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SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

I. LATERAL ENTRY: OPEN DOOR FOR PRIVATE PLAYERS

Why in News?

The government has decided to bring in private and public sector specialists as joint secretaries in various ministries and departments through the lateral entry route. This move is based on the recommendation of the Centre's policy think-tank NITI Aayog.

Introduction

The government of India, in a pilot project, has advertised openings for 10 joint secretary posts on a contractual basis – three years, extendable upto five depending on performance. The candidates should be above 40 years of age and hold at least a Ph.D. The positions are to be filled up by a committee headed by the cabinet secretary in another two months. The idea, though, is not a new one and has been recommended by several committees as part of reports on civil services reforms. However, successive governments failed to implement it over the years. Individuals working in private sector companies, consultancy firms and international or multinational organisations are eligible to apply. There is a shortage of joint secretary-level officers at the Centre and a committee of secretaries as well as the NITI Aayog recommended lateral entry of professionals as joint secretaries to fill this gap. The post has been the domain of all-India service officers from the IAS, IRS, IPS and Income Tax Services.

The government of India is looking for ten outstanding individuals with

expertise in the areas of revenue, financial services, economic affairs, agriculture, cooperation & farmers' welfare, road transport & highways, shipping, environment, forests and climate change, new & renewable energy, civil aviation and commerce. The government of India invites talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation-building to join the government at the level of joint secretary. They lead policy making as well as implementation of various programmes and schemes of the department assigned to them.

India's political context, however, means that this will have to be done carefully. The recruitment and selection process must be transparent and involve an autonomous body like the Union Public Service Commission to minimize the risk of political considerations trumping merit. This is the route the UK, Australia and New Zealand have taken and the second administrative reforms committee has recommended as much. The inevitable push-back from the IAS will also have to be managed. So will the lateral entry recruits' lack of familiarity with operating in a government environment, particularly one as labyrinthine as India's.

Background

Lack of specialisation in the civil services and inadequate recruitment in the early 1990s appear to have forced the need for a lateral entry system currently. It remains to be

seen whether the 10 new recruits fit into the overall functioning of the government or not. In the meantime, the government would do well to address the crucial issues raised by the senior bureaucrats.

Public administration has become very complex and specialized knowledge is needed for policy-formulation and decision-making in many areas. The focus of the present bureaucracy, with the IAS as its core, is on developing general skills and competence through postings in various fields. By the time the officer acquires specialised skills, he or she reaches middle age and would lack the vigour and dynamism of youth. The new move will help to catch administrators relatively young and utilise their expertise well.

Seven decades later, those dynamics have changed. Some concerns, such as the need for having bureaucrats act as binding agents, no longer exist. Others, such as socioeconomic development, have transmuted to the point where the state's methods of addressing them are coming in for a rethink. And new concerns have arisen, such as the shift from the uniformity of centrally planned economic policy to the diverse demands of competitive federalism. The importance of economic effectiveness has risen concurrently. In a 21st century economy, a quarter century after liberalization, that means the need for specialized skills and knowledge to inform policy-making

and administration is more important than ever. Indeed, the first ARC had pointed out the need for specialization as far back as in 1965. The Surinder Nath Committee and the Hota Committee followed suit in 2003 and 2004, respectively, as did the second ARC. The success of the lateral entry announced by the government now will depend on transparency and its ability to address potential conflicts of interest and to lay down proper terms of engagement.

The upshot is a bureaucracy ill-suited to the rapidly changing nature of technology - fuelled economic progress and governance. Lateral entry is essential to infuse fresh vigour into this closed “mandarin” system. The UK has already attempted this with some success. Countries with similar systems that haven’t are suffering. Japan’s famously powerful bureaucracy is dealing with a loss of effectiveness and reputation not dissimilar to India’s. The French bureaucracy is and always has been, infamously stifling.

While this is the first time that an organised policy for lateral entry at a senior level is being rolled out, the experiment with private sector executives in government is not new. The Tata Group’s Russi Mody was appointed head of Air India back in 1993 and in 2002, former BSES CMD R V Shahi was made power secretary for five years. The UPA government brought in Nandan Nilekani to head the UIDAI project and the current government appointed ayurvedic physician and former VC of Gujarat Ayurveda University, Rajesh Kotecha, as Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH.

Union Public Service Commission

The government seems to have dispensed with the role of the Union Public Service Commission – the constitutionally mandated agency for recruitment to the civil services and

all civil posts within the government. Given its 92-year-old history it has the experience, expertise, skills and the infrastructure to make it one of the most credible agencies for recruitment to a variety of posts in the government – technical and general. As a talent scout for the government, UPSC’s experience is unmatched. Its constitutional authority enables it to be independent, fair and capable of resisting undue pressures and influences. Very few posts – excepting those requiring high levels of scientific specialisation – have ever been kept out of its purview and even for those the UPSC has to be mandatorily consulted for formulating the recruitment rules.

UPSC System Bypassed

First, the doubts. A number of former IAS officers who retired from senior positions look at the move with some degree of reservation although none of them objected to the idea of a lateral entry of experts. They have objected to the fact that the government has allowed lateral entry by bypassing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the three-tier civil services examination annually, and has, instead, instructed the cabinet secretary-headed committee to recruit professionals.

The Indian Administrative Service

The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is the top-most layer of the government bureaucracy in India. IAS bureaucrats staff the most important positions in district administration, state and central government secretariats and state-owned enterprises. A particularly important position is that of a District Officer, who is responsible for ensuring law and order, providing certain judicial functions, organizing relief and rehabilitation in cases of natural disasters, implementing development policies and overseeing all aspects of administration in a specific district.

IAS Officers are career civil servants and political neutrality is a requirement

of their position. IAS Officers cannot join political parties or be involved in any political events. On the other side, politicians are not involved in the hiring process of IAS Officers.

In many countries, elected politicians and appointed bureaucrats are jointly responsible for governance. Bureaucrats typically face low-powered incentives and politicians have limited constitutional power to hire or fire them. This is consistent with a desirable feature of the rule of law, which is that policy implementation not be politicized.

Pros of Lateral Entry

- 1) The lack of specialisation across the top tier of Indian bureaucracy is a concern that has remained unaddressed until now.
- 2) IAS officers get recruited at a very early age via the UPSC exams. It is difficult to gauge their administrative judgement and capabilities then. Allowing for lateral entry of seasoned professionals and experts into the service makes up for this deficiency.
- 3) Career promotions in the IAS move along seamlessly with few impediments along the way. Attempts to introduce ‘meritocracy’ hasn’t quite worked out. Bringing in experts from the professional sphere is expected to shake the IAS out of their comfort zone.
- 4) This isn’t the first time that the government brought in professionals from the private sector or academia into the top tier of government. Take a look at the Finance Ministry, Reserve Bank of India and even the current NITI Aayog, which have hired the likes of Raghuram Rajan, Arvind Subramanian and Arvind Panagariya to name a few.
- 5) The IAS was designed for a time when the state was all-powerful. That reality somewhat changed

with liberalisation in 1991, where the state was compelled to cede more space to markets. Therefore, it becomes more critical for the government to ascertain the impact its policy decisions have on various stakeholders such as the private sector, non-profits and general public, i.e. those who have experienced government from the outside.

Cons of Lateral Entry

- 1) Lateral entrants from the private sector and academia may not work well with the bureaucracy. The same pretty much goes for any inter-sector scenario. Differences in work culture, turf wars and systemic inertia often come in the way.
- 2) It's important to gauge what processes the Centre has put in place to ease the transition and establish authority. Candidates coming from the outside may not know the nuances of the system which can be exploited against them in any number of ways.
- 3) The IAS establishment is likely to balk at lateral entrants who haven't made it through probably the hardest open competitive exam in the world, but because of privilege and social networks.
- 4) One of the distinguishing aspects that the current crop of IAS officers can hold up is their experience in the field, serving some of the poorest districts in our hinterlands. Those entering from privileged backgrounds and the private sector may have never seen a village school.
- 5) There are also concerns that the introduction of pro-establishment candidates through lateral entry at the position of joint secretary could stifle good civil servants who are resisting against something inadvisable that the government seeks to do.

Criticism to Lateral Entry

Joint secretaries are at a crucial level of senior management in the government of India and lead policymaking and the implementation of various programmes and schemes of the department. They report to the secretary/additional secretary in the ministry or department and are normally appointed from All India services like the IAS, IPS, IFS and other central services.

There is a fear that it may be used to appoint ideologically committed people who will support the government in key positions. A move to change the role of the foundation course for civil services has already created a controversy.

Nepotism and other ills of the selection system can defeat the aims of the move. There is also the question whether the right candidates would apply because the appointment is on contract for a period of only three years.

Way Forward

These rare appointments should now become more common and need to be institutionalised. The bureaucracy has a reputation for lethargy, status quoism and obstructionism, apart from inadequate knowledge and refusal to learn new things. It is not that 10 new joint secretaries will change the work culture and profile of the bureaucracy. But the move can set a trend and its success will be watched.

Lateral entry will bring in much-needed outside experience, buffer the talent within the administration and challenge the IAS into continuous self-improvement. Lateral entry system, therefore, is a disruption in the classical scheme of things. It is an incursion into the forbidden IAS territory. There is certainly a risk that due process might not be followed and ill-qualified, political appointees will land up in senior positions of the government and hurt public interest.

India's civil services need reform. There is little argument about this. Internal reforms—such as insulation from political pressure and career paths linked to specialization—and external reforms such as lateral entry are complementary, addressing the same deficiencies from different angles.

Conclusion

Lateral entry is the way forward. One can hope for the pilot project to be implemented across all government levels at a later stage through proper institutionalisation and transparency. However, the legitimacy of the entire process and consequent success of the move is contingent on who makes the appointments.

All of which should make it clear that as potentially beneficial as lateral entries are, they are not a panacea. They can buttress the IAS. They cannot replace it. Technocratic skills are important. But so is the IAS' unduplicable experience of ground-level governance in India. From rewarding performance to curbing the culture of political patronage, difficult—a pessimist would say near impossible—reforms are necessary. Without this, all the private sector talent in the world will not be able to make up for the deficiencies of a bureaucracy low on morale, performance and reputation.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

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

Topic: Role of civil services in a democracy.

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2. SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION: AN EAST IS RISING

Why in News?

Recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) annual summit in Qingdao in China was the first SCO summit since its expansion when India and Pakistan were included as full members at the Astana summit in Kazakhstan last year.

Introduction

The SCO is a Eurasian inter-governmental organization. The SCO is digging into the region's eastern roots to find ideological answers to the divisive wave of anti-globalisation rising from the West. In an obvious reference to the America-first doctrine of the Trump administration, Chinese President Xi Jinping extolled Confucian values of harmony and mutual respect to counter the headwinds of protectionism and inward-looking geopolitics.

The organization, despite its mostly regional Central Asian focus, is often referred to as the most populous multilateral organization in the world, a pioneer in the rise of non-Western arenas for global governance and even a new paradigm of international relations. Yet, many of the organization's high-profile initiatives continue to be aspirational and unfilled – especially in the area of economic and energy cooperation – while the organization's strong norm of consensus effectively means that the body is rarely used to 'problem-solve' or host contentious debates among its members.

Furthermore, Russia and China, differ over the organization's exact purpose and scope. China views the SCO as a multilateral forum to ensure China's regional security and economic interests and a multilateral vehicle for channeling China's role as an emerging

public goods provider. Russia, on the other hand, views the SCO in more global terms, serving as a key forum for Moscow's foreign policy revisionism and opposition to the U.S.-led global order.

SCO touted as a counter-balance to NATO is an economic, political and security organisation initiated by China to essentially address security issues. Apart from enlarging the membership, the summit adopted the Qingdao Declaration. In the face of increasingly growing uncertainties the international community needs to seek common grounds to cope with global challenges. While the security and economic cooperation generated by the SCO remained rather limited so far and the platform remains more symbolism than substance, its importance has increased at a time when the West remains divided and the United States under Donald Trump is charting a unilateral course.

At a time when America is looking inwards and Europe is struggling to come to terms with multiple domestic crises, major powers are looking at multiple coalitions to manage an international order in a high degree of fluidity. New Delhi is no exception. India's substantive engagement with wider Central Asia will be key to its growing aspirations in a rapidly evolving Eurasian landscape.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15th June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The historical meeting of the heads

of state council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was held on 8-9th June 2017 in Astana. On the meeting the status of a full member of the Organization was granted to India and Pakistan.

SCO has six dialogue partners, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The SCO's main goals are as follows: strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

The organisation has two permanent bodies–

1. The SCO Secretariat based in Beijing.
2. The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.

The SCO Secretary-General and the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS are appointed by the Council of Heads of State for a term of three years.

Qingdao Declaration

India was not part of the section of Qingdao declaration that referred to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to the declaration, "the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz

Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan reaffirmed their support for the 'Belt and Road Initiative' proposed by China and affirmed that all parties should implement the 'Belt and Road Initiative'. India is supportive of connectivity projects, but only those that respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations. Coining another acronym — SECURE — in order to facilitate comprehensive security in the SCO region. There are six dimensions summed up in the English word SECURE:

- **S** stands for the security of citizens.
- **E** for economic development for all.
- **C** is for connecting the region.

- **U** is for uniting our people.
- **R** is for respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- **E** is for environmental protection.

For India, though, the SCO summit was largely an attempt to enhance its profile in wider Eurasia and Central Asia in particular. New Delhi would also be keen on enhancing regional cooperation for countering terrorism, religious extremism and separatism. India's engagement in Afghanistan is also key in this regard. PM Modi highlighted this when he suggested that "the situation in Afghanistan is an unfortunate example of terrorism and extremism in our region. It is our responsibility that causes which threaten Afghan unity, sovereignty, integrity, diversity and democracy in the past will not be repeated."

From India's perspective SCO can be used to enhance India's regional outreach in wider Eurasia and Central Asia in particular. The Qingdao declaration's focus on the fight against terrorism was a welcome development. The declaration condemned all forms of terrorism and underlined that "interference in the domestic affairs of other states under the pretense of combating terrorism and extremism is unacceptable, as well as the use of terrorist, extremist and radical groups for one's own purposes."

India-China

This was interesting as Indian Prime Minister and Chinese President Xi Jinping managed to take the Wuhan spirit forward in their bilateral interactions and even managed to



sign two key agreements. After a year of strained ties, during which Beijing refused to share hydrological data on the Brahmaputra River, the two sides reached a pact to share the hydrological data in 2018. Sino-Indian economic ties got a boost with New Delhi agreeing to the opening of a Bank of China branch in Mumbai and China agreeing to let Indian pharmaceutical companies register for high-quality pharma products in the Chinese market, as well as to allowing India to export non-Basmati rice to China. India pushed for greater people-to-people engagement between India and other members of the SCO and underlined India's desire to double the number of tourists from the region. New Delhi is planning to organize a food festival of cuisines of SCO countries as well as a shared Buddhist heritage exhibition in India.

India-Pakistan

China and Russia are proposing that the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) can become a peace platform to resolve India-Pakistan differences. SCO could provide a "better platform" to resolve the bitter feud between India and Pakistan of over seven decades. There are unresolved historical conflicts existing between India and Pakistan. India is exploring the possibility of connectivity to Central Asia through the Pakistan-Afghan corridor, under the SCO framework. India's pending energy projects like the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan - Pakistan - India) pipeline, IPI (Iran-Pakistan-India) pipeline and CASA (Central Asia-South Asia)-1000 electricity transmission projects — all of which are blocked due in part to Pakistan's recalcitrant approach — can get a much needed push through the SCO.

In one other area — support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty — the declaration made a distinction, noting

that "the member states that are signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty are committed to strict compliance with NPT provisions." This, like the BRI segment, was a break from consensus that had featured in previous declarations. In the 2017 Astana Declaration, for example, the NPT was referred to thusly "the member states consistently advocate strict observance of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons."

Comparing the G7 and the SCO

The two summits, occurring almost contemporaneously, invite easy comparisons focused on tone and optics. It is important to note that the G7 and SCO, apart from being groups of world leaders, are quite different. This may not matter to the optics, but it matters to the actual implications of tension at the one and smooth sailing at the other.

What is now the G7 began as an informal gathering of top financial officials in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. The first summit of the then-G6 brought together the leaders of six nations, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States; in 1976 Canada — then led by Pierre Trudeau — was added. The countries represented the world's top economies, its leading industrialized nations. They were also united by the so-called liberal world order and democratic governments. Russia's addition — making it the G8 — in 1998 was, in a sense, an aspirational move. In 2014, Russia was expelled from the group. The pushing out of Russia was tied to its annexation of Crimea, but frankly speaking, Russia had not developed, politically, in the way the G7 countries had hoped. The G7, while formalized in annual summits, remains an informal gathering of world leaders with shared interests and significant influence on global affairs.

The SCO, on the other hand, is a more formal but younger and less effective grouping. Born as the Shanghai Five (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) in 1996 with the intent of setting residual border disputes between China and its neighboring former Soviet states, the group welcomed Uzbekistan in 2001 and became the SCO. The so-called Shanghai Spirit of "mutual trust, mutual respect, equality, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of shared development" undergirded the new organization, which expanded its remit to cover an ever-expanding universe of issues from economics to culture.

Trump's haphazard diplomatic style, apparent preference for autocrats and obsession with the idea that U.S. allies have been taking advantage of the United States in trade matters, brought bilateral tensions into the G7 gathering. In the trade arena, Trump's decision to impose steel and aluminium tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and the EU — which had initially been exempted — has triggered anger in the United States allies.

The statement goes on to catalog a litany of shared positions: fair rules, free trade, equality and shared responsibility. There were more specific provisions too: criticism of Russia's "destabilizing behavior"; harsh words for "foreign actors" (i.e. Russia again) "who seek to undermine our democratic societies and institutions, our electoral processes, our sovereignty and our security..."; a statement on the East and South China Seas; and so on.

Conclusion

While the security and economic cooperation generated by the SCO has been rather limited so far and the platform remained mostly symbolic, its importance has increased at a time when the West remains divided and the US under Donald Trump is charting

a unilateral course. The Qingdao statement “stressed the importance of consistently strengthening and developing the multilateral trade system,” underscoring the role of world leaders such as Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi as defenders of global free trade. This was against the backdrop of a bickering G-7 where the US refused to endorse a joint communique with its closest allies in Quebec. With his announcement of tariffs, the Trump administration is challenging the very foundation of the global economic order, which America itself had created post World War II.

The West may be in free fall but the SCO isn't set up to replace it just yet. The two summits, occurring almost contemporaneously, invite easy comparisons focused on tone and optics. Here certainly, we get the feeling of a Western order breaking apart and an Eastern order firming. But while dissonance in the so-called Western order — or more accurately,

Trump's abdication of the United States' place in it — is concerning, such dissonance exists in the East as well at several levels. At a time when America is looking inward and Europe is struggling to come to terms with multiple domestic crises, major powers are looking at multiple coalitions to manage an international order in a high degree of fluidity. New Delhi is no exception.

India's membership in the SCO provides it with select opportunities in the geoeconomic and the geostrategic sphere in the Central Asian Region (CAR). It is yet to be seen whether India's membership in the SCO will come at the expense of China's interest in Indian-led organization, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) or the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). China's membership in these organizations could dilute India's position as well

as its influence in the region. Indian's benefits from the SCO will be limited due to the role of China and Pakistan in the organization. Positive outcomes will depend on how Indian diplomacy deals with its rivals. On the other hand, India-Russia diplomatic relations will have a major role in promoting India's interests in the SCO and India's cordial relations with Central Asian countries will determine the fate of India's interests.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood-relations.

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

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

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3. NABBING ABSCONDING ECONOMIC OFFENDERS

Why in News?

Absconding diamantaire Nirav Modi who is at the centre of a money laundering case linked to the over \$2 billion Punjab National Bank fraud has fled to the UK where he is claiming political asylum. Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi are being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly cheating the Punjab National Bank (PNB) the country's second-largest lender.

Background

There have been several instances of economic offenders fleeing the jurisdiction of Indian courts, anticipating the commencement, or during the pendency, of criminal proceedings. The absence of such offenders from Indian courts has several deleterious

consequences - first, it hampers investigation in criminal cases; second, it wastes precious time of courts of law, third, it undermines the rule of law in India. Further, most such cases of economic offences involve non-repayment of bank loans thereby worsening the financial health of the banking sector in India. The existing civil and criminal provisions in law are not entirely adequate to deal with the severity of the problem.

In India, loan frauds typically refer to cases where the borrower intentionally tries to deceive the lending bank and does not repay the loan. The figures expose the magnitude of the problem in a banking sector already under pressure after years of poor lending practices. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, shows state-run banks

have reported 8,670 “loan fraud” cases totalling Rs. 612.6 billion (\$9.58 billion) over the last five financial years up to March 31, 2017. The figures expose the magnitude of the problem in a banking sector already under pressure after years of poor lending practices. Bad loans surged to a record peak of nearly \$149 billion last year.

India is also pushing for the return of liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, who is on trial for the UK court to rule if he can be extradited to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering amounting to around Rs 9,000 crore.

On the Run

Since Nirav Modi has fled the country even before the bank could lodge an FIR, he is now the latest addition in the list with the likes of Vijay Mallya who

has siphoned off a lot of exchequer's money. Some 31 suspected economic offenders have fled the country to avoid prosecution, the government has told the Lok Sabha. Here is the list of financial fugitives who have been out of India and the country hasn't been able to extradite them to bring them before the law.

Vijay Mallya: The liquor baron faces several cases in India, where his companies have defaulted on loans of around Rs 9,000 crore from Indian banks. In March 2016, several banks approached the Supreme Court to stop Mallya from going abroad due to the money he owed them. He had, however, left by then. He is still in London and good times continue to be still rolling for him as a UK court just tripled his weekly allowance. He was arrested late last year hours after which he was given bail.

Lalit Modi: In 2010, Modi let out ownership details of Kochi IPL team, which was going to be a new addition to the series. He was sent show cause notices for breaching confidentiality and was sacked eventually. He fled to England citing threats to his family's safety. In 2011, his passport was revoked. The ED got a blue corner Interpol notice against him for breaching rules related to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) during the time he was the IPL chief. He continues to be in the UK and challenged the ED's notice in a London court.

Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi: They left India early this year, are wanted by authorities in an alleged case of duping PNB of Rs. 13,000 crore. They allegedly worked with bank officials to illegally obtain Letters of Undertaking, which were cashed overseas from different banks.

Fugitive Economic Offender

A fugitive economic offender has been defined as a person against whom an

arrest warrant has been issued for committing an offence listed in the schedule and the value of the offence is at least Rs 100 crore. Further the person has:

- Left the country to avoid facing prosecution.
- Refuses to return to face prosecution.

Some of the offences listed in the schedule are:

- Counterfeiting government stamps or currency.
- Cheque dishonor.
- Money laundering.
- Transactions defrauding creditors.

Declaration as Fugitive Economic Offender

A Director, appointed by the central government, will have to file an application to a special court to declare a person as a 'fugitive economic offender'. After hearing the application, the special court may declare an individual as a fugitive economic offender. It may confiscate properties which:

- i. are proceeds of crime,
- ii. are benami properties in India or abroad and
- iii. Any other property in India or abroad.

Upon confiscation, all rights and titles of the property will vest in the central government, free from all encumbrances (such as any charges on the property). The central government will appoint an administrator to manage and dispose of these properties.

Attachment of Property

The director or deputy director may attach any property mentioned in the application with the permission of a special court. Further, these authorities may provisionally attach any property without the prior permission of the special court, provided that they file an application before the court within 30 days. The attachment will continue

for 180 days, unless extended by the special court. If at the conclusion of proceedings, the person is not found to be a fugitive economic offender, his properties will be released.

Why is Britain the Favourite Hiding Spot for Indian Fugitives?

After former IPL administrator Lalit Modi and Vijay Mallya of Kingfisher Airlines, another scam - accused, diamond trader Nirav Modi, is believed to be hiding in the UK. Is UK a safe country for fugitives from Indian law?

Strong Human-right Laws

It's not just the Modis — Nirav and Lalit — and the Mallyas of India who have sought refuge in Queen's land. Over 5,500 people from India have sought political asylum in Britain since 2013, not all of them criminals though. UK is a signatory to European Convention on Human Rights—if UK courts deem that a person to be extradited is likely to face torture or death penalty, or the extradition is due to political reasons, they may deny the extradition request.

Delay in Extradition

Extradition proceedings are slow in the UK. India has made nine extradition requests, including one for Vijay Mallya to the UK: for Rajesh Kapoor (2011) for forgery and fraud, Tiger Hanif (2004) for involvement in terrorism, Atul Singh (2012) for sex crimes, Raj Kumar Patel (2009) for forgery, Jatinder Kumar Angurala and Asha Rani Angurala (2014) for bank fraud, Sanjeev Kumar Chawla (2004) for cricket betting and Shaik Sadiq (2004) for conspiracy and theft. These requests are still pending in courts.

Rejected Extraditions

The UK has extradited only one Indian — Samirbhai Vinubhai Patel in 2016 — since both the countries signed extradition treaty in 1992 even

though India has extradited several British fugitives such as Maninder Pal Singh Kohli in 2007 for murder, Somaia Ketan Surendra in 2009 for cheating and Kulwinder Singh Uppal in 2013 for kidnapping. The UK has rejected a large number of extradition requests made by India on different grounds. These include for Raymond Varley, Ravi Shankaran, Velu Boopalan, Ajay Prasad Khaitan, Virendra Kumar Rastogi and Anand Kumar Jain.

Extradition Laws in India

Extradition refers to the surrender of a criminal to one country by another. The process of extradition is regulated by treaties between the two countries. Extradition is important because it helps to maintain the sanctity of the penal code of one country or territory. The penal code says that it shouldn't apply its criminal law to a person who committed an offence outside its territories except when the crime is related to the country's national interest.

In India, the Extradition Act, 1962, regulates the surrender of a person to another country or the request for arrest of a person in a foreign land. According to the act, any conduct by a person in India or elsewhere mentioned in a list of extradition offences punishable with a minimum one year of imprisonment qualifies for an extradition request. India can make an extradition request to any country.

If there is no treaty with the country from which the fugitive is to be extradited, then there aren't any defined guidelines for the law to be applied and procedure to be followed. In such a scenario, a lot depends on the cooperation and coordination between different authorities of the two countries. Another option is to resort to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty wherein both countries agree to exchange information in order to enforce criminal laws.

If the extradition request comes from two or more countries, then the government has the right to take the call to decide which country is fittest for the request. Since 2002, India has extradited 44 fugitive criminals to various countries. On the contrary, India has got 61 criminals extradited to itself from different countries since 2002.

With which Countries does India Share Extradition Treaties?

As of now, India has extradition treaties with 48 countries including the US, the UAE, Hong Kong, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the UK. India has entered into extradition arrangements with Croatia, Italy and Sweden, as well as Fiji, Italy, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Tanzania. In countries with which India does not have a treaty, the government can, by a notified order, treat as an extradition treaty any convention to which India and the other country are parties.

What Offences are Covered under Extradition Treaties?

While bilateral, most treaties seem to follow at least five principles: extradition applies only to offences stipulated as extraditable in the treaty; these must be offences under the national laws of both countries; the requested country must be satisfied that there is a prima facie case made out against the accused; the extradited person must be proceeded against only for the offence for which extradition was requested; he must be accorded a fair trial.

What are the Rules for Provisional Arrest and Extradition?

India's treaty partners — which include the UK — have an obligation to consider requests for provisional arrest. In the absence of a treaty, India can

still make a request, which the other country will decide in accordance with its laws. In case of urgency, India may request a provisional arrest pending presentation of an extradition request.

Each extradition treaty specifies the documents required and means for a provisional arrest request. The concerned law enforcement agency in India prepares the request and sends it to the Ministry of External Affairs, which forwards it to the concerned authority of the other country.

An extradition request can be initiated after a chargesheet has been filed in a court and after the court, having taken cognisance of the case, has issued orders justifying the fugitive's committal for trial and sought his presence.

Government Initiatives

The government is strengthening laws to deal with absconding economic offenders such as Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi and Vijay Mallya and aggressively pursuing cases against them in courts abroad. Recently government of India has promulgated the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018. It will empower authorities to attach and confiscate properties and assets of economic offenders like loan defaulters who flee the country. The provisions of the ordinance will apply for economic offenders who refuse to return, persons against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for a scheduled offence as well as wilful bank loan defaulters with outstanding of over Rs 100 crore. It provides for confiscating assets even without conviction and paying off lenders by selling off the fugitive's properties. Such economic offenders will be tried under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In recent weeks, banks have been asked to mandatorily collect passport details of those borrowing above Rs. 50 crore and the passports of some wilful defaulters are being

impounded too. The government is no doubt conscious of the clamour for tough action on absconding offenders, particularly those involved in financial misdemeanours and wilful defaulters of bank loans.

Way Forward

India is no closer to getting Mr. Modi or Mr. Mallya back to face the law, with extradition proceedings against the latter crawling through U.K. courts. No clear indications about whether their return. India is yet to pass a model law mooted by the UN for cross-border insolvency cases. It is not clear whether this ordinance can tide over this major handicap.

It is, therefore, felt necessary to provide an effective, expeditious and constitutionally permissible deterrent to ensure that such actions are curbed. It may be mentioned that the non-conviction-based asset confiscation for corruption-related cases is enabled under provisions of United Nations Convention against Corruption (ratified by India in 2011). The ordinance is expected to re-establish the rule

Fugitives from justice

Businessmen Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, under investigation for allegedly defrauding state-run Punjab National Bank of Rs12,636 crore, are the latest to join the ranks of fugitive economic offenders who have fled the country and have Interpol notices against them.

 Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi Rs12,636 crore Accused in the PNB fraud. Whereabouts unknown.	 Vijay Mallya Rs9,000 crore Charged with money laundering. Currently in London.	 Deepak Talwar Rs1,000 crore Allegedly concealed income. Currently in the UAE.	 Sanjay Bhandari Rs150 crore Charged with tax evasion, possession of defence ministry documents. Whereabouts unknown.	 Lalit Modi Rs125 crore Charged with siphoning off funds from BCCI. Currently in London.
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Source: Mint research

of law with respect to the fugitive economic offenders as they would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences. This would also help the banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from financial defaults committed by such fugitive economic offenders, improving the financial health of such institutions. The government needs to present a coherent vision about its

plans to bring back those fugitives who have already got away and plug the remaining loopholes in the system.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

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4. STATEHOOD FOR DELHI: A FORMIDABLE DEMAND

Why in News?

Given the prevailing governance crisis rooted in a deeply flawed scheme of governance in Delhi, the Aam Admi Party (AAP) government has intensified its demand for the only meaningful solution that exists — full statehood for Delhi. This is also a demand that has prominently figured in every BJP and Congress manifesto for Delhi since the 1980s.

Introduction

Delhi, India's national capital, is a case sui generis. Not only does it defy normal categorisations of 'state' or a 'full Union Territory', it also blurs the strict conceptions of federalism both

in theory and as imagined in India's statutes. Delhi's territoriality—both in terms of sharing sovereignty involving the shared-rule with the centre and carving its own self-rule of autonomy in polity and governance—has ruffled feathers since its formation as 'National Capital Territory' that gave it its own elected government. All political parties have tried to bring to the fore the issue of territoriality and governance in their election manifestos, occasionally banking on the issue of statehood to seek votes during elections. However, once in power at the centre, irrespective of what they declared in their election manifesto, there emerges a consistent pattern

of strong unitary and centralising bias by the ruling government and the statehood promise is routinely abandoned.

Many regional parties have expressed their strong reservation to acceding full statehood for Delhi. For them, India's national capital belongs to every citizen of the country and not just those who reside in the city. On a number of occasions, central ministers and members of parliament have openly expressed their discomfort over sharing powers with the state government that can possibly encroach upon their privileges and may become a nuisance. It has helped the sceptics of statehood

that an insurgent AAP and the LG, acting at the behest of the central government, have been engaged in intermittent standoffs, often leading to a governance deadlock in the national capital. There are also those who argue that statehood would deprive Delhi of the many advantages it gets as national capital. For instance, the entire burden of policing—involving the coordination of a mammoth staff—is borne by the federal government. Therefore, it seems unlikely that any ruling dispensation will concede to the statehood demand in the near future.

Delhi's Struggle for Statehood

The struggles around Delhi's territoriality and its political and administrative shapes and forms are as old as the Republic. Before the Mughals passed on the city to the British India in 1803—which subsequently became the new capital of British India in 1911—Delhi was the capital of a succession of empires for nearly a thousand years. For instance, until 1901, Delhi was one of the five administrative units of Punjab province, comprising the five districts of Karnal, Ambala, Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon. After Delhi became the capital of British India in 1911, these districts were reconfigured and placed under its own local government as a separate province. At a later stage, some areas of Meerut District (Shahdara) of the United Provinces were merged into Delhi. Eventually, the colonial government under the Government of India Act, 1919 and 1935—classified Delhi as a Chief Commissioner's Province, which is equivalent to a present-day Union Territory. Thus, Delhi was administered by the governor-general acting through a chief commissioner.

The most serious attempt in determining political and administrative autonomy for Delhi. In July 1947, the then newly constituted Pattabhi Sitaramayya Committee that

was set up to study the territorial and administrative structures of the Chief Commissioner's Provinces singled out Delhi as a special case to formulate a roadmap for its autonomy and governance as a national capital territory. Given its complicated and overlapping jurisdictions, the committee paid considerable attention to study the administrative systems of various federal capitals such as Canberra in Australia, Washington, D.C. in the United States (US) and London in the United Kingdom. Taking into account the circumstances that led to the formation of the Delhi Province in 1912, the committee concluded that the "province which contains the metropolis of India should not be deprived of the right of self-government enjoyed by the rest of their countrymen living in the smallest of villages."

Following the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission (SRC), the Delhi assembly was abolished in 1956. SRC, which was set up in 1953 to exclusively look into the working of the functioning of states/provinces within the Union, concluded that Part C States (which included Delhi) were financially non-viable and functionally inefficient. With regards to Delhi, the commission observed that the dual control over the national capital had led to "marked deterioration of administrative standards." Citing the examples of Paris and London, the Commission observed, "capital cities possess or come to possess, some degree of political and social predominance" and went further to claim, any constitutional division of powers, it is applicable to units functioning in the seats of national governments, is bound to give rise to embarrassing situations.

The then Union Government paid no heed to these criticisms and went ahead to establish the new administrative and governance set-up

that pulled down Delhi's status at par with a Municipal Corporation. In 1957, the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act was enacted to provide Delhi with a municipal corporation that would be elected on the basis of universal adult franchise and whose jurisdiction would include almost all of Delhi.

Constitution Status of Delhi

All of this is happening in the National Capital of India. Perceptively, a capital should have the model governance system, which could inspire all other states to follow suit in a democracy and semi-federal governance system like India. Article 239AA of the Constitution of India granted Special Status to Delhi among Union Territories (UTs) in the year 1991 through 69th constitutional amendment by the Parliament, there by providing legislative assembly and a council of ministers responsible to such assembly with appropriate powers to deal with matters of concerns to common man. That's when Delhi was named as National Capital Region (NCT) of Delhi.

As per Article 239AA – public order, police & land in NCT of Delhi fall within the domain and control of central government which shall have the power to make laws on these matters. For remaining matters of State List or Concurrent List, in so far as any such matter is applicable to UTs, the legislative assembly shall have power to make laws for NCT of Delhi. Further, for offences against laws, jurisdiction & powers of Courts (except SC) and fees (except court fees) so far as they relate to public order, police & Land in NCT of Delhi; Central Government would have power to make laws.

Further, the Council of Ministers (i.e. CM and his Ministers) are elected to aid and advise the LG in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the legislative assembly has power to make law. Therefore, in respect of public order,

police & land – LG would not need aid and advice from the Council of Ministers. For other matters enumerated in the State List, this arrangement would work.

On making analysis of the prevalent circumstances in Delhi and future possible potential abuse of powers, in derogation to other, along with the legal provisions contained in Article 239AA; on the current scale of governance, Delhi is divided into 3 pieces and each piece is controlled by 3 different elected bodies.

- First, areas under control of elected Central Government (through selected LG being the Administrator);
- Two, areas under the control of elected representatives (MLAs) in Delhi Assembly; &
- Three, areas falling under elected representatives (Mayor & Corporators) of municipal bodies, of which administrative control is in the hands of Commissioners appointed by Central Government.

The constitutional position is clear. Delhi is a Union Territory, not a state. For it to be granted statehood, the Parliament will have to pass a constitutional amendment. The L-G is the real administrator of Delhi under the Constitution.

Governance: Delhi and Other National Capitals

Globally, Delhi is not an exception. A survey of major national capitals which shows that with the exception of Tokyo and Berlin, an overwhelming majority of national governments have serious reservations even on granting autonomy, let alone statehood for capital cities. Given that national capitals house critical infrastructure such as parliament, presidential estates, defence and foreign missions, most governments maintain strategic control over the city's critical services like land and public order. The

uncomfortable truth is that central governments lack complete trust in the ability of city governments. Even in Berlin, the most autonomous city-state, the federal government fears that 'anarchist' from the far right or extreme left may capture the city-state. For similar reasons, the US Congress has not ceded to the four-decade long demand for statehood to Washington D.C. Curiously, a large section of citizenry in some capital cities like Canberra favours greater integration with the federal government. They fear gaining statehood may end generous state subsidies available for the national capital.

Even so, Delhi is too big a city to be left in the manner that it is now. With a population over 17 million, it leaves all other national capitals (except Tokyo) far behind. According to the latest United Nations projection, Delhi is likely to emerge as world's largest metropolis by 2035. With a projected population over 43 million, Delhi urban agglomeration will be bigger than many large and medium-sized countries such as Canada and Malaysia. This calls for urgent rethinking on existing governance arrangements in the national capital region. Considering statehood is not a feasible option in the current political climate, the sensible thing that the present government can do is to press for genuine autonomy and greater clarity on its functional jurisdictions. This will help it put up a decent show and fulfil the expectations of its electorate.

- First, the Delhi government should press for power-sharing in areas that really matter for a city government such as land, law and order and services. Global trend suggests that many national governments apprehensive of sharing power have gradually begun ceding authority to the national capital governments. Delhi is the lone exception.

- Second, Delhi is the only capital city where the elected government has no organic link with the municipal body, contrary to global best practices.
- Finally, with overlapping and contested jurisdictions, it is imperative to institutionalise dispute resolution as has been adopted by national capitals around the world. The existing system of referring disputes to the President is a flawed one, lacking credibility and invariably favouring the national government. In short, it is time for the Delhi government to get real on statehood.

Logical Merits

- Like any other political party, the CM and legislature in Delhi too are elected by the people. In order to deliver its promises, Delhi government should be given sufficient power.
- Delhi has been increasingly becoming an unsafe place to live in. Women safety has been questioned time and again especially after incidents like Nirbhaya case. It is important that Delhi Police becomes stronger and more efficient and for that the elected government in Delhi should have a direct intervention.
- For any sort of infrastructural development, Delhi government has to depend on the Central government since land does not fall under its purview. In order to fasten the process of progress, development and growth, Delhi government should have a free hand like other state governments.

Concerning Demerits

- Being the capital of India, the administration and public order can't be handled the way it is done in other states of India. After getting 'full statehood' it would

become a super state, looking over the security of Central government, which is not a very viable option.

- Institutions like Delhi police and Delhi university are funded by the Central government. In order to make proper amends tax payers money should be taken into account.
- Delhi plays host to a large number of foreign dignitaries and investments which fall under the jurisdiction of Central government.
- Delhi police also takes care of VIP security, which is not a minor task. Most of the VIPs fall under the central government. Can the VIP security be fully given to the state government?
- Delhi is a mixture of language, people and culture. There is a high probability that 'full statehood' to Delhi might encourage regionalism.

Way Forward

A cursory examination of the seven decades of political churning on the question of statehood for Delhi reveals that energy political parties have long been aware of the overlapping jurisdictions and chaotic administrative arrangements that directly bear on the national capital's quality of governance; they themselves do not deny that, often, these disordered governance systems give credence to autonomy and statehood nomenclatures. What is equally clear, however, is that when sitting in power, these same parties have conveniently brushed aside such demands.

The statehood demand for the city-state is not new. Every party in power has supported the demand but with provisions stated in the Constitution and the practicalities involved in the decision, nothing substantial has moved in this direction.

The debate since 1966 has been the issue of multiplicity of authorities/institutions with overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities, leading to poor governance in the national capital. It has been suggested that New Delhi should be regarded as the national capital over which the union government might have full control. Governments across the world are reluctant to cede power to the city-capitals, but with Delhi being larger than many states in India, it needs to have a relook at its relationship with Centre.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

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5. THE LOOMING FEAR OF DESERTIFICATION

Why in News?

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on June 17 every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. Environmental experts worry about the prevailing conditions of sandstorm in the Delhi-NCR region, there has been a steady increase in frequency, longevity and density of sandstorms in this region. This has also raised fear of early desertification of the Delhi-NCR region.

Introduction

The frequency of sandstorms has increased in the city in past decade. While earlier summer sandstorms used to occur for four days a week. Now, the frequency has increased to multiple spells a week over a span of two weeks. So, not only frequency

but also the longevity and density of the sandstorms has increased. All the deserts are expanding including Thar. As per the study, the green cover around the region is alarmingly depleting, the Aravalli range is gradually becoming barren. The open forest cover has decreased in the last three decades, meanwhile, the scrub has increased by 5.7 per cent and the barren region is fluctuating.

According to State of India's Environment 2017, nearly 30 per cent of India's land is degraded or facing desertification. Of India's total geographical area of 328.72 million hectares (MHA), 96.4 MHA is under desertification. In eight states—Rajasthan, Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh—around 40 to 70 per cent of land has undergone

desertification. There is more to it, as 26 of 29 Indian states have reported an increase in the area undergoing desertification in the past 10 years. Rajasthan has the largest desertified land (23 Mha), followed by Gujarat, Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir (13 Mha each) and Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (5 Mha each).

Eco-fragile Aravali Hills

The findings of a study by the researchers at Wildlife Institute of India have brought out that the Aravalis is losing its ability to curb desertification. Natural forests are shrinking and green cover of a dozen gap areas (forested areas) that fill intervals in the rocky ranges in Haryana and Rajasthan has declined. These forested areas are important to keep the hills from turning barren

and therefore, prevent desertification. However, the shrinking green cover has compromised their ability to be a conservator of local ecosystem. For Delhi-NCR, the implications cannot be overemphasised. More barren Aravallis means more dust storms and greater dust pollution, climatic unpredictability and resources like ground water reserves — already overexploited in Gurgaon because of explosive urbanisation—coming under even more strain.

Most alarmingly, the effect is starting to show in natural forest areas of the Aravallis that hold the ecosystem together. Their green cover has started to degrade. According to ecologists, destruction of Aravallis was responsible for climate change in Delhi. They have always stood as a barrier to sand migration. Desertification was responsible for more dust storms in Delhi-NCR.

What is Desertification?

Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. It is caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations. Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts. It occurs because dryland ecosystems, which cover over one third of the world's land area, are extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and inappropriate land use.

US Geological Survey defines deserts as places on Earth that receive less than 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rainfall per year, whereas desertification is defined as “a type of land degradation in which a relatively dry land region becomes increasingly arid, typically losing its bodies of water as well as vegetation and wildlife”.

Causes of Desertification

- **Overgrazing:** Animal grazing is a huge problem for many areas that are starting to become desert biomes.

- **Deforestation:** When people are looking to move into an area, or they need trees in order to make houses and do other tasks, then they are contributing to the problems related to desertification.
- **Farming Practices:** Some farmers do not know how to use the land effectively. They may essentially strip the land of everything that it has before moving on to another plot of land. By stripping the soil of its nutrients, desertification becomes more and more of a reality for the area that is being used for farming.
- **Urbanization and Other Types of Land Development:** Development can cause people to go through and kill the plant life. It can also cause issues with the soil due to chemicals and other things that may harm the ground.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change plays a huge role in desertification. As the days get warmer and periods of drought become more frequent, desertification becomes more and more eminent. Unless climate change is slowed down, huge areas of land will become desert; some of those areas may even become uninhabitable as time goes on.
- **Natural Disasters:** There are some cases where the land gets damaged because of natural disasters, including drought.
- **Flooding:** Without the plant life in an area, flooding is a lot more eminent. Not all deserts are dry; those that are wet could experience a lot of flooding because there is nothing to stop the water from gathering and going all over the place. Flooding can also negatively affect the water supply.
- **Poor Water Quality:** If an area becomes a desert, the water quality is going to become a lot worse than it would have been otherwise.
- **Poverty:** The problem of desertification can lead to poverty if it is not kept in check. Without food and water, it becomes harder for people to thrive and they take a lot of time to try and get the things that they need.

Solutions for Desertification

- **Policy Changes Related to How People can Farm:** Policy changes related to how often people can farm and how much they can farm on certain areas could be put into place to help reduce the problems that are often associated with farming and desertification.
- **Policy Changes to Other Types of Land Use:** If people are using land to get natural resources or they are developing it for people to live on, then the policies that govern them should be ones that will help the land to thrive instead of allowing them to harm the land further. The policy changes could be sweeping or they could be depending on the type of land use at hand.
- **Education:** In developing countries, education is an incredibly important tool that needs to be utilized in order to help people to understand the best way to use the land that they are farming on. By educating them on sustainable practices, more land will be saved from becoming desert.

Consequence of Desertification

- **Farming Becomes Next to Impossible:** If an area becomes a desert, then it's almost impossible to grow substantial crops there without special technologies.
- **Hunger:** Without farms in these areas, the food that those farms produce will become much scarcer and the people who live in those local areas will be a lot more likely to try and deal with hunger problems.

- **Technological Advancement:** In some cases, it's difficult to try and prevent desertification from happening. In those cases, there needs to be research and advancements in technology that push the limits of what we currently know.
- **Sustainable Practices to Prevent Desertification:** There are plenty of sustainable practices that can be applied to those acts that may be causing desertification. By adding these to what we should be doing with land, we can ensure that we don't turn the entire world into a desert.

Implementation of Policy Measures

With about 30 per cent of its land being affected by land degradation, India has high stakes and stands strongly committed to implementing the United Nations to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Though India does not have a specific policy or legislative framework for combating desertification, many of our national policies have enabling provisions for addressing the problem. India has had a long journey in addressing degraded lands and has also recorded some remarkable success. The present schemes and programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Deptt. of Science and Technology, Deptt. of Space have significant bearing for addressing the Digitized Legacy Data Development (DLDD) challenges. The concern for arresting and reversing land degradation and desertification gets reflected in many of our national policies.

- National Water Policy, 2012;
- National Forest Policy, 1988;

Why Delhi's air pollution problem never gets solved

The capital city Delhi has yet again been ranked as the most polluted megacity in the world. Last year, the Delhi chief minister compared the city to a "gas chamber", while the Indian Medical Association issued a public warning saying it was in a state of "medical health emergency". United Airlines had cancelled some of its Delhi-bound flights, calling Delhi's air quality toxic, with conditions similar to a "natural disaster". More than 2.2 million schoolchildren in Delhi are threatened with irreversible lung damage. Recently, the Delhi high court, taking suo motu notice of a fire in south Delhi, observed that endangering human lives due to air pollution, hazardous affluence and congestions cannot be tolerated. In the past, sensing government inaction, people of Delhi had even protested, demanding their right to breathe. All this indicates the extent to which air pollution has crippled public life in the city.

There are four reasons why Delhi's air quality is unlikely to improve anytime soon.

First, an efficient governance mechanism is central to the success of any anti-pollution effort. Air pollution in Delhi is managed by an autonomous government body, the Environmental Pollution Control Authority (EPCA). Unfortunately, at least 16 different agencies are currently involved in the implementation of this plan. Some are under the control of the Union government, some under the Delhi government, and some are under the administrative control of neighbouring states. These agencies are ruled by fierce political rivals, and there is no apparent effort to promote coordination among them. The agencies are involved in a continuous public blame game in which various political factions try to make themselves look good. Consequently, policy measures are not effectively enforced.

Second, Delhi's air pollution is a regional problem, and there is very little that Delhi can do about it on its own. A study conducted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in Nagpur, India, showed that about 60% of the PM2.5 burden in Delhi is due to the neighbouring states. No policy is likely to work unless it takes regional considerations into account. So, Delhi's pollution needs to be treated as a regional, if not national, problem, and inter-agency efforts need to be controlled and coordinated by a central source.

Third, Delhi needs to search for the sources of emissions. During the past decade, there have been 15 source apportionment studies of which 10 have been based on direct sampling method while five are based on secondary data. While sources of emissions remain same in all the studies, the contribution from different sources to Delhi's pollution varies greatly. This only underscores both the unreliability of existing studies as well as the difficulty in making accurate estimates, which is partly due to Delhi's complex meteorology and the changing nature of the sources of emissions, both in space and time.

Finally, Delhi lacks infrastructure. It has only half the buses it needs for public transport (that's the lowest level in the past eight years). This means that private automobile use continues to grow, adding to the air pollution problem. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), which has a mandate to enforce compliance with air pollution rules in the city, suffers from a serious scientific and technical manpower shortage (operating at about three-quarters strength since 1990). These gaps in public infrastructure undermine public confidence in the city's ability to address the worsening air pollution problem.

- National Agricultural Policy, 2000;
- Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- National Environmental Policy, 2006;
- National Policy for Farmers, 2007;
- National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), 2007

The Desertification Cell undertakes activities to help strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, build scientific and technical capacity and facilitate knowledge sharing by bringing diverse stakeholder groups together that will

lay the foundation for undertaking activities for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of droughts.

United Nations to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The Rio Conference called on the United Nations General Assembly to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to prepare, by June 1994, a Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in Africa. United Nations to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole

legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment) came together in celebration of the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in order to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people and

reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations.

Conclusion

Curbing desertification is as critical as mitigating impact of climate change and international initiative on climate change and biodiversity loss should have linkages and synergies with steps against desertification. Many are not as aware of the impact of desertification as they are of climate change. UNCCD suggests that developing countries need to integrate their poverty eradication programmes with strategies to fight desertification. The soil and land preservation efforts should be prioritised and mainstreamed. The funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation could be linked to the anti-desertification programme.

UNCCD cites that 68 per cent of the country is prone to drought and this will be further heightened because

of the impact of climate change, particularly in dry lands. Desertification and loss of biological potential will restrict the transformation of dry lands into productive ecosystem. Climate change will further challenge the livelihood of those living in these sensitive ecosystems and may cause resource scarcity. It recommends agro-forestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration. Small community initiatives making degraded lands out of bounds for grazing, growing fast-growing plants and tall trees that serve as a barrier against winds and sandstorms are very effective.

General Studies Paper- III

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

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6. DAM SAFETY: A PRIORITY CONCERN FOR INDIA

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for enacting the Dam Safety Bill, 2018, which will help the states and union territories to adopt uniform safety procedures to ensure safety of reservoirs. The Bill also seeks to constitute a national committee on dam safety which shall evolve safety policies and recommend necessary regulations.

Introduction

At independence, in 1947, there were not more than 300 large dams in India. By 2000, the number grew to over 4000, more than half of them built between 1971 and 1989. India ranks third in the world in dam building after US and China. While some of these dams were built primarily for flood control,

water supply and hydroelectric power generation, the primary purpose of most Indian dams (96 percent) remains irrigation.

Presently, India ranks third globally with 5254 large dams in operation and about 447 are under construction. In addition, there are several thousands of medium and smaller dams. Due to lack of legal and institutional architecture for dam safety in India, dam safety is an issue of concern. Unsafe dams are a hazard and dam break may cause disasters, leading to huge loss of life and property. Dams have played a key role in fostering rapid and sustained agricultural and rural growth and development in India. Over the last fifty years, India has invested substantially in dams and related infrastructure.

DHARMA

The Dam Health And Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) is a web-based asset management software to support the effective collection and management of authentic asset and health data for all large dams in India and address key dam safety challenges of

- i) Ensuring completeness of information.
- ii) Bringing stakeholders together.
- iii) Effectively managing asset inventory.
- iv) Assess soundness of dam health.

Dam Safety Bill, 2018

The Dam Safety Bill, 2018 address all issues concerning dam safety including regular inspection of dams, emergency action plan, comprehensive dam safety review, adequate repair and maintenance funds for dam safety and instrumentation and safety manuals. It lays onus of dam safety

on the dam owner and provides for penal provisions for commission and omission of certain acts.

It will help all the states and union territories of India to adopt uniform dam safety procedures which shall ensure safety of dams and safeguard benefits from such dams. This shall also help in safeguarding human life, livestock and property.

Details

- The Bill provides for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in the country to ensure their safe functioning.
- The Bill provides for constitution of a National Committee on dam safety which shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as may be required for the purpose.
- The Bill provides for establishment of National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body which shall discharge functions to implement the policy, guidelines and standards for dam safety in the country.
- The Bill provides for constitution of a state committee on dam safety by state government.

Types of Dams

Dams may be classified by the type of construction material used, being listed as either a masonry/concrete or an embankment dam. Several dams may have more than one component (e.g. earthen embankment with masonry spillway), allowing them to be categorised as composite dams. The choice of a dam type for a particular location depends on many

factors including foundation and geology, topography and valley shape, availability of materials, the influence of spillway type, seismicity of the region and construction methodology. It also depends on the economy of labour availability.

Dam Safety- A Priority Concern For India

'Dam Safety' is important for safeguarding huge investments in infrastructure; safeguarding human life and properties of the people living downstream of the dams. With increasing number of dams becoming older and older, the likelihood of dam failures in India is expected to be an ascending path. Many dams have varied structural deficiencies and short comings in operation and monitoring facilities, while few do not meet the present design standard- both structurally and hydrologically. Most of the states have been failing to provide sufficient budgets for maintenance and repair of the dam. Many states also lack the institutional and technical capacities for addressing dam safety issues.

ICOLD

The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) is a non-governmental international organization which provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in dam engineering. It was founded in 1928 and has its central office in Paris, France. It consists of 100 member national committees which have a total membership of about 10,000 individuals.

National Dam Safety Authority

- It shall maintain liaison with the state dam safety organisations and the owners of dams for standardisation of dam safety related data and practices.

- It shall provide the technical and managerial assistance to the states and state dam safety organisations.
- It shall maintain a national level data-base of all dams in the country and the records of major dam failures.
- It shall examine the cause of any major dam failure.
- It shall publish and update the standard guidelines and check-lists for the routine inspection and detailed investigations of dams and appurtenances.
- It shall accord recognition or accreditations to the organisations that can be entrusted with the works of investigation, design or construction of new dams.
- It will also look into unresolved points of issue between the state dam safety organisation of two states, or between the state dam safety organisation of a state and the owner of a dam in that state, for proper solution.
- Further, in certain cases, such as dams of one state falling under the territory of another state, the National Authority shall also perform the role of state dam safety organization thereby eliminating potential causes for inter-state conflicts.

State Committee on Dam Safety

It will ensure proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in that state and ensure their safe functioning. It further provides that every state shall establish a "State Dam Safety Organisation", which will be manned by officers from the field dam safety preferably from the areas of dam-designs, hydro-mechanical engineering, hydrology, geo-technical investigation, instrumentation and dam-rehabilitation.

Class	Gross storage capacity (Mm3)	Hydraulic head (m)	Inflow Design Flood (IDF)
Small	0.5 to 10	7.5 to 12	100-year flood
Intermediate	10 to 60	12 to 30	Standard Project Flood (SPF)
Large	> 60	> 30	Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)

DRIP: Improving Dam Safety across India

In April 2012, the Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation with assistance from the World Bank, embarked upon the six year Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 2100 crore. The project originally envisaged the rehabilitation and improvement of about 223 dams within four states namely, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu and later Karnataka, Uttarakhand (UNVNL) and Jharkhand (DVC) joined DRIP and total number of dams covered under DRIP increased to 250; due to the addition / deletion of dams during implementation by partner agencies, presently 223 dams are being rehabilitated. The project will also promote new technologies and improve Institutional capacities for dam safety evaluation and implementation at the central and state levels and in some identified premier academic and research institutes of the country. The DRIP has been given additional extension of two years with revised official closure now June 2020. Also the DRIP cost has increased due to various reasons and it is under revision.

DRIP project is not an initiative to provide budgetary support but to bring new initiatives in the dam safety area through technological advances, innovative rehabilitation materials, best global practices, capacity building, cross learning, technical regulations, strengthening of dam safety organisations, etc.

Components of DRIP

- Project management of DRIP is led by the dam safety rehabilitation directorate of the Central Water Commission.
- Rehabilitation and improvement of dams and associated appurtenances,

focusing on structural and non - structural measures at around 242 project sites across 7 states.

- Institutional strengthening, focusing on regulatory and technical frameworks for dam safety assurance and including targeted national and international training.

Importance of Dam

A dam is the cornerstone in the development and management of water resources development of a river basin. The multipurpose dam is a very important project for developing countries, because the population receives domestic and economic benefits from a single investment.

- During the past three centuries, the amount of water withdrawn from freshwater resources has increased by a factor of 35, world population by a factor of 8.
- The freshwater resources are limited and unevenly distributed. There are many ways of conserving, recycling and re-using water may more or less suffice to curb further growth in supply.
- These dams are vital for ensuring the water security of the country; and these also constitute a major responsibility in terms of asset management and safety.
- Seasonal variations and climatic irregularities in flow impede the efficient use of river runoff, with flooding and drought causing problems of catastrophic proportions.
- Dams and locks provide for a stable system of inland river transportation throughout the heartland of the nation.
- For almost 5000 years dams have served to ensure an adequate supply of water by storing water in times of surplus and releasing it in times of scarcity, thus also preventing or mitigating floods.

Impacts of Dams

- The environmental consequences of large dams are numerous and varied and includes direct impacts to the biological, chemical and physical properties of rivers and riparian (or "stream-side") environments.
- The dam wall itself blocks fish migrations, which in some cases and with some species completely separate spawning habitats from rearing habitats.
- The dam also traps sediments, which are critical for maintaining physical processes and habitats downstream of the dam (include the maintenance of productive deltas, barrier islands, fertile floodplains and coastal wetlands).
- Another significant and obvious impact is the transformation upstream of the dam from a free-flowing river ecosystem to an artificial slack-water reservoir habitat.
- Life in and around a river evolves and is conditioned on the timing and quantities of river flow. Disrupted and altered water flows can be as severe as completely de-watering river reaches and the life they contain.
- Riverbeds downstream of dams are typically eroded by several meters within the decade of first closing a dam; the damage can extend for tens or even hundreds of kilometers below a dam.
- Riverbed deepening (or "incising") will also lower groundwater tables along a river, lowering the water table accessible to plant roots (and to human communities drawing water from wells) .
- In aggregate, dammed rivers have also impacted processes in the broader biosphere. Most reservoirs, especially those in the tropics, are significant contributors

to greenhouse gas emissions (a recent study pegged global greenhouse gas emissions from reservoirs on par with that of the aviation industry, about 4% of human-caused GHG emissions).

Conflict over Water

Two recent developments have pointed to an intensifying struggle for water - between multinationals that regard water as a 'commodity' and civil society groups that see access to water as a basic human right. Water shortages in much of Asia are beginning to threaten rapid economic modernization, prompting the building of upstream projects on international rivers. Water has become a key issue in Asia.

The Tibetan plateau is the source of major rivers of Asia and is controlled by China. Tibet's vast glaciers and high altitude have endowed it with the world's greatest river systems and are the lifeline to the world's two most-populous states, Yet Asia is a water-deficient continent. More than half of the human population lives in Asia, but the continent has less fresh water (3,920 cubic meters per person) than any other continent.

While intra-state water-sharing disputes have become rife in several

Asian countries - from India and Pakistan to Southeast Asia and China - it is the potential inter-state conflict over river-water resources that is of greater concern. This concern arises from Chinese attempts to dam or redirect the southward flow of river waters from the Tibetan plateau, where major rivers originate, including the Indus, the Mekong, the Yangtze, the Yellow, the Salween, the Brahmaputra, the Karnali and the Sutlej. Among Asia's mighty rivers, only the Ganga starts from the Indian side of the Himalayas.

The water unavailability has given rise to plans of linking rivers in India to diverting the fast-flowing Brahmaputra northward to feed the arid areas in the Chinese heartland. China has increasingly turned its attention to the huge water reserves of the Tibetan plateau. It has made a large number of dams in the rivers to produce power and to channel waters for irrigation, and is trying massive inter-basin and inter-river water-transfer projects. After building two dams upstream, China is building at least three more on the Mekong despite strong resentment from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The control over the 2.5 million-square-km Tibetan plateau gives China tremendous advantage in water resource management in the whole of Asia.

Way Forward

Dam-affected communities know better than anyone that in some situations, national laws do not represent a viable means to seek justice. This may be because of corruption in the legal system, prevailing political interests, or a lack of representation. For this reason, it is important to push for national legal reforms. Since many challenges faced by dam-affected communities around the world are similar, we should know that allies exist who may provide helpful perspectives and ideas. By utilizing social and environmental standards to push for better outcomes across all stages of dam building – from planning to construction to mitigation, to decommissioning and reparations – you may be able to change the particular outcomes of a project; you may influence the long-term direction of policies; and you may even transform an industry.

General Studies Paper- III

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



7. TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN ORGANS: THE INDIAN SCENARIO

Why in News?

An organ transplant racket has surfaced in Tamil Nadu. Officials of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have found that hearts harvested from brain-dead patients were given to foreign nationals, bypassing Indian patients on the waiting list. In 2017, foreigners got about 25% of all heart transplants in the state and 33% of lung transplants. The transplant authority of Tamil Nadu has served as a model for other states that now have their

own programmes. Every effort must be made to ensure that it retains this high reputation and organs go to the most suitable recipients on the rule-based parameters of domicile, citizenship, Indian origin and foreign nationality, in that order.

Introduction

Transplantation of human organs is today a mature programme in many states, making it possible for people with kidney, liver, heart and lung

failure to extend their lives. Heart and lung transplants are expensive and less widely available, compared with kidney and liver procedures. state governments, which have responsibility for health care provision, are expected to ensure that the organs that are altruistically donated by families of brain-dead people are given to recipients ethically and as mandated by law. Priority for citizens enrolled in the state and national waiting lists over foreign nationals is laid down in

the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules. When the law is clear, it is extraordinary that seemingly preferential allotment of hearts and lungs has been made to foreign patients in Tamil Nadu.

Kidney and liver programmes have reached a high level of maturity, resulting in rising demand. Most of these organs go to citizens. Tamil Nadu offers a subsidy for poor patients for a liver transplant. Any inquiry into the allocation of hearts and lungs to foreigners should, therefore, shed light on the factors that led to the decisions, including whether registered citizens were overlooked. It should cover such issues as the capacity of district-level hospitals to perform transplants and arrangements to air-lift organs, since domestic patients are unable to afford flight facilities. Such measures will make it possible to utilise more hearts and lungs and offer them to domestic recipients. Enrolling all domestic patients through state registries should be the priority for the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, set up by the Centre with that mandate. Nothing should be done to erode the confidence of the kin of brain-dead people who donate organs with no expectation of gain. Hospitals and professionals who engage in commerce or unethical behaviour should have no place in the system.

What is Organ Transplantation?

An organ transplant is a surgical operation where a failing or damaged organ in the human body is removed and replaced with a new one. An organ is a mass of specialized cells and tissues that work together to perform a function in the body. The heart is an example of an organ. It is made up of tissues and cells that all work together to perform the function of pumping blood through the human body.

Any part of the body that performs a specialized function is an organ. Therefore eyes are organs because their specialized function is to see, skin is an organ because its function is to protect and regulate the body and the liver is an organ that functions to remove waste from the blood.

A graft is similar to a transplant. It is the process of removing tissue from one part of a person's body (or another person's body) and surgically reimplanting it to replace or compensate for damaged tissue. Grafting is different from transplantation because it does not remove and replace an entire organ, but rather only a portion. Not all organs are transplanted. The term "organ transplant" typically refers to transplants of the solid organs: heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and intestines.

Laws and Rules Governing Organ Transplantation in India

The primary legislation related to organ donation and transplantation in India, Transplantation of Human Organs Act, was passed in 1994 and is aimed at regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for prevention of commercial dealings in human organs.

The main provisions of the Act (including the amendments and rules of 2014) are as follows:

- **Appropriate Authority (AA):** Inspects and grants registration to hospitals for transplantation enforces required standards for hospitals, conducts regular inspections to examine the quality of transplantations. It may conduct investigations into complaints regarding breach of provisions of the Act and has the powers of a civil court to summon any person, request documents and issue search warrants.

- **Advisory Committee:** Consisting of experts in the domain who shall advise the appropriate authority.
- **Authorization Committee (AC):** Regulates living donor transplantation by reviewing each case to ensure that the living donor is not exploited for monetary considerations and to prevent commercial dealings in transplantation. Proceedings to be video recorded and decisions notified within 24 hours. Appeals against their decision may be made to the state or central government.
- **Medical Board (Brain Death Committee):** Panel of doctors responsible for brain death certification. In case of non-availability of neurologist or neurosurgeon, any surgeon, physician, anaesthetist or intensivist, nominated by medical administrator in-charge of the hospital may certify brain death.
- **Swap Transplantation:** When a near relative living donor is medically incompatible with the recipient, the pair is permitted to do a swap transplant with another related unmatched donor/recipient pair.
- **Penalties for removal of organ** without authority, making or receiving payment for supplying human organs or contravening any other provisions of the Act have been made very stringent in order to serve as a deterrent for such activities.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is a national level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It has following two divisions:

- National Human Organ and Tissue Removal and Storage Network

- National Biomaterial Centre

National Human Organ and Tissue Removal and Storage Network:

This has been mandated as per the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011. The network has established initially for Delhi and gradually expanded to include other states and regions of the country. Thus, this division of the NOTTO is the nodal networking agency for Delhi and shall network for procurement allocation and distribution of organs and tissues in Delhi. National Network division of NOTTO would function as apex centre for All India activities of coordination and networking for procurement and distribution and registry of Organs and tissues for donation and transplantation in the country.

National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank):

The Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011 has included the component of tissue donation and registration of tissue Banks. It becomes imperative under the changed circumstances to establish national level tissue bank to fulfill the demands of tissue transplantation including activities for procurement, storage and fulfil distribution of biomaterials. The main thrust & objective of establishing the centre is to fill up the gap between 'demand' and 'supply' as well as 'quality assurance' in the availability of various tissues.

National Health Policy-2017

The primary aim of the National Health Policy, 2017, is to inform, clarify, strengthen and prioritize the role of the government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions. The policy envisages as its goal the attainment of the highest possible level of health and wellbeing for all at all ages, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies and universal access to good quality health care services without

anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence.

The National Health policy emphasizes the key principles of affordability, universality, accountability from sustainable developmental goals aiming at achieving progressive universal health coverage. Highlighting the need of collaboration between the public and private sectors it specifically states that, "tissue and organ transplantations and voluntary donations are areas where private sector provides services- but it needs public interventions and support for getting organ donations. Recognising the need for awareness, the private sector and public sector could play a vital role in awareness generation." It also envisages the creation of appropriate standard regulatory framework for laboratories and imaging centers, specialized emerging services such as assisted reproductive techniques, surrogacy, stem cell banking, organ and tissue transplantation and nanomedicine.

Right to Health and the Indian Constitution

Recognition of 'right to health' is the benchmark of developed human societies. International concern for 'right to health' evolved and a framework of norms were developed requiring states to facilitate the right to health of the individual. States are under an obligation to make provision of a clean living environment, protections against hazardous working conditions, education about disease-prevention and social security measures in respect of disability, unemployment, sickness and injury at the societal level in order to provide health to an individual. The individual - centric approach for providing curative treatment, medicines etc. to an individual has shifted towards the public health to a larger extent. In the words of K.G. Balakrishnan: "There is an obvious intersection between healthcare at the individual as well as societal level and

the provision of nutrition, clothing and shelter".

The Supreme Court has held that 'right to health' is an integral part of 'right to life' under article 21 of the Constitution. And that preservation of human life is of paramount importance. Organ transplant technology has emerged on the scientific horizon as a gift of life to people suffering from end stage organ failure disease. The development in transplant technology with immunosuppressant drugs has made the transplant of both (i) living related and/or unrelated and (ii) deceased organs, a viable option for people suffering from organ failure. Their chances of survival and ability to lead a healthy, prolonged life is completely dependent on availability and accessibility of transplantable human organs.

Ethics of Organ Sale

The presence of a growing middle class, the lack of a national health insurance scheme, the growing disparity between the rich and poor and to some extent the presence of technology in the country makes the process of commodification of organs a simple, quick and attractive business proposition for some and a solution for others. Organ trade in India like other problems such as child labor and prostitution has a societal issue to it. It relates to the exploitation of the poverty-stricken people by alluring them with financial gains that at times can be large and can meet their immediate short-term financial needs. Unlike other similar exploitative social situations, organ donation requires an invasive surgical procedure that has both physical and psychological implications.

In some of the studies, it has been noted that when the motive of donation has been purely commercial, donors in the post-operative period have been more prone to ill-health.

Whereas when the donation was purely altruistic, there was the feel-good factor and the psychological recovery was much better. In an interesting field study on economic and health consequences of selling a Kidney in India, mostly spending on debts, food and clothing. In developing countries like India, potential donors need to be protected from being exploited. At a minimum, this might involve educating them about the likely outcomes of selling a kidney.

The growth of medical tourism for transplant surgery and other advanced procedures has exacerbated older divisions between the North and South and between the haves and have-nots. In general, the flow of organs, tissues, and body parts follows the modern routes of capital: from South to North, from third to first world, from poor to rich, from black and brown to white and from female to male bodies. The fundamental truths of our society, of life and liberty, are values that should not have a monetary price. These values are degraded when a poor person feels compelled to risk death for the sole purpose of obtaining monetary payment for a body part. Physicians, whose primary responsibility is to provide care, should not support this practice. Furthermore, our society places limits on individual autonomy when it comes to protection from harm. Government should not endorse as public policy the sale of the human body through prostitution of any sort, despite the purported benefits of such a sale for both the buyer and the seller.

Organ transplantation depends on a social contract and social trust and it requires national and international law protecting the rights of both organ donors and organ recipients. As long there are people who can be exploited for money in society, certain evils are likely to perpetuate and legalizing the organ donation process will add

another dimension to that evil and further weaken the social fabric.

Understanding the ethics of organ donation is important if we are to tackle the moral and ethical challenges that are emerging with cutting edge regenerative medicine such as stem cells transplants, cloning and tissue re-engineering. The ethical principles of organ donation is an acid test that will help us in evolving and resolving many of the future moral issues that we are likely to encounter.

Organ Shortage: A Global Issue

The high demand and poor supply of kidneys in the United States has widen over the years. This has resulted in many patients traveling abroad for transplant surgery. Some of the countries that have weak regulatory mechanisms have given in to the market forces and include India, Iran, China, Pakistan, Philippines, Brazil, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria and Romania.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in its statement on the sale of organs clearly states that it violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as its own constitution. The human body and its parts cannot be the subject of commercial transactions. Accordingly, giving or receiving payment for organs should be prohibited. The WHO has advised physicians not to transplant organs, if they have reason to believe that the organs concerned have been the subject of commercial transactions.

In India, where the deceased donation rate is abysmally small, there is a need to seriously explore this option and seems to be the way forward to our problem of organ shortage and to curb commerce in organs. Besides this swap or donor exchange in living transplants should be explored as a feasible alternative.

Conclusion

The gap between the numbers of organs available and the number of patients joining the waiting list for a kidney transplant is widening globally. The high demand of organs has led to its commodification, more so in countries where there is a large proportion of the population below the poverty line with weak regulatory authorities. The resulting transplant tourism has caused an outcry from many international bodies. In India, the potential for deceased donation is huge due to the high number of fatal road traffic accidents and this pool is yet to be tapped.

The huge gap between the demand and supply of donor organ in India is evident of the fact that legislation has failed to achieve its purpose. Legal tools are a necessity in organ procurement to allow transplant surgeons to remove organs from potential sources. Legislations regulating transplants must have provisions to increase donor pool. But the law has not been able to fill the gap between demand and supply of organs. The progressive law to promote organ donation has been brought on the statute book but in reality and for practical reasons it has not yielded desired results. It is suggested that we need to switch over to either presumed consent or opting-out system of consent and tap cadaver organ pool from traffic accidents, brain dead patients along with generating awareness amongst masses about organ donation.

General Studies Paper- II

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



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Lateral Entry: Open Door for Private Players

Q1. Why is time-tested UPSC being sought to be undermined? Is it the gap between the expertise available within the government and the expertise required can be solved by lateral recruitment? Discuss.

Hints:

- The government has decided to bring in private and public sector specialists as joint secretaries in various ministries and departments through the lateral entry route. This move is based on the recommendation of the Centre's policy think-tank NITI Aayog.
- Lack of specialisation in the civil services and inadequate recruitment in the early 1990s appear to have forced the need for a lateral entry system currently. It remains to be seen whether the 10 new recruits fit into the overall functioning of the government or not. In the meantime, the government would do well to address the crucial issues raised by the senior bureaucrats.
- A number of former IAS officers who retired from senior positions look at the move with some degree of reservation although none of them objected to the idea of a lateral entry of experts. They have objected to the fact that the government has allowed lateral entry by passing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the three-tier civil services examination annually and has, instead, instructed the cabinet secretary-headed committee to recruit professionals.
- Joint secretaries are at a crucial level of senior management in the government of India and lead policymaking and the implementation of various programmes and schemes of the department. They report to the secretary/additional secretary in the ministry or department and are normally appointed from All India services like the IAS, IPS, IFS and other central services.
- There is a fear that it may be used to appoint ideologically committed people who will support the government in key positions. A move to change the role of the foundation course for civil services has already created a controversy.
- Nepotism and other ills of the selection system can defeat the aims of the move. There is also the question whether the right candidates would apply because the appointment is on contract for a period of only three years.

- These rare appointments should now become more common and need to be institutionalised. The bureaucracy has a reputation for lethargy, status quoism and obstructionism, apart from inadequate knowledge and refusal to learn new things. It is not that 10 new joint secretaries will change the work culture and profile of the bureaucracy. But the move can set a trend and its success will be watched.
- Lateral entry will bring in much-needed outside experience, buffer the talent within the administration and challenge the IAS into continuous self-improvement. Lateral entry system, therefore, is a disruption in the classical scheme of things. It is an incursion into the forbidden IAS territory. There is certainly a risk that due process might not be followed and ill-qualified, political appointees will land up in senior positions of the government and hurt public interest.
- Lateral entry is the way forward. One can hope for the pilot project to be implemented across all government levels at a later stage through proper institutionalisation and transparency. However, the legitimacy of the entire process and consequent success of the move is contingent on who makes the appointments.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: An East is Rising

Q2. The G7, perhaps, can wait out Trump's term; can the SCO live through a conflagration between India and Pakistan or a future worsening of relations between India and China?

Hints:

- Recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) annual summit in Qingdao in China was the first SCO summit since its expansion when India and Pakistan were included as full members at the Astana summit in Kazakhstan last year.
- At a time when America is looking inwards and Europe is struggling to come to terms with multiple domestic crises, major powers are looking at multiple coalitions to manage an international order in a high degree of fluidity. New Delhi is no exception. India's substantive engagement with wider Central Asia will be key to its growing aspirations in a rapidly evolving Eurasian landscape.
- India was not part of the section of Qingdao declaration that referred to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India

is supportive of connectivity projects, but only those that respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.

- India pushed for greater people-to-people engagement between India and other members of the SCO and underlined India's desire to double the number of tourists from the region. New Delhi is planning to organize a food festival of cuisines of SCO countries as well as a shared Buddhist heritage exhibition in India.
- China and Russia are proposing that the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) can become a peace platform to resolve India-Pakistan differences. SCO could provide a "better platform" to resolve the bitter feud between India and Pakistan of over seven decades. There are unresolved historical conflicts existing between India and Pakistan. India is exploring the possibility of connectivity to Central Asia through the Pakistan-Afghan corridor, under the SCO framework. India's pending energy projects like the TAPI (Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India) pipeline, IPI (Iran-Pakistan-India) pipeline and CASA (Central Asia-South Asia)-1000 electricity transmission projects — all of which are blocked due in part to Pakistan's recalcitrant approach — can get a much needed push through the SCO.
- India's membership in the SCO provides it with select opportunities in the geoeconomic and the geostrategic sphere in the Central Asian Region (CAR). It is yet to be seen whether India's membership in the SCO will come at the expense of China's interest in Indian-led organization, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) or the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- China's membership in these organizations could dilute India's position as well as its influence in the region. Indian's benefits from the SCO will be limited due to the role of China and Pakistan in the organization. Positive outcomes will depend on how Indian diplomacy deals with its rivals. On the other hand, India-Russia diplomatic relations will have a major role in promoting India's interests in the SCO and India's cordial relations with Central Asian countries will determine the fate of India's interests.

Nabbing Absconding Economic Offenders

- Q3. There have been several instances of economic offenders fleeing the jurisdiction of Indian courts, anticipating the commencement, or during the pendency of criminal proceedings. Why is Britain the favourite hiding spot for Indian fugitives? How Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018 will address the lacunas of the existing structure?**

Hints:

- There have been several instances of economic offenders fleeing the jurisdiction of Indian courts, anticipating the commencement, or during the pendency of criminal proceedings. The absence of such offenders from Indian courts has several deleterious consequences – first, it hampers investigation in criminal cases; second, it wastes precious time of courts of law, third, it undermines the rule of law in India. Further, most such cases of economic offences involve non-repayment of bank loans thereby worsening the financial health of the banking sector in India. The existing civil and criminal provisions in law are not entirely adequate to deal with the severity of the problem.
- Britain is the favourite hiding spot for Indian fugitives because:
 - ♦ Strong Human-right Laws: UK is a signatory to European Convention on Human Rights—if UK courts deem that a person to be extradited is likely to face torture or death penalty, or the extradition is due to political reasons, they may deny the extradition request.
 - ♦ Delay in Extradition: Extradition proceedings are slow in the UK. India has made nine extradition requests, including one for Vijay Mallya to the UK. These requests are still pending in courts.
 - ♦ Rejected Extraditions: The UK has rejected a large number of extradition requests made by India on different grounds. These include for Raymond Varley, Ravi Shankaran, Velu Boopalan, Ajay Prasad Khaitan, Virendra Kumar Rastogi and Anand Kumar Jain.
- Recently government of India has promulgated the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018. It will empower authorities to attach and confiscate properties and assets of economic offenders like loan defaulters who flee the country. The provisions of the ordinance will apply for economic offenders who refuse to return, persons against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for a scheduled offence as well as wilful bank loan defaulters with outstanding of over Rs 100 crore. It provides for confiscating assets even without conviction and paying off lenders by selling off the fugitive's properties. Such economic offenders will be tried under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- In recent weeks, banks have been asked to mandatorily collect passport details of those borrowing above Rs. 50 crore and the passports of some wilful defaulters are being impounded too. The government is no doubt conscious of the clamour for tough action on absconding offenders, particularly those involved in financial misdemeanours and wilful defaulters of bank loans.
- The ordinance is expected to re-establish the rule of law with respect to the fugitive economic offenders as

they would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences. This would also help the banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from financial defaults committed by such fugitive economic offenders, improving the financial health of such institutions. The government needs to present a coherent vision about its plans to bring back those fugitives who have already got away and plug the remaining loopholes in the system.

Statehood for Delhi: A Formidable Demand

Q4. Why are political parties, especially those incumbent at the centre, wary of the statehood question? What is your opinion? Do you think Delhi should be given the status of 'full statehood'?

Hints:

- Over the seven decades of political churning on the question of statehood for Delhi reveals that both Congress and BJP have long been aware of the overlapping jurisdictions and chaotic administrative arrangements that directly bear on the national capital's quality of governance; they themselves do not deny that, often, these disordered governance systems give credence to autonomy and statehood nomenclatures. What is equally clear, however, is that when sitting in power, these same parties have conveniently brushed aside such demands.
- Many regional parties have expressed their strong reservation to acceding full statehood for Delhi. For them, India's national capital belongs to every citizen of the country and not just those who reside in the city. On a number of occasions, central ministers and members of Parliament have openly expressed their discomfort over sharing powers with the state government that can possibly encroach upon their privileges and may become a nuisance. It has helped the sceptics of statehood that an insurgent AAP and the LG, acting at the behest of the central government, have been engaged in intermittent standoffs, often leading to a governance deadlock in the national capital. There are also those who argue that statehood would deprive Delhi of the many advantages it gets as national capital. For instance, the entire burden of policing—involving the coordination of a mammoth staff—is borne by the federal government. Therefore, it seems unlikely that any ruling dispensation will concede to the statehood demand in the near future.
- Delhi is home to vital institutions such as the President's estate, the Parliament and foreign embassies. These institutions are the sole responsibility of the Union Government and not of any one particular state legislative assembly. Further, a number of high-profile foreign dignitaries visit Delhi on international missions

and summits. Organising these missions and ensuring their seamless facilitation is also the responsibility of the federal government.

- Thus, there is a strong argument against handing over the administration of the Delhi Police from the centre to the state. The dominant narrative even during the time of constituent assembly debates was that the Indian government must have some territory under its control; it cannot possibly be an occupant or a tenant of a state government. This was the position taken by Nehru, Ambedkar and other drafting committee members and the same notion prevails. Therefore, it should not come as a surprise to see that the ruling BJP—the original proponent and most ardent supporter of Delhi's statehood in the previous decades—has turned its back on the same. Indeed, keen supporters of statehood will find the BJP's recent arguments before the Supreme Court less than palatable.
- The debate since 1966 has been the issue of multiplicity of authorities/institutions with overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities, leading to poor governance in the national capital. Yet, this has been hardly altered in subsequent changes. The discussion cannot even reach the question of granting full statehood; the basic issues of administrative autonomy and clarity on jurisdictions of different institutional forms in the national capital have been left unattended by the occasional intervention from different governments at the centre.
- Yet, such inconsistent positioning by political parties overlooks the massive transformations that have taken place in India's national capital in the last four decades. Demographically speaking, the city of once-sleepy villages and non-descript colonies has transformed into a vibrant metropolis with a population of over 18.6 million in 2016, higher than that of many Indian states and ranking Delhi 10th by population size. A recent United Nations (UN) report projects that Delhi urban agglomeration will make it the most populous city in the world by 2028. The imperative is to revisit the existing governance set-up in the national capital in light of the massive transformations that have taken place in the city: India's second-largest metropolis.

The Looming Fear of Desertification

Q5. Desertification is not just an ecological issue but also one of shrinking food and water supplies, loss of jobs and mass migration. Discuss, how Desertification can be prevented and rehabilitated?

Hints:

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on June 17th every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat

desertification. Environmental experts worry about the prevailing conditions of sandstorm in the Delhi-NCR region, there has been a steady increase in frequency, longevity and density of sandstorms in this region. This has also raised fear of early desertification of the Delhi-NCR region.

- The frequency of sandstorms has increased in the city in past decade. While earlier summer sandstorms used to occur for four days a week. Now, the frequency has increased to multiple spells a week over a span of two weeks. So, not only frequency but, also the longevity and density of the sandstorms has increased.
- As per the study, the green cover around the region is alarmingly depleting, the Aravalli range is gradually becoming barren. The open forest cover has decreased in the last three decades, meanwhile, the scrub has increased by 5.7 per cent and the barren region is fluctuating.
- Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. It is caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations. Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts. It occurs because dryland ecosystems, which cover over one third of the world's land area, are extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and inappropriate land use.
- Desertification is not just an ecological issue but also one of shrinking food and water supplies, loss of jobs and mass migration. It also causes disasters like sandstorms that wipe out large swathes of habitable lands. Aquifers vanish and biodiversity is greatly reduced. A naturally dry climate, long spells of droughts and heavy winds add to the anthropogenic causes. Poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and bad irrigation practices can all undermine the productivity of the land.
- If an area becomes a desert, the water quality is going to become a lot worse than it would have been otherwise. This is because the plant life plays a significant role in keeping the water clean and clear; without its presence, it becomes a lot more difficult for you to be able to do that.
- Without farms in these areas, the food that those farms produce will become much scarcer and the people who live in those local areas will be a lot more likely to try and deal with hunger problems. Animals will also go hungry, which will cause even more of a food shortage.
- When areas start to become desert, animals and people will go to other areas where they can actually thrive. This causes crowding and overpopulation, which will, in the long run, end up continuing the cycle of desertification that started this whole thing anyway.
- Solutions for Desertification:
 - ♦ Policy changes related to how people can farm: In countries where policy change will actually be enforced on those in the country, policy change

related to how often people can farm and how much they can farm on certain areas could be put into place to help reduce the problems that are often associated with farming and desertification.

- ♦ Policy changes to other types of land use: If people are using land to get natural resources or they are developing it for people to live on, then the policies that govern them should be ones that will help the land to thrive instead of allowing them to harm the land further. The policy changes could be sweeping or they could be depending on the type of land use at hand.
- ♦ Sustainable practices to prevent desertification from happening: There are plenty of sustainable practices that can be applied to those acts that may be causing desertification. By adding these to what we should be doing with land, we can ensure that we don't turn the entire world into a desert.
- Curbing desertification is as critical as mitigating impact of climate change and international initiative on climate change and biodiversity loss should have linkages and synergies with steps against desertification.

Dam Safety: A Priority Concern for India

Q6. With increasing number of dams becoming older and older, the likelihood of dam failures in India is expected to be an ascending path. Discuss how newly drafted dam safety bill will help India to adopt uniform dam safety procedures which shall ensure safety of dams and safeguard benefits from such dams.

Hints:

- The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for enacting the Dam Safety Bill, 2018, which will help the states and union territories to adopt uniform safety procedures to ensure safety of reservoirs. The bill also seeks to constitute a national committee on dam safety which shall evolve safety policies and recommend necessary regulations.
- Presently, India ranks third globally with 5254 large dams in operation and about 447 are under construction. Due to lack of legal and institutional architecture for dam safety in India, dam safety is an issue of concern. Unsafe dams are a hazard and dam break may cause disasters, leading to huge loss of life and property. Dams have played a key role in fostering rapid and sustained agricultural and rural growth and development in India. Over the last fifty years, India has invested substantially in dams and related infrastructure.
- It will help all the States and Union Territories of India to adopt uniform dam safety procedures which shall ensure safety of dams and safeguard benefits from such

dams. This shall also help in safeguarding human life, livestock and property.

- The Bill provides for constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety which shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as may be required for the purpose.
- The Bill provides for establishment of National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body which shall discharge functions to implement the policy, guidelines and standards for dam safety in the country.
- With increasing number of dams becoming older and older, the likelihood of dam failures in India is expected to be an ascending path. Many dams have varied structural deficiencies and shortcomings in operation and monitoring facilities, while few do not meet the present design standard- both structurally and hydrologically. Most of the states have been failing to provide sufficient budgets for maintenance and repair of the dam. Many states also lack the institutional and technical capacities for addressing dam safety issues.
- Dams are constructed for a specific purpose such as water supply, flood control, irrigation, navigation, sedimentation control and hydropower. Hydroelectric power is a major source of electricity in the world. A dam is the cornerstone in the development and management of water resources development of a river basin. The multipurpose dam is a very important project for developing countries, because the population receives domestic and economic benefits from a single investment.

Transplantation of Human Organs: The Indian Scenario

Q7. What is organ transplantation? The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 has not been able to achieve its objectives. Discuss, what are the issues and challenges of living organ donation in India?

Hints:

- An organ transplant is a surgical operation where a failing or damaged organ in the human body is removed and replaced with a new one. An organ is a mass of specialized cells and tissues that work together to perform a function in the body. The heart is an example of an organ. It is made up of tissues and cells that all work together to perform the function of pumping blood through the human body
- The Supreme Court has held that 'right to health' is an integral part of 'right to life' under article 21 of the Constitution. And that preservation of human life is of paramount importance. Organ transplant technology has emerged on the scientific horizon as

a gift of life to people suffering from end stage organ failure disease.

- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 banned organ trade more than two decades ago but it cannot be overlooked that an arrangement of buying and selling of organs is still continuing. The presence of a growing middle class, the lack of a national health insurance scheme, the growing disparity between the rich and poor and to some extent the presence of technology in the country makes the process of commodification of organs a simple, quick and attractive business proposition for some and a solution for others.
- Issues and challenges to living organ donation: Some of the important issues and challenges of living organ donation in India are: infrastructural and manpower issues in government sector, non-availability of comprehensive data to assess risks, gender issues, issues with "authorization committees" (delayed permissions), abuse of organ donation laws and an overcautious health system, lack of concerns about unforeseen medical problems of the donor, unregulated costs of transplant surgeries, post-transplant affordability and entire focus on deceased donation.
- Prevent ensnaring, exploitation of patients and relatives: The living donors and relatives who have to bear the cost of such surgeries are given selective information regarding the costs and risks involved in such surgeries. They are trapped and are made to pay through their nose. An amount of 45 lacks from a living liver donor and recipient both of whom lost their lives before leaving the hospital speaks volumes about unethical practices of many such hospitals. Our health system is obsessed with financial transactions and ensures that there is no benefit to the donor involved. We safeguard money of rich people and do not focus on instruction given to the donors. The living donors are not given all pertinent information regarding the operation as was reported by some key health professionals.
- Way ahead: For checking the exploitation of hapless patients waiting for transplants and their relatives it should be mandatory for all the transplant hospitals to provide the list of patients having undergone these surgeries along with total payments made to the hospital by them. It should be made mandatory for all hospitals to disclose survival rates of these transplant surgeries on their websites.
- Although organ transplantation helps human beings but there are other issues involved in it. One of them is the cost of treatment. It is always possible for rich to take advantages of this miracle of medical science because they can afford it because the donors are always poor but it is not possible for poor to take advantage of it.



SEVEN IMPORTANT NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL

1. Credit Enhancement Fund

The government is likely to launch a Rs. 500-crore credit enhancement fund next month to facilitate infrastructure investments by insurance and pension funds. The fund will help in raising credit rating of bonds issued by infrastructure companies and facilitate investment from long-term investors.

- The fund was first announced in the financial budget for fiscal year 2016-17.
- The Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank will take a 10 per cent equity stake in a Rs. 500-

crore credit enhancement fund that seeks to raise investments in operational and stabilised infrastructure projects.

- The dedicated fund will be set up as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) with IIFCL as lead sponsor and financial institutions and public -sector banks as shareholders.

Need

- At present, only \$110 billion is being invested in infrastructure, against a requirement of \$200

billion, leading many analysts to classify India as an infrastructure deficit country.

- At present, the banking system does a bulk of infrastructure project financing and exposes itself to asset liability management (ALM) mismatches and hence, alternatives like raising of money through corporate bonds is necessary. ■

2. Swachh Iconic Places

The government has added ten Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) under phase III of its flagship programme, Swachh Bharat Mission. These sites have joined the 20 iconic places selected under Phase I and II where special sanitation work is underway.

Key Facts

- The iconic places included in Phase I of the project in 2016 include Ajmer Sharif Dargah, CST Mumbai, Golden Temple, Kamakhya Temple, Maikarnika Ghat, Meenakshi Temple, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Shree Jagannath Temple, the Taj Mahal and Tirupati Temple.

- The Phase II launched in November, 2017 included Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mahakaleshwar Temple, Charminar, Convent and Church of St Francis of Assisi, Kalady, Gommateswara, Baidyanath Dham, Gaya Tirth and Somnath temple.

- Phase III include Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana), VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir), Nagvasuki

Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh), ImaKeithal / market (Imphal, Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).

About Project

Swachh Iconic Places is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission. It is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism. It also involves local administrations in the concerned states and public sector and private companies as sponsoring partners. ■

3. Project Kashmir Super 50

A group of 30 students, part of Kashmir Super 50 recently visited New Delhi and interacted with General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff.

About Project

Project Kashmir Super 50, a joint initiative by Indian Army, Center for Social Responsibility and Leadership (CSRL) and PETRONET LNG Limited (PLL) was launched on 22nd March 2013 to transform the educational status of children from economically weaker sections in the Kashmir region. As part of the 11-month program, selected

students are provided with complete free residential coaching for IIT-JEE, JKCET and other premier engineering institutes.

Significance

Kashmir Super 50 has been one of the most successful projects undertaken by the Indian Army in the valley and has directly impacted the lives of number of youths in J&K by providing them the right guidance and opportunity to make a career for themselves. The project has equally helped the families of these youths in their growth and

prosperity. It is a major initiative towards bringing normalcy in the valley.

On similar lines of Kashmir Super 50 for engineering aspirants, Indian Army has recently signed a MoU for medical aspirants with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) & National Integrity Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO), under which selected students will be provided with complete free residential coaching for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

4. Repositioning of North Eastern Council

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the nomination of the Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC). The Cabinet also approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.

Impact

- NEC implements various projects through the state and central agencies. Under the new arrangement with Home Minister as Chairman and Minister of

DoNER as Vice Chairman and all the Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern states will be members.

- NEC can now also perform the tasks undertaken by the various Zonal Councils to discuss such inter-state issues as drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and ammunition, boundary disputes etc.
- This repositioning of NEC will help it to become a more effective body for the North Eastern region.

About NEC

NEC was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex

level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with all eight North Eastern states.

Subsequent to the Amendment of 2002, NEC has been mandated to function as a regional planning body for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan for this area, shall give priority to the schemes and projects benefiting two or more states provided that in the case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that state.

5. New Norms for College Teachers

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has brought out a new set of regulations to alter the conditions for recruitment and promotion of college and university teachers, so as to make universities more focussed on research

and colleges on the teaching-learning process.

New Norms

- Research will no longer be mandatory for college teachers for

promotion, university promotions will offer weightage to research done. College teachers will be graded on teaching rather than research.

- Other than research, college

teachers can earn grades for other activities too — like social work, helping in adoption of a village, helping students in extra-curricular activities, contributing teaching material to Swayam and the MOOCS platform for online material.

- College teachers can become professors now. Till now, a college teacher could not rise above the rank of associate professor, the

professor post being limited to university departments.

- A Ph.D degree will be mandatory for recruitment as assistant professor at the university level, making UGC/NET irrelevant as a condition for university teachers.
- To become an assistant professor in a college, the requirement remains the same: Ph.D or NET plus a master's degree. However, for

promotion to the post of associate professor, a Ph.D will be mandatory even at the college level.

- Indians who had been awarded a doctoral degree from any of the top 500 global universities would be eligible to teach in Indian universities without the requirement of any equivalence certificate or NET as soon as the regulations are notified. ■

6. Artificial Leaf to Reduce Carbon Footprint

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed an artificial leaf that absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to generate fuel and release oxygen in the process, simulating the process of photosynthesis. It will also use carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to make bio fuel.

The researchers used copper aluminium sulphate and zinc sulphide. The two materials, which are otherwise wide band gap semiconductors, became low band gap semiconductors when combined. Simply put, the lower

the band gap, the better conductivity a substance will have.

How the Leaf Works?

Basically, for photosynthesis the plants used to take carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and glucose. For this process to happen, a high energy photon, electron and sunlight are needed. The electron needs to have a lot of kinetic energy. The semiconductor they made by combining copper aluminium sulphate and zinc sulphide fulfilled the requirements to convert sunlight into energy, which is how they decided to

try and replicate photosynthesis.

In the process, they also found that this quantum leaf had a much better rate of energy conversation compared to natural leaves — 20% as compared to 0.4-0.5% in photosynthesis.

Given that the world is searching for environment friendly and renewable alternatives to fossil fuels, the technology has huge potential. It will also help in reducing the carbon footprint. ■

7. RBI has Altered the Definition of 'Relative' Category

Concerned over funds sent abroad under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives to check the flow of funds.

Funds under the 'maintenance of close relative' category can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses. This has brought about by defining 'relatives' under the Companies Act, 2013 instead of the same act of 1956.

Outward remittances under maintenance of close relatives shot up to almost \$3 billion in 2017-18 from a mere \$174 million in 2013-14. In fact,

funds sent under this category have more than doubled since 2015-16. Overall outward remittances under LRS went up to \$11 billion from \$1 billion in the same period.

About LRS

Under LRS, all resident individuals can freely remit \$250,000 overseas every financial year for a permissible set of current or capital account transactions.

Remittances are permitted for overseas education, travel, medical treatment and purchase of shares and property, apart from maintenance of relatives living abroad, gifting and donations. Individuals can also open, maintain and hold foreign currency

accounts with overseas banks for carrying out transactions.

However, the rules do not allow remittances for trading on the foreign exchange markets, margin or margin calls to overseas exchanges and counterparties and the purchase of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds issued by Indian companies abroad.

Sending money to certain countries and entities is also barred. Under LRS, people can't send money to countries identified as 'non cooperative' by the Financial Action Task Force. Remittances are also prohibited to entities identified as posing terrorist risks. ■

INTERNATIONAL

1. International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). ICD-11 will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2019 for adoption by member states and will come into effect on 1st January 2022. This release is an advance preview that will allow countries to plan how to use the new version, prepare translations and train health professionals all over the country.

Highlights of ICD- 11

- ICD-11, which has been over a decade in the making, provides significant improvements on previous versions. For the first time, it is completely electronic and has a much more user-friendly format.
- The new ICD-11 reflects progress in medicine and advances in scientific understanding. For example, the codes relating to antimicrobial resistance are more closely in line with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS).
- ICD-11 is also able to better capture data regarding safety in healthcare, which means that unnecessary events that may harm health – such as unsafe workflows in hospitals - can be identified and reduced.
- The new ICD also includes new chapters - one on traditional medicine and another new chapter on sexual health.
- Gaming disorder has been added to the section on addictive disorders.

About ICD

The ICD is the foundation for identifying health trends and statistics worldwide and contains around 55 000 unique codes for injuries, diseases and causes of death. It provides a common language that allows health professionals to share health information across the globe. ICD is increasingly used in clinical care and research to define diseases and study disease patterns, as well as manage health care, monitor outcomes and allocate resources. ICD has been translated into 43 languages.

2. SAARC Development Fund

Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the 8-member states including India.

SDF is in the process of launching the SEDP as part of its social window. The programme will be implemented in all the SAARC member states with the objective of identifying and building social enterprises by using a mix of grants and concessional returnable capital. The programme intends to fund around 80 enterprises across the 8 SAARC member states annually.

SDF was established by the heads of the eight SAARC member states in April 2010. The thirteenth SAARC



summit decided to reconstitute the SADF into SDF to serve as the “umbrella financial mechanism” for all SAARC projects and programmes.

SDF have three Windows. They are social, economic and infrastructure windows.

3. GLONASS Navigation System

Russia successfully launched a Glonass-M positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket. With this launch, there are now 26 Glonass satellites in orbit. GLONASS is an acronym, which stands for Globalnaya Navigazionnaya Sputnikovaya Sistema, or Global Navigation Satellite System. GLONASS is Russia's version of GPS (Global Positioning System). The various versions of GLONASS are:

- **GLONASS:** Launched in 1982, the satellites launched were intended to work for weather positioning, velocity measuring and timing anywhere in the world or near-Earth space by the military and official organisations.
- **GLONASS-M:** Launched in 2003 add second civil code. It is important for GIS mapping receivers.
- **GLONASS-k:** Started in 2011 again has 3 more types namely k1, k2 and km for research. It add third civil frequency.
- **GLONASS-K2**
- **GLONASS-KM:** Will be launched after 2025 (currently in research phase).

4. New UAE Labour and Visa Norms

The United Arab Emirates has announced sweeping changes in its labour and visa rules that will ensure the better protection of workers' rights and do away with bank guarantees for recruitment in the private sector.

- Businesses will now pay an annual fee of 60 dirhams (\$16.34) per worker for a low-cost insurance policy instead of a bank guarantee of 3,000 dirhams. The low-cost insurance policy which replaces the bank guarantees will cut costs for employers and offer greater protection to vulnerable low-income workers.
- The new rules, however, won't apply to domestic workers such as maids. The insurance policy will cover end of service benefits, holiday and overtime allowances, unpaid wages, return air ticket and cases of work injury, with the maximum pay out capped at 20,000 dirhams per person. The current system of bank guarantees doesn't cover entitlements such as gratuity and holiday allowances.
- Facilitate the process for job seekers in the UAE and grant a six-month temporary visa without fee.
- Facilitate the voluntary departure of people overstaying their visa without incurring a ban.

Indian workers are expected to be among the major beneficiaries of the measures. These will go a long way in easing the financial burden on Indian workers, professionals and entrepreneurs. The employee will have better protection as he or she can complain to the ministry of human resources and emiratisation in the event of non-payment of minimum entitlements and then the ministry can draw on the insurance to provide a payout.

5. Trio of Infant Planets Discovered

Two independent teams of astronomers have uncovered convincing evidence that three young planets are in orbit around an infant star known as HD 163296. Using a new planet-finding strategy, Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), the astronomers identified three discrete disturbances in a young star's gas-filled disk: the strongest evidence yet that newly formed planets are in orbit there. It is 330 light-years from Earth in the direction of the constellation

Sagittarius. And it's young – really young in astronomical terms – only about 4 million years old. That's in contrast to our sun, with 4+ billion years under its belt.

About ALMA

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) is an international partnership of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of

Natural Sciences (NINS) of Japan, together with NRC (Canada), NSC and ASIAA (Taiwan) and KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. It is the largest astronomical project in existence- is a single telescope of revolutionary design, composed of 66 high precision antennas located on the Chajnantor plateau, 5000 meters altitude in northern Chile.

6. Maitri Irrigation Project

India has extended a financial aid of Rs 99 million to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems in 12 districts of the country's southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity. The assistance has been extended as part of the final payment for the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project,.

About Project

- It was launched in January 2017 to boost growth to the Himalayan

nation's agricultural sector through enhanced facilities.

- The project aimed at installing 2,700 shallow tube wells in Saptari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Rupendehi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.
- The project would ensure all-season irrigation facility to about 8,115 hectares of farm land, augment productivity of wheat, rice and seasonal fruits, vegetables

and other crops.

- It would also uplift the socio-economic status of farming families in the 12 districts covered under the project.

Recognising the scope for improving agricultural productivity in Nepal, India has been partnering with Nepal for development of Deep Tube Wells (DTWs) and Shallow Tube Wells (STWs) in various regions for several years.

■

7. Artificial Intelligence System to Diagnose Zika

Scientists have developed an artificial intelligence system that can accurately diagnose Zika virus and several other viral, bacterial and even genetic diseases from the patient's blood. The platform developed by scientists at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in Brazil, can identify tens of thousands of molecules present in blood serum, with an artificial intelligence algorithm.

Scientists used infection by Zika virus as a model to develop the platform and showed that in this case,

diagnostic accuracy exceeded 95%. One of the main advantages is that the method doesn't lose sensitivity even if the virus mutates. Strength of the platform is the capacity to identify positive cases of Zika even in blood serum analysed 30 days after the start of infection, when the acute phase of the disease is over.

Significance

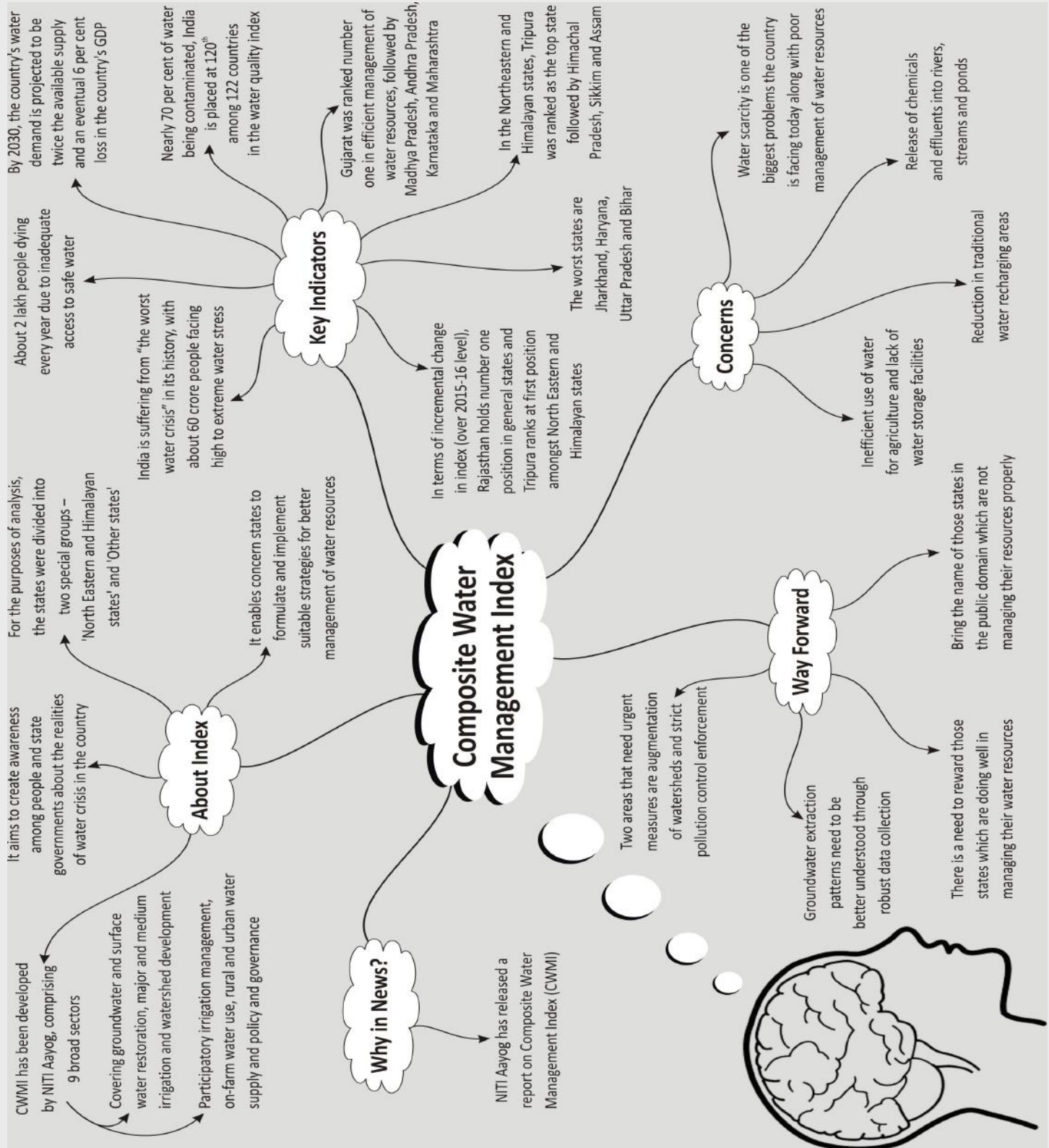
None of the currently available diagnostic kits has the sensitivity to

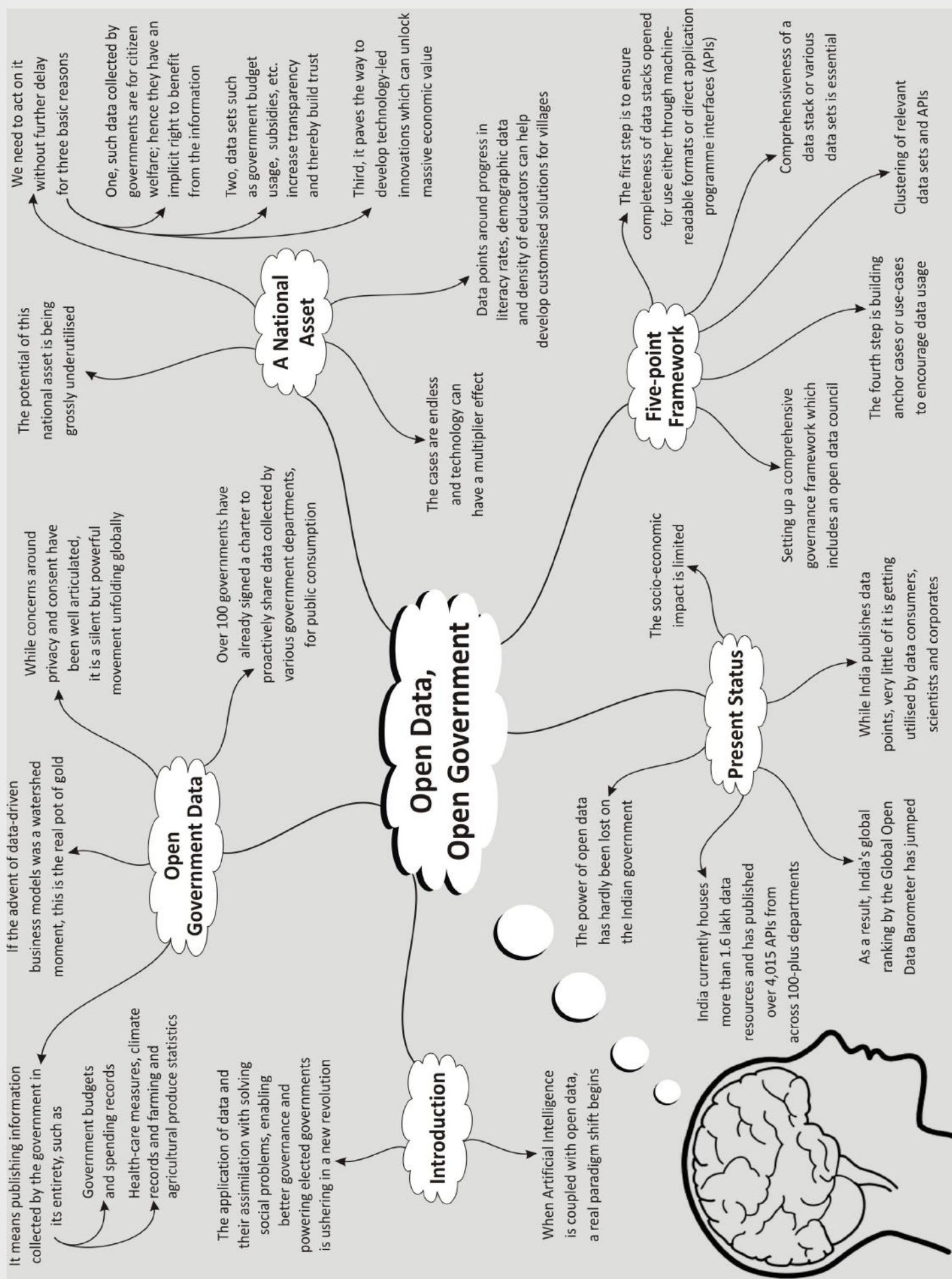
detect infection by Zika after the end of the acute phase. This method could be useful to analyse transfusion blood bags.

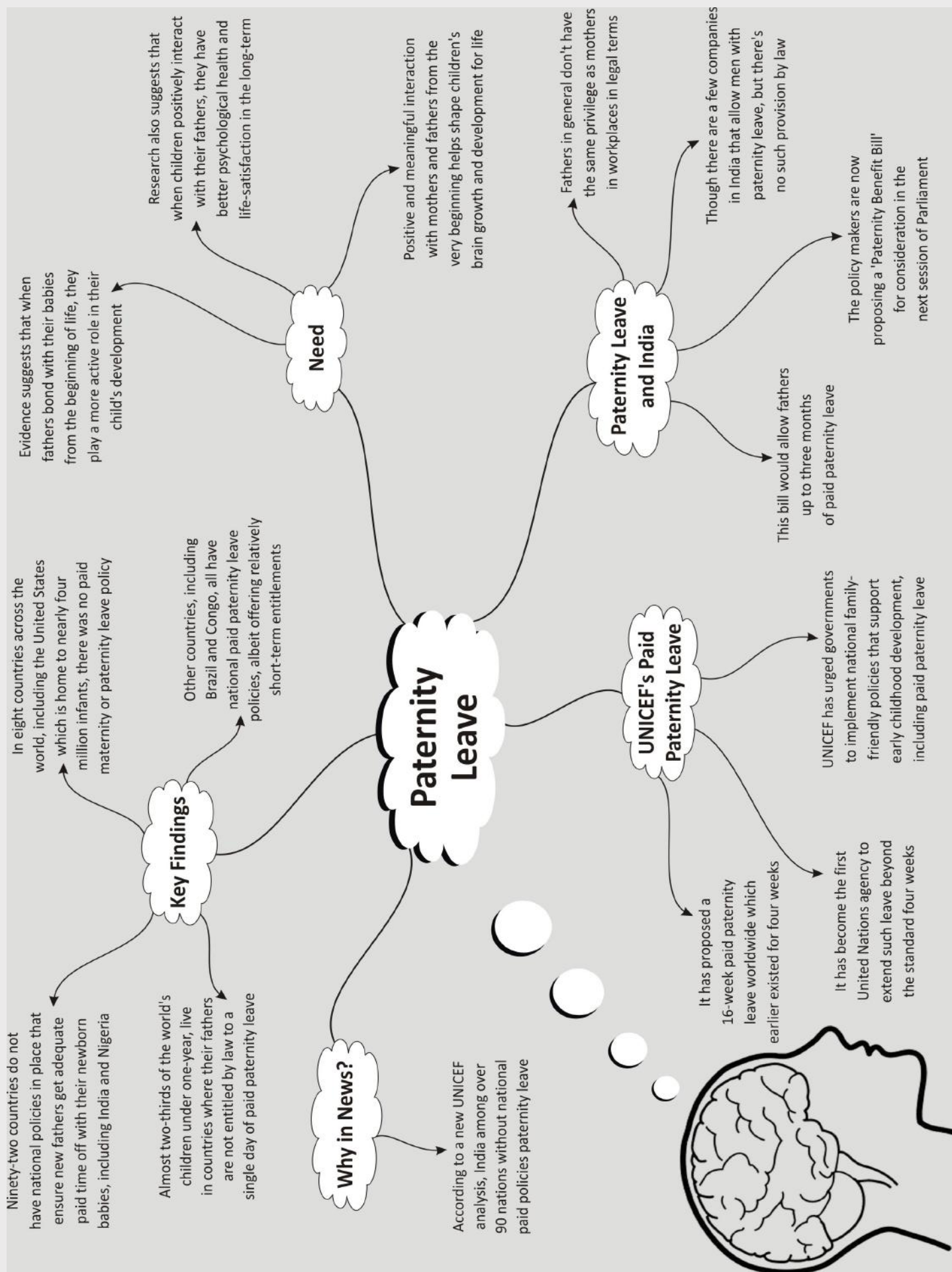
This type of artificial intelligence tool is capable of analysing a large amount of data by specific statistical methods in search of patterns that can be used as a basis for classification, prediction, decision making, modeling and so on.

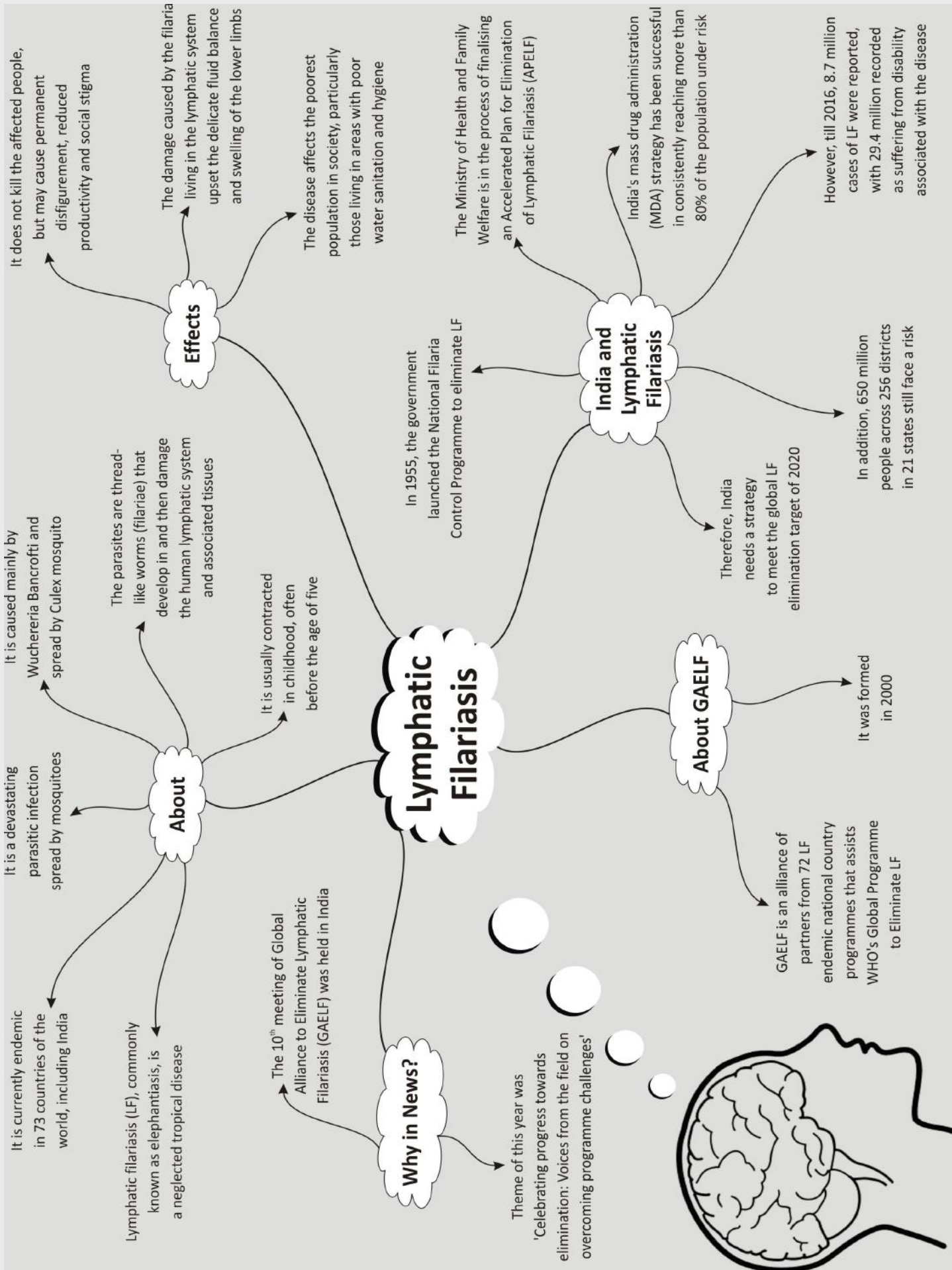
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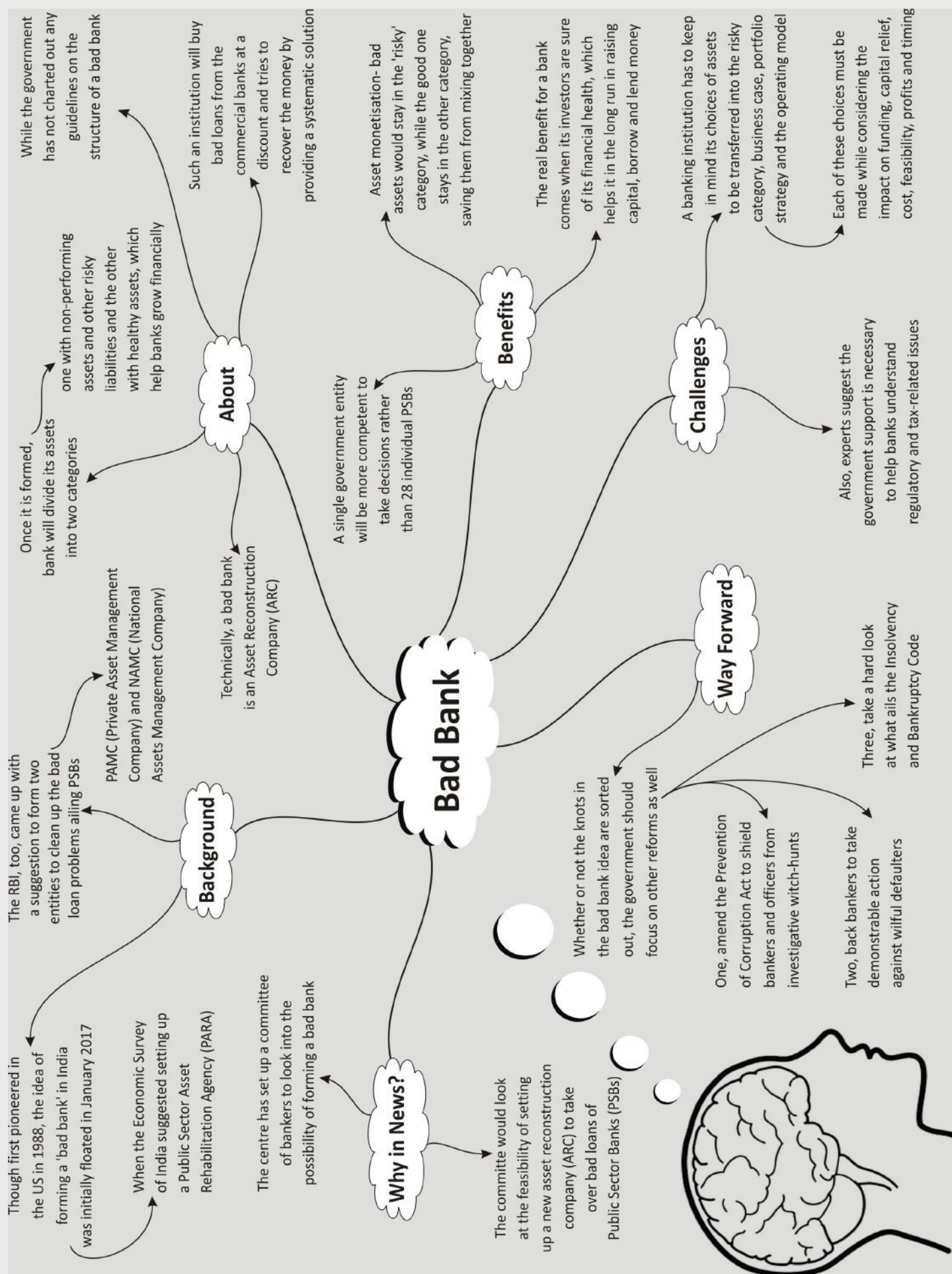
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

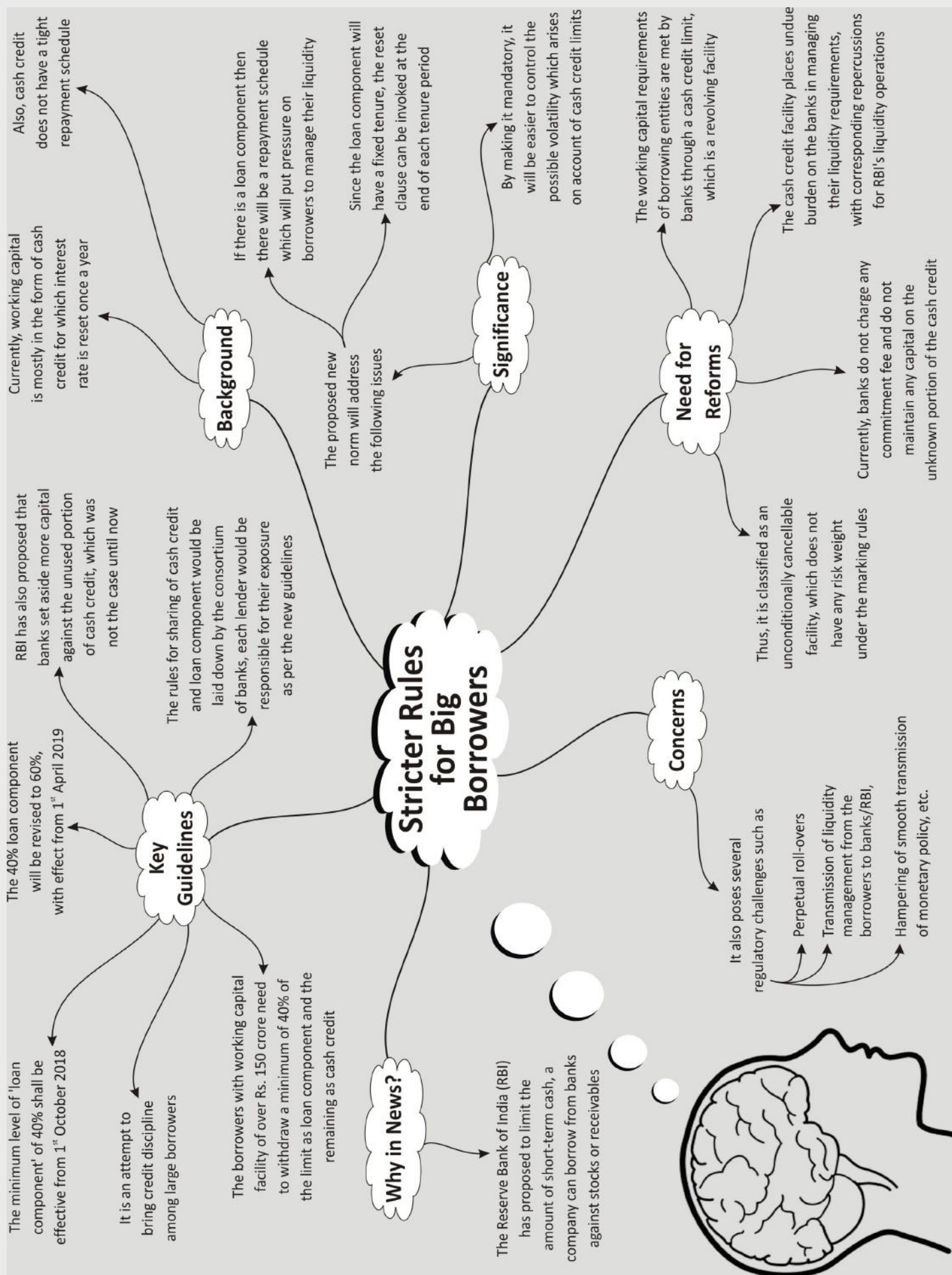


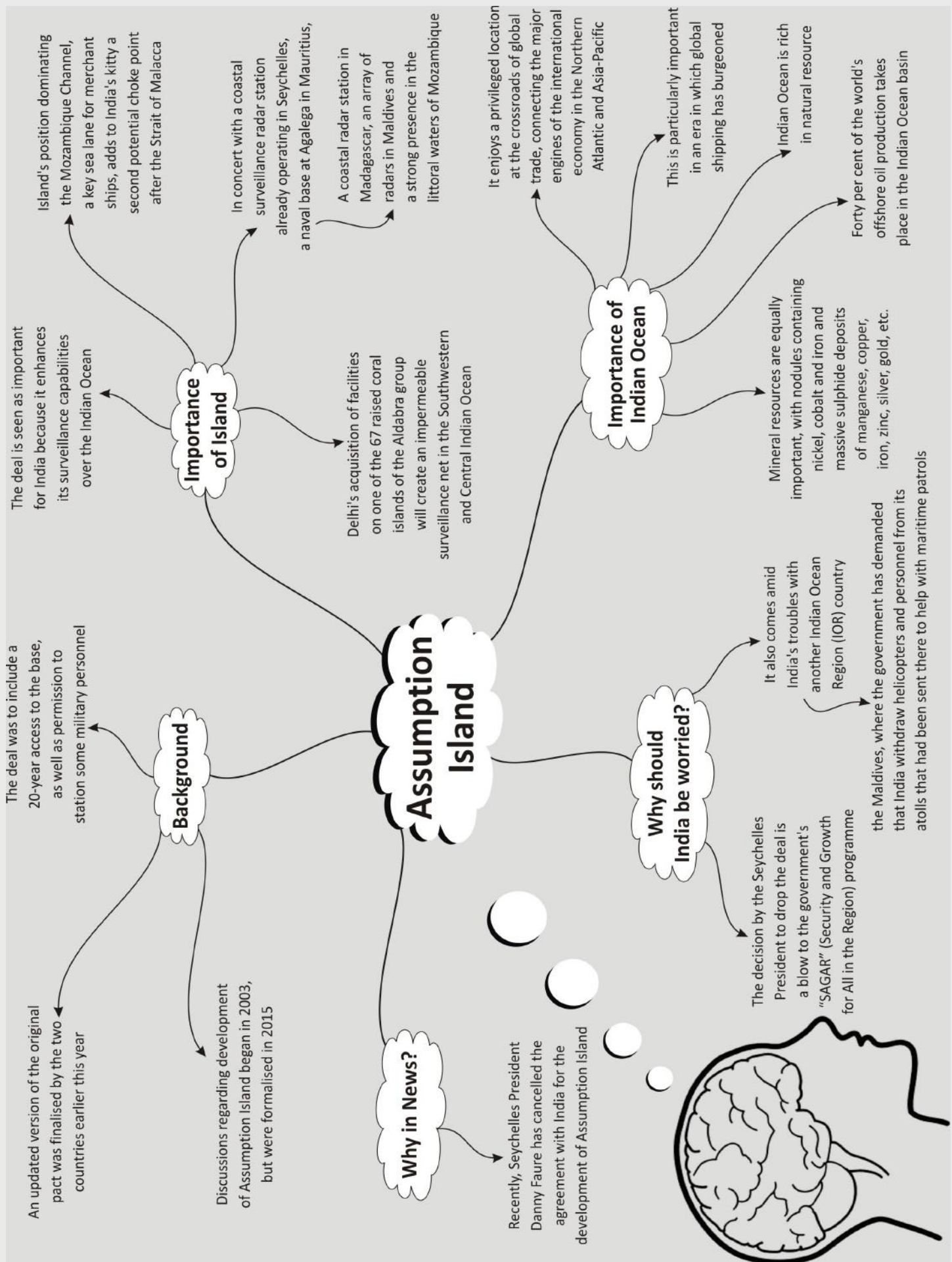












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Composite Water Management Index

Q1. With reference to the 'Composite Water Management Index', consider the following statements:

1. Andhra Pradesh was ranked number one in efficient management of water resources.
2. The worst states are Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Tripura.

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. NITI Aayog has released a report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI). Gujarat was ranked number one in efficient management of water resources, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In the Northeastern and Himalayan states, Tripura was ranked as the top state followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam. The worst states are Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Open Data, Open Government

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Open government data means publishing information collected by the government to all.
2. India was one of the first to set up the Open Government Data (OGD) platform in India at data.gov.in.

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. Open government data means publishing information collected by the government in its entirety, such as government budgets, spending records, health-care measures, climate records and farming and agricultural produce statistics.

India was one of the first to set up the Open Government Data (OGD) platform in India at data.gov.in

to provide access to data sets published by government departments. It intends to increase transparency in the functioning of government and also open avenues for many more innovative uses of government data to give different perspective.

Paternity Leave

Q3. With reference to the recent analysis of UNICEF on paternity leave, consider the following statements:

1. India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies on paternity leave.
2. The policy makers in India are now proposing a 'Paternity Benefit Bill' for consideration in the next session of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies, according to a new UNICEF analysis.

The UN agency noted that around the world, momentum for family-friendly policies was growing. It cited the example of India, where officials are proposing a Paternity Benefit Bill for consideration in the next session of Parliament which would allow fathers up to three months of paid paternity leave.

Lymphatic Filariasis

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of Lymphatic Filariasis:

1. It is a devastating parasitic infection spread by bacteria.
2. Lymphatic filariasis is commonly known as elephantiasis.

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. Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes. Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system. It is caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea.

Statement 2 is correct. Lymphatic filariasis is commonly known as elephantiasis. The painful and profoundly disfiguring visible manifestations of the disease, lymphoedema, elephantiasis and scrotal swelling occur later in life and can lead to permanent disability. These patients are not only physically disabled, but suffer mental, social and financial losses contributing to stigma and poverty.

Bad Bank

Q5. With reference to the 'bad bank', consider the following statements:

1. Technically, a bad bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).
2. Once it is formed, banks will divide its assets into two categories -- one with non-performing assets and other risky liabilities and the other with healthy assets.

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. Technically, a bad bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). Once it is formed, banks will divide its assets into two categories -- one with non-performing assets and other risky liabilities and the other with healthy assets, which help banks grow financially. The idea of forming a 'bad bank' in India was initially floated in January 2017 when the Economic Survey of India suggested setting up a Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA).

Stricter Rules for Big Borrowers

Q6. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to limit the amount of short-term cash, a company can borrow from banks against stocks or receivables. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. The borrowers with working capital facility of over Rs. 150 crore need to withdraw a minimum of 50% of the limit as loan component and the remaining as cash credit.

2. RBI has proposed that the tenure of this loan be fixed at more than seven weeks.

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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to limit the amount of short-term cash, a company can borrow from banks against stocks or receivables, in an attempt to bring credit discipline among large borrowers. RBI said that borrowers with working capital facility of over Rs. 150 crore need to withdraw a minimum of 40% of the limit as loan component and the remaining as cash credit.

According to these draft guidelines, RBI has proposed that the tenure of this loan be fixed at more than seven days. The regulator has also proposed that banks set aside more capital against the unused portion of cash credit, which was not the case until now.

Assumption Island

Q7. The term 'Assumption Island' is seen in the news. Consider the following statements in this regard:

1. Assumption Island is a small island in the Outer Islands of Mauritius, North of Madagascar.
2. India signed a pact to develop Assumption Island in 2015.

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. Assumption Island is a small island in the Outer Islands of Seychelles, North of Madagascar. Island's position dominating the Mozambique Channel, a key sea lane for merchant ships, adds to India's kitty a second potential choke point after the Strait of Malacca.

Statement 2 is correct. Discussions regarding development of Assumption Island began in 2003, but were formalised in 2015. An updated version of the original pact was finalised by the two countries earlier this year. The deal was to include a 20-year access to the base, as well as permission to station some military personnel on ground with facilities on the island funded by India, owned by the Seychelles and jointly managed by both sides.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Which state government has approved the merger of shikshakarmi with state school education department?

–Chhattisgarh

2. When was the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict observed?

–June 19

3. Which city will host the 106th Indian Science Congress (ISC-2019)?

–Jalandhar (Panjab)

4. Which noted Indian social reformer has been honoured with the prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize 2018?

–Bindeshwar Pathak

5. Which countries have won a united bid to host FIFA 2026 World Cup?

–US, Canada and Mexico

6. Haryana has decided to develop which fort on the pattern of the Mughal Gardens?

–Madhogarh Fort

7. What was India's rank in the Global Environment Performance Index 2018?

–177th

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SEVEN PERFECT QUOTES

(IMPORTANT FOR ESSAY AND ANSWER WRITING)

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of strong."

–Mahatma Gandhi

"The only sustainable competitive advantage is the ability to learn faster than the competition."

–Arie de Geus

"Time perfects men as well as destroys them."

–Chanakya

"Happiness is that state of consciousness which proceeds from the achievement of one's values."

–Ayn Rand

"Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in and in your own way adsorb it;
do not become others."

–Swami Vivekananda

"The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings."

–Albert Schweitzer

"Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it."

–Rabindranath Tagore

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SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM

Answer each of the following questions in 200 words:

- Q1. With US sanctions, India has perfect window of opportunity for defence deals with Vietnam. Discuss how deepening defence ties with Vietnam will give boost to the India's Act East policy.
- Q2. Secularism in the Indian setting calls for the maintenance of a "principled distance" between state and religion. Examine how the seeds of secularism were sown in India and why the state came to play a part in religious institutions.
- Q3. India is expected to be a leader in shared mobility by 2030. Critically analyze the need to promote the emerging trend of shared mobility options in India.
- Q4. Municipalities are not yet autonomous units that can be genuinely called as the "third tier". The disempowerment and depoliticisation has happened in multiple ways. Explore how urban local governments are actively disempowered and depoliticised as an institution.
- Q5. The idea of 'Legal Information Management and Briefing System' (LIMBS) will play a key role in reducing the litigation burden. Examine.
- Q6. What do you understand by 'bad bank'? The Central government has revived the idea of setting up an asset reconstruction or asset management company, a sort of 'bad bank'. Critically analyse how can a 'bad bank' solve the NPA problem?
- Q7. Lateral entry into senior levels of bureaucracy is a good idea. Critically analyse.

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GAURAV KUMAR
AIR-34



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



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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



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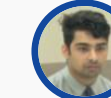
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AIR-444



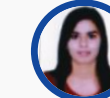
SHIVANI KAPUR
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P SAINATH
AIR-480



JAGPRAVESH
AIR-483



POOJA SHOKEEN
AIR-516



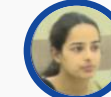
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LAKHAN SINGH YADAV
AIR-565



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



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AIR-824



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AIR-850



SANDEEP MEENA
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SHIV SINGH MEENA
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& many more...