



**DHYEYA IAS<sup>®</sup>**  
*most trusted since 2003*

March 2018 | Issue 03



**PERFECT**

**WEEKLY**  
**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

# Contents

March- 2018

Issue-3

## **Seven Important Issues**

**1-21**

- Right To Die With Dignity
- Effectiveness of Human Right Laws
- Reimagining South Asia cooperation
- Resurgence of Non-Aligned Movement
- India-Jordan Relations : Beginning of a New Chapter
- Land Acquisition in india
- The Food versus Fuel Debate

## **Seven Subjective Questions with Model Answers**

**22-28**

## **Seven Important National & International News**

**29-34**

## **Seven Brain Boosters & Seven MCQ's Based on Them**

**35-43**

## **Seven Important Facts For Prelims**

**44**

## **Seven Perfect Quotes (Important for Essay and Answer Writing)**

**45**

## **Seven Practice Questions for Main Exam**

**46**

# SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

## I. RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY



### Why in News?

Finding substance and balance in the relationship between life, morality and the experience of dying. The core philosophy underlying the Supreme Court's verdict allowing passive euthanasia and giving legal status to 'advance directives' is that the right to a dignified life extends up to the point of having a dignified death.

### Background

The right of an individual to refuse medical treatment is unconditional. Neither the law nor the constitution can compel an individual who is competent and able to take decisions to disclose reasons for refusing medical treatment nor is such a refusal subject to the supervisory control of an outside entity. Supreme Court of India has held that right to die with dignity is a fundamental right. The Bench also held that passive euthanasia and a living will also legally valid. The Court has issued detailed guidelines in this regard.

"The right to life and liberty as envisaged under Article 21 of the Constitution is meaningless unless it encompasses within its sphere individual dignity. With the passage of time, this Court has expanded the spectrum of Article 21 to include within it the right to live with dignity as component of right to life and liberty".

The Bench also held that the right to live with dignity also includes the smoothening of the process of dying in case of a terminally ill patient or a person in persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery. A failure to legally recognize advance medical directives may amount to non-facilitation of the right to smoothen the dying process and the right to live with dignity. Further, a study of the position in other jurisdictions shows that 'advance directives' have gained lawful recognition in several jurisdictions by way of legislation and in certain countries through judicial pronouncements. Though the sanctity of life has to be kept on the high

pedestal yet in cases of terminally ill persons or (persistent vegetative state) PVS patients where there is no hope for revival, priority shall be given to the 'advance directive' and the right of self-determination. In the absence of 'advance directive', the procedure provided for the said category hereinbefore shall be applicable.

The 241<sup>st</sup> report of the Law Commission states that passive euthanasia should be allowed with certain safeguards and there is a proposed law—Medical Treatment of Terminally Ill Patient (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) Bill, 2006 in this regard.

### What is Euthanasia?

Euthanasia is the termination of a very sick person's life in order to relieve them of their suffering. A person who undergoes euthanasia usually has an incurable condition. But there are other instances where some people want their life to be ended. In many cases, it is carried out at the person's request but there are times when they may be too ill and the decision is made by relatives, medics or, in some instances, the courts. The term is derived from the Greek word 'euthanatos' which means easy death.

Euthanasia' defined as 'the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma'. The word appears to have come into usage in the

early 17<sup>th</sup> century and was used in the sense of 'easy death'.

## Ethical Concerns

Euthanasia raises a number of agonising moral dilemmas:

- Is it ever right to end the life of a terminally ill patient who is undergoing severe pain and suffering?
- Under what circumstances can euthanasia be justifiable, if at all?
- Is there a moral difference between killing someone and letting them die?

At the heart of these arguments are the different ideas that people have about the meaning and value of human existence.

**Why Euthanasia should be allowed?** Those in favour of euthanasia argue that a civilised society should allow people to die in dignity and without pain and should allow others to help them do so if they cannot manage it on their own. They say that our bodies are our own and we should be allowed to do what we want with them. So it's wrong to make anyone live longer than they want. In fact making people go on living when they don't want to violates their personal freedom and human rights. It's immoral, they say to force people to continue living in suffering and pain. They add that as suicide is not a crime, euthanasia should not be a crime.

**Why euthanasia should be forbidden?** Religious opponents of euthanasia believe that life is given by God and only God should decide when to end it. Other opponents fear that if euthanasia was made legal, the laws regulating it would be abused and people would be killed who didn't really want to die.

## Living Will

A living will is a document that sets out a patient's wishes regarding health

care and how they want to be treated if they become seriously ill and unable to make or communicate their own choices. Living wills are also called active declarations.

Such a document may be helpful to relatives and to medical professionals in the case of a seriously ill and incapacitated patient. Living wills are a part of planning what to do in the event of serious illness or disability. The phrase has been used as a handy media label to such an extent that many people focus on the document itself, rather than the actual process of advance care planning. A living will is not an instrument of euthanasia, but a request in advance to doctors not to give certain medical treatments. In fact, a living will need not block treatment, but could specify that doctors must continue treatment until the patient is dead, regardless of pain or suffering.

## Forms of Euthanasia

Euthanasia comes in several different forms, each of which brings a different set of rights and wrongs.

### Active and Passive Euthanasia

In active euthanasia a person directly and deliberately causes the patient's death. In passive euthanasia they don't directly take the patient's life, they just allow them to die. This is a morally unsatisfactory distinction, since even though a person doesn't 'actively kill' the patient, they are aware that the result of their inaction will be the death of the patient.

### Active Euthanasia

Active euthanasia occurs when the medical professionals, or another person, deliberately do something that causes the patient to die. Active euthanasia is when death is brought about by an act - for example when a person is killed by being given an overdose of pain-killers.

## Passive Euthanasia

Passive euthanasia occurs when the patient dies because the medical professionals either don't do something necessary to keep the patient alive, or when they stop doing something that is keeping the patient alive. Passive euthanasia is when death is brought about by an omission - i.e. when someone lets the person die. This can be by withdrawing or withholding treatment:

- Withdrawing treatment: for example, switching off a machine that is keeping a person alive, so that they die of their disease.
- Withholding treatment: for example, not carrying out surgery that will extend life for a short time.

Traditionally, passive euthanasia is thought of as less bad than active euthanasia. But some people think active euthanasia is morally better.

- switch off life-support machines
- disconnect a feeding tube
- don't carry out a life-extending operation
- don't give life-extending drugs

## Voluntary and Involuntary Euthanasia

Voluntary euthanasia occurs at the request of the person who dies.

Non-voluntary euthanasia occurs when the person is unconscious or otherwise unable (for example, a very young baby or a person of extremely low intelligence) to make a meaningful choice between living and dying and an appropriate person takes the decision on their behalf.

Non-voluntary euthanasia also includes cases where the person is a child who is mentally and emotionally able to take the decision, but is not regarded in law as old enough to take such a decision, so someone else must take it on their behalf in the eyes of the law.

Involuntary euthanasia occurs when the person who dies chooses life and is killed anyway. This is usually called murder, but it is possible to imagine cases where the killing would count as being for the benefit of the person who dies.

### Indirect Euthanasia

This means providing treatment (usually to reduce pain) that has the side effect of speeding the patient's death. Since the primary intention is not to kill, this is seen by some people (but not all) as morally acceptable. A justification along these lines is formally called the doctrine of double effect.

### Assisted Suicide

This usually refers to cases where the person who is going to die needs help to kill themselves and asks for it. It may be something as simple as getting drugs for the person and putting those drugs within their reach.

### The Moral Difference between Killing and Letting Die

Many people make a moral distinction between active and passive euthanasia. They think that it is acceptable to withhold treatment and allow a patient to die, but that it is never acceptable to kill a patient by a deliberate act. Some medical people like this idea. They think it allows them to provide a patient with the death they want without having to deal with the difficult moral problems they would face if they deliberately killed that person.

### Pro-Euthanasia Arguments

Arguments in favour of euthanasia can be broken down into a few main categories:

#### Arguments Based on Rights:

- People have an explicit right to die.
- A separate right to die is not necessary, because our other human rights imply the right to die.

- Death is a private matter and if there is no harm to others, the state and other people have no right to interfere (a libertarian argument).

#### Practical Arguments:

- It is possible to regulate euthanasia.
- Death is a private matter and if there is no harm to others, the state and other people have no right to interfere (a libertarian argument).
- Allowing people to die may free up scarce health resources (this is a possible argument, but no authority has seriously proposed it).
- Euthanasia happens anyway (a utilitarian or consequentialist argument).

### Anti-Euthanasia Arguments

Voluntary euthanasia is the start of a slippery slope that leads to involuntary euthanasia and the killing of people who are thought undesirable. It's possible to argue about the way we've divided up the arguments and many arguments could fall into more categories than we've used.

#### Ethical Arguments:

- Euthanasia weakens society's respect for the sanctity of life.
- Accepting euthanasia accepts that some lives (those of the disabled or sick) are worth less than others.
- Voluntary euthanasia is the start of a slippery slope that leads to involuntary euthanasia and the killing of people who are thought undesirable.
- Euthanasia might not be in a person's best interests.
- Euthanasia affects other people's rights, not just those of the patient.

#### Practical Arguments:

- Proper palliative care makes euthanasia unnecessary.

- There's no way of properly regulating euthanasia.
- Allowing euthanasia will lead to less good care for the terminally ill
- Allowing euthanasia undermines the commitment of doctors and nurses to saving lives.
- Euthanasia may become a cost-effective way to treat the terminally ill.
- Allowing euthanasia will discourage the search for new cures and treatments for the terminally ill.
- Euthanasia undermines the motivation to provide good care for the dying and good pain relief
- Euthanasia gives too much power to doctors.
- Euthanasia exposes vulnerable people to pressure to end their lives.
- Moral pressure on elderly relatives by selfish families.
- Moral pressure to free up medical resources.
- Patients who are abandoned by their families may feel euthanasia is the only solution.

#### Religious Arguments:

- Euthanasia is against the word and will of God.
- Euthanasia weakens society's respect for the sanctity of life.
- Suffering may have value.
- Voluntary euthanasia is the start of a slippery slope that leads to involuntary euthanasia and the killing of people who are thought undesirable.

### Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) around the World

Active euthanasia (in which a doctor administers a lethal dose of medication to a patient) and physician-assisted suicide (PAS) are illegal in most countries. However, at least eight western countries have legalized one or both of the practices.

Euthanasia is against the law in the UK where it is illegal to help anyone kill themselves. Voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide can lead to imprisonment of up to 14 years. The issue has been at the centre of very heated debates for many years and is surrounded by religious, ethical and practical considerations.

- **Netherlands:** Patients aged 16 or above may make advance directives.
- **Hungary:** Pregnant women can't refuse treatment if they're able to carry through the pregnancy,
- **Germany:** Court authorisation required to stop treatment of a minor.
- **Switzerland:** Persons with mental illnesses cannot discontinue

treatment if it is expression or symptom of their mental illness.

- **Australia:** Living wills to be signed in presence of two witnesses, with rules on who can be witness: Not if he/she 1) is a substitute decision-maker in the living will, 2) stands to profit, directly or indirectly, from the person's estate or 3) is a health practitioner for the person writing the living will.
- **UK:** Person can alter/withdraw an advance decision at any time he has the capacity to do so.
- **Oregon, (US):** Person can change his/her mind at any time and as many times, quash a written request for medication regardless of mental state.

## Conclusion

Dignity of an individual has been internationally recognized as an important facet of human rights in the year 1948 itself with the enactment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The first and foremost responsibility fixed upon the state is the protection of human dignity without which any other right would fall apart. The legalizing euthanasia can save millions of patient's gruelling pain and suffering instead of dying a peaceful death.

### General Studies Paper- II

**Topic:** Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

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

○○○

| Euthanasia PAS |   |   | Euthanasia PAS |   |   | Euthanasia PAS  |   |   | Euthanasia PAS |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|-----------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|
| Australia      | ✗ | ✗ | France         | ✗ | ✗ | Luxembourg      | ✓ | ✓ | South Africa   | ✗ | ? |
| Belgium        | ✓ | ✓ | Germany        | ✗ | ✓ | Mexico          | ✗ | ✗ | Spain          | ✗ | ✗ |
| Canada         | ? | ✓ | India          | ✗ | ✗ | The Netherlands | ✓ | ✓ | Sweden         | ✗ | ✗ |
| China          | ✗ | ✗ | Ireland        | ✗ | ✗ | New Zealand     | ✗ | ✗ | Switzerland    | ✗ | ✓ |
| Colombia       | ✓ | ✗ | Israel         | ✗ | ✗ | Norway          | ✗ | ✗ | Turkey         | ✗ | ✗ |
| Denmark        | ✗ | ✗ | Italy          | ✗ | ✗ | Philippines     | ✗ | ✗ | United Kingdom | ✗ | ✗ |
| Finland        | ✗ | ✓ | Japan          | ? | ✗ | Russia          | ✗ | ✗ | Uruguay        | ✗ | ✗ |

## 2. EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMAN RIGHT LAWS



### Why in News

A few weeks ago, the World Justice Project released its Rule of Law Index 2017-18 report, which measures the extent to which 113 countries have adhered to the rule of law in that period. India's rank was 62<sup>nd</sup>, better than China, Pakistan, Myanmar and

Bangladesh; Denmark occupied the top spot.

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world. Rule of Law Index 2017–2018 is the seventh report in an annual series, which

measures the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country experts worldwide. Strengthening the rule of law is a major goal of citizens, governments, donors, businesses and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, rule of law development requires clarity about the fundamental features that define the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement.

### Rule of Law Index 2017-18

Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease and protects people from injustices large

and small. It is the foundation for communities of peace, opportunity and equity—underpinning development, accountable government and respect for fundamental rights. The rule of law is not just the rule of lawyers and judges: all members of society are stakeholders.

Major significance of the Rule of Law:

1. **Accountability:** The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.
2. **Just Laws:** The laws are clear, publicized, stable and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property and certain core human rights.
3. **Open Government:** The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered and enforced are accessible, fair and efficient.
4. **Accessible & Impartial Dispute Resolution:** Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

## Highlights of the Report

Every country's performance was assessed in eight areas,

1. Fundamental rights,
  2. Absence of discrimination,
  3. Right to life and security,
  4. Due process,
  5. Freedom of expression and religion,
  6. Right to privacy,
  7. Freedom of association,
  8. Labour rights.
- This report, along with others such as the Amnesty International Annual Report 2017-18, indicates the serious erosion of international human rights law in recent times.

- The top three overall performers in the 2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index were Denmark (1), Norway (2), and Finland (3); the bottom three were Afghanistan (111), Cambodia (112), and Venezuela (113). The top three and bottom three performing countries have not changed since the 2016 Index.
- The greatest decline was seen in Fundamental Rights where 71 countries dropped out of 113.
- The second greatest decline was seen in Factor 1, constraints on government powers (64 countries dropped out of 113), which measures the extent to which those who govern are bound by law.
- In addition, more countries' overall rule of law score declined (34%) than improved (29%) as compared to their 2016 Index scores—a troubling trend. Thirty-seven percent of countries' overall rule of law score remained the same.
- Countries leading their regions in overall rule of law scores included: Nepal (South Asia), Georgia (Eastern Europe and Central Asia); Ghana (Sub-Saharan Africa); Uruguay (Latin America and the Caribbean); United Arab Emirates (Middle East and North Africa); New Zealand (East Asia and Pacific), and Denmark (Western Europe and North America, defined as EU + EFTA + North America).
- Globally, countries in Western Europe and North America continue to top the WJP (World Justice Project) Rule of Law Index, followed by countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. On average, the South Asia region scored lowest.

## Story across the World

- In Turkey and China, the assault on civil liberties and freedoms has intensified.

- There is increasing hostility towards civil society organisations and hardening of attitudes towards minorities in Poland and Hungary.
- The human rights of refugees are routinely negated, including in Australia and the U.S.
- The rise of majoritarian attitudes, hate speech and hate crimes is a growing concern, including in India.
- Mass atrocities (genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity) are or have been committed in Iraq, Myanmar, Central African Republic and Burundi.

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

- UDHR is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1948 at Palais de Chaillot, Paris.
- The UDHR declaration, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. 10<sup>th</sup> December is known as Human Rights Day.
- The ideals of justice, equality and human rights for all, enshrined in the UDHR and other international treaties, are the building blocks of international human rights law. The articulation of fundamental rights and freedoms, their implementation and accountability for violations is a continuum.
- It is sometimes not easy to connect the dots between seemingly innocuous restrictions and a broader clampdown on rights, with potentially catastrophic effects. Taken to the extreme, the commission of mass atrocities does not happen in a vacuum.

# India

| Overall Score                                                                       |                                  | Regional Rank |  | Income Rank  |              | Global Rank   |             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0.52                                                                                |                                  | 3/6           |  | 7/30         |              | 62/113        |             |             |
| Score Change                                                                        |                                  | Rank Change   |  |              |              |               |             |             |
| 0.00                                                                                |                                  | 4▲            |  |              |              |               |             |             |
|                                                                                     |                                  |               |  | Factor Trend | Factor Score | Regional Rank | Income Rank | Global Rank |
|    | Constraints on Government Powers |               |  | —            | 0.63         | 1/6           | 3/30        | 36/113      |
|    | Absence of Corruption            |               |  | —            | 0.45         | 2/6           | 8/30        | 67/113      |
|    | Open Government                  |               |  | —            | 0.63         | 1/6           | 1/30        | 32/113      |
|    | Fundamental Rights               |               |  | —            | 0.52         | 3/6           | 10/30       | 75/113      |
|   | Order and Security               |               |  | —            | 0.59         | 3/6           | 21/30       | 98/113      |
|  | Regulatory Enforcement           |               |  | —            | 0.49         | 2/6           | 10/30       | 66/113      |
|  | Civil Justice                    |               |  | —            | 0.42         | 3/6           | 20/30       | 97/113      |
|  | Criminal Justice                 |               |  | —            | 0.42         | 3/6           | 9/30        | 66/113      |

President Rodrigo Duterte took office. In Myanmar, the UN Special Rapporteur who was to investigate the claims of persecution against the Rohingya was denied all access to the country.

## Conclusion

In the era of democracy and development, there are no common criteria to compare development and spread of rights and their effectiveness. This report is just an effort to compile and to enable the understanding of the spread of democracy and the rule of law across various nations in different regions and at different stages of development. For India, this report serves as an important input to highlight its lacunas and the areas where more efforts are needed to make its democracy more effective.

International and mixed judicial tribunals have been established to provide justice in mass atrocities, culminating in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. These international fora buttress crucial local efforts for greater accountability. The UN system may not be perfect, but it helps sustain international human rights law and there must be greater engagement with such institutions.

The gradual erosion of rights can result in a landslide unless efforts are made to halt and reverse this process. While not a panacea, effective engagement with international human rights law is necessary in an era where rights are increasingly being stifled in many countries.

### General Studies Paper- II

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



- An environment in which rights are minimised or discarded provides fertile ground for a more concerted assault on rights. Allowing hate speech to flourish is one example.
- For instance, in Rwanda, judgments of the UN tribunal detail how radio stations facilitated the demonisation and 'othering' of Tutsis, in the build-up to genocide. As a precursor to the Holocaust, Jewish populations across Europe were deprived of basic rights including that of citizenship and the right to practice a livelihood. These highlight the perils of complacency in the current environment.

## Reducing Engagement

- In the international arena there are concerted efforts to advocate the inclusion of international human

rights provisions in the local laws of countries and more effective implementation and monitoring.

- Treaty bodies assess states' obligations to incorporate these norms into national laws, review compliance, including with main human rights treaties and provide recommendations.
- Regional and supranational courts such as the Inter-American, African and European courts of human rights oversee the fulfilment of obligations of regional treaties.
- However, in many instances, engagement with these mechanisms has reduced. The Philippines, for instance, imposed conditions on the UN Special Rapporteur who was to investigate the alleged extra judicial killings of suspected drug dealers since

### 3. REIMAGING SOUTH ASIA COOPERATION

#### Why in News?

South Asia has remained a politically divided region due to creation of artificial states but it faces common problems and security threats in the form of low human development, terrorism and poverty. The geopolitics of the region is becoming more complex due to rise of nationalism in the countries. This demands an active cooperation among the countries such as India, China and Pakistan and creation of new tools and techniques to deal with the challenges in the region.

A few months ago, former dean of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), wrote an article in the Dawn newspaper, making a strong case for mutually beneficial economic cooperation between Pakistan and India.

#### Introduction

Despite being neighbours, India and Pakistan are among the least integrated nations in the world. Because of their unending mutual hostility, South Asia too has become the least integrated region in the world. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is in a coma. Sadly, the most populous region in the world has also remained home to the largest number of poor people in the world.

South Asia is at the crossroads of a geopolitical transformation affected by several simultaneous developments: China's rise as the economic and military power and its influence on South Asia, India's rise and its efforts to enhance cooperation in South Asia and Pakistan's relationship with China as "time tested and all weather friendship". Besides this, the U.S.A. is recalibrating its strategy to address the new challenges and power dynamics in the Asian region from the Pacific to

the Indian Ocean which includes South Asia as well.

#### So near, So Far

A few striking examples will show how our two countries, which were part of a single seamless socio-economic and cultural entity before 1947, have now completely drifted apart. In this age of information revolution, the number of phone calls between Indian and Pakistani citizens (including calls between close relatives of divided families) is negligible, mostly out of fear of being questioned by their respective security agencies. At less than \$3 billion annually, trade with Pakistan accounts for a meagre 0.4% of India's growing global commerce.

Those who are happy with this status quo have set responses. On the Indian side, it will be said that terror and trade cannot go together. On the Pakistani side, resolution of the Kashmir issue has become a precondition for any substantial bilateral cooperation.

China, of course, has become a new factor influencing India's negative attitude towards Pakistan, both among policy-makers and the common people. If India's foreign and defence policies proceed on present status-quo, South Asia is surely heading towards a future of intensified hostilities and conflicts. Arms manufacturers and distant destabilisers will profit by this at the cost of common Indians and Pakistanis, who need employment, education, health care and food-and-environmental security. These needs can be met only through regional cooperation, not regional rivalry.

#### Cooperation—India-China-Pakistan

India-China- Pakistan cooperation can transform the South Asia region, but there is an element of suspicion in India-China and India-Pakistan relation. The China-Pakistan relation has developed

a feeling of cynicism in the minds of the people in India. It has become a potent factor influencing India's negative attitude towards Pakistan. The proposed China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has added fuel to the fire and a belief is generated that the South Asia is heading towards a future of intensified hostilities and conflicts.

India and Pakistan has remained the least integrated regions in the world. There is lack of transport and communication services between the two countries. The regional groups like SAARC proved to be ineffective in solving problems between the two countries.

#### Can China become a Part of the Solution?

A three-way India-China-Pakistan cooperation is not only necessary but indeed possible and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a practical framework for such partnership. There is little possibility of India ever getting PoK, or Pakistan ever getting the Indian side of Kashmir, through war or by any other means. Therefore, connectivity, cooperation and economic integration are the only realistic bases for any future India-Pakistan settlement of the Kashmir dispute. And most important, both China and Pakistan have stated that they are open to India joining CPEC. China has also expressed its readiness to rename CPEC suitably to both address India's concerns and to reflect the project's expanded regional scope. Already, Iran, Afghanistan and several Central Asian republics have agreed to join this ambitious regional connectivity project.

#### China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The economic cooperation can proved to be beneficial for the countries as the region is also home to the largest

number of poor people in the world. China can be a part of the solution to the problems of South Asia. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China provides a framework for cooperation among these countries. India has opposed the CPEC project on the grounds of sovereignty since it passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir and has also bearing on India's long-term development and security interest. The BRI is also seen as a strategy of China to build alliances in the Asian region.

On the contrary, CPEC does not recognize POK to be Pakistan's sovereign Territory according to Article VI in the 1963 China, Pakistan boundary agreement, which states that "after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China". Both China and Pakistan are open to India joining CPEC. China has also expressed its readiness to rename CPEC in order to address India's concern and reflect the expanded regional scope of CPEC. Many Asian countries such as Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asian republic have agreed to join this initiative.

### Interdependence for Good

The renamed CPEC would give India land access, to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Western China, through Pakistan. Right now, India is dependent on Chabahar Port in Iran, for its connectivity to these regions. India's gains due to Chabahar Port are less as compared to benefits that would accrue by having a direct land access to these countries. The CPEC will help in completion of the two mega projects. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipelines (IPI).

An alternative connectivity project by the "Quadrilateral" of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India, is

unlikely to take off. Even if it does, its developmental benefits to India will be limited since it will seek to keep China and Pakistan out.

- The cooperation could help in stabilizing the region mainly the Kashmir and Afghanistan problem.
- The CPEC could be intertwined with Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar project (BCIM), which would enhance the regional cooperation in South Asia.
- The three countries can put a common fight against terrorism as they are marred by terrorist activity in some form or other.
- The South Asian region requires massive investment in infrastructure which could be fulfilled by enhancing cooperation in the region. Greater connections will enable the countries to tap further into Asian markets through trade and investment.
- India is already a member of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which will fund many projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

### Alternatives of Connectivity

A 'trans-Kashmir Corridor' can be a viable alternative to CPEC. The revival of ancient silkroad on which Indian trade and philosophy travelled to the rest of Asia can address the requirement of the region. A direct India-China Silk Route Corridor (ICSRC) that could run along the traditional Ladakh-Xinjiang axis. The ICSRC could provide an alternate transport, energy, trade and communication highway that could originate from Gujarat run across northern India to connect with Kashgar in China through the Indus valley in Ladakh. In the meantime, Pakistan may also become a part of this corridor.

This corridor could bring massive investments for building infrastructure in South Asia, which could boost the economy and generate new avenues

of employment. It could earn billions as fee from pipeline transit and would help in diffusing tensions in the border areas.

The corridor would address the security concerns of the respective states. It could help receive the shared legacy of a common history and culture and strengthening trust among the countries.

### Concerns

India has a history of conflict with both China and Pakistan. It shares a great deal of trust deficit with both the countries. Pakistan is often seen as a pawn in Chinese hands and platform for power projection. South Asia is a nuclear flashpoint as all the three countries are nuclear powers. Nuclear power is used as a deterrent in the region.

The CPEC is often touted as a 'disguised political disturbance' with a high level "strategic content" that is set against India. The CPEC assets in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) are not used militarily against India, is another major concern and India wants assurance of China and Pakistan on the same. The project could undermine India's influence in the Indian Ocean region as it will connect Gwadar port in Arabian sea to western China. Besides this, the project is ridden with problems as the CPEC corridor passes through the troubled provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan.

- The influence of outside power such as U.S.A and Russia in the region may hamper the cooperation in the region. India has to balance its relationship with countries inside and outside the region.
- The increased Chinese involvement in other countries of South Asia such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives is also cause of concern for India.

- The China-Pakistan axis is considered as detrimental to India's needs and aspirations which can be proven by the fact that China vetoed to UN action against Masood Azhar and its opposition to India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

### Way Forward

The One Belt One Road project may raise security concerns, but India cannot adopt a policy of isolation and reject the CPEC as unviable. India's integration in Asian regionalization would be less effective, if it does not cooperate with its neighbouring states.

India's ambition on expanding multilateral engagement such as RCEP depends upon its cooperation with China and other countries in the region. It should adopt a proactive approach in dealing with challenges stemming from the rise of China in the Asian region.

India should carefully reassess the implications of cooperation with Pakistan and China in CPEC as the project is shrouded in layers of uncertainty. India's security interest should not be compromised in dealing with China and Pakistan.

The ongoing disputes in the region should be separated from the development concerns of the people

and to realise the vision of a resurgent South Asia, two obstacles will have to be removed blind nationalism and the unfriendly designs of extra-regional powers.

### 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.

○○○

## 4. RESURGENCE OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

### Why in News?

Recent snub by the Russian government to the US along with the rise of China and tacit support by Cuba has taken the world back to the cold war era. India is a member of Quad and has signed logistics agreement. This makes India seem to appear at the side of US. But India has long ago forsaken the paradigm of principle based diplomacy to interest based diplomacy. Being acceptable in every camp and avoiding any unwanted hostilities is the key for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century diplomatic environment. India has played a

major role as a peace mediator in the cold war era and it now seems that the rising global tensions have again created the similar situation. As by previous experience, India needs to take up its tried and tested formula of NAM. Though with the changing situation, NAM needs to grow out of its hibernation phase and has to rise to the new challenges of the multi-polar world.

### Background

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) emerged in the context of the wave of decolonization that followed World War II. It was founded during the height of the Soviet-U.S. Confrontation in 1961 in Belgrade. Its political bearing has diminished in the post-cold war environment with the disintegration of USSR but NAM is still relevant in today's international environment. With the passage of time NAM emerged as a political personality of its own. The opinion of one section of the people is that NAM has lost its relevance as its basis, the bipolar world has become dead. However, the opinion

of the other section is that NAM is still abiding its founding principles, ideas and purposes to establish peaceful and prosperous world and promotion of disarmament.

With the decline of the cold war, regional conflicts and crises have not ended. Now NAM can play a meaningful role in the present international scenario to promote world peace and bring about nuclear arms control and disarmament by nuclear powers. The fact is that NAM has not lost its relevance. The policy will last as long as the sovereign state system exists. Its validity cannot be questioned in the same way as the United Nations Organisation and its charter are not invalidated by the sins of omissions and commissions of the organization and its member states. Like UN, the objectives of NAM are largely of a long term and universalistic in nature.

### Current International Situation

There has been an end of bi-polar world after the collapse of USSR in the early 90s. But, this does not



create a simplified global environment altogether. The fall of USSR, globalisation, emergence of land grabbing China, nuclear proliferation, gulf-wars, ISIS, terrorism etc have created more complexities and greater challenges than have ever existed for any country as a measure to maneuver its foreign policy options. Shift from a value based diplomacy to interest based diplomacy and pragmatic choices have put India into a greater need to have as many options available on its foreign policy menu as ever before.

World today can be best described as a multi polar world. Where there is the global policeman – US, the challenger and bully – China, fast emerging economies – India, Brazil, Germany and South Africa, regional continental powers such as US, Saudi Arabia, China, India, France, Russia and Japan etc. Similar trends and new countries are emerging in the field of commerce, military power, technological dominance, cultural superiority etc. Thus we see not just the collapse of global hegemony by a single nation, but an emergence of various oasis of powers and with it, there are emerging various economic and military blocs along with vested political interests.

### **NAM has been accused of becoming defunct due to the following changes in the international environment:**

- 1) Decolonization has become a fait accompli.
- 2) Cold war has ended and détente is again beginning with new vigor and vitality.
- 3) Military blocs have tumbled down.
- 4) Military bases have become a thing of the past owing to advance in science and technology and its use for military purposes.
- 5) Bi-polar world is non-existent.

- 6) Collapse of communism and communist blocs and resultant de-idealization of world politics.
- 7) Irreversible trends towards peaceful co-existence and active economic cooperation.
- 8) Trends towards disarmament have been gaining momentum since 1921. The aligned of the East and West have taken steps towards 20-30 percent reduction in defense forces.
- 9) Since the US has emerged as the sole world power following the collapse of Soviet Union, many non-aligned countries went to leave the NAM.

### **NAM and India**

India's foreign policy has finally ridden itself of Cold War power politics trappings in favour of a comprehensive rendezvous with super powers. Several reasons can adduce India's budge from non-alignment to multi-alignment foreign policy especially after the cold war. Undeniably, policies adopted by India since the beginning of this century had helped generate a climate of trust across the gamut of warring nations and long-time antagonists. A spirit of accommodation and productive solutions to major regional and international challenges had also made India more acceptable to most nations. The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement in the first decade of this century was in this respect truly a "game changer". India is looking as a positive, stabilizing influence as far as the global as well as regional concerned.

NAM provides further impetus to India's rising status and provides the opportunity and responsibility to lead the third world nations and to be their leader. Also many European countries have also expressed their interest for being the member of NAM. China is currently having the observer status in NAM. Also NAM is one of the foremost international organisation which is

open to politically neutral nations and is ready for economic cooperation and development. The boiling situation in Indian Ocean Region and formation of mutually exclusive economic groups and pacts like CPEC and China's Silk road and counter balancing by US and formation of Camp David has just created the opposing forces. Also the Russian threat to US hegemony and rise of Cuba to help the Russians has somewhat put the clock back. But as we know that situation is more complex, we have a major third pillar to this situation, which is China. It is a neighbour of India and we don't enjoy warm relations with it.

A group of nations in such a charged international environment is needed to not just prevent these nations from brewing any major catastrophe, but also needed to provide peace, stability and opportunity and growth in the world. And NAM provided that opportunity and fortunately, India is its leader.

### **NAM is More Relevant**

Though the bi-polar world was dead, that does not mean that Washington should become the political Mecca of those who had avoided being identified with either of the two blocs. It is evident that the impression conveyed by the slogan, "NAM is dead" is nothing short of a canard being deliberately spread by some Western Commentators. The current unipolar world is an increasingly featureless international political landscape, regrettably Euro-Centre in nature. A replacement of the unipolar world by the multipolar world, NAM is perhaps even more relevant now to international relations and development that at any time in the history.

The massive attack by the NATO forces on Yugoslavia in the name of resolving Kosovo problem in 1999 have wider ramification on the world polity. The show of brute forces by the USA and its European allies on another

sovereign country further confirms the boldness with which the thesis of pax Americana is being pushed through this increasingly unipolar world. Similarly the NATO action in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan itself shows the unchallenged brute force implementation by US and its allies.

Non-alignment is fundamentally a political concept; Nehru, Tito, Sukarno and Nasser did not envisage full economic cooperation as part of NAM. But now the movement is shifting its emphasis from the political to the economic arena. The Accra meet, besides referring to political problems worldwide, also made references to the question of external debt as an obstacle to development of many countries. Obviously, if NAM is to give priority to economic problems, it is perhaps because it has little role to play in the political arena. In the modern times, the NAM is struggling hard to prove its worth by striving to work for the following contemporary issues:

- I. Setting up a new international order through UN.
- II. Restructuring and democratization of the UN.
- III. Strengthening of the UNCTAD and UNIDO.
- IV. Coordinating with the G-77 and stressing South-South Cooperation.
- V. Cooperating in areas of food cooperation, population, trade and investment.
- VI. Ensuring equitable international flow of trade and transfer of technology.
- VII. Working for non-proliferation and nuclear weapon free world.
- VIII. Combating terrorism, extremism and racism.
- IX. Fighting poverty, drug trafficking and environmental degradation.
- X. Opposing interventionism and imposition of economic conditions on developing countries.

Traditionally, NAM summits have also underlined instruments of international law. The 2012 Tehran communique devoted a lengthy paragraph to the South China Sea dispute, “stressing the need for full implementation” of the principles laid down in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. were the 2016 Margarita communiqué to comment on the SCS arbitration between China and the Philippines in a way that reflects India’s own ‘principled’ position on the matter, it would be a shot in the arm for New Delhi. This would not be the first time that India has used a NAM summit to highlight regional concerns. In 1981, at a preparatory conference of foreign ministers ahead of New Delhi’s chairmanship of the NAM summit, India did not hesitate to call for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. At the height of the Cold War, India used NAM’s statements to reinforce the idea of the Indian Ocean as a “zone of peace”, in a tacit reference to the US military base in Diego Garcia. Now, with the Indian Ocean set to be a site for contestation and regional influence, New Delhi should use NAM’s support to hedge any possible military build-up by China in the Indian Ocean Region.

The policy remains relevant despite periodical vagaries in the sovereign states system for more than three centuries. The traditional foreign policy choices to small/weak states (isolationism, neutrality) are no longer available in view of the increasing interdependence of states. And the traditional foreign policy choices of the great powers (imperialism, nationalistic, universalism) will be resisted today by an overwhelming majority of the states. All that is likely to happen is that the 350 year old struggle of small/ weak nation states against the hegemony of the great powers will enter a new phase in

which an overwhelming majority of small/ weak states would challenge the lone super power dominating the community of states.

### Way Forward for India

India has been an emerging economy with an active international profile. The formation of blocks and groupings is not new to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but being acceptable in every group along with balancing national interests is challenging. The emerging situation in Indian Ocean Region demands South-South cooperation and challenge of emerging China is making NAM more than relevant. Though the cold war era has ended, but the re-emergence of the similar situation i.e, rival blocks with rival interests even in multi-polar world has made the situation more complex. On one hand there is US with which India has signed a nuclear deal and also LEMOA i.e, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement. On the other hand there is a hostile neighbour with OBOR policy, CPEC, String of Pearls policy and experiences like Doklam. China is India's neighbour and a challenger to US global position.

India needs to balance its neighbourhood along with strategic interest. Thus NAM provides the policy flexibility option. Also the rebalancing of relations with Russia and emergence with IBS (India, Brazil, South Africa), Quad (US, India, Japan, Australia) etc. has made Indian foreign policy skewed towards US camp. NAM is the only policy option and justified enough for India to not just rebalance its policy but to remain a global arbitration of peace and representative of all the nations while diffusing any hostile situations.

#### General Studies Paper- II

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



## 5. INDIA-JORDAN RELATIONS : BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER

### Why in News?

Recently King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan has concluded a official visit to India. This was the monarch's second visit to India. The first was in 2006. India and Jordan have 12 agreements covering areas as diverse as defence, health, culture and tourism, setting up a Centre of Excellence in Jordan by CDAC, supply of rock phosphates and setting up a Hindi chair at Jordan University, amongst others. India and Jordan held the first bilateral security dialogue in July 2016.

The defence cooperation, a key element of the visit, envisages to promote cooperation by defining the scope of such cooperation and making provisions for implementation of the cooperation in some of the recognised areas like training, defence industry, counter-terrorism, military studies, cyber security, military medical services and peace-keeping.

### Background

India and Jordan established diplomatic relations in 1950 after India became a Republic, although the first bilateral agreement on cooperation and friendly relations was entered into soon after Indian independence in 1947. The exchange of bilateral visits at high political and senior official levels declined significantly after King Abdullah's productive visit in 2006. The relationship has failed to realize the huge, untapped potential.

Recent years have, however, witnessed a decisive impetus to the bilateral partnership. The first ever visit by an Indian Head of State to Jordan took place in 2015. This provided a huge impetus to bilateral engagement in a wide range of areas. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Jordan in early February 2018 occurred 30 years after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Amman



in 1988. King Abdullah had described Prime Minister Modi's brief transit visit to Amman earlier this month as the beginning of a new chapter in bilateral ties.

### Political Ties

Both India and Jordan face the common threat of terrorism and extremism. This reflects their conviction that the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism cannot be dealt with by force alone but that a counter-ideology of amity, concord and harmony is urgently needed. Both countries share the view that nations must coordinate their positions to fight against the misuse of religion by groups and countries for inciting hatred and justifying terrorism. King Abdullah has established himself as a staunch opponent of Takfiri ideology - the so-called radical practice of declaring one's enemies to be infidels - which has earned him wide respect and support around the world. He has recently launched the Aqaba process to promote deradicalisation in which India is an active participant.

During her visit to India in 2006 accompanying King Abdullah II, Queen Rania had described India as the "rising star of Asia" and Jordan's "natural partner". On India's role in the Middle East, she had stated that the region "yearns for India to play a greater role". Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi supplemented this suggestion when he asserted during his December 2017 visit to New Delhi that Jordan

would like India to be more pro-active and steadfast in promoting peace and stability in the region. An authoritative voice in the Jordanian establishment has argued that Jordan "needs India to exert its high offices and help us with all its moral, political and economic weight." This refrain for India to play a more decisive and resolute role to bring peace and stability to West Asia has risen further in recent years, not only from Jordan but from several other countries from different sides of the divide.

### Economic Relations

India is Jordan's fourth largest trade partner after Iraq, Saudi Arabia and China. Bilateral trade totalled USD 2.2 billion in 2014-15. India exported 1.4 billion worth of goods to Jordan and imported 857 million. Since 2012-13, the balance of trade has been in India's favour. Trade volume over the last two years has declined on account of weak international performance. A target of USD 5 billion has been set for 2025.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative (IFFCO) established a joint venture project worth USD 860 million for manufacturing Phosphoric Acid. This was jointly inaugurated by King Abdullah II and then President Pranab Mukherjee during the latter's visit to Jordan in 2015. Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) India Ltd signed an MOU with JPMC on cooperation in the fertilizer sector in June 2015. As of January 2016, Indians owned around 25 textile mills in Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZs) in Jordan at a total investment of USD 300 million. These mills employ over 10,000 people. ICT, renewable energy, financial/banking services, leather, automobile, higher education, tourism, Bollywood, pharmaceuticals

and construction sectors present good potential for increased trade and investment.

### Developments in West Asia

The international situation and in the Middle East in particular, has changed significantly in the recent past as compared to the Cold War days or even from the late '90s and the last decade. Middle East is facing tremendous challenges which are impacting global security. Terrorism, lack of employment opportunity, weak governance, conflicts and civil war are depriving the region.

Political, security and economic developments in West Asia over the last few years are helping the two countries re-discover each other. The rapidly transforming political and security dynamics in the Middle East with US President Donald Trump cozying up to Saudi Arabia and coming out openly in support of Israel while making threatening pronouncements about jettisoning the nuclear deal with Iran have introduced major uncertainties in the region.

The Shia-Sunni divide between Iran and some Sunni states led by Saudi Arabia and the Israel-Iran rift have forced countries to look around for reliable and trustworthy partners. Under these circumstances, India, which is one of the few countries that maintains strong and vibrant ties with Washington DC, Riyadh and Tel Aviv as well as with Tehran, Abu Dhabi and Moscow, has emerged as a partner of choice for several countries in the region. Jordan is one of the few countries in West Asia that maintains diplomatic relations with Israel and has cordial relations with the West as well as its neighbours. India and Jordan can be termed as natural allies as both countries are peaceful, stable and are witnessing rapid economic growth and have similar positions on regional and global affairs.

### Quest for Moderate Islam

The phenomenon of Islamic radicalism, symbolised by Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), have brought about a huge ferment in the Arab world, its periphery and even beyond. Key leaders of the region, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt, Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates, and Mohammed bin Salman, crown prince of Saudi Arabia, have all made reclaiming Islam from the extremist groups an important political priority. For decades now, the region's political leadership has been under pressure to yield to the conservative religious flank. Any reversal, of course, would be hugely consequential for India and the world.

Jordan backs India's moderate Islam. Jordan has studied how India has been able to avoid the threats from ISIS and other groups. King Abdullah, who is himself the 41<sup>st</sup> generation descendant of Prophet Muhammad and the Custodian of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem, has taken a leadership role in countering extremism and radicalisation in the Arab world through what is known as the "Aqaba Process" initiative. Although Jordan is home to about 2 million Palestinian refugees and more than 6,60,000 refugees from Syria, it has remained peaceful compared to the rest of the region and is seen as an 'oasis of stability'.

### Way Forward

India has a unique opportunity to upgrade its relations with Jordan and leverage them in a manner that, the bilateral content increases, becomes diversified and yields political dividends in relation to issues critical to India. India's partnership with Jordan could strengthen counter-terrorism efforts including the menace of export of terrorism from Pakistan to India, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir. Moreover, it may be possible to influence Amman to be supportive

of India's endeavour to reform the United Nations to the extent of expanding the Security Council with a few major countries like India included in this principal organ, more equitable sharing of the world body's financial burden, framing of multilateral conventions against money laundering, curbing illegitimate financial flows to destabilise states, etc.

Economic content of the India-Jordan bilateral relations is still low. There is need to diversify. Reckoning the near similar geophysical conditions in Palestine and Jordan, India could consider broadening its trade relations in a manner which encompasses both Jordan and Palestine. Building up of capacities, in ground water management and salinity control in water bodies and start-ups, could be fruitful areas of imparting training to both Jordanians and Palestinians. The financial health of Jordan is not of a high order. Jordan's debt last year was \$ 35 billion constituting 95 % of its GDP. India could play an important role towards assisting Jordan through investment in its infrastructure building and imparting capabilities to the Jordanians to manage the capital assets built up through the investment. This will positively impact the country's debt burden also. Such an investment effort and enhancement of capacities of management, will also promote emotional connectivity between the people of the two countries.

In the Middle East, the principal impulse has to be India's own strategic appreciation of the region matched by a vigorous bilateralism. Rapport at the leadership level is critical for success in a region ruled mostly by monarchs and strong rulers.

#### General Studies Paper- II

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



## 6. LAND ACQUISITION IN INDIA

### Why in News?

The ongoing controversy in the Supreme Court involving judicial discipline after a three judge bench overruled the decision of another three-judge bench centres around the interpretation of Section 24 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act). This provision deals with the question when the land acquisition process under the previous Land Acquisition Act of 1894 shall be deemed to have lapsed. While, illegal acquisition of nearly 912 acres by private builders in Haryana under a land acquisition process initiated by the Haryana government was set aside by the Supreme Court.

### Land Acquisition Disputes in India

India faces serious challenges in creating development processes that generate economic growth while being socially inclusive, ecologically sustainable, politically feasible and in accordance with the Rule of Law. Equitable and efficient acquisition of land by the state for economic development projects, including infrastructure and industry, lies at the heart of these challenges.

Simultaneously, securing constitutionally guaranteed land rights to the poorest and most vulnerable communities in India against the state and other dominant communities has been considered crucial to their economic and social empowerment. Land is not only an important economic resource and source of livelihoods, it is also central to community identity, history and culture. Unsurprisingly then, throughout India, dispute over state acquisition of land that deprives people of their land rights spans



various dimensions of economic, social and political life.

Land acquisition is the process by which land owned by private persons is compulsorily acquired. It is different from the purchase of land, which is a contract between a willing seller and a willing buyer on mutually acceptable terms. Acquisition is where the land owner has no choice over parting with the land and is forced to relinquish his property. Therefore, the process of acquisition overrides the property rights of the private land owner. This can be justified only if a case can be made for greater public benefit in taking away someone's land ownership rights.

### Legislative Brief

In India, land acquisition is a concurrent subject and is governed by central and state laws. The main central Act governing land acquisition is the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (LARR 2013 Act). It replaced the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1894 Act). Many states have also enacted laws to regulate land acquisition.

The 2013 Act differed from the 1894 Act in several ways. It narrowed the definition of 'public purpose' i.e. the types of projects for which land could be acquired. It required the consent of land owners if the project was for a public private partnership (PPP) or a private company. Compensation was set at two to four times of prevailing market rates and minimum norms for rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons were prescribed. The Act also required a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to be conducted to determine whether the potential benefits of the project would outweigh the social costs.

In December 2014, an Ordinance was promulgated to amend the 2013 Act. The Ordinance was repromulgated in a modified form in April 2015 and again in May 2015. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha on May 11, 2015 to replace the April Ordinance and was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for detailed examination.

## Key Changes Proposed in the 2015 Bill compared with Provisions of the 2013 Act

| Issue                                                                                                          | Land Acquisition Act, 2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Land Acquisition (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Consent                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No consent required for government projects.</li> <li>Consent of 70% land owners required for Public-Private Partnership projects.</li> <li>Consent of 80% land owners required for private projects.</li> </ul>                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five types of projects exempt from consent requirements: (i) defence, (ii) rural infrastructure, (iii) affordable housing, (iv) industrial corridors set up by the government/government undertakings, up to one km on either side of the road/railway of the corridor and (v) infrastructure including PPP projects where the government owns the land.</li> </ul>                 |
| Social Impact Assessment (SIA)                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIA is mandatory for all projects except: (i) in cases of urgency or (ii) for irrigation projects where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required.</li> </ul>                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government may exempt above five types of projects from SIA.</li> <li>The government is to ensure that the extent of land being acquired is in keeping with the minimum land required.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Irrigated multi-cropped land                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigated multi-cropped land cannot be acquired beyond a limit specified by the state government.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government may exempt the above five types of projects from this provision.</li> <li>The government is to ensure that the extent of land being acquired is in keeping with the minimum land required.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                |
| Compensation & rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) provisions of 13 other laws which govern land acquisition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 Acts (such as the National Highways Act, 1956 and the Railways Act, 1989) are exempt from the provisions of the Act.</li> <li>The compensation and R&amp;R provisions of these Acts to be brought in consonance with the Act by January 1, 2015.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensation and R&amp;R provisions of 13 Acts are in consonance with the Act.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Offences by the government                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an offence is committed by a government department, the head of the department will be deemed guilty unless he can show that he had exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.</li> </ul>                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill deletes this provision.</li> <li>The Bill adds a provision to state that prior sanction of the government will be required before prosecuting a government employee.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Retrospective application                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2013 Act will apply in case an award has been made five years or more before the commencement of the 2013 Act, but the physical possession of the land has not been taken or compensation has not been paid.</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In calculating the time period for retrospective application, any period during which the proceedings were held up: (i) due to a stay order of a court, or (ii) for a period specified in the award of a Tribunal, or (iii) for any period where possession was taken but the compensation is lying deposited in a court or any designated account, will not be counted.</li> </ul> |
| Return of unutilised land                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If land acquired under the Act remains unutilised for five years from the date of taking possession, it must be returned to the original owners or a land bank.</li> </ul>                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The period after which unutilised land has to be returned will be the later of: (i) five years, or (ii) any period specified at the time of setting up the project.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Change from private 'company' to private 'entity'                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private company defined as one included in the Companies Act, 1956, or under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The term 'private company' changed to 'private entity' which is defined as an entity other than a government entity and includes a proprietorship, partnership, company, corporation, non-profit etc.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Rehabilitation & Resettlement award                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes employment to one member of an affected family.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarifies that this will include employment to 'one member of such affected family of farm labour' must be given.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Authority                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In case someone is not satisfied with an award under the Act, they can approach the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Authority.</li> </ul>                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adds that the LARR Authority must hold its hearing in the district where land acquisition is taking place, after a reference from the Collector and giving notice to all concerned parties.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Survey of wasteland                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No provision.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government must conduct a survey of its wasteland and maintain a record of the same.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Key Features of Bill

The Bill enables the government to exempt five categories of projects from the requirements of:

- i) Social impact assessment,
- ii) Restrictions on acquisition of multi-cropped land, and
- iii) Consent for private projects and public private partnerships (PPPs) projects.

The five categories of projects are:

- i) Defence,
- ii) Rural infrastructure,
- iii) Affordable housing,
- iv) Industrial corridors, and
- v) Infrastructure including PPPs where government owns the land.

The Act would apply retrospectively, if an award had been made five years earlier and compensation had not been paid or possession not taken. The Bill exempts any period when a court has given a stay on the acquisition while computing the five year period. The Act deemed the head of a government department guilty for an offence by the department. The Bill removes this, and adds the requirement of prior sanction to prosecute a government employee.

## Key Issues and Analysis

- The five types of projects being exempt from the provisions of social impact assessment, restrictions in case of multi-cropped land and consent are broad and may cover many public purpose projects.
- The Act requires consent of 70% of landholders for PPP projects, and 80% for private projects. Acquisition, being different from purchase, implies that land owners were unwilling to part with the land. Requiring consent from them may be impractical. Also, it is not clear why the consent requirement depends on who owns the project.
- The amendments in the Bill propose to expedite the process of

acquisition. However, the changes in the Bill will reduce the time for acquisition from 50 months to 42 months.

- The removal of the provision that deemed the head of department guilty, and addition of a new requirement of prior sanction to prosecute government employees may raise the bar to hold them accountable.
- The change in the retrospective provision may be ineffective in cases instituted until 2014 in light of a recent Supreme Court judgment.

## Way Ahead

The CPR Land Rights Initiative report on 'Land Acquisition in India: A Review of Supreme Court cases from 1950-2016', offers some preliminary answers to the land acquisition dispute related questions. Not only is this report the first comprehensive country-wide study of land acquisition disputes since India's independence, but also for the first time ever analyses these disputes along various metrics, such as i) public purpose, ii) procedure for acquisition, iii) compensation, iv) invocation of the urgency clause, v) pendency of claims and vi) tracks trends with respect to distribution of disputes across geography and time and central and state laws. The report also analyses litigation under the newly enacted Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR Act) for the three year period, 2014 to 2016.

**Reasons for inequity between state and land losers:** The political and social contestation over land acquisition stems from the inherently coercive nature of the land acquisition process, which creates a severe imbalance of power between the state and land losers. While much of this imbalance was created by

the text of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, a considerable part of it could also be attributed to executive non-compliance with the rule of law. The result is a situation of great inequity for the land losers.

**Legal reform under the LARR Act should be implemented by government, not subverted to redress these inequities:** The specific provisions of the LARR Act are steps in the right

direction to redress the imbalance of power that was built into the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 in so far as:

- i) They empower livelihood losers along with title-holders to bring claims for compensation and rehabilitation,
- ii) Bring compensation requirements in accordance with existing reality.
- iii) Introduce requirements of consent and social impact assessment.

The litigation helps channelise political contestation of state action into legal as opposed to extra legal disputes. Therefore, by empowering hitherto disempowered land losers to bring claims under the LARR Act, the Act will help preempt extra-legal conflict. Since conflict inevitably stalls or derails legitimate development projects, it is in the interest of the government to comply with and not subvert the LARR Act.

**Legal reforms must be supplemented by administrative and bureaucratic reforms:** The legal reform is a necessary but not a sufficient precondition for ensuring greater equity and efficiency within the land acquisition process. In the absence of administrative and bureaucratic reforms, the introduction of the LARR Act will not succeed in eliminating inequities and inefficiencies embedded within the implementation of existing land acquisition procedures. In fact, the increase in procedural requirements under the LARR Act implies an even greater need for securing executive

compliance with the rule of law, in order to translate the equities intended by these additional procedures into reality for land losers.

**Types of administrative reforms required:** Such administrative reforms include building of state capacity to meaningfully comply with the increased procedural requirements stipulated by the LARR Act and designing institutional structures that incentivise such compliance with the rule of law. This, in turn, requires a serious mind-set shift within the government toward accepting the reform enshrined in the LARR Act and not subverting it as we have seen in both the LARR Ordinance and the state amendments to the LARR Act, as also the rules adopted to implement the LARR Act in the states.

## Conclusion

There was an unholy nexus between the governmental machinery and the builders/private entities in devising a modality to deprive the innocent and gullible landholders of their holdings and jeopardize public interest which the acquisition was

intended to achieve. The process of land acquisition in India has been the source of increasing political and legal contestation for almost two hundred years. This stems from the inherently coercive nature of the process, which creates a severe imbalance in power between the state and land losers. The vast majority of land losers, both livelihood losers and those who had property interests other than title that were not recognised by the Land Acquisition Act, remained victims of the land acquisition process. However, because of the extraordinarily long pendency of court cases, litigation did not sufficiently mitigate the inequities for land losers and insofar as it stalled legitimate development projects, it also resulted in a highly inefficient system of land acquisition for the government.

Further, the introduction of requirements of consent and social impact assessment, are steps in the right direction for redressing the imbalance of power that was built into the Land Acquisition Act. In the absence of administrative and bureaucratic reforms, the introduction of the LARR Act will not succeed in eliminating

inequities and inefficiencies embedded within the implementation of existing land acquisition procedures. Such administrative reforms include building of state capacity to meaningfully comply with the increased procedural requirements stipulated by the LARR Act, and designing institutional structures that incentivise such compliance with the rule of law. More holistic legal and administrative reforms relating to existing land administration, including updating of land records to reflect accurate title and other property rights with respect to land and accurate reporting of land value in registering land transactions, are indispensable for ensuring greater equity and efficiency in land acquisition processes.

### General Studies Paper- II

**Topic:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

### General Studies Paper- III

**Topic:** Land reforms in India.



## 7. THE FOOD VERSUS FUEL DEBATE



### Why in News?

In a major move on sustainable development, the government is to

soon bring out a National Biofuels Policy for a sector poised to become an economy worth Rs 1 lakh crore. The

policy would detail the architecture for India to make the move towards adopting second generation, or advanced, biofuels in the future, from the current first generation ones being used, which are essentially sugar-based.

### Introduction

Bioenergy is the largest used renewable energy source in the world. It accounts for 14 per cent of the 18 per cent “renewables used in the global energy mix.” Bioenergy includes both traditional and modern biomass and biofuels. Traditional sources like fuelwood and charcoal, predominantly

used in rural areas and in developing countries for heating and cooking, account for 90 per cent of bioenergy use. Modern bioenergy like biogas and biofuels accounts for only 10 per cent of bioenergy use.

According to the World Energy Council, biofuels are the “most viable and sustainable option in replacing oil dependency.” At present, four per cent of the arable area in the world is dedicated to biofuel production. Transport biofuels like bioethanol and biodiesel that are blended with petrol and diesel are the fastest growing bioenergy in the world. They account for three to four percent of total road transport fuel. Environmental concerns and the need to improve energy security by reducing import dependence on traditional fuels have both contributed to the growth of bioenergy. The rise of biofuel use in the future is unavoidable.

Biofuels are currently being developed as renewable alternatives to fossil derived transportation fuels with the hope of achieving environmental and socioeconomic benefits such as reduced GHG emissions, employment generation and energy security. Bioethanol and biodiesel are the main commercially available biofuels and currently contribute about 2% by volume of global transportation fuel demand. However, these fuels are chemically and functionally different from petroleum-derived fuels and they thus do not make full use of the existing petroleum processing and distribution infrastructure. As infrastructure components, such as vehicle engines, fueling stations, refineries, etc., are very expensive to change, it is recognised that it would simplify biofuels production and usage growth if biofuels could be readily “dropped-into” the existing

infrastructure (petroleum distribution and refining, fuel specifications, etc.) and be functionally equivalent to current petroleum-derived fuels.

## Generation of Biofuels

Broadly speaking, there are four generations of biofuels.

- First generation biofuels are manufactured using food crops like sugarcane, maize and oilseed.
- Second generation biofuels are produced from non-food produce like organic waste, wood and food crop waste.
- Third generation biofuels are “based on improvements in the production of biomass” by taking “advantage of specially engineered energy crops such as algae”.

- Fourth generation biofuels are based on more advanced technology which aims to capture and store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) at every production stage.

Currently, first generation biofuels are the most common type of biofuels used and second, third and fourth generation biofuel technology are still being developed. The debate on food versus fuel became intense during the past decade, especially following the 2007-08 world food price crisis. But now the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has proposed that the terms of the debate be moved from food versus fuel to food and fuel. Against this backdrop, this backgrounder offers a summary of the challenges presented by biofuels to food security.

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Biofuels          | liquid or gaseous fuels produced from biomass resources and used in place of, or in addition to, diesel, petrol or other fossil fuels for transport, stationary, portable and other applications;                                                                                 |
| Biomass resources | The biodegradable fraction of products, wastes and residues from agriculture, forestry and related industries as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal wastes.                                                                                           |
| Bio-ethanol       | Ethanol produced from biomass such as sugar containing materials, like sugar cane, sugar beet, sweet sorghum, etc.; starch containing materials such as corn, cassava, algae etc.; and, cellulosic materials such as bagasse, wood waste, agricultural and forestry residues etc. |
| Biodiesel         | A methyl or ethyl ester of fatty acids produced from vegetable oils, both edible and non-edible, or animal fat of diesel quality                                                                                                                                                  |

## Biofuels in India

According to British Petroleum (BP), by 2035, India will have the largest growth in energy consumption amongst all the major economies and it will remain dependent on energy imports to meet its needs.

BP predicts that India’s need for natural gas will increase by 162 per cent that of oil by 120 per cent, coal by 105 per cent, renewables by 699 per cent, nuclear by 317 per cent and

hydro by 97 per cent. This will need to be met by a 165 per cent increase in oil imports, a 173 per cent increase in gas imports and a 105 per cent increase in coal imports. Renewables will become the second largest fuel produced in India by 2035, surpassing oil.

The domestic production of crude oil from fossil fuels remains more or less stagnant over the years and meets only 30% of national requirement, while the balance is met

through imports of nearly 146 million metric tonnes of crude petroleum products that cost the country close to \$90 billion in 2008-09. India holds only 0.3% share of the global of production in 2010. However, the government's ambitious plan was not realized due to a lack of enough *Jatropha* seeds to produce the targeted 20 percent biodiesel in high speed diesel (HSD). Assuming that the yield and oil content of *Jatropha* would remain at the same level and that no new superior feedstocks would be introduced, some 25 Mha and 40 Mha of *Jatropha* cultivation would be necessary to meet the 20 percent blending targeted by 2020-21 and 2030-31, respectively.

### Socio-Economics Impact

The socio-economic impacts of bioenergy are as locally specific as the potential applications of the available technologies. Contrary to popular belief, bioenergy leads to increasing food production, create jobs and improve local productivity.

- **Job Creation:** Bioenergy is a local technology with one or more intermediate processing stages prior to use. This can encourage the development of complementary industries beyond the farming and bioenergy plant operations and require large scale semi-automated farming and the plants are not particularly manpower intensive, therefore the sector requires skilled workers but not large numbers of workers. This encompasses basic education in mechanised, agricultural and industrial activities in the sugarcane industry. The jobs can be seen as "local" or as strengthening the rural and regional economies,

creating additional income and jobs in farming and forestry.

- **Local Economic Development:** The resources that are used to produce biofuels are locally available. The in-house production of biofuels provides host of economic benefits for the local communities. Creation of more employment, Jobs created for feedstock farming and/or collection. Skilled jobs created for biofuels production and distribution.(Engineers,Technicians etc.), Tax Benefits, Generation of income for the local feedstock producers and refiners.
- **Education, Health and Women:** These are the countries with high levels of poverty, low income and lack of development. The use of traditional biomass will remain in prominence in the near future affecting health and energy efficiencies. This will increase electricity access in rural communities leading to better education. The need for skilled labour in the complete biomass supply chain will lead to improved training centres in the local communities. Local youth will have the opportunity to continue education and obtain employment.
- **Energy Security:** Worldwide, energy security is becoming a hot topic in government and society. Nearly every country in the world depends on imports of various forms of fossil fuel energy, including oil, coal and natural gas. Without a steady supply of affordable energy a country's economy grinds to a halt, with no fuel for transportation, energy to run power plants and factories, or heat homes.

### Producing Bioenergy: Conflict with Food Security

The food versus fuel debate is, in short, a dispute over the impact of biofuel production on food security. According to the FAO, the world population will reach 9.1 billion by 2050. This rise in population will be accompanied by rapid urbanisation, increase in income levels and changing dietary habits. A 70 per cent increase in agricultural output is needed to meet the future projected demand for food. It is alleged that biofuel production from first generation sources are in competition with food production over land and other resources like water and increases food prices.

To addresses the "food vs. fuel" debate that has taken place in the literature on biofuels and food security and in public discussion, since the 2007-2008 food price crisis and challenges the idea that there is not enough land to meet food, feed and fuel needs.

- First, it's important to stress that ordinary people depend on bioenergy and will benefit from improved access to it. Millions of people currently use crude sources of biomass for their everyday cooking, heating and lighting needs and can spend enormous amounts of time searching for it, over often-denuded and degraded landscapes. This burden mostly falls on women, who feel the effects of low-quality energy most keenly in terms of both time burden as well as the health impacts of inhaling smoke from indoor wood and charcoal fires.
- It's also possible to balance food and fuel production using integrated cropping systems. "Flex crops" can provide products

for either food, feed or energy markets, allowing a degree of flexibility and adaptability that is advantageous within a volatile market environment where the relative prices might move in favor of one product, versus the other—thereby allowing producers a steadier stream of revenue and more economic stability.

- Biofuel production may affect some agricultural commodity and feed prices, but this does not necessarily translate to large changes in household food spending. The report points out the weak empirical links between biofuels and levels of price volatility or real food prices and challenges the notions that have been reinforced in some literature and popular opinion connecting biofuel production to higher incidences of hunger.
- The commodities that are often the focus of quantitative price analyses on the impacts of biofuel production on agriculture—such as raw corn, wheat and sugar—are different from the actual food products that consumers buy at the retail level and their prices don't necessarily move together.

The issue notes that food security is multi-dimensional and that only a subset of its four “pillars” (access, availability, utilization and stability) relate directly to prices.

### Impact on Prices

The impact of biofuels on food prices is a hotly debated topic amongst researchers whose views remain divergent despite many years of research. Different researchers have calculated the impact of biofuels on food prices to be as little as a three per

cent increase to as much as a 75 per cent increase. During the 2007-08 food price crisis, food prices had doubled, with that of rice climbing from USD 375 per tonne to 757 per tonne in the course of five months.

- The increase in demand for maize for biofuel production was found to contribute to 70 per cent of the total increase in maize prices (maize is popularly used in the US for ethanol production).
- From 2002 to June 2008, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) index of internationally traded food prices increased by 130 per cent.
- According to a 2008 World Bank report titled 'A Note on Rising Food Prices', biofuels production was responsible for a 70 to 75 per cent increase in the prices of food commodities.

### Impact on land use

Future estimates of land demand for biofuel production vary from 40 to 800 million hectare (Mha). Biofuels can impact land use change through direct or indirect land use.

- Direct land use change happens when biofuel feedstock are grown on land made available by clearing forests.
- Whereas indirect land use change (ILUC) occurs when biofuel feedstock are grown on land previously used for cultivating other crops, which latter then have to encroach on more land for their production.

The pressure from biofuels on land use in the future could be either weaker or stronger. The pressure could be weaker if second and third generation biofuel technology becomes economically feasible. On

the other hand, the pressure could be stronger if energy costs grow and the demand for alternative fuels go up. Second generation biofuels could compete with food crops if plantations are set up for the sole purpose of growing crops for second generation use. Also, if by-products of crops are used for second generation technology, they will compete with the use of by-products for other uses such as animal feed. Future increase in productivity and yields will help to lower land use demand of biofuels, but climate change will affect future land productivity by impacting soil salinity levels, erosion and increasing water stress, and could further intensify the competition between food crops and biofuels for land. Most experts do not believe that “expansion of bioenergy use will set serious competition with food”. As mentioned earlier, the FAO has projected that world population will reach 9.1 billion by 2050.

### Impact on Environment

“To date, there is no scientific consensus on whether bioenergy as a whole contributes to or abates global climate change. Rather, scientific evidence appears to indicate that “it depends”. First generation biofuel systems, such as ethanol made from corn grain, tend to emit more GHGs than cellulosic ethanol systems, particularly CO<sub>2</sub>. Bioenergy is often considered carbon neutral, as the carbon dioxide released in combustion is assumed to be compensated by the CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed during plant growth. However, indirect land use change can negate any greenhouse gas savings from biofuel production based on energy crops.

The impact of biofuels on GHG mitigation depends on the feedstock used (like sugar cane, vegetable

oil, etc.) and the circumstances of production and processing. Each crop has its pros and cons that need to be considered. A feedstock can result in negative GHG savings if it is grown on converted forest land. Ethanol from sugarcane has recorded the largest savings (more than 70 per cent) but corn based ethanol “can save up to 60% but may also cause 5% more GHG emission though there remain strong disagreements.

### **Challenges of Biofuels in the Striving to Explore further:**

1. Intensive research and development to standardize and increase the efficiency of the biofuels.
2. Proper transfer and induction of newer technologies regarding the biofuel production.
3. Mainstreaming the importance, acceptance and adoption of the biofuels.
4. Cooperative works must be promoted between the farmers, growers, institutions both educational and financial.
5. Sustainable production of the high quality biofuel feedstocks through intense and active local communities.
6. Proper utilization of the end products.
7. Special creation of the grants for undergoing research in the locally available resources for the production of the biofuels.
8. Strict maintenance of the achievable high standard and quality. This must be strictly enforced, implemented and audited timely.
9. Participation from all the states.

10. Awareness and capacity building must be given good share of priority as until and unless people are not aware of the importance and significance the sustainability of the process, project and propagation will not last long.

### **Future Prospective**

Currently, India's position in global biofuel map is not very prominent. However, the country has ambitious plans to expand the biofuel sector. The following measures can be considers :

1. The government should take steps in the direction of setting up regulating nurseries for certification of seeds and planting materials and to regulate the mechanism of cultivation.
2. An up-to-date technology policy is central to bring in efficiency in production which is also cost-effective so that the industry would survive on its own without any subsidies or support.
3. The focus on research has to be sustained to explore the feasibility of environment-friendly and economically sustainable feed stocks.
4. Offer opportunities for promoting local level entrepreneurship and enhancement of women's participation.
5. Ambiguity in land rights is also considered as an issue in development of wastelands for biofuel. Therefore, the facts regarding such arguments also need to be verified before opting for a full-fledged expansion of biofuels in the country.
6. Modification in the engines of the vehicles so that it can run on hybrid fuels.

7. The Government should adopt some of the measures from the success of biofuels in countries like Brazil.

### **Conclusion**

The future of biofuels is a hotly debated topic. Views of researchers vary on almost every issue but one thing is for sure and that is that biofuels are here to stay and conflict can arise from several fronts. Even though GHG mitigation from first generation biofuels varies, second, third and fourth generation biofuels hold more opportunities for unlocking the potential of biofuels and help achieve climate mitigation targets but they are not yet commercially viable and the technology is still being developed. Bioenergy will be a “significant part of energy mix” in the future. In the end “the use of biomass for energy in a large scale must go hand-in-hand with a modern, diversified and scientifically driven agricultural sector. The welfare of humans or the societies of humans require power or energy. And there is no bias in terms of the energy need. To have a clean environment, better sanitation, better health, well secured and a well informed society the primary requirement has always been the easily assessable, affordable and equitably distributed energy.

#### **General Studies Paper- II**

**Topic:** Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

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



# SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

## Right To Die With Dignity

- Q1. The core philosophy underlying the Supreme Court's verdict allowing passive euthanasia and giving legal status to 'advance directives' is that the right to a dignified life extends up to the point of having a dignified death. Discuss in the light of recent Supreme Court judgment.**

### Hints:

- Supreme Court of India has held that right to die with dignity is a fundamental right. The Bench also held that passive euthanasia and a living will also legally valid and the right to live with dignity also includes the smoothening of the process of dying in case of a terminally ill patient or a person in persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery.
- Upholding the right to die with dignity, the Supreme Court gave legal sanction to passive euthanasia and execution of a living will of persons suffering from chronic terminal diseases and likely to go into a permanent vegetative state. The Bench also held that advance directive must be in writing and indicate in clear terms the decision relating to circumstances in which withholding or withdrawal of medical treatment could be resorted to.
- The right to life and liberty as envisaged under Article 21 of the Constitution is meaningless unless it encompasses within its sphere individual dignity. With the passage of time, this Court has expanded the spectrum of Article 21 to include within it the right to live with dignity as component of right to life and liberty.
- The issue of euthanasia rose to prominence in India after several noteworthy cases including that of Aruna Shanbaug, a nurse who spent 42 years in a vegetative state as a result of a violent sexual assault. 'Passive Euthanasia' was legalized by the Supreme Court on 7 March 2011. Also, based on the recommendations of the Law Commission, ministry of health and family welfare had prepared a draft of The Medical Treatment of Terminally Ill patients (protection of patients and medical practitioners) in May 2016.
- Euthanasia is the termination of a very sick person's life in order to relieve them of their suffering. Euthanasia comes in several different forms, each of which brings a different set of rights and wrongs. In active euthanasia a person directly and deliberately causes the patient's death. In passive euthanasia they don't directly take the patient's life, they just allow them to die.
- A living will is a document that sets out a patient's wishes regarding health care and how they want to be treated if they become seriously ill and unable to make or communicate their own choices. Living wills are also called advance declarations.
- Those in favour of euthanasia argue that a civilised society should allow people to die in dignity and without pain and should allow others to help them do so if they cannot manage it on their own. They say that our bodies are our own and we should be allowed to do what we want with them.
- Religious opponents of euthanasia believe that life is given by God and only God should decide when to end it. Other opponents fear that if euthanasia was made legal, the laws regulating it would be abused and people would be killed who didn't really want to die.
- Dignity of an individual has been internationally recognized as an important facet of human rights in the year 1948 itself with the enactment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The first and foremost responsibility fixed upon the state is the protection of human dignity without which any other right would fall apart. The legalizing euthanasia can save millions of patient's gruelling pain and suffering instead of dying a peaceful death.

## Effectiveness of Human Right Laws

**Q2. In the light of World Justice Report, highlight the significance of the rule of law in today's democratic order.**

### Hints:

- The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world. The World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2017–2018 is the seventh report in an annual series, which measures the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country experts worldwide. India's rank was 62, better than China, Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh; Denmark occupied the top spot.
- The Universal Declaration on Human Right (UDHR) declaration, which celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. 10<sup>th</sup> December is known as Human Rights Day.
- Strengthening the rule of law is a major goal of citizens, governments, donors, businesses and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, rule of law development requires clarity about the fundamental features that define the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement.
- Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of peace, opportunity, and equity—underpinning development, accountable government and respect for fundamental rights. The rule of law is not just the rule of lawyers and judges: all members of society are stakeholders.
- Significance of Rule of Law in Democracy:
  1. **Accountability:** The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.
  2. **Just Laws:** The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property and certain core human rights.
  3. **Open Government:** The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered and enforced are accessible, fair and efficient.
  4. **Accessible & Impartial Dispute Resolution:** Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives that are accessible, have adequate resources and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.
- 5. The ideals of justice, equality and human rights for all, enshrined in the UDHR and other international treaties, are the building blocks of international human rights law. The articulation of fundamental rights and freedoms, their implementation, and accountability for violations is a continuum.
- In the era of democracy and development, there are no common criteria to compare development and spread of rights and their effectiveness. This report is just an effort to compile and to enable the understanding of the spread of democracy and the rule of law across various nations in different regions and at different stages of development. For India, this report serves as an important input to highlight its lacunas and the areas where more efforts are needed to make its democracy more effective.
- International and mixed judicial tribunals have been established to provide justice in mass atrocities, culminating in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. These international fora buttress crucial local efforts for greater accountability. The UN system may not be perfect, but it helps sustain international human rights law and there must be greater engagement with such institutions.
- The gradual erosion of rights can result in a landslide unless efforts are made to halt and reverse this process. While not a panacea, effective engagement with international human rights law is necessary in an era where rights are increasingly being stifled in many countries.

## Reimagining South Asia cooperation

**Q3 How does India-China-Pakistan cooperation can transform the South Asian Region. What are the security concerns that can emanate from such cooperation. Discuss**

### Hints:

- The economic cooperation can proved to be beneficial for the countries as the region is also home to the largest number of poor people in the world. China can be a part of the solution to the problems of South Asia. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China may provides a framework for cooperation among these countries and we should also focus on such initiatives.

- The renamed CPEC would give India Land access to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Western China, through Pakistan. Right now, India is dependent on Chabahar Port in Iran, for its connectivity to these areas. India's gains due to Chabahar Port are less as compared to benefits that would accrue by having a direct land access to these countries. The CPEC will help in completion of the two mega projects. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and Iran-India gas pipelines (IPI). The cooperation could help in stabilizing the region mainly the Kashmir and Afghanistan problem.
- The CPEC could be intertwined with Bangladesh China India Myanmar project (BCIM), which would enhance the regional cooperation in South Asia. The three countries can put a common fight against terrorism as they are marred by terrorist activity in some form or other.
- The South Asian region requires massive investment in infrastructure which could be fulfilled by enhancing cooperation in the region. Greater connections will enable the countries to tap further into Asian markets through trade and investment.
- India has a history of conflict with both China and Pakistan. It shares a great deal of trust deficit with both the countries. Pakistan is often seen as a pawn in Chinese hands and platform for power projection. South Asia is a nuclear flashpoint as all the three countries are nuclear powers. Nuclear power is used as a deterrent in the region.
- The CPEC is often touted as a 'disguised political disturbance' with a high level "strategic content" that is set against India. The CPEC assets in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) are not used militarily against India, is another major concern and India wants assurance of China and Pakistan on the same. The project could undermine India's influence in the Indian Ocean region as it will connect Gwadar port in Arabian sea to Western China. Besides this, the project is ridden with problems as the CPEC corridor passes through the troubled provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan.
- The influence of outside power such as U.S.A and Russia in the region may hamper the cooperation in the region. India has to balance its relationship with countries inside and outside the region. The increased Chinese involvement in other countries of South Asia such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives is also cause of concern for India.
- The China-Pakistan axis is considered as detrimental to India's needs and aspirations which can be proven by the fact that China vetoed to UN action against Masood Azhar and its opposition to India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- India should carefully reassess the implications of cooperation with Pakistan and China in CPEC as the project is shrouded in layers of uncertainty. India's security interest should not be compromised in dealing with China and Pakistan.

## Resurgence of Non-Aligned Movement

**Q4. Following an independent foreign policy unhindered by a block has been primary focus for India. In light of this statement, examine the need for revival for NAM and its need in India's foreign policy matrix.**

### Hints:

- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) emerged in the context of the wave of decolonization that followed World War II. It was founded during the height of the Soviet-U.S. Confrontation in 1961 in Belgrade. Its political bearing has diminished in the post-cold war environment with the disintegration of USSR but NAM is still relevant in today's international environment.
- With the decline of the cold war, regional conflicts and crises have not ended. Now NAM can play a meaningful role in the present international scenario to promote world peace and bring about nuclear arms control and disarmament by nuclear powers.
- The fact is that NAM has not lost its relevance. The policy will last as long as the sovereign state system exists. Its validity cannot be questioned in the same way as the United Nations Organisation and its charter are not invalidated by the sins of omissions and commissions of the organization and its member states. Like UN, the objectives of NAM are largely of a long term and universalistic in nature.
- The fall of USSR, globalisation, emergence of land grabbing China, nuclear proliferation, gulf-wars, ISIS, terrorism etc. have created more complexities and greater challenges than have ever existed for any country as a measure to maneuver its foreign policy options. Shift from a value based diplomacy to interest based diplomacy and pragmatic choices have put India into a greater need to have as many options available on its foreign policy menu as ever before.

- India's foreign policy has finally ridden itself of Cold War power politics trappings in favour of a comprehensive rendezvous with super powers. Several reasons can adduce India's budge from non-alignment to multi-alignment foreign policy especially after the cold war.
- Undeniably, policies adopted by India since the beginning of this century had helped generate a climate of trust across the gamut of warring nations and long-time antagonists.
- A spirit of accommodation and productive solutions to major regional and international challenges had also made India more acceptable to most nations. The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement in the first decade of this century was in this respect truly a "game changer". India is looking as a positive, stabilizing influence as far as the global as well as regional concerned.
- NAM provides further impetus to India's rising status and provides the opportunity and responsibility to lead the third world nations and to be their leader. Also many European countries have also expressed their interest for being the member of NAM.
- The boiling situation in Indian Ocean Region and formation of mutually exclusive economic groups and pacts like CPEC and China's Silk Road and counter balancing by US and formation of Camp David has just created the opposing forces. Also the Russian threat to US hegemony and rise of Cuba to help the Russians has somewhat put the clock back.
- At the height of the Cold War, India used NAM's statements to reinforce the idea of the Indian Ocean as a "zone of peace", in a tacit reference to the US military base in Diego Garcia. Now, with the Indian Ocean set to be a site for contestation and regional influence, New Delhi should use NAM's support to hedge any possible military build-up by China in the Indian Ocean Region.
- India has been an emerging economy with an active international profile. The formation of blocks and groupings is not new to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but being acceptable in every group along with balancing national interests is challenging. The emerging situation in Indian Ocean Region demands South-South Cooperation and challenge of emerging China is making NAM more than relevant.
- Though the cold war era has ended, but the re-emergence of the similar situation i.e, rival blocks with rival interests even in multi-polar world has made the situation more complex. On one hand there is US with whom India has signed a nuclear deal and also LEMOA i.e, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement.
- On the other hand there is a hostile neighbour with OBOR policy, CPEC, String of Pearls policy and experiences like Doklam. China is India's neighbour and a challenger to US global position. India needs to balance its neighbourhood along with strategic interest.
- Thus NAM provides the policy flexibility option. Also the rebalancing of relations with Russia and emergence with IBS (India, Brazil, South Africa) and Quad (US, India, Japan, Australia) etc. has made Indian foreign policy skewed towards US camp. NAM is the only policy option and justified enough for India to not just rebalance its policy but to remain a global arbitration of peace and representative of all the nations while diffusing any hostile situations.

## India-Jordan Relations : Beginning of a New Chapter

**Q5. The engagement between India and Jordan is entering in a new era, as the two countries deepen cooperation in many sectors. Critically analyse the nature of relationship between two countries.**

### Hints:

- Recently King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan has concluded an official visit to India. This was the monarch's second visit to India. The first was in 2006. India and Jordan have 12 agreements covering areas as diverse as defence, health, culture and tourism, setting up a Centre of Excellence in Jordan by CDAC, supply of rock phosphates and setting up a Hindi chair at Jordan University, amongst others. India and Jordan held the first bilateral security dialogue in July 2016.
- The defence cooperation, a key element of the visit, envisages to promote cooperation by defining the scope of such cooperation and making provisions for implementation of the cooperation in some of the recognised areas like training, defence industry, counter-terrorism, military studies, cyber security, military medical services and peace-keeping.
- India and Jordan established diplomatic relations in 1950 after India became a Republic, although the first bilateral agreement on cooperation and friendly relations was entered into soon after Indian independence in 1947. Recent years have, however, witnessed a decisive impetus to the bilateral partnership. The first ever visit by an Indian Head of

State to Jordan took place in 2015. This provided a huge impetus to bilateral engagement in a wide range of areas. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Jordan in early February 2018 occurred 30 years after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Amman in 1988. King Abdullah had described Prime Minister Modi's brief transit visit to Amman earlier this month as the beginning of a new chapter in bilateral ties.

- Both India and Jordan face the common threat of terrorism and extremism. This reflects their conviction that the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism cannot be dealt with by force alone but that a counter-ideology of amity, concord and harmony is urgently needed. King Abdullah has established himself as a staunch opponent of Takfiri ideology—the so-called radical practice of declaring one's enemies to be infidels—which has earned him wide respect and support around the world. He has recently launched the Aqaba process to promote deradicalisation in which India is an active participant.
- Middle East is facing tremendous challenges which are impacting global security. Terrorism, lack of employment opportunity, weak governance, conflicts and civil war are depriving the region. Political, security and economic developments in West Asia over the last few years are helping the two countries to re-discover each other.
- Under these circumstances, India, which is one of the few countries that maintains strong and vibrant ties with Washington DC, Riyadh and Tel Aviv as well as with Tehran, Abu Dhabi and Moscow, has emerged as a partner of choice for several countries in the region. Jordan is one of the few countries in West Asia that maintains diplomatic relations with Israel and has cordial relations with the West as well as its neighbours.
- India and Jordan can be termed as natural allies as both countries are peaceful, stable and are witnessing rapid economic growth and have similar positions on regional and global affairs. India has a unique opportunity to upgrade its relations with Jordan and leverage them in a manner that, the bilateral content increases, becomes diversified and yields political dividends in relation to issues critical to India. India's partnership with Jordan could strengthen counter-terrorism efforts including the menace of export of terrorism from Pakistan to India, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir.

## Land Acquisition in India

**Q6. The process of land acquisition in India has been the source of increasing political and legal contestation for almost two hundred years. Discuss.**

### Hints:

- One of independent India's landmark legal reforms has failed. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, (LARR) 2013, which replaced the colonial legislation of 1894, was one of the biggest reforms in the arena of land governance.
- The major reason to undo this law is that it comes in the way of providing land cheaply and quickly to investors. The LARR will go down in history as the law that was brought in by social movements and dismantled by the country's democratically elected leaders in favour of investors.
- States don't want to seek consent or return land
  - ♦ Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Telangana have enacted new laws using Article 254(2) of the constitution by seeking presidential assent. Gujarat and Telangana exempt a long list of projects from social impact assessment (SIA) and mandatory consent of landowners. These include projects of national security, defence, rural infrastructure, affordable housing, industrial corridors and other infrastructural projects, including projects under public-private partnerships (PPPs). In Maharashtra, PPP projects have been fully exempted from the SIA and consent clauses.
  - ♦ Seeking consent of 70% (for PPP) and 80% (for private projects) of the landowners before acquiring their land was included in the law to address the serious injustice in the earlier practice where the state could take away an individual's home, farm or occupational right by merely issuing a notice. SIA is the only mechanism today to address the impacts of acquisition on the livelihoods of all those who don't own land but are dependent on it. This is a pre-requisite to formulate inclusive rehabilitation packages. The SIA, coupled with public hearings at the gram sabha, was to ensure that all affected people would have a right to compensation and rehabilitation.

- ◆ States have also reduced compensations. The 2013 law had a differential multiplying factor for calculating compensation in rural and urban areas. This was brought in as a mechanism to fix the deficiency in market rates while computing compensation amounts. Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Tripura have reduced the multiplying factor in rural areas from two to one, thereby reducing the amount of compensation that will be received.
- ◆ The central law had specific provisions for returning unused land to the original owners. However, state governments are trying hard not to return unused land to the farmers by using land banks or using them for other public purpose.
- **Redistribution of land:** Post-independence, the Indian government used the narrative of development to justify land acquisition. Lands were taken from private individuals and put to use by state projects to generate revenue, employment and goods. But since the 1990s, when the state effectively withdrew from such economic projects and allowed private, profit-making companies to build projects, the moral justification for land acquisition could not be sustained. Seen in this light, the LARR is a means of generating some degree of consensus among landholders to part with their land. But the Act is hardly only all good clauses. It included in the problematic phrase “public purpose” even private projects designed and implemented to generate corporate profits.
- **Way forward:** Land acquisition is the process by which land owned by private persons is compulsorily acquired. It is different from the purchase of land, which is a contract between a willing seller and a willing buyer on mutually acceptable terms. India faces serious challenges in creating development processes that generate economic growth while being socially inclusive, ecologically sustainable, politically feasible, and in accordance with the Rule of Law. Equitable and efficient acquisition of land by the state for economic development projects, including infrastructure and industry, lies at the heart of these challenges.
- There was an unholy nexus between the governmental machinery and the builders/private entities in devising a modality to deprive the innocent and gullible landholders of their holdings and jeopardize public interest which the acquisition was intended to achieve. The introduction of requirements of consent and social

impact assessment, are steps in the right direction for redressing the imbalance of power that was built into the Land Acquisition Act. Legal and administrative reforms relating to existing land administration, including updating of land records to reflect accurate title and other property rights with respect to land and accurate reporting of land value in registering land transactions, are indispensable for ensuring greater equity and efficiency in land acquisition processes.

---

## The Food versus Fuel Debate

---

**Q7. The use of biofuels is inevitable impacts on food production, environment and land requirements. Discuss the progress made in the use of bioenergy and challenges presented by bioenergy to food security.**

### Hints:

- Agriculture faces some major inter-connected challenges in delivering food security at a time of increasing pressures from population growth, changing consumption patterns and dietary preferences, and post-harvest losses.
- At the same time, there are growing opportunities and demands for the use of biomass to provide additional renewables, energy for heat, power and fuel, pharmaceuticals and green chemical feedstocks. Biomass from cellulosic bioenergy crops is expected to play a substantial role in future energy systems. However, the worldwide potential of bioenergy is limited, because all land is multi-functional and land is also needed for food, feed, timber, and fiber production, and for nature conservation and climate protection. Furthermore, the potential of bioenergy for climate change mitigation remains unclear due to large uncertainties about future agricultural yield improvements and land availability for biomass plantations.
- Large-scale cultivation of dedicated biomass is likely to affect bioenergy potentials, global food prices and water scarcity. Therefore, integrated policies for energy, land use and water management are needed. As biomass contains all the elements found in fossil resources, albeit in different combinations, therefore present and developing technologies can lead to a future based on renewable, sustainable and low carbon economies. This article presents risks to food and energy security estimates of bioenergy potential with regard to biofuel

production, and the challenges of the environmental impact.

- **Food security** Climate change and bioenergy development will affect food security in all of its four dimensions—availability, accessibility, stability and utilization.
- **Food availability:** Globally, climate change impacts on food production may be small, however significant decreases are expected in areas that are already food insecure. Developing countries could experience a decline of between 9 and 21 percent in overall potential agricultural productivity as a result of global warming. While increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are expected to have a positive effect on the yield of many crops, the nutritional quality of agricultural produce may not increase in line with higher yields. Increased demand for biofuels may actually increase production of food commodities, but much of the increased production would be diverted away from use as food.
- **Access to food:** Impacts on access will be mixed, as a reduction in agricultural incomes associated with climate change will reduce access for many of the world's poorest people, while increased demand for agricultural commodities due to biofuels will increase agricultural incomes for some producers but also increase food prices for consumers. The strongest negative impact of climate change on agriculture is expected in sub-Saharan Africa, which means that the poorest and most food insecure region is also expected to suffer the largest contraction of agricultural incomes. On average, food prices are expected to rise moderately in line with moderate increases of temperature until 2050. After 2050 and with further increases in temperatures, prices could increase more substantially. Increased production of biofuels will increase pressure on prices.
- **Stability of food supplies:** Climate change will increase the variability of agricultural production across all areas, with increased frequency of extreme climate events. Increases in the incidence of droughts and floods, which are dominant causes of acute food shortages in semi-arid and sub-humid areas particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South Asia, mean that the poorest regions with the highest levels of chronic undernourishment will also be exposed to the highest degree of instability in food production. Also climate change is altering the distribution, incidence and intensity of animal and plant pests and diseases and may result in new transmission modalities and different host species. At the same time, agriculture will become more closely linked with energy markets through the production of biofuels, introducing additional variability in agricultural commodity prices.
- **Food utilization:** Climate change will alter the conditions for food safety by increasing the disease pressure from vector, water and food-borne diseases. The result could be a substantial decline in labour productivity and increases in poverty and mortality rates. Increases in daily temperatures could also raise the frequency of food poisoning. By contrast, improved access to bioenergy could improve indoor air quality in poor households otherwise reliant on fuelwood, charcoal or animal dung for cooking and heating, and could reduce time spent by women on fuelwood collection, improving health and time available for child care and nutrition.
- The role of renewable sources continues to be the fastest-growing power source in the global power mix. In the near future global renewable electricity generation is expected to surpass that from natural gas. The increased population density, coupled with changes in dietary habits in developing countries towards high quality food is projected to increase demand for food production by 60% by 2050. In addition unprecedented development is taking place, especially in areas that have traditionally had very low per capita demand on fossil resources. The need to increase agricultural productivity and efficiency in developed as well as in developing countries is now widely accepted. Producing more food sustainably requires crops that make better use of limited resources including land, water and fertiliser. The comparison between high input agriculture which cannot be sustained and agro ecology does not help at all because it is not the core of the debate anymore. The core is whether existing knowledge on agro ecological practices can achieve this yield growth rate and if not whether investing in research and innovation focusing on this stream of practices rather than intensification can contribute to achieve them. In addition to food security food stability is important as well and the key issue here is predictability. With increasing demands of energy it has become apparent that the continued emissions of greenhouse gases and loss of carbon sinks are influencing the world climate.



# SEVEN IMPORTANT NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## NATIONAL

### 1. Women Entrepreneurship Platform

NITI Aayog launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), on the occasion of International Women's Day. The objective of initiative is build an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.

WEP was envisaged by NITI Aayog during Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) last year in Hyderabad. It

aims to power a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem through an enabling network of industry collaborations, partnerships, mentors and peer-to-peer connect. The platform aspires to substantially increase the number of women entrepreneurs who will create and empower a dynamic New India.

From providing unique services such as credit evaluation of women-led start-ups by CRISIL and potential equity investments through an Rs. 10 crore fund established by DICE

Districts, the WEP opens up avenues of growth and opportunity for women entrepreneurs. There are three pillars on which WEP is built Ichha Shakti (motivating aspiring entrepreneurs to start their enterprise), Gyaan Shakti (providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship) & Karma Shakti (providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting-up and scaling up businesses).

### 2. In-Situ Management of Crop Residue

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of crop residue in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. The total outgo from the Central funds would be Rs. 1151.80 crore (Rs. 591.65 crore in 2018-19 and Rs. 560.15 crore in 2019-20).

#### Components of the Scheme

- Establish 'Farm Machinery Banks' for custom hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery. Financial assistance @80% of the project cost will be provided to the cooperative societies of the farmers, FPOs, Self Help



Groups, Registered farmers societies/farmers group, Private Entrepreneurs and Group of women farmers.

- Financial assistance to the farmers for procurement of agriculture machinery and equipment for in-situ crop residue management. Financial assistance @50% of the machinery/equipment will be provided to individual farmer for crop residue management.
- Information, education and communication for awareness on in-situ crop residue management.

#### Beneficiaries

- Respective state governments through District Level Executive Committee (DLEC) will identify various beneficiaries and location.
- The state nodal department may tie up with the banks for credit requirements of the beneficiaries.

#### Implementing Agencies

At the central level the scheme will be administered by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. At the state level the nodal implementing agency will be the Department of Agriculture of the concerned state government.

### 3. "#YesIBleed" Menstrual Hygiene Campaign

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2018, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the #YesIBleed menstrual hygiene campaign. The objective of the campaign is to create a holistic approach to the issue of menstruation,

which is an experience that transcends culture, class and caste. It has been initiated formally across all multi-media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube to spread awareness about the issue.

The United Nations has recognised menstrual hygiene as a global public health and a human rights issue yet across the globe. "Period poverty" as some call it, is a reality for millions of women and girls.

#### Concerns

- Only 12 percent of Indian women have access to sanitary napkins - the remaining 88 percent having no access whatever. They find sanitary pads unaffordable.

- The 88 percent who do not have access to sanitary pads use unsanitised cloth, husk sand, tree leaves and even ash. These can cause severe reproductive health problems and infections and can also lead to cervical cancer.
- In India's rural areas, with the lack of resources, education and awareness about personal hygiene, not just lack of information about hygiene products, the women don't even have any conversation around menstruation.
- In villages, the used pads often end up in village ponds, exposing every human being and animal to the risk of infection.



### 4. National E-Mobility Programme

Government has launched the National E-Mobility Programme. The Programme aims to provide an impetus to the entire e-mobility ecosystem including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure companies, fleet operators, service providers, etc.

The programme will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) which will

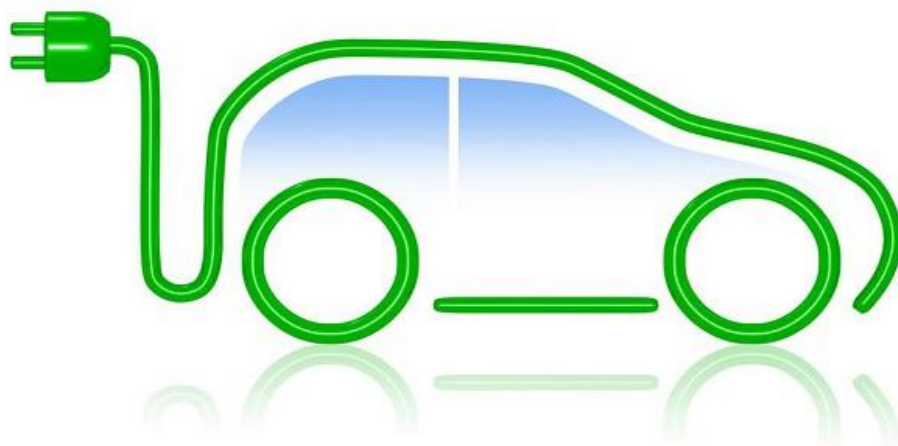
aggregate demand by procuring electric vehicles in bulk to get economies of scale. These electric vehicles will replace the existing fleet of petrol and diesel vehicles. EESL had procured 10,000 e-vehicles last year and will issue a new tender very soon for 10,000 more e-vehicles to cater to the growing demand. With these 20,000 electric cars, India is expected

to save over 5 crore litres of fuel every year leading to a reduction of over 5.6 lakh tonnes of annual CO2 emission.

India has embarked on an ambitious e-mobility plan and the government has taken the leadership in enabling e-mobility in India. The National E-Mobility Programme is a step towards ushering in an era of clean, green and future-oriented technologies in the country.

#### About EESL

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, is working towards mainstreaming energy efficiency and is implementing the world's largest energy efficiency portfolio in the country. Driven by the mission of Enabling More – more efficiency, more innovation, EESL aims to creating market access for efficient and future ready transformative solutions that create a win-win situation for every stakeholder.



## 5. GM Soybean

The Union environment ministry has asked the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to stop imports of genetically modified (GM) soybean for food or feed without the approval of the regulator for transgenic products. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has received a complaint regarding “illegal/unauthorized import of GM soybean into India from countries like the US and Ukraine, (where cultivated soybean is mostly GM soybean)”.

GEAC, which is the regulatory body for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products thereof, has not authorized or approved GM soybean



or any other products derived from GM soybean seeds for import or cultivation in India.

The issue of GM foods has been controversial in India, with cotton being the only transgenic crop which is allowed to be cultivated. The environment ministry is yet to take a

final call on allowing the commercial cultivation of GM mustard.

### About

GM soybean is one of the most widely planted genetically modified plants in the world today. GM Soybean was developed by introducing a copy of a gene from the *Agrobacterium* sp. strain CP4. Conventional soybean has a similar gene in its DNA but is sensitive to glyphosate, the active ingredient of the herbicide 'Roundup'. With the insertion of the CP4 version of the gene, the GM soybean was able to develop resistance to the 'Roundup' herbicide. ■

## 6. Indo-French Knowledge Summit

The first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit was held in New Delhi. The summit ended with a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications between the two countries and a record 15 other MoUs between universities and research institutions on joint initiatives and partnerships. It was coincided with the state visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India. It is the First Franco-Indian Summit for

university, scientific and technology cooperation with the broader objective to design a roadmap of Franco-India cooperation for the next five years, in collaboration with companies.

This agreement will go a long way in boosting the educational relationship between the two countries, will encourage mobility of students from both the countries by facilitating possibilities for them to continue their studies in the other

country and would also promote excellence in higher education through cooperation, university and research exchanges.

A Franco-Indian Education Trust was also unveiled at the closing session of the summit. It will be funded by the Indian industry and French Companies in India to offer educational scholarships and merit based financial support to Indian students. ■

## 7. First Coastal Policing Academy

The Union home ministry recently sanctioned the launch of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) from a campus of Gujarat Fisheries Research Centre located in coastal Okha in the newly created Devbhoomi Dwarka district. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) will pilot the establishment and running of the academy.

The Border Security Force (BSF) that guards the Indian frontier in

Gujarat with Pakistan, the navy and the Coast Guard will form the core to run the academy. The BSF will also provide security to the campus which on the Arabian Sea coast and is at a flying distance from the Pakistan coast.

The navy and the Coast Guard, as per the home ministry order, will help design the training curriculum, providing skilled trainers and ensuring access to jetties and boats for the trainees of the academy.

The academy, that will have faculty from the Navy, Coast Guard and the BSF, will train police personnel and other security agencies staff in maritime laws, seamanship, boat work, navigation, weapons handling, usage of sea guidance and surveillance gadgets and survival skills for long haul operations on the sea or during distress times when they may get stranded in these waters running up to 12 nautical miles from the shore. ■

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. A New State of Matter-Rydberg Polarons

An international team of physicists have successfully created a “giant atom” and filled it with ordinary atoms, creating a new state of matter termed “Rydberg polarons”. These atoms are held together by a weak bond and are created at very cold temperatures.

#### Creation of New Polarons

It uses ideas from two different fields: Bose Einstein Condensation and Rydberg atoms. A BEC (Bose Einstein Condensate) is a liquid-like state of matter that occurs at very low temperatures. A BEC can be perturbed to create excitations which are akin to ripples on a lake. Here, the authors have used a BEC of strontium atoms.

Electrons in an atom move in orbits around the nucleus. A ‘Rydberg atom’ is an atom in which an electron has been kicked out to a very large orbit. These have interesting properties and have been studied for a long time. In this work, the authors used laser light on a BEC of strontium atoms so that it impinges on one strontium atom at a time. This excites an electron into a large orbit, forming a Rydberg atom. This orbit is large enough to encircle many other strontium atoms inside it.

As the electron moves around many strontium atoms, it generates ripples of the BEC. The Rydberg atom becomes inextricably mixed with these

ripples and forms a new super-atom called a ‘Rydberg polaron’.

#### Implications

A particularly interesting implication is for cosmology. Our universe is believed to be filled with a mysterious ‘dark matter’ which exerts a gravitational force on other matter. Some theories of dark matter postulate that it is a cosmic Bose Einstein Condensate, perhaps composed of an as-yet-unknown type of particle. If we are indeed living in an invisible all-pervading Bose Einstein Condensate, this experiment can suggest ways to detect it.

### 2. Super-Earth’ among 15 New Planets Discovered

Scientists have discovered 15 new planets - including one ‘super-Earth’ that could harbour liquid water -



orbiting small, cool stars near our solar system. These stars, known as red dwarfs, are of enormous interest for studies of planetary formation and evolution. These 15 exoplanets are orbiting red dwarf systems. One of the brightest red dwarfs, K2-155 that is around 200 light years away from Earth, has three transiting super-Earths, which are slightly bigger than our own planet. Of those three super-Earths, the outermost planet, K2-

155d, with a radius 1.6 times that of Earth, could be within the host star’s habitable zone.

The researchers found that K2-155d could potentially have liquid water on its surface based on 3D global climate simulations. A more precise estimate of the radius and temperature of the K2-155 star would be needed to conclude definitively whether K2-155d is habitable.

### 3. President for Life: Xi Jinping

China’s parliament amended the constitution to remove the limit on presidential terms. The amendment will allow President Xi Jinping, who is seen as the most powerful Chinese leader in the post-Mao Zedong era, to keep power indefinitely. The support to strike down the two term-limit was

nearly unanimous. A constitutional change requires the approval of two-thirds or more of NPC deputies during the annual session. This was the first amendment to the country’s fundamental law in 14 years. The current version of the Constitution was adopted during the 5<sup>th</sup> National

People’s Congress on December 4, 1982. The move reverses the era of “collective” leadership and orderly succession that was promoted by late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to ensure stability following the turbulent one-man rule of Communist China’s founder Mao Zedong.

## 4. Sri Lanka Declared Emergency after Buddhist-Muslim Clash

Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency for 10 days to rein in the spread of communal violence between majority Sinhala and minority Muslims in the country's Kandy district that left two persons dead and damaged several mosques and homes.

Sri Lanka's Muslims make up about 9% of its 21 million people and mostly live in the east and centre of the island. Buddhist Sinhalese account for about 70% and ethnic Tamils, most of whom are Hindus, about 13%.

This will be the first time since August 2011 that a state of emergency will be in force in the Indian Ocean's island nation. The state of emergency allows the deployment troops on the street, search and arrest people without a warrant. Sri Lanka has a long



history of state of emergency during the LTTE rebellion both in the south and the Tamil minority dominated North and East of the Island. ■

## 5. International Solar Alliance

International Solar Alliance (ISA) has said that membership of the body will be thrown open to all countries that want to join the grouping, with no restrictions on duration of sunlight or geographical location. When the International Solar Alliance was announced in 2015, 121 nations situated between the Tropic of Cancer

and the Tropic of Capricorn and receiving 300 days of sunlight were deemed eligible for membership. So far, however, only 56 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement.

### About ISA

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was unveiled by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and then French President Francois Hollande at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris on November 30, 2015. The idea was to form a coalition of solar resource-rich countries to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps in their energy requirements through a common approach. Towards this, the ISA has set a target of 1 TW of solar energy by 2030.

### India's Role

Apart from being a founding-member, India plays a significant role in the alliance in terms of being a host as well as a major contributor to the achievement of the target. The ISA is the first international body that will have a secretariat in India. India, with a target to produce 100 GW of solar energy by 2022, would account for a tenth of ISA's goal. ■



## 6. WTO to setup a Compliance Panel for Solar Dispute between India and the US

The WTO's dispute settlement body has agreed to set up a panel to determine whether India has complied with its ruling in a case against the US regarding domestic content requirements for solar cells and modules.

In 2013, US had filed complaint before WTO, arguing that domestic content requirement imposed under India's ambitious Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (NSM) violates global trading rules by unfavourably

discriminating against imported solar cells and modules. In 2016, India lost a case against the US at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) after the global trade body stated that power purchase agreements signed by the Indian government with solar firms for its National Solar Mission did not meet international trade norms.

But after ruling, US had alleged that India continues to apply WTO-inconsistent measures and had approached WTO demanding action against India for non-compliance of WTO ruling in December 2017. India, however, has maintained that it has complied with WTO's ruling and had requested WTO to set up a panel to determine its compliance with rulings of dispute.



## 7. An Air-Breathing Thruster for Satellites

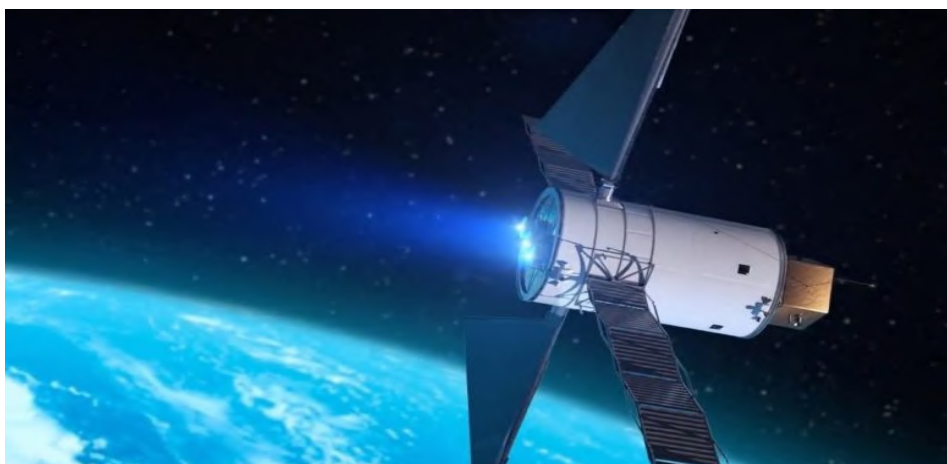
The European Space Agency (ESA) is building a thruster that can possibly extend the working life of satellites by years and even help with interplanetary travel using just the air around it as a propellant. The space agency has

built and test fired one such engine in "space like" conditions.

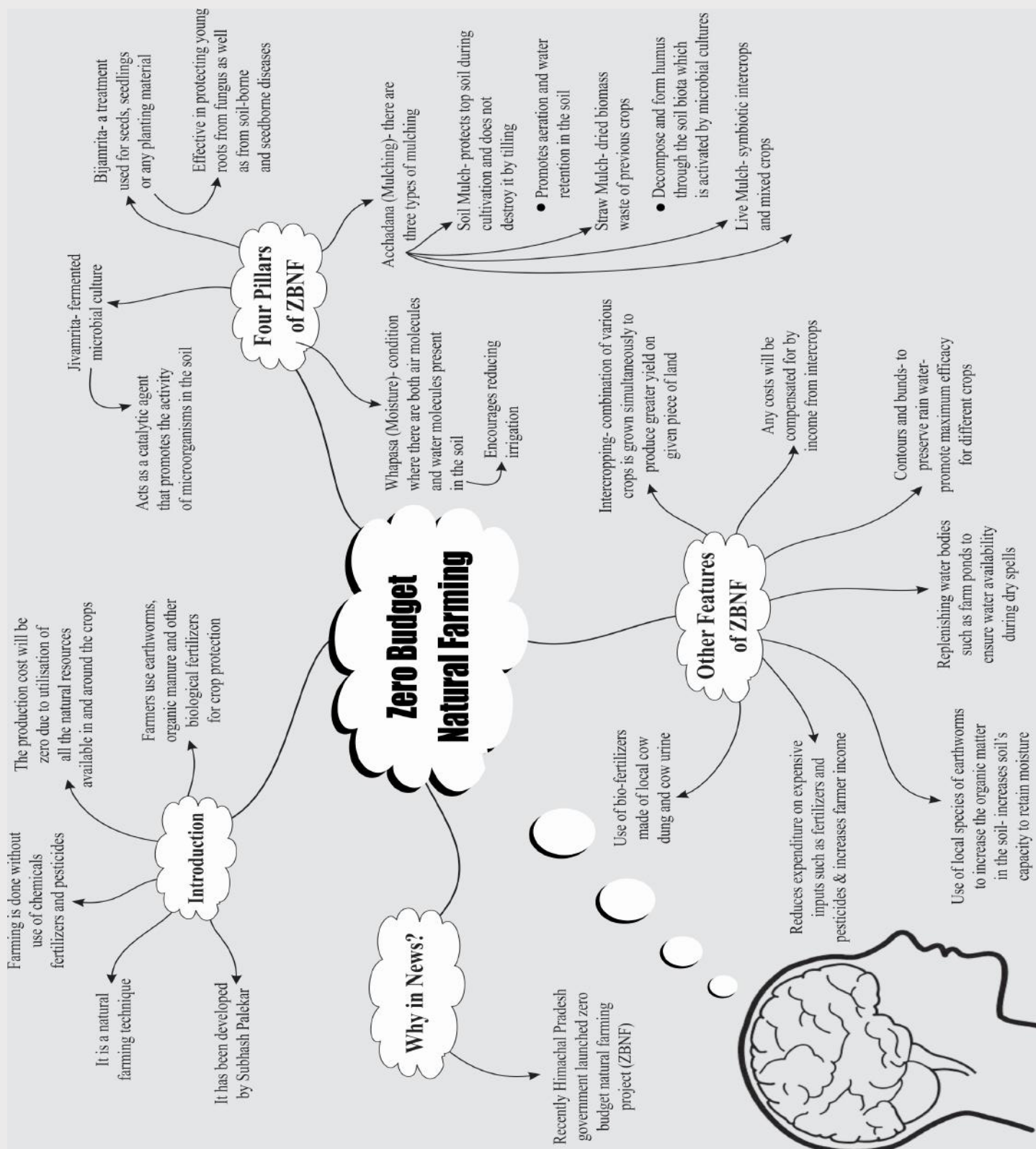
This Air-Breathing Electric Thruster (ABET) does not operate in complete vacuum, but works in low Earth orbit (LEO) – altitude of 2,000 km or less. At

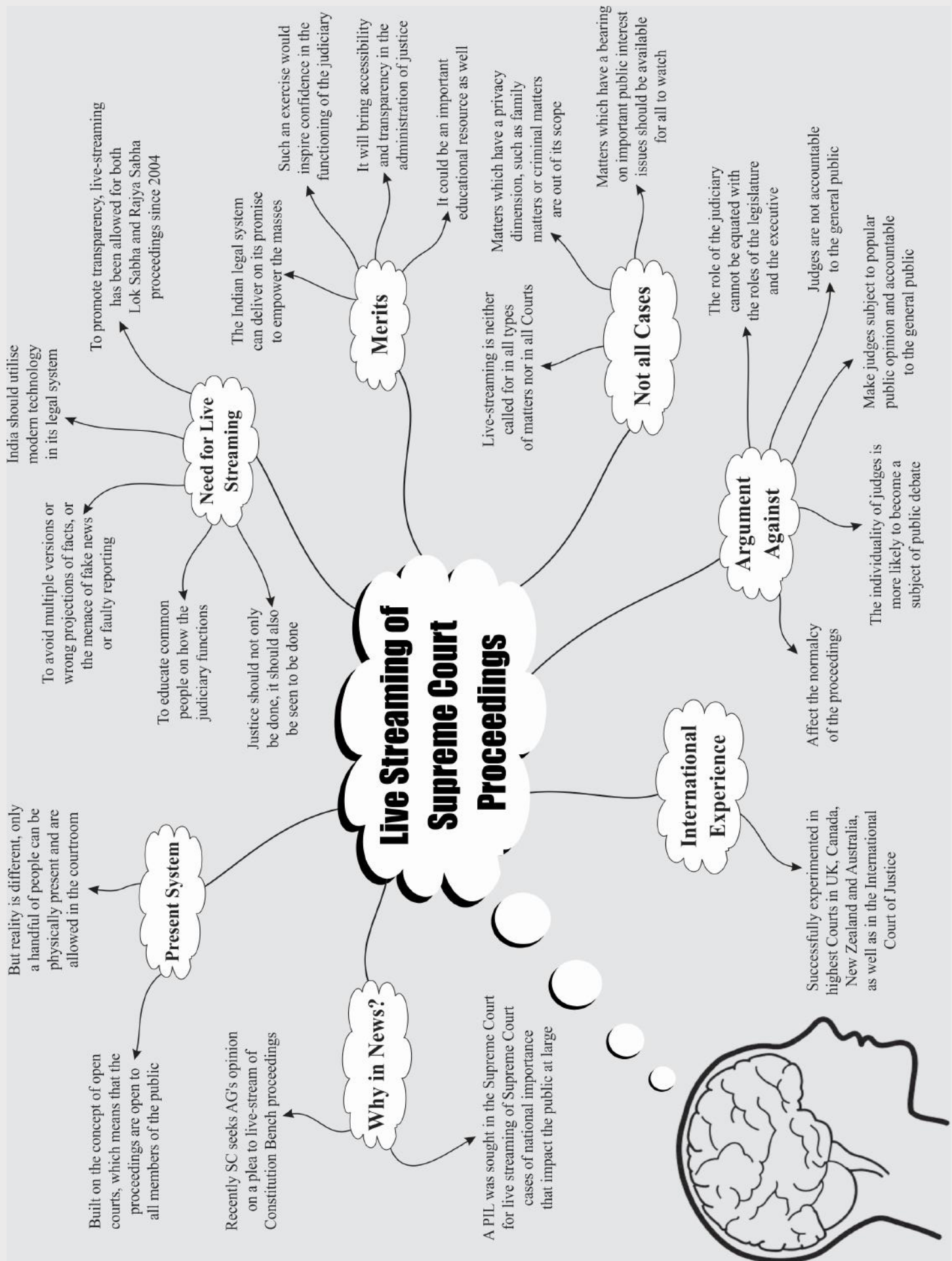
LEO, the air is scarce, but not entirely absent. In fact, there is enough air to cause a drag on spaceships and satellites. This is why there are on-board engines installed on satellites to correct course every time it moves out of position.

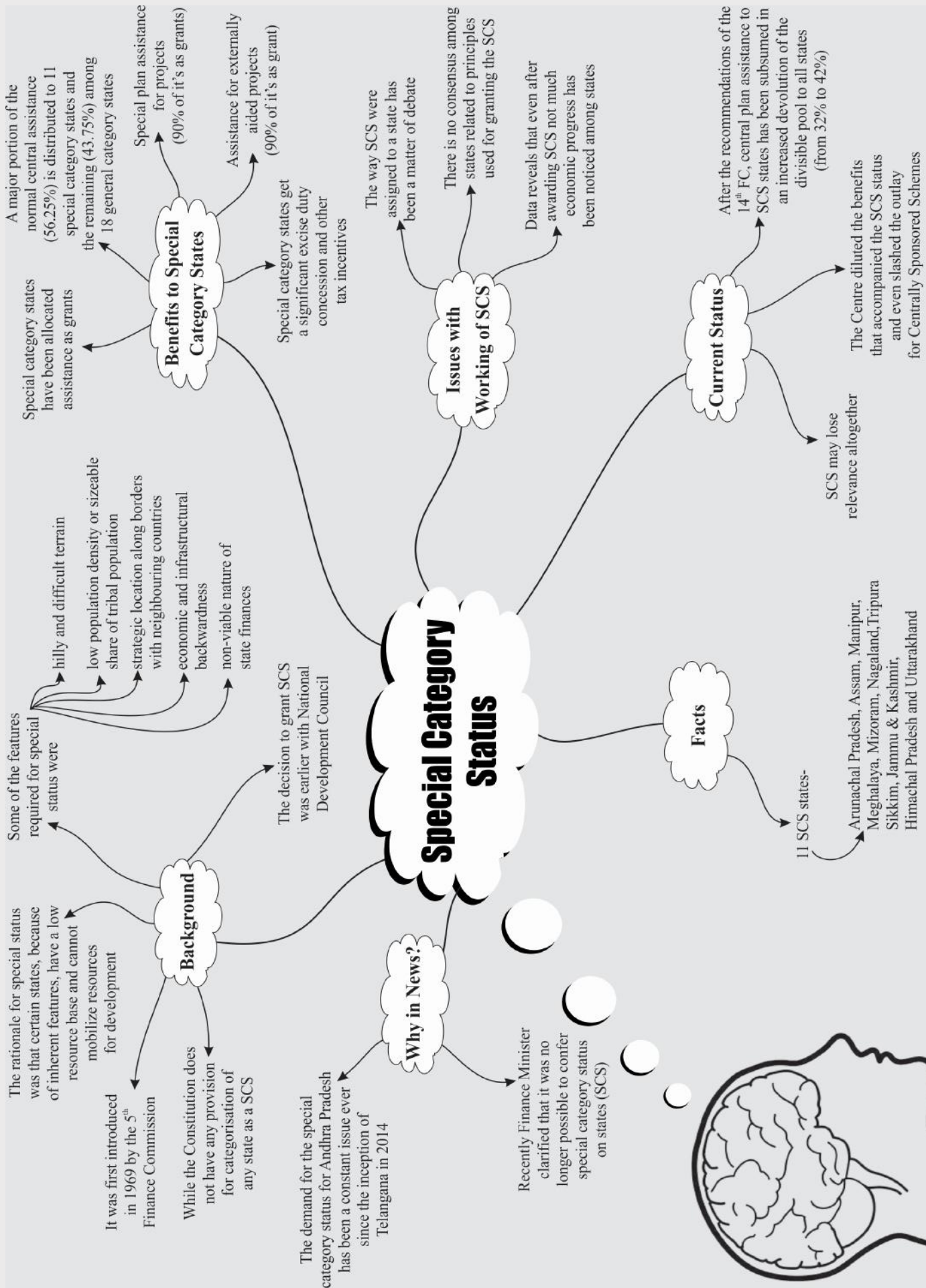
An air breathing thruster could keep a satellite operational for extended periods of time if it only uses the air around it for fuel instead of propellants. An air-breathing engine works by collecting the sparse air at the edge of the atmosphere and compresses it to a point that it becomes thermalised ionised plasma. It then fires out the plasma using an electric charge to achieve thrust.

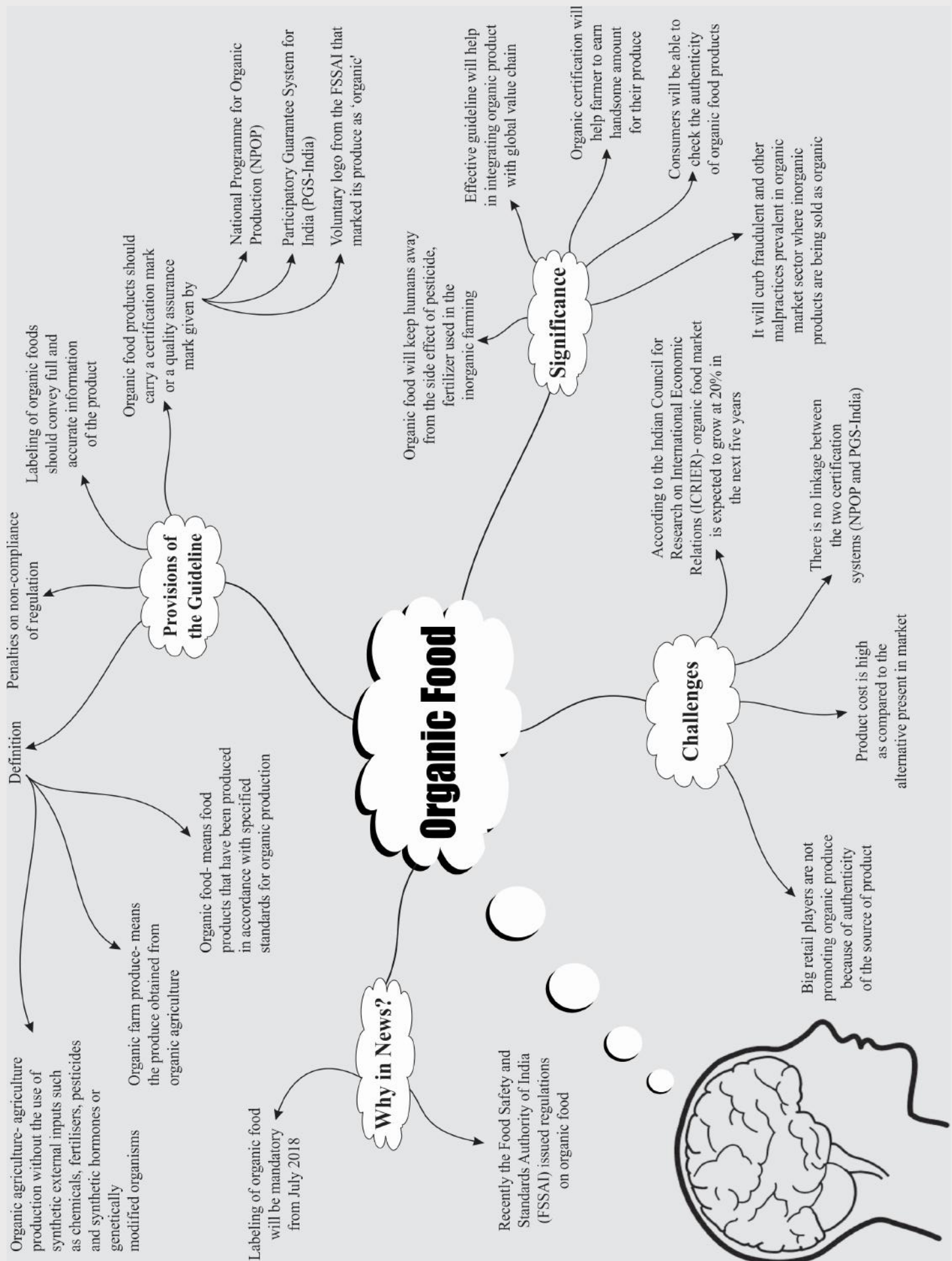


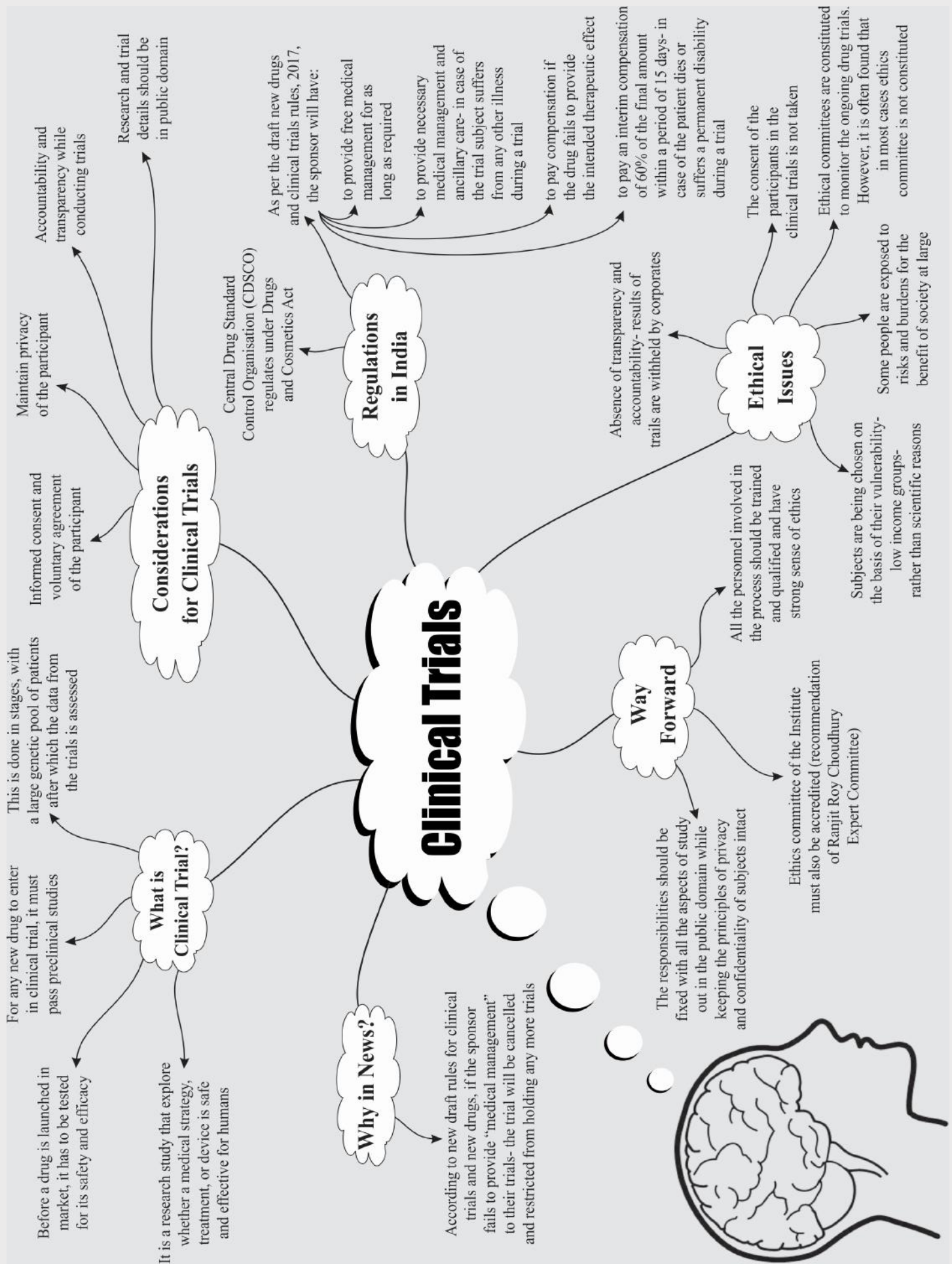
# SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

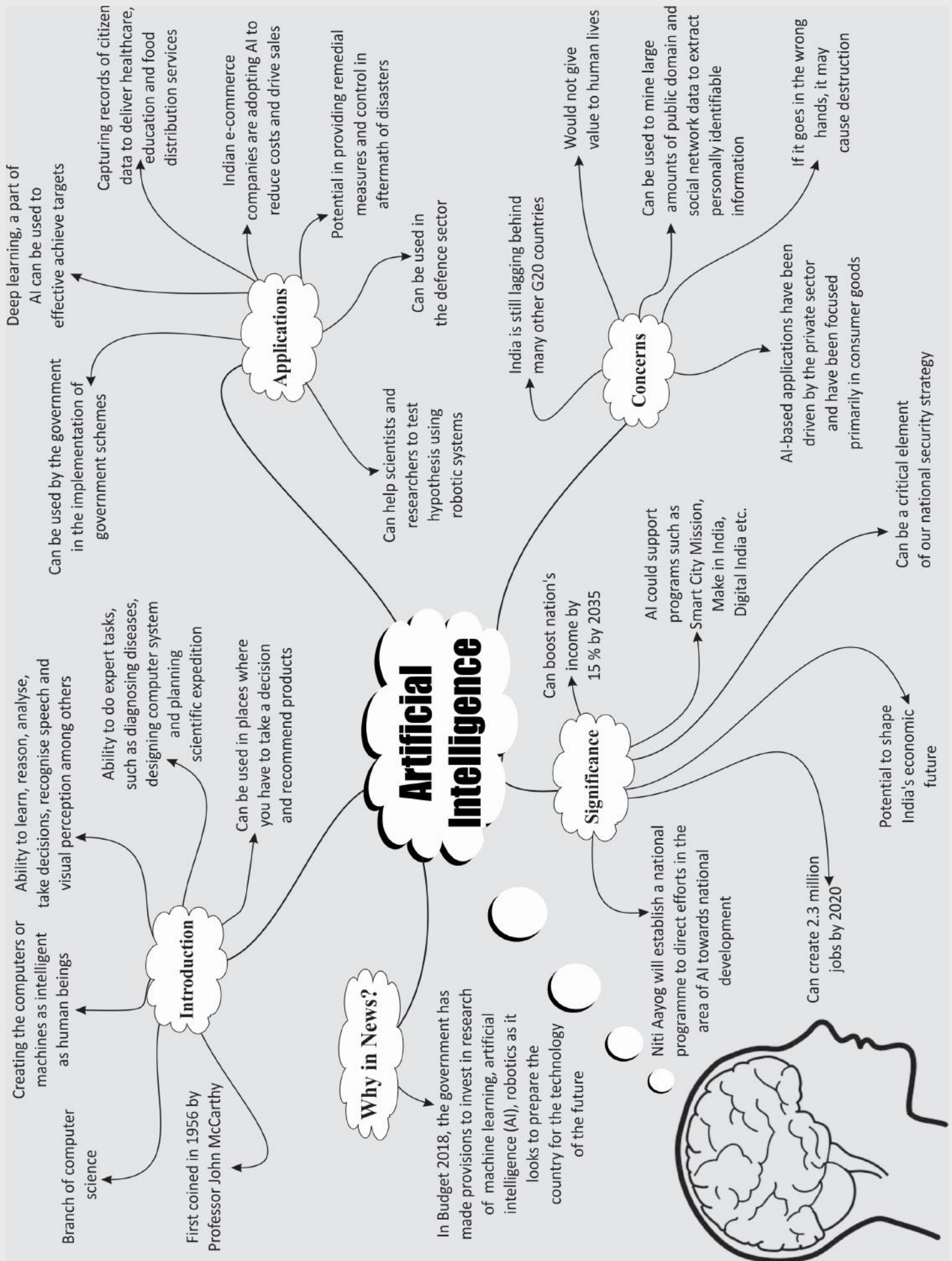


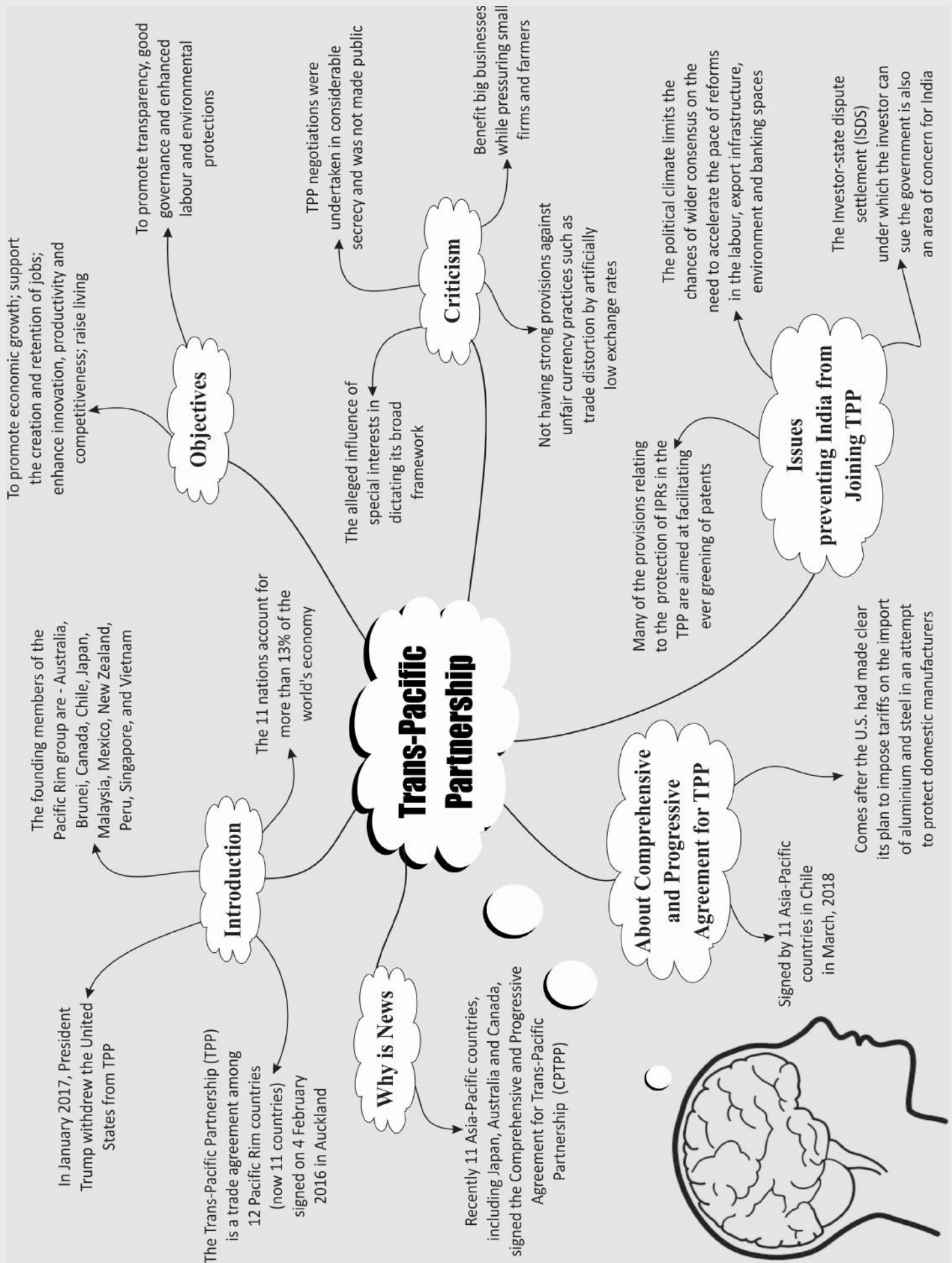












# SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

## (Based on Brain Boosters)

### Zero Budget Natural Farming

**Q1. With reference to the 'Zero Budget Natural Farming', consider the following statements:**

1. In this farming method, chemical and organic fertilizers are equally used.
2. Intercropping, contours building and cow dungs are the important features of this method.
3. It has been developed by Subhash Palekar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is not correct** because in this farming method farmers will use only organic manure, local species of earthworm and other biological fertilizers for crop protection.

**Statement 2 and 3 are correct.** It has been developed by Subhash Palekar. It has attained wide success in Southern India, especially in Karnataka where it first evolved. Along with the four pillars (jeevamrutha-fermented microbial culture, beejamrutha- treatment used for seeds, acchadana-mulching and whapasa-moisture), it has another important principles such as intercropping, contours building, local species of earthworm and cow dung.

### Live Streaming of Supreme Court Proceedings

**2. Recently the term 'live streaming of Supreme Court proceedings' is seen in news. Consider the following statements in this regard:**

1. Senior lawyer Indira Jaising mooted the idea of live streaming and video recording of the court proceedings of all cases.
2. It is based on the principle of open access to justice.

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.** Senior lawyer Indira Jaising in her PIL has sought "live streaming and/or video recording of Supreme Court cases of national importance that impact the public at large.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The live streaming and videography of the proceedings of the Supreme Court in matters of great public importance will be in keeping with the principle of open access to justice and will ensure justice is not only done but it is seen to be done.

### Special Category Status

**Q3. Consider the following statements in respect of giving special category status to states:**

1. It was first introduced in 1969 by the 5<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
2. After the constitution of NITI Aayog and recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> FC, central plan assistance to SCS states has been subsumed in an increased devolution to all states (from 32% to 42%).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Both statements are correct.** The concept of a special category state was first introduced in 1969 when the 5<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission sought to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax breaks. Initially three states Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir were granted special status but since then eight more have been included (Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand).

Changes were observed from 2015-16 budget. While states began to receive a higher share of 42 percent of central taxes, the Centre diluted the benefits that accompanied the SCS status and even slashed the outlay for Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

## Organic Food

**Q4. Organic food in India is a food which does not contain which of the following?**

1. Chemical pesticides and fertilizers
2. Genetically-modified organisms
3. Induced hormones

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

Organic food products are either that grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides or made from organically produced raw materials.

## Clinical Trials

**Q5. With reference to the clinical trials in India, consider the following statements:**

1. They are conducted only after they have received approval from ethics committee in the country.
2. A person can opt out of any clinical trial at any point in the process without being penalised.

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.** Clinical trials are experiments or observations done in clinical research. They are conducted only after they have received approval from ethics committee in the country and a person can opt out of any study at any point in the process without being penalised and can continue to have the standard of care treatment provided.

## Artificial Intelligence

**Q6. The term 'Artificial Intelligence (AI)' is sometimes seen in news. Consider the following statements in this regard:**

1. It was coined by Professor John McCarthy in 1956.
2. It can create the computers or machines as intelligent as human beings.
3. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will establish a national programme to direct efforts in the area of Artificial Intelligence towards national development.
4. It can be used in places where you have to take a decision and recommend products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| a) 1, 2 and 4 only | b) 2, 3 and 4 only  |
| c) 3 and 4 only    | d) All of the above |

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1, 2 and 4 are correct.** It was first coined in 1956 by Professor John McCarthy. It can create the computers or machines as intelligent as human beings. It includes ability to learn reason, analyse, take decisions, to do expert tasks, such as diagnosing diseases, designing computer system and planning scientific expedition and recognise speech and visual perception among others.

**Statement 3 is not correct.** In Budget 2018, the government has made provisions to invest in research of new areas such as machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics as it looks to prepare the country for the technology of the future and Niti Aayog will establish a national programme to direct efforts in the area of Artificial Intelligence towards national development.

## Trans-Pacific Partnership

**Q7. With reference to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), consider the following statements:**

1. TPP is an agreement between China and other Pacific Rim countries.
2. Recently India gets observer status in TPP.

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 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade agreement among 12 Pacific Rim countries (now 11 countries) signed on 4 February 2016 in Auckland. In January 2017, President Trump withdrew the United States from TPP. 11 countries are Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru and Vietnam.

Both India and China are not the members to the agreement.

○○○

# SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Which state government began 'Asmita Yojana' to provide sanitary napkins at subsidised rates?

– *Maharashtra*

2. Which country was the world's largest importer of major arms in 2013-17 (as per SIPRI report)?

— *India*

3. Which state is using drones to speed up the exercise of mapping villages and towns?

– *Maharashtra*

4. What was the theme of 2018's International Women Day?

– *Times's Up: Equality for Women is Progress for All*

5. Who was awarded with the Pritzker Architecture Prize-2018?

– *Balkrishna Doshi*

6. Which nation has decided to set 15 years as legal age of sexual consent?

– *France*

7. Chandragiri has become the first 'all women' railway station in which state?

– *Andhra Pradesh*

○○○

# SEVEN PERFECT QUOTES

## (IMPORTANT FOR ESSAY AND ANSWER WRITING)

“Every artist dips his brush in his own soul and paints his own nature into his picture.”

- **Abhinav Bindra**

“If I have a reason to do something and I have enough passion, I generally succeed.”

- **Leander Paes**

“You can’t let the highs make you feel overconfident nor can you let the lows be a reason to dampen your spirit.”

- **Saina Nehwal**

“Hard work, will power & dedication. For a man with these qualities, sky is the limit.”

- **Milkha Singh**

“Self-belief and hard work will always earn you success.”

- **Virat Kohli**

“I have failed at times, but I never stopped trying.”

- **Rahul Dravid**

“If you want to achieve something in life, you have to take risks.”

- **Deepa Karmakar**

○○○

# SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM

**Answer each of the following questions in 200 words:**

- Q1. What are the mechanisms that enable review and scrutiny of executive decisions? Discuss the extent of oversight that Parliament exercises in ensuring that rules and regulations are in the spirit of the primary legislation passed by Parliament.
- Q2. Discuss the key features and issues involved in the draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2017.
- Q3. What determines the balance of power between the Parliament (Legislature) and the Government (Executive), in practice? Is the power enjoyed by the Executive in any way affecting the ability of Parliament to perform its role?
- Q4. 'India's healthcare needs monitoring system, not public vs private sector debate'. Comment
- Q5. 'Rapprochement between Washington and Pyongyang could denuclearise the Korean peninsula, rearrange security in East Asia'. Discuss.
- Q6. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in Indian context?
- Q7. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.

○○○