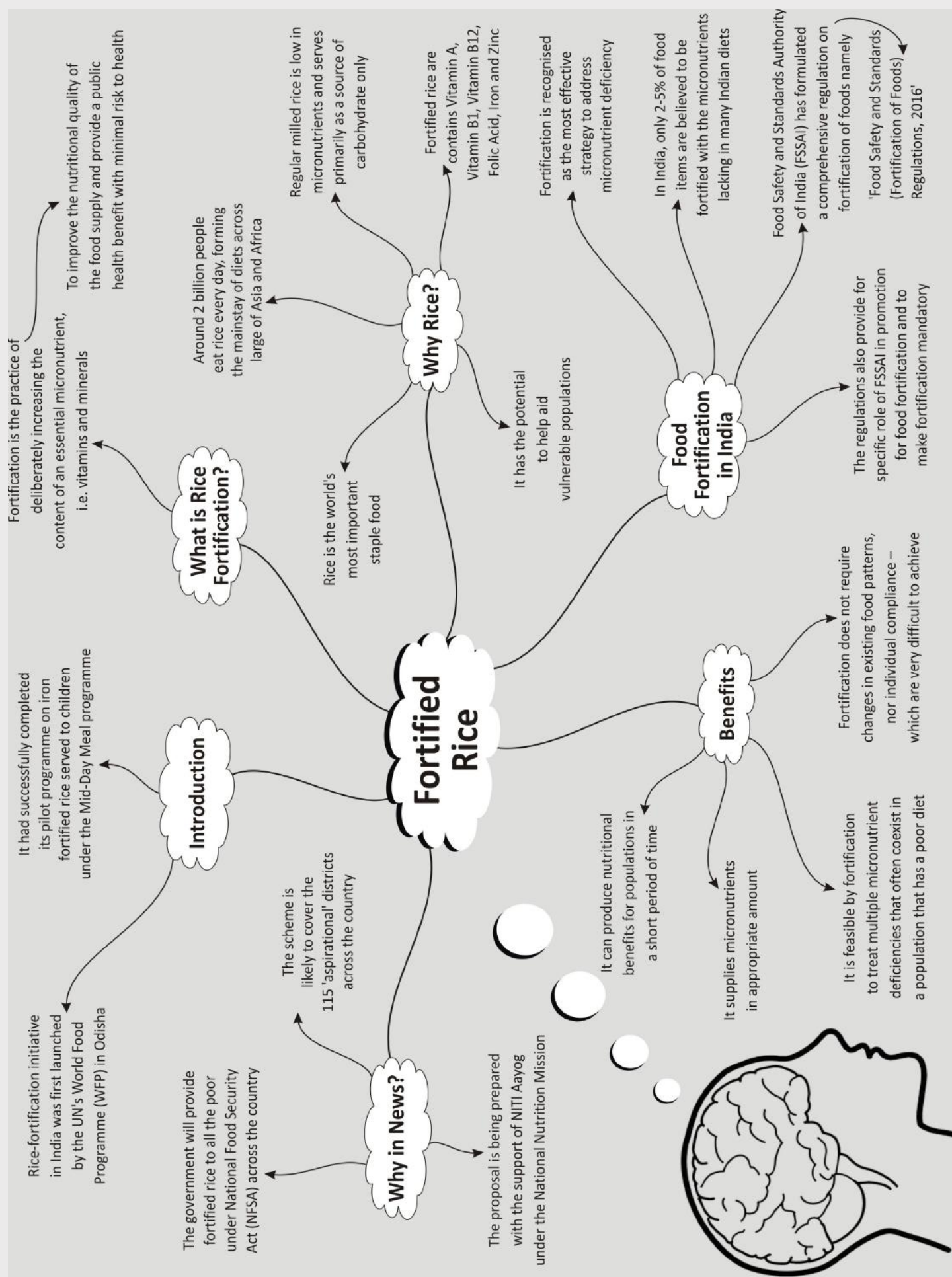
- In relation to the developments in the Middle East, the SCO talked about growing threat from foreign terrorists who return to their countries or find shelter in other countries to continue their terrorist activity within the bloc.
- They called for strengthening their cooperation in combating the spread of terrorist ideology through the internet.

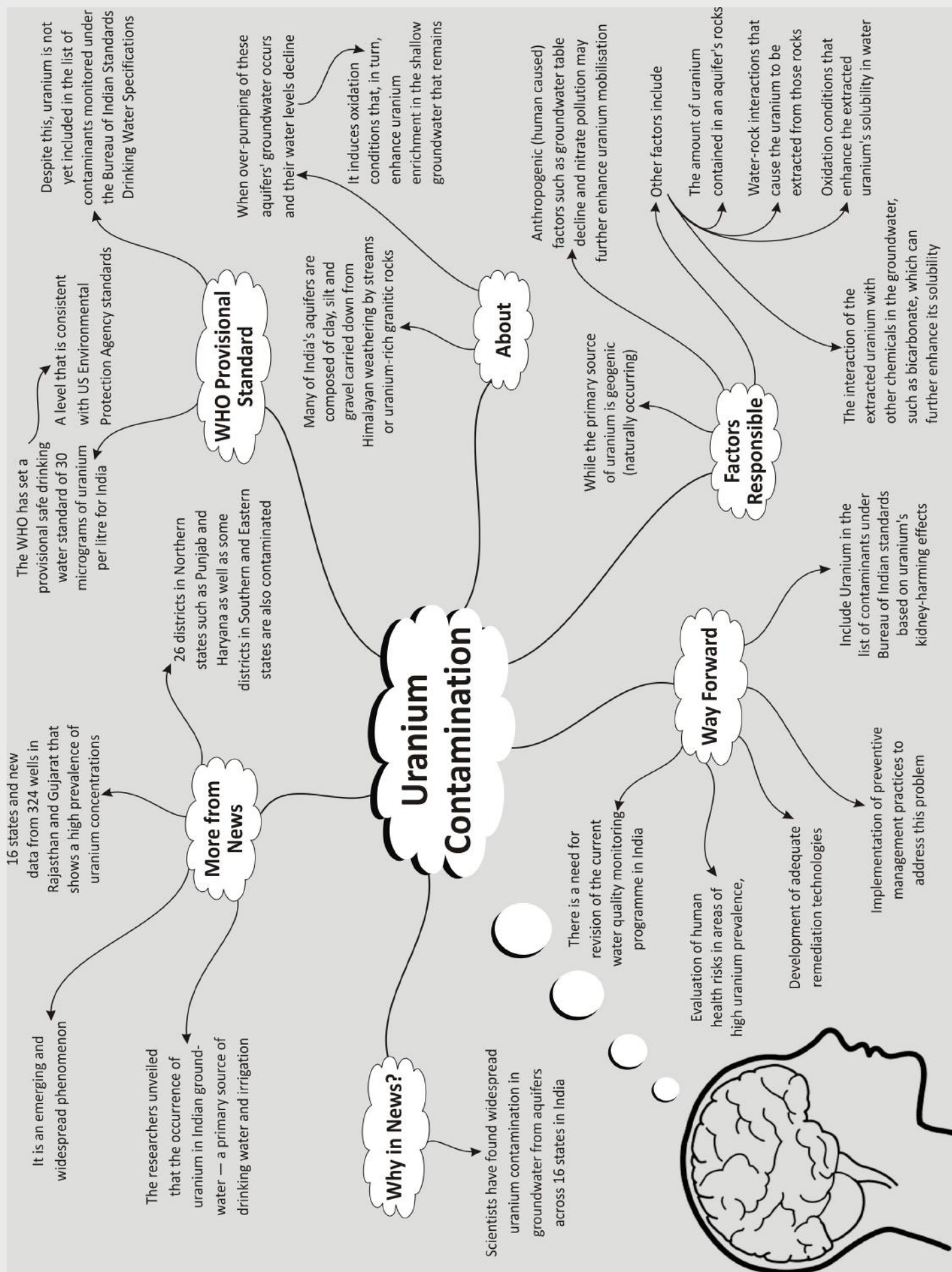
India on June 10, 2018 refused to endorse Chinese President Xi Jinping's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project as part of a joint declaration at the 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Qingdao. The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was for the first time that the Indian Prime Minister attended the SCO summit after India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of the grouping.

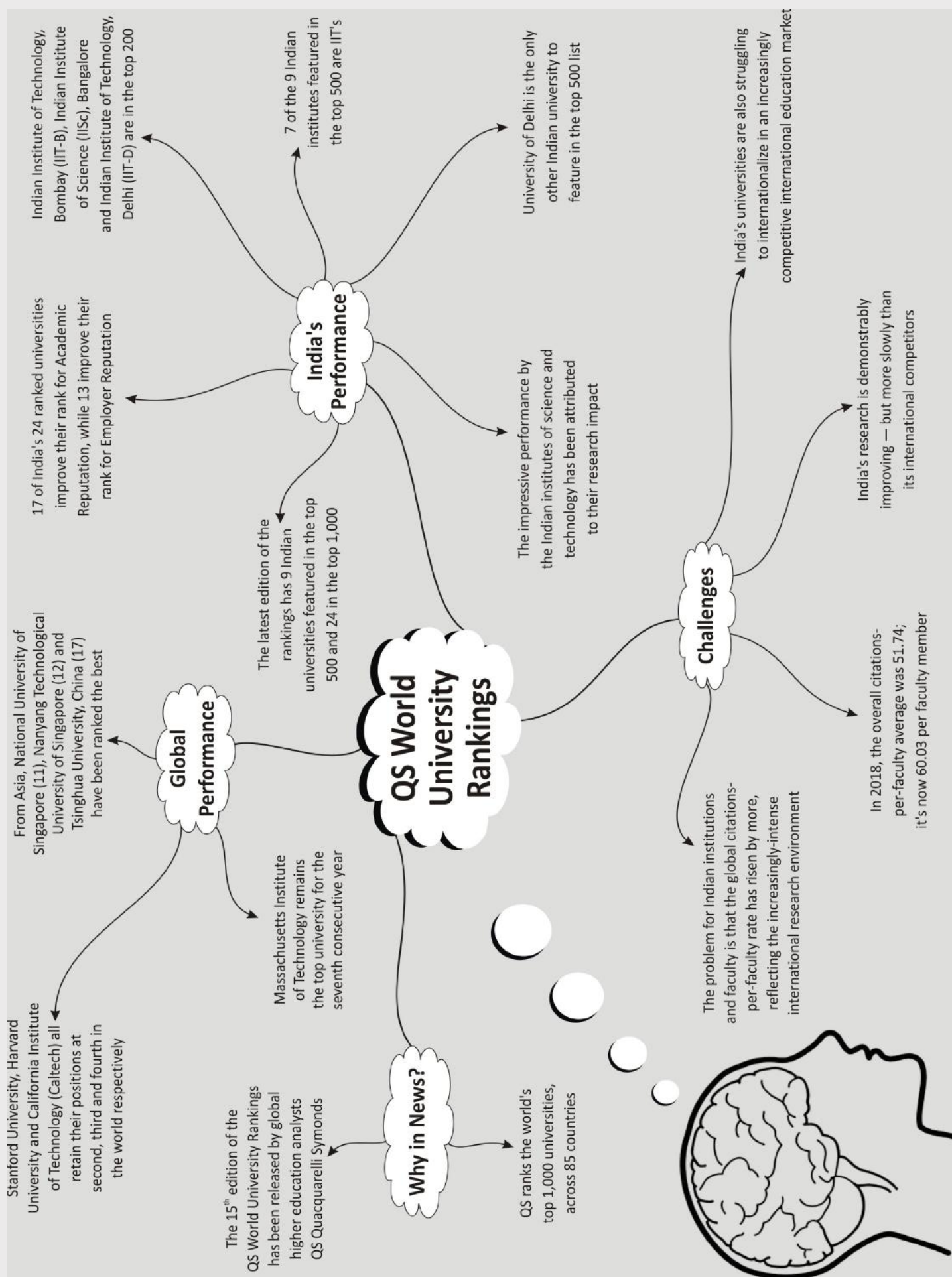


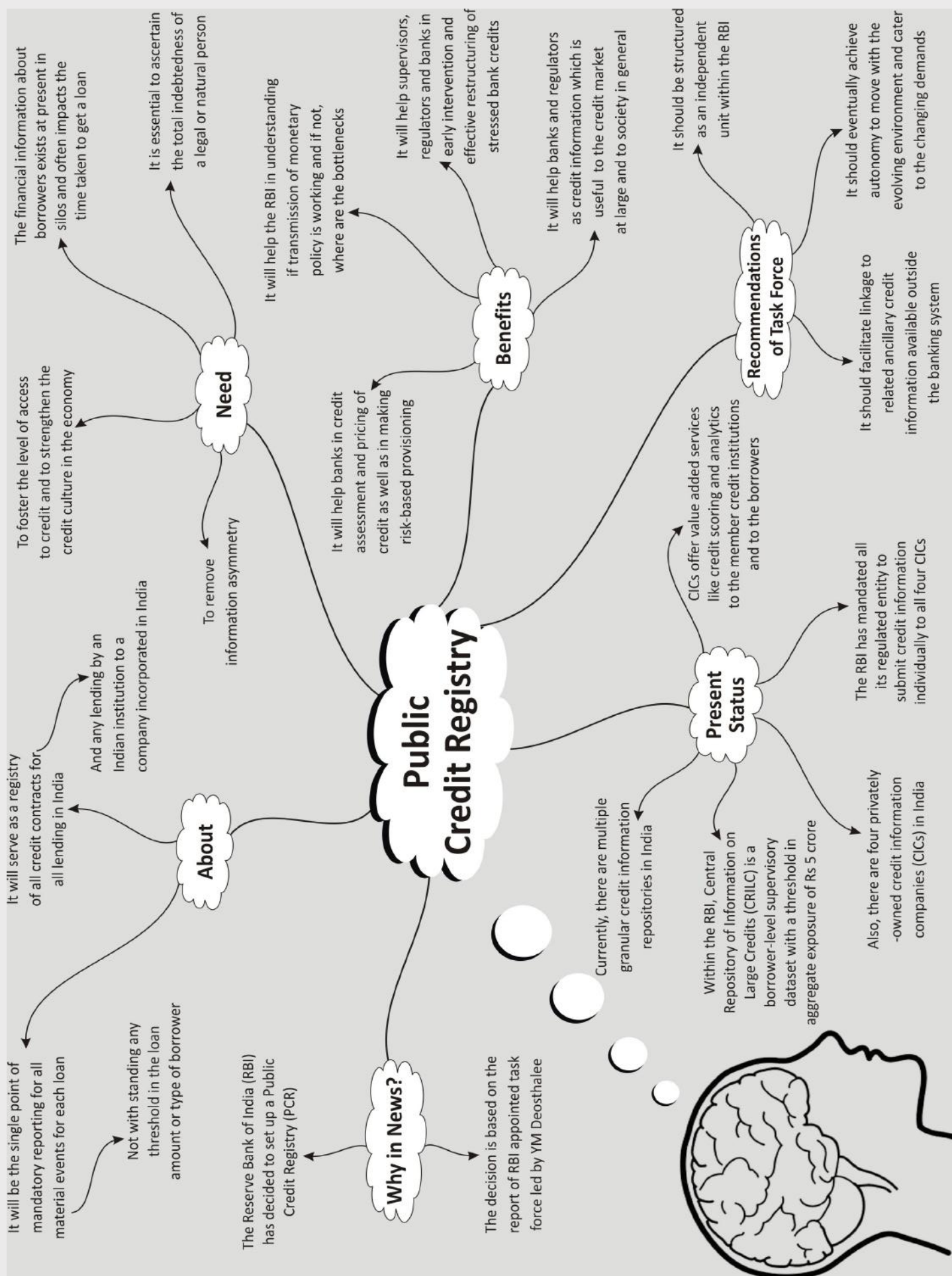
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

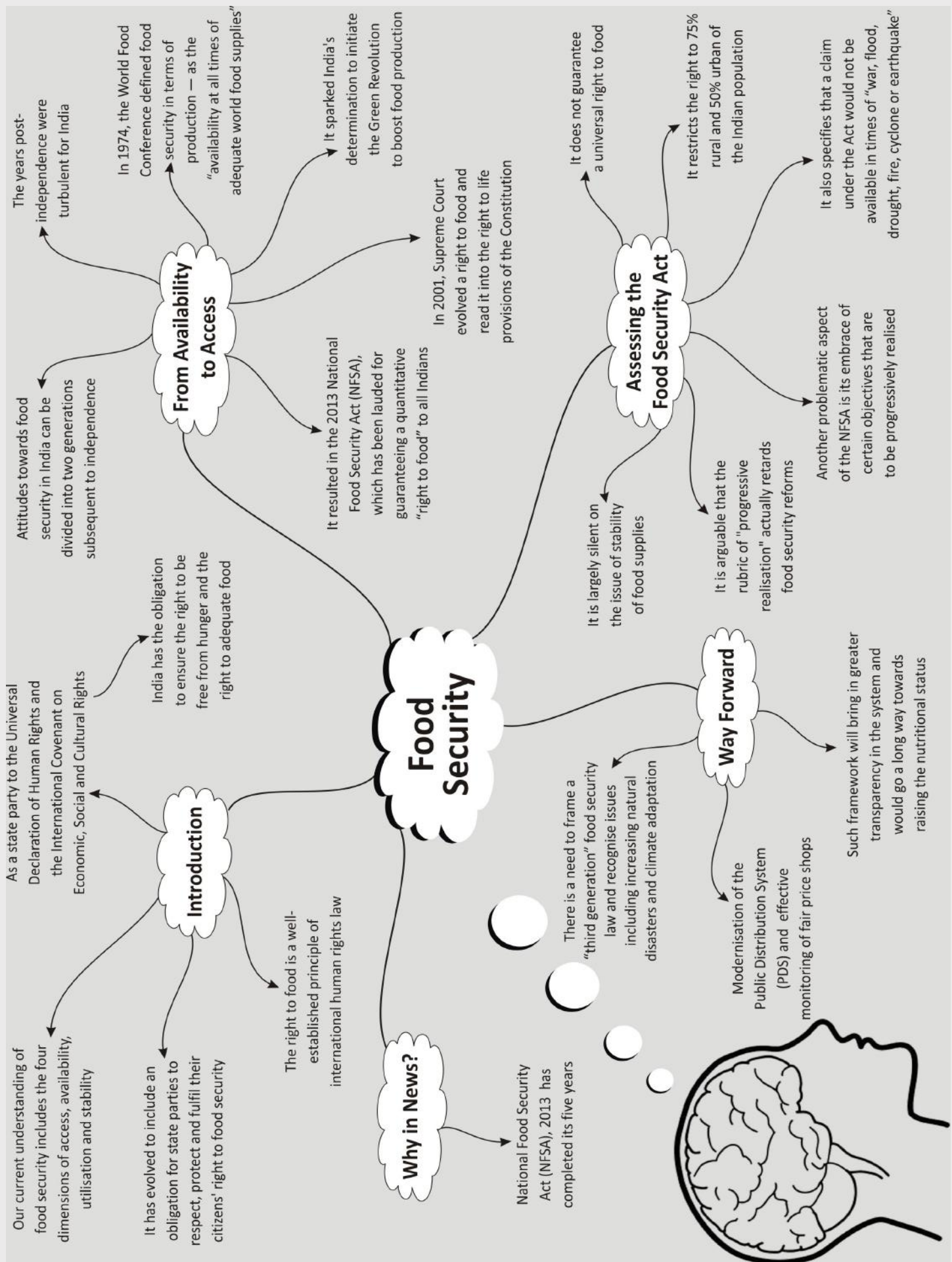


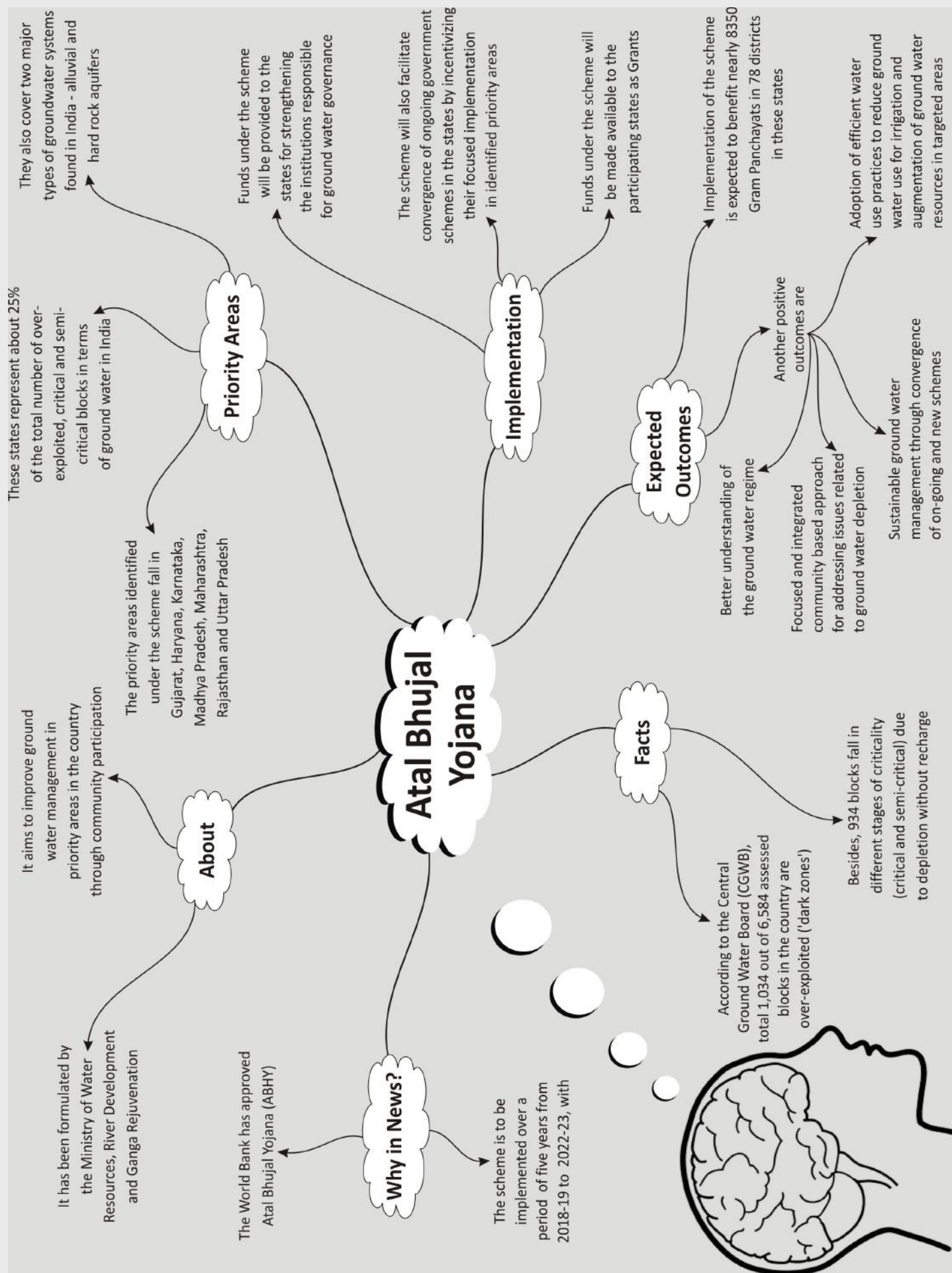












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Review the Use VVPATs

Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of the 'Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail Machine' (VVPATs):

1. It allows voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate.
2. Goa and Karnataka were the first and second states respectively to use EVMs with VVPAT machines in their assembly elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is a method that provides feedback to voters. It is an independent verification printer machine and is attached to electronic voting machines. It allows voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate.

Statement 2 is not correct. VVPATs were approved by the Election Commission in 2013; used in the Nagaland by-election the same year. But Goa and Gujarat were the first and second states respectively to use EVMs with VVPAT machines in their assembly elections.

Fortified Rice

Q2. With reference to the fortified rice, consider the following statements:

1. Fortified rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.
2. Rice-fortification initiative in India was first launched by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) in Odisha.

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 because regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only. Fortified rice contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.

Statement 2 is correct. Rice-fortification initiative in India was first launched by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) in Odisha. It had successfully completed its pilot programme on iron fortified rice served to children under the Mid-Day Meal programme.

Uranium Contamination

Q3. Recently the term 'uranium contamination' is mentioned in the news. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. The WHO has set a provisional safe drinking water standard of 30 micrograms of uranium per litre for India.
2. Water-rock interaction is one of the factors that cause the uranium contamination.

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 WHO has set a provisional safe drinking water standard of 30 microgrammes of uranium per litre for India, a level that is consistent with US Environmental Protection Agency standards. The occurrence of uranium in groundwater sources depends on several factors. These factors include the amount of uranium contained in an aquifer's rocks; water-rock interactions that cause the uranium to be extracted from those rocks; oxidation conditions that enhance the extracted uranium's solubility in water; and the interaction of the extracted uranium with other chemicals in the groundwater, such as bicarbonate, which can further enhance its solubility.

QS World University Rankings

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'QS World University Rankings-2018':

1. Only three Indian universities were able to secure a place in the top 100 best universities in this year's edition.
2. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has made a history by topping the rankings for the seventh consecutive year.

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. This year too, no Indian university was able to secure a place in the top 100 best universities in the QS World University Ranking. The list is dominated by the American and European universities. The latest edition of the rankings has 9 Indian universities featured in the top 500 and 24 in the top 1,000. IIT Bombay has moved significantly up from 179th rank last year to 162nd rank this year. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) are also in the top 200.

Statement 2 is correct. World class Massachusetts Institute of Technology has made a history by topping the QS World University Rankings for the seventh consecutive year. Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech), all retain their positions at second, third and fourth in the world, respectively.

Public Credit Registry

Q5. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up a Public Credit Registry (PCR). Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. The PCR will be the single point of mandatory reporting for all material events for each loan, notwithstanding any threshold in the loan amount or type of borrower.
2. The decision to set up a public credit registry (PCR) is based on the report of RBI appointed task force led by Y.M. Deosthalee.

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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up a public credit registry—an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers. A credit repository will help banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers. The public credit repository will address information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers.

The move is based on the recommendations of a committee it set up last year, headed by Y.M. Deosthalee.

Food Security

Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of food security in India:

1. The National Food Security Act provides for coverage of up to 70 per cent of the rural population and up to 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidised food grains.
2. The Act makes a paradigm shift in approach to food security – from welfare to a rights-based one.

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 Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act makes a paradigm shift in approach to food security – from welfare to a rights-based one. But it does not guarantee a universal right to food. Instead, it limits the right to food to those identified on the basis of certain criteria. It also specifies that a claim under the Act would not be available in times of “war, flood, drought, fire, cyclone or earthquake” (notably, it is within the Central government’s remit to declare whether such an occasion has arisen).

Atal Bhujal Yojana

Q7. With reference to the 'Atal Bhujal Yojana', consider the following statements:

1. It is being implemented with Asian Development Bank assistance.
2. It has been formulated by the Ministry of Rural Development.

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. The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), Rs.6000 crore central sector scheme. The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23. Atal Bhujal Yojana has been formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to address the criticality of ground water resources in a major part of the country. The scheme aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation. The priority areas identified under the scheme are in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. The 44th G7 summit was hosted by which nation?

–Canada

2. What was the theme of 2018 World Oceans Day (WOD)?

–Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean

3. Which Indian public authority has launched its online RTI Portal?

–Election Commission of India

4. Which Indian state has recorded the best Maternal Mortality Ratio since 2013?

–Kerala

5. Who will head the group to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India?

–Baba Kalyani

6. Which country hosted the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development?

–Nepal

7. Which Indian beach became the Asia's first beach to get the Blue Flag certification?

–Chandrabhaga beach

○○○

SEVEN PERFECT QUOTES

(IMPORTANT FOR ESSAY AND ANSWER WRITING)

"The mind of the superior man is conversant with righteousness; the mind of the mean man is conversant with gain."

—Confucius

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

—Socrates

"We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly."

—Aristotle

"Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants."

—Epicurus

"You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him to discover it in himself."

—Galileo Galilei

"That action is best which procures the greatest happiness for the great numbers."

—Francis Hutcheson

"Virtue is a state of war, and to live in it we have always to combat with ourselves."

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau



SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM

Answer each of the following questions in 200 words:

- Q1. The time is now ripe for the government to create data-driven governance architecture by building digital trust in the economy and its intent. Comment.
- Q2. What is the the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)? Discuss the role of SFIO in tackling white collar crimes in India.
- Q3. The online e-commerce market provides us with a unique opportunity to construct price indices and measure inflation. Critically examine the idea of predicting food price inflation through online prices in India.
- Q4. What do you understand by 'Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) system'? Discuss its feasibility to curb the SO₂ emission and eliminate high operational costs.
- Q5. Recognition of tribal rights over non-timber forest products (NTFPs) would accelerate empowerment of the poor and marginalised. Comment.
- Q6. With India recalibrating its relations with other powers, the India-U.S. equation is not quite balancing out. Critically analyse.
- Q7. While tackling undernutrition through assurance of adequate nutrition (usually interpreted as dietary calories), we need to ensure that it is also about appropriate nutrition (the right balance of nutrients). Our policy response has to move from “food security” to “nutrition security”. Discuss.

○○○

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GAURAV KUMAR
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VISHAL MISHRA
AIR-49



AMOL SHRIVASTAVA
AIR-83



PRATEEK JAIN
AIR-86



SUNNY KUMAR SINGH
AIR-91



PRIYANKA BOTHRA
AIR-106



SURAJ KUMAR RAI
AIR-117



DEEPANSHU KHURANA
AIR-120



SAURABH SABHLOK
AIR-124



ABHINAV CHOUKSEY
AIR-143



ANIRUDH
AIR-146



DESHMUKH YATISH VAJIRAO
AIR-159



SAURABH GUPTA
AIR-192



SAI PRANEETH
AIR-196



SHUBHAM AGGARWAL
AIR-202



HARSH SINGH
AIR-244



KATYAYANI BHATIA
AIR-246



SHIV NARAYAN SHARMA
AIR-278



SHAKTI MOHAN AWASTHY
AIR-296



LAVANYA GUPTA
AIR-298



BUDUMAJJI SATYA PRASAD
AIR-313



GAURAV GARG
AIR-315



SHAIKH SALMAN
AIR-339



YOGNIK BHAGEL
AIR-340



SAKSHI GARG
AIR-350



AMIT KUMAR
AIR-361



PUNEET SINGH
AIR-383



ANUPAMA ANJALI
AIR-386



VIJAY TANEJA
AIR-388



NSR REDDY
AIR-417



DHEERAJ AGARWAL
AIR-423



VIKRANT SAHDEO MORE
AIR-430



ADITYA JHA
AIR-431



KIRTI GOYAL
AIR-432



VIKAS SINGH
AIR-438



FURQAN AKHTAR
AIR-444



SHIVANI KAPUR
AIR-469



P SAINATH
AIR-480



JAGPRAVESH
AIR-483



POOJA SHOKEEN
AIR-516



ASHUTOSH SHUKLA
AIR-548



LAKHAN SINGH YADAV
AIR-565



VIKAS MEENA
AIR-568



MONIKA RANA
AIR-577



OMPRAKASH JAT
AIR-582



SWAPNIL YADAV
AIR-591



CHETAN KUMAR MEENA
AIR-594



UTSAHA CHAUDHARY
AIR-599



MALYAJ SINGH
AIR-601



GANESH TENGALE
AIR-614



AKSHAY KUMAR TEMRAWAL
AIR-615



DINESH KUMAR
AIR-638



VIJAYENDRA R
AIR-666



J SONAL
AIR-638



SHAHID T KOMATH
AIR-693



SHINDE AMIT LAXMAN
AIR-705



ANIL KUMAR VERMA
AIR-732



NILESH TAMBE
AIR-733



ANUPAM JAKHAR
AIR-739



RATANDEEP GUPTA
AIR-767



JAI KISHAN
AIR-768



PANKAJ YADAV
AIR-782



SHEERAT FATIMA
AIR-810



MANOJ KUMAR RAWAT
AIR-824



ARIF KHAN
AIR-850



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AIR-852



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AIR-865



SHIV SINGH MEENA
AIR-909

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	English	✓	✓
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