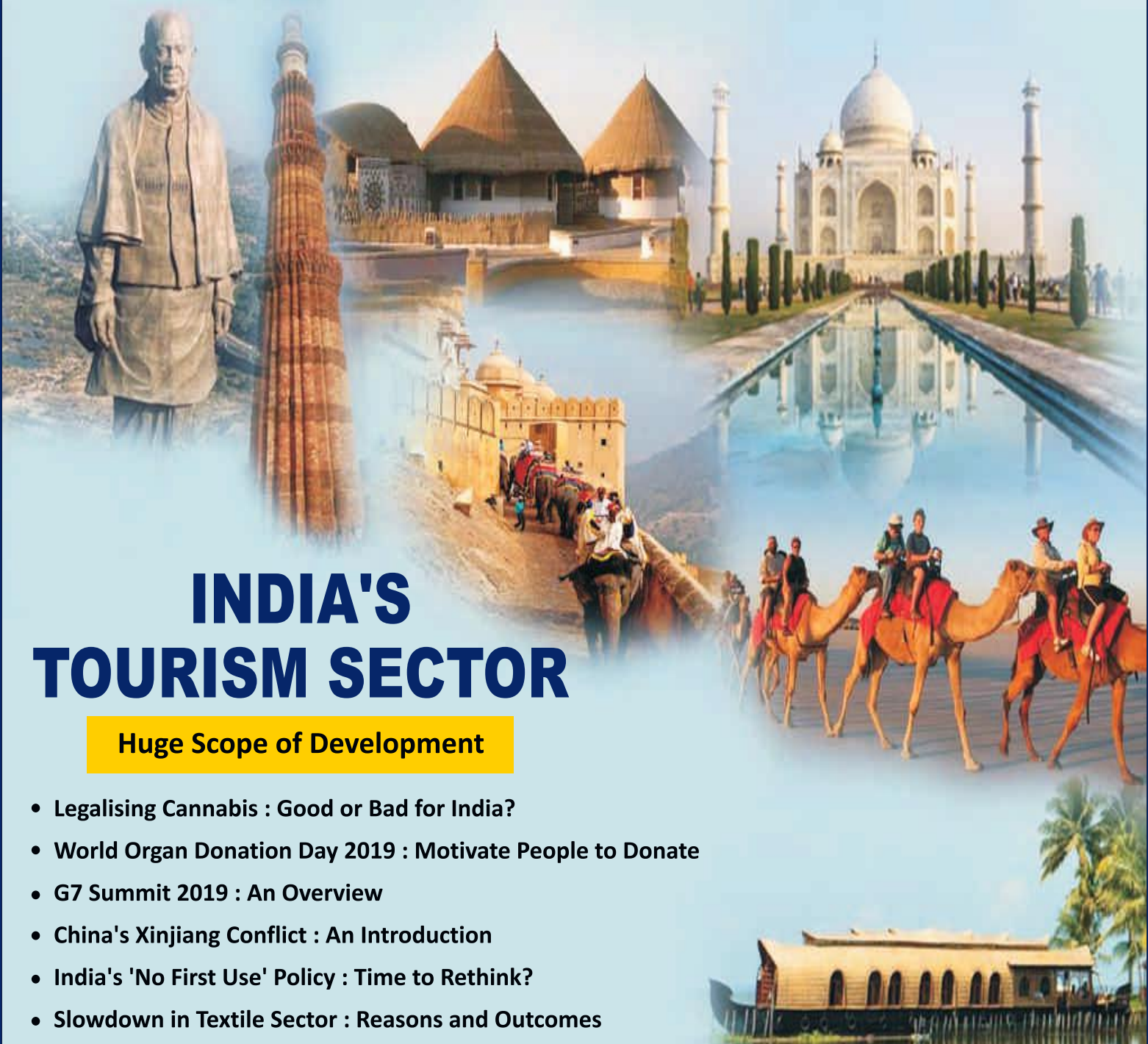


PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

September: 2019 / Issue-01



INDIA'S TOURISM SECTOR

Huge Scope of Development

- Legalising Cannabis : Good or Bad for India?
- World Organ Donation Day 2019 : Motivate People to Donate
- G7 Summit 2019 : An Overview
- China's Xinjiang Conflict : An Introduction
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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



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

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Q H Khan
Managing Director
Dhyeya IAS

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



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

I extend best wishes for the success of this endeavor.

Qurban Ali

Chief Editor

Dhyeya IAS

(Ex Editor- Rajya Sabha TV)



We have not only given the name 'Perfect 7' to our magazine, but also left no stone unturned to keep it 'near to perfect'. We all know that beginning of a task is most challenging as well as most important thing. So we met the same fate.

Publishing 'Perfect 7' provided us various challenges because from the beginning itself we kept our bar too high to ensure the quality. Right from the very first issue we had a daunting task to save aspirants from the 'overdose of information'. Focusing on civil services exams 'Perfect 7' embodies in itself rightful friend and guide in your preparation. This weapon is built to be precise yet comprehensive. It is not about bombardment of mindless facts rather an analysis of various facets of the issues, selected in a systematic manner. We adopted the 'Multi Filter' and 'Six Sigma' approach, in which a subject or an issue is selected after diligent discussion on various levels so that the questions in the examination could be covered with high probability.

Being a weekly magazine there is a constant challenge to provide qualitative study material in a time bound approach. It is our humble achievement that we feel proud to make delivered our promise of quality consistently without missing any issue since its inception.

The new 'avatar' of 'Perfect 7' is a result of your love and affection. We feel inspired to continue our efforts to deliver effective and valuable content in interesting manner. Our promise of quality has reached you in around 100 issues and more are yet to come.

Ashutosh Singh

Managing Editor

Dhyeya IAS



PREFACE

Dhyeya family feels honoured to present you a pandora box 'Perfect 7'. 'Perfect7' is an outstanding compilation of current affairs topics as per the new pattern of Civil Service examination (CSE). It presents weekly analysis of information and issues (national and international) in the form of articles, news analysis, brain boosters, PIB highlights and graphical information, which helps to understand and retain the information comprehensively. Hence, 'Perfect 7' will build in-depth understanding of various issues in different facets.

'Perfect7' is our genuine effort to provide correct, concise and concrete information, which helps students to crack the civil service examination. This magazine is the result of the efforts of the eminent scholars and the experts from different fields.

'Perfect 7' is surely a force multiplier in your effort and plugs the loopholes in the preparation.

We believe in environment of continuous improvement and learning. Your constructive suggestions and comments are always welcome, which could guide us in further revision of this magazine.

Omveer Singh Chaudhary
Editor
Dhyeya IAS

Perfect 7

The Weekly Issue

Perfect 7

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Current Affairs Programmes hosted
by Mr. Qurban Ali
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(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

1. INDIA'S TOURISM SECTOR : HUGE SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT

Why in News?

National Conference of Tourism Ministers concluded successfully in New Delhi. Tourism Minister of State Shri Prahlad Singh Patel urged States for better coordination to promote tourism in the country. The conference was attended by State Tourism Ministers of 19 States, Secretaries of Tourism and senior officials from the States and Union Territories (UTs) who deliberated on various issues related to the development and promotion of Tourism.

Introduction

Tourism is a major engine of economic growth in most parts of the world. Several countries have transformed their economies using the tourism potential the fullest. Tourism has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind - from the most specialised to the unskilled and all of us know that generation of massive productive employment opportunities is what India needs the most.

Over the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth and deepening diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sector in the world. Modern tourism is closely linked to development and encompasses a growing number of new destinations. These dynamics have turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress.

Today, the business volume of tourism equals or even surpasses

that of oil exports, food products or automobiles. Tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represents at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries. This growth goes hand in hand with an increasing diversification and competition among destinations.

The growing influence of the tourism sector as an economic powerhouse and its potential as a tool for development are irrefutable. Not only does the tourism sector spearhead growth, it also improves the quality of people's lives with its capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind. It supports environmental protection, champions diverse cultural heritage and strengthens peace in the world.

Tourism: Current Situation and Prospects

There has been significant progress in the travel, tourism and hospitality sector in the last decade but there is much further room for improvement. India moved up 12 places from 52nd to 40th in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index in 2017. Foreign tourist arrivals have increased from 5.1 million in 2009 to 8.8 million in 2016; yet they account for less than 1% of global tourist arrivals. With 35 world heritage sites, 10 bio-geographical zones and 26 biotic provinces, India has significant potential to increase the number of tourist arrivals.

The sector is an important contributor to national income. In 2017-18, India's travel and tourism sector accounted for foreign exchange earnings of USD 22.92 billion. Hotels and tourism also accounted for USD 0.9 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2016-17, making up around 3% of total FDI between April 2000 and October 2017. Domestic tourism plays a key role within the sector. In 2016, domestic tourist visits to all Indian states and Union Territories (UTs) numbered 1614 million, an increase of about 13% from the previous year.

As a highly labour-intensive sector, tourism has the capacity to generate large-scale, good quality employment. In 2016, it accounted for 25 million direct and more than 14 million indirect jobs. Direct jobs in the sector made up 5.8% of India's total employment. Together, direct and indirect jobs accounted for 9.3% of total employment. The sector has multiple forward and backward linkages with further job generating potential in sectors such as agriculture, retail, transport and financial services.

Recognizing the sector's potential to generate income and employment, the government has undertaken several measures to strengthen infrastructure and facilitate tourism. India recently introduced tourist visa on arrival, enabled with electronic travel authorization (ETA) (renamed as the "e-Tourist Visa") for tourists from 150 countries. The Ministry of Tourism has launched a round-the-clock, toll-

free tourist helpline in 12 international languages. The government has launched several schemes to develop tourist circuits; develop our islands as tourist destinations; build large-scale convention centres in different cities; improve connectivity and develop niche offerings such as medical tourism and pilgrimage-based tourism.

Impact of Tourism on the Economy

Tourism can bring many economic and social benefits, particularly in rural areas and developing countries, but mass tourism is also associated with negative effects. Tourism can only be sustainable if it is carefully managed so that potential negative effects on the host community and the environment are not permitted to outweigh the financial benefits. Tourism industry in India has several positive and negative impacts on the economy and society. These impacts are highlighted below.

Positive Impacts of Tourism

- ◆ **Generating Income and employment:** Tourism in India has emerged as an instrument of income and employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development. It contributes 6.23% to the national GDP and 9.3% of the total employment in India. More than 20 million people are now working in the India's tourism industry.
- ◆ **Source of Foreign Exchange Earnings:** Tourism is an important source of foreign exchange earnings in India. This has favorable impact on the balance of payment of the country.
- ◆ **Preservation of National Heritage and Environment:** Tourism helps preserve several places which are of historical importance by declaring them as heritage sites. For instance, the Taj Mahal, the Qutab Minar, Ajanta and Ellora

temples, etc. would have been decayed and destroyed, if the efforts had not been taken by Tourism Department to preserve them. Likewise, tourism also helps in conserving the natural habitats of many endangered species.

- ◆ **Developing Infrastructure:** Tourism tends to encourage the development of multiple-use infrastructure that benefits the host community, including various means of transports, health care facilities and sports centers, in addition to the hotels and high-end restaurants that cater to foreign visitors. The development of infrastructure has in turn induced the development of other directly productive activities.
- ◆ **Promoting Peace and Stability:** The tourism industry can also help promote peace and stability in developing country like India by providing jobs, generating income, diversifying the economy, protecting the environment and promoting cross-cultural awareness. However, key challenges like adoption of regulatory frameworks, mechanisms to reduce crime and corruption, etc, must be addressed if peace-enhancing benefits from this industry are to be realized.

Negative Impacts of Tourism

- ◆ **Undesirable Social and Cultural Change:** Tourism sometimes led to the destruction of the social fabric of a community. The more tourists coming into a place, the more the perceived risk of that place losing its identity. A good example is Goa. From the late 60's to the early 80's when the Hippy culture was at its height, Goa was a haven for such hippies. Here they came in thousands and changed the whole culture of the state leading to a rise in the use of drugs, prostitution

and human trafficking. This had a ripple effect on the country.

- ◆ **Increase Tension and Hostility:** Tourism can increase tension, hostility, and suspicion between the tourists and the local communities when there is no respect and understanding for each other's culture and way of life. This may further lead to violence and other crimes committed against the tourists. The recent crime committed against Russian tourist in Goa is a case in point.
- ◆ **Creating a Sense of Antipathy:** Tourism brought little benefit to the local community. In most all-inclusive package tours more than 80% of travelers' fees go to the airlines, hotels and other international companies, not to local businessmen and workers. Moreover, large hotel chain restaurants often import food to satisfy foreign visitors and rarely employ local staff for senior management positions, preventing local farmers and workers from reaping the benefit of their presence. This has often created a sense of antipathy towards the tourists and the government.
- ◆ **Adverse Effects on Environment and Ecology:** One of the most important adverse effects of tourism on the environment is increased pressure on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem in each tourist locality. Increased transport and construction activities led to large scale deforestation and destabilization of natural landforms, while increased tourist flow led to increase in solid waste dumping as well as depletion of water and fuel resources. Flow of tourists to ecologically sensitive areas resulted in destruction of rare and endangered species due to trampling, killing, disturbance of breeding habitats. Noise pollution

from vehicles and public address systems, water pollution, vehicular emissions, untreated sewage, etc. also have direct effects on biodiversity, ambient environment and general profile of tourist spots.

Challenges

Though, tourism has interrelated with many socio economic benefits, there are several constraints which present roadblock for the sector to achieve its potential at its fullest.

- ◆ **Entry/exit:** Despite the introduction of an e-visa facility, visitors find the process of applying for a visa still cumbersome. Further, awareness about the e-visa facility remains low. In addition, medical e-visa holders face difficulties because of the limited number of repeat visits allowed under the visa, the number of accompanying persons permitted and cumbersome registration processes.
- ◆ **Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Deficiencies in infrastructure and inadequate connectivity hamper tourist visits to some heritage sites
- ◆ **Tourism Segments or Circuits:** India has various tourist destinations but few circuits or segments such as the Golden Triangle (Delhi-Agra-Jaipur), are well connected.
- ◆ **Promotion and marketing:** Although it has been increasing, online marketing/branding remains limited and campaigns are not coordinated. Tourist information centres are poorly managed, making it difficult for domestic and foreign tourists to access information with ease.
- ◆ **Skills:** The number of adequately trained individuals for the tourism and hospitality sector is a key challenge to giving visitors a world-class experience. A limited number of multi-lingual trained guides and the limited local awareness and understanding of the benefits and

responsibilities associated with tourist growth act as constraints on the sector's growth.

Major Schemes for Tourism Sector

For tourism infrastructure creation in the country, Ministry of Tourism has launched several schemes. Key schemes are: Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD), Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes - (SWADESH DARSHAN), Adopt A Heritage Project, Development of Iconic Tourist Sites, etc.

Government's Recent Initiatives

- ◆ The Tourism Ministry has launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) portal. It is an online programme where one can learn about tourism at their own time, space, path and pace. The successful completion of this programme would enable the learner to become a Certified Tourist Facilitator of Ministry of Tourism, government of India.
- ◆ Facilitative visa regime is a prerequisite for increasing inbound tourism. Ministry of Tourism takes the initiative with Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs for achieving the same.
- ◆ The "Incredible India 2.0" Campaign of the Ministry marks a shift from the generic promotions being undertaken across the world to market specific promotional plans and content creation.
- ◆ Recently, in order to promote night tourism, the Culture Ministry has decided to open 10 historical monuments till 9 PM for common visitors across the country. Further, it urged all the states and UTs to open their important monuments till late night for visitors.
- ◆ Government promotes states to organize surveys in their respective states to understand how the foreign tourists perceive India and

should work towards removing negative impressions. This will lead to change the perception of India in the mind of foreign tourists which will yield us good results for promotion of tourism.

Sustainable Tourism

A rapid and massive movement of tourists within a shorter span of tourist season puts a heavy pressure on tourist resources. The usage of tourist attractions is likely to be damaged beyond repair and their life span may even get shortened. Their popularity suffer a loss, the number of tourist arrivals gradually falls and generation of job comes to a halt. As we keep on taking some measures to restore the charm of tourist sites this stage of decline does not seem to have set in fully. But there are many hill stations, beaches and monuments which we have not cared to see that they shine and provide some job opportunities to the people.

There is the degeneration of tourist spots because of the overuse or misuse of their resources. The growth of tourist culture demands to practise tourism on sustainable basis. A sustainable tourism allows to exploit tourist resources for a long time and never brings a full stop to the creation of job opportunities. Sight seers in summer tourist resorts keep people engaged in tourist occupations. In high altitude areas of the Himalaya, the induction of winter tourism and keeping people occupied in replenishing the stock of the cottage industry products for sale in the next peak season have offered them sustenance all the year round. To keep alive the tourist friendly activities in all tourist areas is the life and blood of sustainable tourism. Prolonging the conservation of environmental attraction by avoiding anything which is fatal to it encourages people to derive their living continuously from tourist occupations.

Eco-tourism or environment friendly tourist activity forms a core segment of sustainable tourism. It requires to preserve the ecology and local cultures of an area. A good quality of air and water, well maintained biodiversity and organised human efforts are the major components of eco-tourism. Keeping up harmonious relationship among them is the growing need because a chain of interactions lock them together. Tourism sector the location of cement factories were started with full force in tourist regions of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir valley some years back. Extraction of

limestone, emission of dust, fumes and noise disturbed the ecological balance and were least eco-friendly in these states depending largely on tourism.

Conclusion

As a travel destination, few other nations can offer the diversity of products and experiences found in India. The travel and tourism industry offers significant opportunity for fulfillment of key national growth imperatives including employment generation across all regions of the country, and growth in the sector can contribute to overall economic

development in the country. However, tourism in India, though growing consistently, is yet to realize its full potential due to several challenges that plagued the sector. Alleviation of these challenges will be essential for the industry to realize its full potential.

General Studies Paper- III

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

○○○

2. LEGALISING CANNABIS : GOOD OR BAD FOR INDIA?

Context

There is a growing movement in the West to legalise cannabis, with rumblings of the same in India. However, India should carefully weigh the risks and benefits of cannabis before blindly following suit with the West.

Introduction

About 275 million people worldwide, which is roughly 5.6% of the global population aged 15–64 years, used drugs at least once during 2016. Some 31 million of people who use drugs suffer from drug use disorders, meaning that their drug use is harmful to the point where they may need treatment. Initial estimations suggest that, globally, 13.8 million young people aged 15–16 years used cannabis in the past year, equivalent to a rate of 5.6%.

Cannabis is by far the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused illicit drug. Half of all drug seizures worldwide are cannabis seizures. The geographical spread of those seizures is also global, covering practically every country of the world. About 147 million

people, 2.5% of the world population, consume cannabis (annual prevalence) compared with 0.2% consuming cocaine and 0.2% consuming opiates. In the present decade, cannabis abuse has grown more rapidly than cocaine and opiate abuse. The most rapid growth in cannabis abuse since the 1960s has been in developed countries in North America, Western Europe and Australia.

Cannabis has become more closely linked to youth culture and the age of initiation is usually lower than for other drugs. An analysis of cannabis markets shows that low prices coincide with high levels of abuse, and vice versa. Cannabis appears to be price-inelastic in the short term, but fairly elastic over the longer term. Though the number of cannabis consumers is greater than opiate and cocaine consumers, the lower prices of cannabis mean that, in economic terms, the cannabis market is much smaller than the opiate or cocaine market.

Cannabis in India

The earliest known reports regarding the use of cannabis in India come

from the Atharva-Veda. In India, there is a tradition of using cannabis in many religious contexts. But although Ayurvedic texts refer to cannabis as a treatment for several maladies, what is often overlooked is that it is categorised as Upavisha Varga (sub poisonous), and its recreational use has been described as toxic.

In India, cannabis, also known as bhang, ganja, charas or hashish, is typically eaten (bhanga golis, thandai, pakoras, lassi, etc.) or smoked (chillum or cigarette), drinking (tea), etc. Its potency depends on the content of its principal active constituent, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), though cannabis contains more than 500 other chemicals.

The International Classification of Diseases and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders designate cannabis as an addictive substance, with recognised dependence disorders. Around 9% of people who try it ultimately become addicts. In India, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, prohibited cultivation or production of cannabis plant by anybody, while

reserving these rights with Central and state governments if they wish to do so, by creating rules later.

Acute Health Effects of Cannabis Use

Marijuana has been consistently shown to be a risk factor for schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. Studies suggested cannabis impairs cognitive development (capabilities of learning), including associative processes; free recall of previously learned items is often impaired when cannabis is used both during learning and recall periods.

Substantial evidence exists suggesting that marijuana is harmful to the respiratory system. It is associated with symptoms of obstructive and inflammatory lung disease, an increased risk of lung cancer, and it is suspected to be associated with reduced pulmonary function in heavy users. Further, its use has been associated with harmful effects to other organ systems, including the reproductive, gastrointestinal, and immunologic systems.

Global Scenario

- ♦ Uruguay became the first country to fully legalize marijuana in 2013 and last year began allowing sales in local pharmacies (though purchase is limited to citizens). Canada became the second and largest country in the world to legalize weed nationwide.
- ♦ In Peru possession of marijuana isn't punished as long as it's for personal, private, immediate use. The Peruvian congress has passed a bill that legalized medical marijuana, allowing the production, sale and importation of cannabis oil.
- ♦ In Spain, citizens aren't penalized for growing cannabis or consuming it privately. Sale is technically illegal, but there more than 800 (link in Spanish) "private"

PREVALENCE OF CHARAS/GANJA USE (IN %)

Sikkim	7.3
Nagaland	4.7
Odisha	4.5
AP	4.2
NCT of Delhi	3.8
Mizoram	3.2
HP	3.2
UP	3.2
Haryana	2.9
Manipur	2.8

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

cannabis clubs where membership requires nothing more than a bit of paperwork.

- ♦ Marijuana is technically illegal in the Netherlands, where authorities will generally turn a blind eye. Selling cannabis is "illegal but not punishable" so officials tolerate it as long as shops follow certain rules, like not advertising or causing a nuisance. Only citizens are allowed to buy marijuana, though Amsterdam's infamous coffeeshops are exempt from that rule.
- ♦ In September, South Africa's constitutional court ruled that weed is legal. People are allowed to use marijuana privately and can also grow the plant for personal use.

Legalize Marijuana in India

Legalising cannabis can have major benefits for all citizens. If carried out correctly, everyone will benefit from less crime and stronger rule of law. However, implementation of stringent narcotic laws in 1986 made the sale, consumption, production and transportation of marijuana illegal in the country. 32 years on, here are some reasons why marijuana should now be legalized in India.

Legalising the drug will especially help protect young people and may even lower their consumption of the drug. It is also a way of raising taxes for the state, instead of fuelling criminal organisations, which currently control the illegal market. These benefits are increasingly recognised by the public. Crucial to seeing these benefits come about, is the way legalising cannabis is done and how the drug is priced once it is made legal.

The increased competition that the legal market would bring would likely substantially increase consumption – not something most policy makers want. So as well as implementing a legal market, there needs to be a mix of policies to control consumption, including sanctions that are enforced against illegal activities. The money that will be generated by selling and taxing legal cannabis should be largely redistributed towards these kinds of initiatives.

Further, legalising cannabis may enable the police to reallocate their efforts towards other crimes, improving police effectiveness against class-A drugs and non-drug crimes.

Why India shouldn't Legalize Marijuana?

Colorado legalised marijuana around five years ago. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

constituted an expert committee to review its harmful effects. It noted that there is substantial evidence that its use may lead to cancer, cardiovascular illness, lung diseases, road accidents, impaired adolescent health, serious drug interaction and reproductive health disorders. It reported robust evidence that legalisation may increase unintentional use by children at home.

Organised crime cases almost tripled in five years. Marijuana-possession-related arrests have halved but not decreased dramatically, as anticipated. Marijuana accounted for 22% of all expulsions and 24% of all law enforcement referrals in Colorado public schools. It is clear from the statistics that marijuana legalisation has failed to achieve its objectives.

India has a history of misuse of even prescription drugs that are otherwise beneficial. Weak opiates (derivatives of opium) are one of the easily available alternatives to cannabis for medical conditions. Codeine-based cough syrups are effective for controlling severe cough, but after reports of rampant misuse, the Narcotics Control Bureau asked the Drug Controller General of India to reduce its availability despite proven effectiveness. In Indian context, when prescription drugs are grossly misused, how can we ensure disciplined use of cannabis? It is obvious that arguments of medicinal or industrial use are simply smokescreens to fool policymakers and swing public support.

Further, India is struggling to control the three addictive substances of tobacco, alcohol and areca nut. As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, 270 million Indians use tobacco and it kills around 1.35 million Indians every year. Nearly 30% of India's adult population is using alcohol, leading to 3.3 million deaths. Legalisation of cannabis is not only going to worsen these alarming statistics, but also serve as a gateway for one of these carcinogens.

Following legalisation in the West, various newer products with marijuana are available in the market and on online portals, without proper prescription. These include marijuana chewing gums, candies, etc, which youngsters can easily take to. This, will lead to popularity of marijuana products among youth.

India's Issue and Concern

There is a global wave of legalisation of cannabis, based on its medicinal properties and commercial utilities. Buoyed by success in the West (Uruguay, some US states, Canada), cannabis supporters are pushing for legalisation in India. In the US, the use of marijuana (a more addictive derivative) for medicinal purposes is legal in a number of states, whereas its use for recreational purpose has also been legalised in some states. Canada has legalised its use for recreational as well as medicinal purposes. Europe recognises the use of marijuana for recreational purposes as a crime, but its use for medical purposes is permitted in many countries.

Commercial entities understand that targeting the young assures them lifelong customers. A new array of cannabis products in the form of ice creams, sweets, and even soft-drinks are becoming available. The West also says that legalising and regulating cannabis will "undermine criminal markets". Congress MP Shashi Tharoor echoed this view last year. Yet, as we have seen in Colorado, the black market has only increased.

In 1961, driven by Western nations, the UN sponsored an international treaty to prohibit the production and supply of drugs including cannabis. India resisted and negotiated exceptions, loopholes and deferrals. It is alleged that the NDPS was a result of an intense international pressure following the UN's Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. It is ironic that

the West is now legalising cannabis and other drugs. Given that some in India are clamouring for the same, the country should carefully consider all the risks, and consider alternatives. One, it could decriminalise cannabis but forbid commercialisation. Two, if India were to liberalise its policy on cannabis, it should ensure that there are enough protections for children, the young, and those with severe mental illnesses, who are most vulnerable to its effects. Finally, treatments for those who become addicted to cannabis should be offered.

The International Drug Control Conventions

There are three main international drug control conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the regional convention named, SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1990.

However, single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 Convention aims to combat drug abuse by coordinated international action. There are two forms of intervention and control that work together. First, it seeks to limit the possession, use, trade in, distribution, import, export, manufacture and production of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. Second, it combats drug trafficking through international cooperation to deter and discourage drug traffickers.

Conclusion

The information presented in the World Drug Report 2018 illustrated the unprecedented magnitude and complexity of the global drug markets. The adverse health consequences caused by drug use remain significant,

drug-related deaths are on the rise. This situation calls for renewed efforts to support the prevention and treatment of drug use and the delivery of services aimed at reducing the adverse health consequences of drug use, in line with targets 3.5 and 3.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The younger generation is living in an era of personal liberty, rising affluence, more prone to addiction and struggling with personal relationships. However, promotion of addiction and sufferings among millions is a heavy price to pay for protection of

individual freedom of a handful. We cannot allow our next generation gets trapped into a vortex of poor performance, indiscipline, addiction, psychosis, isolation, insecurity and bleak future. Introduction of yet another psychoactive drug will wreak havoc on a population still struggling with tobacco, alcohol and pan masala. It is unlikely to solve the drug menace in Punjab, Rajasthan and other states. Predatory marketing of cannabis companies will hit the vulnerable population most, such as youth, poor, insecure, illiterate. Once introduced, it

will establish a big market that would make subsequent tighter regulations impossible.

General Studies Paper- II

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

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3. WORLD ORGAN DONATION DAY 2019 : MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO DONATE

Why in News?

World Organ Donation day is celebrated every year on 13 August. This day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives.

Introduction

Organ donation is a gift of life. Organ donation is saving a donor's organs like heart, liver, kidneys, intestines, lungs, and pancreas, after the donor dies, for the purpose of transplanting them into another person who is in need of an organ. A donor can initiate to donate organs like heart, liver, intestine, kidneys, lungs and pancreas after his or her death. Later these organs can be transplanted into another person who is in urgent requirement. As per the national guidelines, anyone can be an organ donor irrespective of age, caste, religion and community. Organ donation day urges people of all communities to come forth and donate organs to save precious lives.

According to the report, at least more than 5 lakhs of the Indians are dying every year just because of the failure of their major functioning organs anytime. They still want to live

their life as they are not fully satisfy with their life and want to live more. The organ transplantation could play a major role in their beautiful life by increasing their period of living a life more than expectations. The donor of the organs plays a role of God in the life of organ transplanted person. Thus, donating an organ is like gifting life to someone because one organ donor can save up to eight lives.

However, the situation in developed countries is also not encouraging. In United States (US), according to the study, at least 5,000 people die every year, while on the kidney waiting list. US has 93,000 people on a waiting list for a donated kidney and at least 3,500 donated kidneys are discarded in the country annually. Further, over 37 million US citizens suffer from chronic kidney disease. It's the ninth leading cause of death in US.

What is Organ Donation?

Organ donation is the process of surgically transferring a donated organ into a patient with end stage organ failure. The person who gives the organs is called a donor while a person who receives the organ is called a recipient.

Organ donors can be deceased or living. Organ donor generally donate organs like heart, liver, kidneys, intestines, lungs, and pancreas, after the donor dies, for the purpose of transplanting them into another person who is in need of an organ.

As per the National Health Portal, there is no defined age for organ donation but it is based on a strict medical criteria. Anyone can be an organ donor irrespective of age, caste, religion, community etc. In the case of natural death tissues of cornea, heart valves, bone and skin can be donated whereas other vital organs like heart, liver, intestines, kidneys, lungs, and pancreas can only be donated in the case of brain death. After organ failure, vital organs like heart, liver, intestines, kidneys, lungs and pancreas can be transplanted into the patient to help the recipient lead a normal life. If someone younger than the age of 18 wants to donate organ then he or she must have an agreement of parents or guardian.

Current Scenario

- ◆ There is a poor Organ Donation Rate – 0.26 per million in India, compared to some of the better

performing countries such as America's 26, Spain's 35.3, and Croatia's 36.5 per million respectively.

- ◆ The total number of brain deaths due to accidents is nearly 1.5 lakhs annually. Other causes of brain death such as sub-arachnoids'hemorrhage and brain tumors would potentially add more numbers.
- ◆ There is a need of 2 lakh kidneys, 50,000 hearts and 50,000 livers for transplantation every year. Even if 5-10% of all brain deaths are harvested properly for organ donation, technically there would be no requirement for a living person to donate organs.
- ◆ One person dies of kidney failure every 5 minutes. This amount toroughly 290 deaths every day due to kidney failure. These numbers suggest that with adequate systems in place, people succumbing to accident-prone injuries could meet a major portion of the demand.
- ◆ 71.4% of the hospitals, upon receiving an organ, offered the organ to a patient on their own waiting list.
- ◆ 61.5% hospitals have an existing organ sharing network with other hospitals(primary one being with AIIMS) while others have no such facility. However, most of the above hospitals either inform the other hospitals on arandom basis or through some NGOs.

Laws and Rules Governing Organ Transplantation in India

Health is a state subject in India. The problem with this model is that some states implement processes vigorously, while others do not. In the field of deceased organ donation Tamil Nadu has the most evolved program with excellent results. There is some state

driven activity in Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra while in other states it is NGO/individual driven or there is no organ donation at all. The key to organ donation is increasing awareness at all levels. Organs are a national resource and allotment has to be a fair and transparent process.

Brain Death and Deceased Organ Donation and Transplantation

A person is said to be brain dead when there is an irreversible loss of consciousness, absence of brain stem reflexes and no spontaneous respiration. Patients classified as brain dead can have their organs surgically removed for organ donation. A brain death results from a severe irreversible injury to the brain or hemorrhage which causes all the brain activity to stop. All areas of the brain are damaged and no longer function due to which a person cannot sustain his/her own life, but vital body functions may be maintained by an artificial support system.

The artificial support system maintains circulation to vital organs long enough to facilitate organ donation. Making the declaration of brain death mandatory will increase instances of organ donation. It will help facilitate a discussion between the doctor/physicians and the relatives about brain death and organ donations. It would help Transplant Coordinators and personnel from other Departments to intervene and convince the relatives about organ donation.

In this situation, when the heart is still beating artificially, it makes the acceptance of brain death extremely hard, especially since the concept is unknown to many. Lack of clarity makes the already emotional family unwilling to accept death. The common belief that the soul remains as long as the heart beats makes the family skeptical about the intentions of the hospital. They feel that it is either due to the lack of motivation on the part of the hospital to continue with the treatment or the hospitals involvement with an illegal organ racket, which is pushing them to declare brain death.

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

for prevention of commercial dealings in human organs.

The Act was initiated at the request of Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Goa (who therefore adopted it by default) and was subsequently adopted by all states except Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Despite a regulatory framework, cases of commercial dealings in human organs were reported in the media. An amendment to the act was proposed by the states of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal in 2009 to address inadequacies in the efficacy, relevance and impact of the Act. The amendment to the Act was passed by the parliament in 2011, and the rules were notified in 2014. The same is adopted by the proposing states and union territories by default and be adopted by many other states by passing a resolution.

Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994

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

- ◆ **Appropriate Authority (AA):** It inspects and grants registration to hospitals for transplantation enforces required standards for hospitals, conducts regular inspections to examine the quality of transplantations. It may conduct investigations into complaints regarding breach of provisions of the Act, and has the powers of a civil court to summon any person, request documents and issue search warrants.
- ◆ **Advisory Committee:** It consist of experts in the domain who shall advise the appropriate authority.
- ◆ **Authorization Committee (AC):** It regulates living donor transplantation by reviewing each case to ensure that the living donor is not exploited for monetary considerations and to

prevent commercial dealings in transplantation. Proceedings to be video recorded and decisions notified within 24 hours. Appeals against their decision may be made to the state or central government.

- ◆ **Medical Board (Brain Death Committee):** Panel of doctors responsible for brain death certification. In case of non-availability of neurologist or neurosurgeon, any surgeon, physician, anaesthetist or intensivist, nominated by medical administrator in-charge of the hospital may certify brain death.

- ◆ **Swap Transplantation:** When a near relative living donor is medically incompatible with the recipient, the pair is permitted to do a swap transplant with another related unmatched donor/recipient pair.

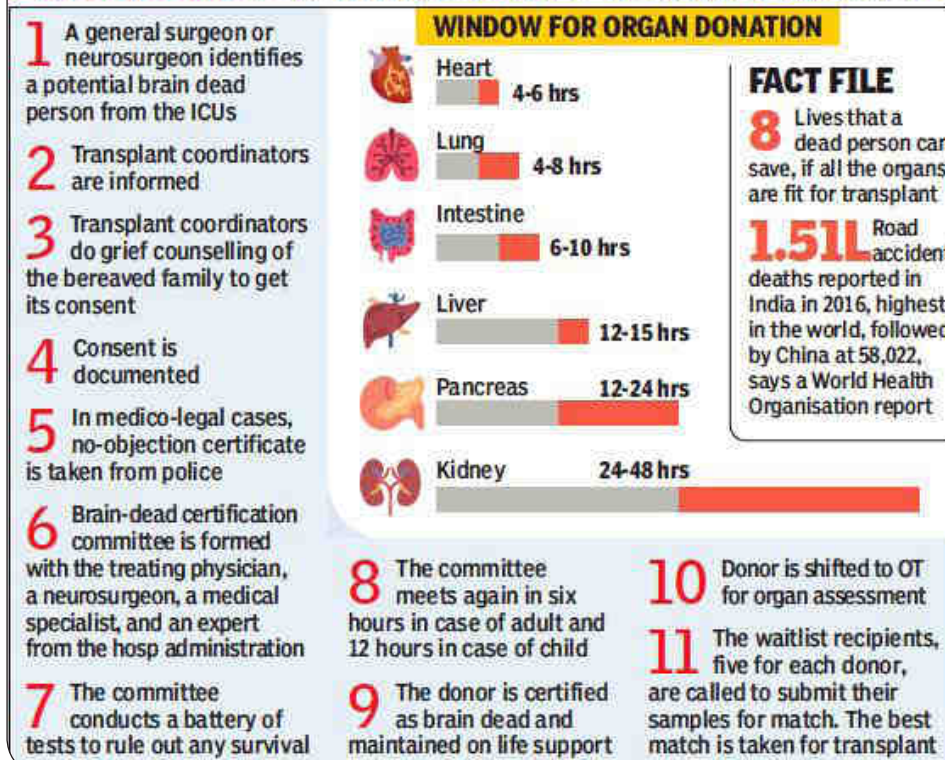
- ◆ **Penalties:** Penalties for removal of organ without authority, making or receiving payment for supplying human organs or contravening any other provisions of the Act have been made very stringent in order to serve as a deterrent for such activities.

Challenges in Organ Transplantation – India

In spite of periodic amendments to the Organ Transplant Act in the recent past, there has not been a significant change or increase in the overall donation numbers or to the establishment of a donation system within the country. Some of the challenges are:

- ◆ In the case of living organ donations (from a living donor to a recipient), if the donor is not related to the patient, the transplant needs to be approved by a state-level committee or hospital committee, including government officials. Naturally these requirements lead to delays in the whole process.

PROCEDURE FOR BRAIN-DEAD ORGAN DONATION



- ◆ In the case of deceased organ donations, few hospitals declare brain deaths and people are not in place to counsel families, both of which lead to a poor conversion rate. Brain death as a form of death is not widely understood or recognized by the public. Also there is hesitation on the part of the medical fraternity to certify brain death. This has to change if the organ donation rates have to be increased.

- ◆ There is acute shortage of infrastructural facilities and skilled personnel.
- ◆ Lack of awareness is also one of the leading reasons for such low organ donation rates in India. There are no structured/focused awareness initiatives or drives to help people understand the what, why or how of organ donation.
- ◆ Religious beliefs also may be a reason why families do not agree to deceased organ donation. The idea of charity and perceptions about donation varies from one community to another.

- ◆ India does not have any centralized system in place to enable/assist donors or medical institutions. There is no centralized list of potential recipients being available to different hospitals so that organs could reach the right people in time. Apart from a few states, there is no sharing protocol in place in the rest of India. This leads to unethical and unhealthy practices. Further, it leads to wastage of organs which is a shame when a family has taken this courageous decision to donate.

Future Strategy and Action Plan

National Health Policy (NHP), 2017, highlighting the need of collaboration between the public and private sectors it specifically states that, tissue and organ transplantations and voluntary donations are areas where private sector provides services- but it needs public interventions and support for getting organ donations.

Others actions which need to be taken are:

- ◆ Large-scale awareness building.
- ◆ Setting up of a National registry and a centrally managed Organ Donor-Recipient Network.
- ◆ Make brain death declaration mandatory.
- ◆ Recognizing the pivotal role of the transplant coordinator in the organ donation/transplant process.
- ◆ Improve infrastructure within public hospitals for transplantation.
- ◆ Non-transplant hospitals need to be involved in organ retrieval.
- ◆ Sensitizing police personnel and forensic experts.
- ◆ Provision of more opportunities for donor pledges.
- ◆ Emulate successful practices from other states.

Way Forward

The gap between the numbers of organs available and the number

of patients joining the waiting list for the transplantation is widening globally. The high demand of organs has led to its commodification, more so in countries where there is a large proportion of the population below the poverty line with weak regulatory authorities. The resulting transplant tourism has caused an outcry from many international bodies.

The huge gap between the demand and supply of donor organ in India is evident of the fact that legislation has failed to achieve its purpose. Legal tools are a necessity in organ procurement to allow transplant surgeons to remove organs from potential sources. Legislations regulating transplants must have provisions to increase donor pool. But the law has not been able to fill the gap between demand and supply of organs. The progressive law to promote organ donation has been

brought on the statute book but in reality and for practical reasons it has not yielded desired results.

It is suggested that we need to switch over to either presumed consent or opting-out system of consent and tap cadaver organ pool from traffic accidents, brain dead patients along with generating awareness amongst masses about organ donation. In India, the potential for deceased donation is huge due to the high number of fatal road traffic accidents and this pool is yet to be tapped.

General Studies Paper- II

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



4. G7 SUMMIT 2019 : AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

The G7 Summit, 2019 was held on 24–26 August 2019 in Biarritz, France. The leaders of industrialized economy, along with the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, gathered at the summit to discuss global policy issues of high relevance on diplomatic agendas.

Introduction

There is still intolerable inequality in today's world – not only in terms of income, but also access to education, healthcare, or even drinking water. And in many countries, the situation for women is even worse. Beyond the individual suffering it causes, inequality makes the status quo unbearable and legitimately fuels many of the social and political protests which are destabilizing certain world regions.

The goal of the G7 is to bring together some of the world's most prosperous democracies to coordinate on the most important issues of the day. Whether on climate change or responding to ongoing US-China trade war or making gender equality a reality, the G7 countries are supposed to lead, crafting policies that can foster global peace and prosperity in ways that uphold democratic values.

Right now, the G7 is not equipped to work towards these goals. The biggest obstacle is the US president, Donald Trump, whose policies are antithetical to the goals of the G7 – he wants America to work alone, to destroy the current global trading system, slash foreign assistance that helps address transnational challenges, ignore human rights, and doesn't believe that climate change is real.

Group of Seven (G7)

G7 stands for the Group of 7. The seven countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union has been involved in G7 work since 1977. Together, the G7 countries represent 40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population. Their political leaders come together annually to discuss important global economic, political, social and security issues. Its first summit was held at Rambouillet, France, in 1975. This year, the 45th G7 summit was held on August, 2019, in Biarritz, France. It focussed on fighting income and gender inequality and protecting biodiversity.

The G7's strength is its foundation of shared values: democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, free markets, and respect for international law. That means the members can discuss all subjects, even when they disagree.

INVITED COUNTRIES AT 2019 G7 SUMMIT, BIARRITZ



MACRON'S AFRICAN OUTREACH		COUNTRIES THAT 'STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY'	
	EGYPT		INDIA
	RWANDA		AUSTRALIA
	BURKINA FASO		CHILE
	SENEGAL		SPAIN
	SOUTH AFRICA		

SOURCE: FRENCH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, THE ELYSEE

A Renewed Format for the G7

As the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, stressed in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2018, "the time when a club of rich countries could alone define the world's balances is long gone."

The French G7 Presidency is therefore the opportunity, in 2019, to change the group format. Throughout the year, several French ministers have therefore organized working meetings with their G7 counterparts, and invited partner countries including Egypt, Mali and Mexico to take part.

The President invited the following to the Biarritz G7 Summit:

- ◆ Four partner countries, involved in protecting and promoting democratic freedoms and with a major regional influence: Australia, Chile, India and South Africa;
- ◆ Five African partners to create a partnership on an equal footing with this continent of the future: Burkina Faso, Senegal, Rwanda and South Africa, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki;

- ◆ Key representatives of civil society committed to the French G7 Presidency.

Big Issues at 2019 G7 Summit

The summit was more likely to once again highlighted transatlantic rifts over trade, Iran and climate change. G7 Summit focus on easing tensions between the U.S. and Iran that have been escalating since Trump pulled the country out of the Iran nuclear deal last year and reinstated economic sanctions. The fires raging in the Amazon also appear to be at the top of G7 agenda.

The 2019 G7 Summit, presided over by France, focussed on fighting inequality. France has identified the following five objectives that were discussed during the summit:

- ◆ Fighting inequality of opportunity, promoting in particular gender equality, access to education and high quality health services;
- ◆ Reducing environmental inequality by protecting our planet through climate finance and a fair ecological transition, preserving biodiversity and the oceans;
- ◆ Strengthening the social dimension of globalization through more

fair and equitable trade, tax and development policies;

- ◆ Taking action for peace against security threats and terrorism which weaken the foundations of our societies; and
- ◆ Tapping into the opportunities created by digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI).

What is the Link between the G7 and the G20?

Their names and functioning are similar. Since the 2008 financial crisis, the G20 has been an annual meeting of 20 Heads of State and Government: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the European Union.

As opposed to the G7, which discusses a broad range of issues, deliberations at the G20 are confined to those concerning the global economy and financial markets.

The G7 in many ways has been overtaken by the G20, which includes many more of the world's top economies that make up the global high table.

G7 Leaders' on Global Issues

The G7 leaders wish to underline their great unity and the positive spirit of the debates. The G7 Summit has

successfully produced agreements by the Heads of State and Government themselves on several points summarized below:

- ◆ **New Rules for World Trade:** The G7 is committed to open and fair world trade and to the stability of the global economy. The G7 requests that the Finance Ministers closely monitor the state of the global economy.

Therefore, the G7 wishes to overhaul the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to improve effectiveness with regard to intellectual property protection, to settle disputes more swiftly and to eliminate unfair trade practices.

The G7 commits to reaching in 2020 an agreement to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

- ◆ **Iran:** G7 leaders fully share two objectives: to ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons and to foster peace and stability in the region.
- ◆ **Ukraine:** France and Germany will organize a Normandy format summit in the coming weeks to achieve tangible results.
- ◆ **Libya:** G7 leaders support a truce in Libya that will lead to a long-term ceasefire. They believe

that only a political solution can ensure Libya's stability. They call for a well-prepared international conference to bring together all the stakeholders and regional actors relevant to this conflict. In this regard they support the work of the United Nations and the African Union to set up an inter-Libyan conference.

- ◆ **Hong Kong:** The semi-autonomous region has witnessed 12 consecutive weeks of protests, which began after the pro-Beijing administration of Hong Kong announced a controversial extradition bill that would have allowed authorities to send criminal suspects to mainland China for prosecution. The G7 reaffirms the existence and importance of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 on Hong Kong and calls for violence to be avoided.

- ◆ **Amazon Fire:** Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US — agreed to provide \$20 million (€17.9 million) in emergency funding to fight the Amazon fires.

India at the G7

This year, the format of G7 has changed by the French President to invite leaders of four countries as observer state at Summit level meeting. India's presence at the G7 as an observer state is an acknowledgement of another dimension of this new reality. There is a growing realization that revamping the post-war order for the twenty-first century requires new torchbearers, especially from Asia and Africa. In this context, there are three salient observations about India's diplomacy at the G7.

First, while India has traditionally found the European Union a difficult jurisdiction to navigate diplomatically, a better relationship between the two is emerging as a policy priority. Over the

past year, Indian officials have visited the region to strengthen strategic ties. This is a new coalition in the making and deserves more attention.

Second, India's ability to safeguard its core sovereign concerns even as it deepens its partnership with the West is growing. Issues such as trade, Kashmir and India's relations with Russia and Iran were all discussed with G7 members. A decade ago, it was more likely that the G7 would have censured India's policies. But this year G7 leaders are on common page with regards to Kashmir issue i.e. it is internal matter of India and hence, is a sovereign issue.

Third, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in two sessions at the Summit, on climate change and digitization, signaling India's growing willingness to lead on issues that are points of contention for the transatlantic actors.

Conclusion

Today we stand at a crossroads in terms of the future of the global economy and our planet. But, what is concerning is that G7 leaders seem intent on each forging their own path on major global challenges. The collective political leadership needed to deal with a range of systemic risks — from Brexit to the climate emergency — appears dangerously absent at Biarritz Summit. Despite good intentions of the French Presidency, this year's outcome will have done little to bolster confidence in global governance among various communities especially within the business community.

General Studies Paper- II

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

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5. CHINA'S XINJIANG CONFLICT : AN INTRODUCTION

Why in News?

China has set up a new counter-terror special operations unit, 'Mountain Eagle Commando', in its restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang province where a large number of security forces are conducting operations against the separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

Introduction

Xinjiang is an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China. It is the largest Chinese administrative division and spans over 1.6 million km², bordering countries such as Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The name "Xinjiang", which literally means "New Frontier" or "New Border", was given during the Qing Dynasty. It is home to a number of different ethnic groups including the Uyghur, Han, Kazakh, Hui, Kyrgyz and Mongol.

Among these ethnic groups, the Hans and the Uyghurs (Turkish and Muslim population) are the two major ethnic groups. Xinjiang is home to more than 8 million people and much of the tension in the region is sourced in the claims of some Uyghur separatist groups for greater political and religious autonomy and also in resentment at the growing presence of Han Chinese domination— China's largest ethnic group —that they claim limits their economic opportunities. For a millennium Xinjiang's large Muslim and Turkic population has viewed itself as religiously and ethnically distinct from the Han Chinese society. The Uyghurs themselves comprise just under half of Xinjiang's population, but with the addition of Kazaks and Kyrgyz the number of Turkic Muslims rises to over half of the total. The Uyghurs have not,

until the past few generations, shared a strong sense of common destiny. Increasingly, however, they have come to adopt a consolidated identity as "Uyghurs." These Uyghurs today feel that Chinese policy has ignored them or, worse, consciously worked against them and feel deeply threatened.

Conflict with China

Xinjiang has long had a rebellious and autonomous streak, with the indigenous ethnic Uyghurs clashing with the authorities. There was a spike in demonstrations and demands for independence in the early 1990s as the collapse of the Soviet Union gave birth to new nations, but these were rapidly crushed. Besides ethnicity and cultural dissonance, tensions are seen as rooted also in economic factors — as China's development has lifted cities like Kashgar and Urumqi, young, qualified Han Chinese from Eastern regions have come to Xinjiang, taking the most lucrative jobs and triggering resentment among the indigenous population. Uyghurs allege the Chinese state has been repressive, clamping down on mosques and religious schools — in 2014, some government departments prohibited fasting during the month of Ramzan.

Uyghurs think that this unequal division of wealth favours Han Chinese at their expense. Those involved with the development of the province's wealth are mainly Han Chinese, rather than Uyghurs, and the profits go mainly to Beijing. That part of the province's wealth that does come back to Urumchi goes to support many projects that further threaten the homelands and environments where Xinjiang's indigenous peoples have lived through the centuries.

The growing discontent amongst this section of the province regarding the 'skewed' economic growth as viewed by them, and also the harmful implications this can potentially have on their existence as a distinct ethnic group is what the Xinjiang problem is all about.

China's Response

China has often blamed the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) or people inspired by ETIM for violent incidents both in Xinjiang and beyond the region's borders. ETIM is said to want to establish an independent East Turkestan in China. The US State Department in 2006 said ETIM is "the most militant of the ethnic Uyghur separatist groups". The scope of ETIM's activities remains unclear with some questioning the group's capacity to organise serious acts of extremism. However, the ETIM denies carrying out any terrorist attacks.

The Chinese government has reportedly detained more than a million Muslims in reeducation camps. Most of the people who have been arbitrarily detained are Uyghur, a predominantly Turkic-speaking ethnic group primarily from China's northwestern region of Xinjiang. Experts estimate that Xinjiang reeducation efforts started in 2014 and were drastically expanded in 2017. Reuters journalists, observing satellite imagery, found that thirty-nine of the camps almost tripled in size between April 2017 and August 2018; they cover a total area roughly the size of 140 soccer fields.

Information on what actually happens in the camps is limited, but many detainees who have since fled China describe harsh conditions. Detainees are forced to pledge loyalty to the Communist Party of China (CCP)

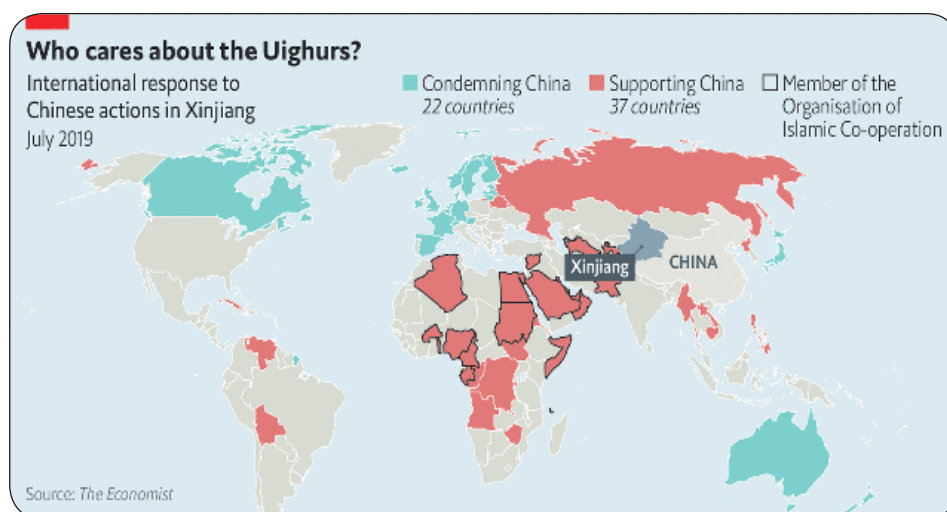
and renounce Islam, they say, as well as sing praises for communism and learn Mandarin. Some reported prison-like conditions, with cameras and microphones monitoring their every move and utterance. Others said they were tortured and subjected to sleep deprivation during interrogations. Some contemplated suicide or witnessed others kill themselves.

However, initially Chinese government officials denied their existence. Then, starting in October 2018, officials started calling them “vocational education and training programs.” In March 2019, their official name became “vocational training centers,” and Xinjiang’s governor, Shohrat Zakir, described them as “boarding schools” that provide job skills to “trainees,” who are voluntarily admitted and allowed to leave the camps. But human rights organizations say detainees are prevented from exiting as they please. Chinese officials maintain that the camps have two purposes: to teach Mandarin, Chinese laws, and vocational skills and to prevent citizens from becoming influenced by extremist ideas, to “nip terrorist activities in the bud. Pointing out that Xinjiang has not experienced a terrorist attack since December 2016, officials claim the camps have prevented violence.

Recently released China's white paper titled "Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang" also an attempt to justify its ongoing treatment of China's Uyghur Muslim minority. It said that terrorism and extremism are the common enemies of humanity and the fight against terrorism and extremism is the shared responsibility of the international community.

Global Response

Much of the world has condemned China's detention of Uighurs in Xinjiang. The UN human rights chief and other UN



officials have demanded access to the camps. The European Union has called on China to respect religious freedom and change its policies in Xinjiang. And human rights organizations have urged China to immediately shut down the camps and answer questions about disappeared Uighurs. But Chinese officials maintain that what they call vocational training centers do not infringe on Uighurs' human rights. They have refused to share information about the detention centers, however, and prevent journalists and foreign investigators from examining them.

The US government hosted a meeting alongside the UN Human Rights Council in March 2019, urging China to stop detaining Muslims. However, members of Congress and activists have criticized the US government for inaction.

However, many Muslim nations, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Indonesia, have ignored the human rights abuses. They are prioritizing their economic ties and strategic relationships with China. Turkey became the only Muslim-majority country to voice concern when its foreign minister called on China to ensure “the full protection of the cultural identities of the Uyghurs and other Muslims” during a UN Human Rights Council session in early 2019.

Implications of the Crisis

In the Central Asian region, China's activities will only help the recruitment efforts of a variety of extremist groups including the ETIM and Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), who both seek an independent Uyghur homeland, and groups like ISIS, who have a more global focus. Stories of torture-like conditions and arbitrary arrest have provided an excellent narrative of oppression for the Islamic state of Khorosan Province (in Iran), who has called for a jihad against China.

Uninhibited Chinese repression in Xinjiang thus threatens to destabilise neighbouring countries while creating significant blowback within China.

The international community's mute response will only raise the temptation for leaders considering implementing equally repressive measures on their own minority populations. Whilst it is true that almost no countries have the economic clout that China does, some countries may chose to ally with Beijing so as to prevent punitive action – a tactic adopted to some extent by the Tatmadaw in Myanmar and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines.

There is every indication that China is using Xinjiang as a laboratory as it seeks to become a world leader in the technologies of 21st century authoritarianism. Beijing has taken

advantage of the Uyghurs' non-Han features to perfect their mass surveillance technology, which is being further enhanced by insights provided by big data. China fully intends to export this technology, and sales are in the pipeline or have already been made to countries ranging from Malaysia to Venezuela.

India's Stand

China has in the past, needled India on the Jammu and Kashmir issue, but India could respond in equal measure by raising the persecution of Uyghurs at the diplomatic level. But, India has avoided antagonizing Beijing on this issue on several occasions like Doklam crisis in 2017. Despite this, recently China raised the issue of abrogation of

Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir by the government of India in the United Nations. China has expressed its serious concern concerning the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and violation of human rights.

In the past, the champions of human rights and civil liberties in India have raised an empathetic cry in favour of the Rohingyas, and organised demonstrations in favour of the Palestinians and on the issue of shifting the US Embassy in Jerusalem. So, India could question China on human rights violation in Xinjiang and Tibet on international organisations.

Way Forward

China is setting a dangerous precedent in Xinjiang. It is imperative for the

global Muslim community and human rights defenders to treat the Palestinians, Rohingyas and Uyghurs on an equal pedestal and impose pressure on Beijing to stop its evil campaign in Xinjiang. Therefore, in order to eliminate the scourge of violence and terrorism in Xinjiang, China needs to complement its efforts to develop the region economically with the political and social empowerment of Uyghurs and other indigenous ethnic groups in the territory.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: India and its neighborhood-relations.

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6. INDIA'S 'NO FIRST USE' POLICY : TIME TO RETHINK?

Why in News?

Recently, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the future of India's 'No First Use' (NFU) policy on nuclear weapons depend on "circumstances". Mr. Singh's statement has raised apprehensions on the likely revision of India's NFU policy and nuclear doctrine.

Introduction

Ever since the release of India's nuclear doctrine in 2003, there have been occasional appeals for its review. Such appeals in the past were limited and went largely unnoticed without generating any meaningful discussion. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) 2014 election manifesto promised to "update and review" country's decade-old nuclear weapons' doctrine has triggered a serious debate.

In 1998, just after its nuclear tests, India bowed to United States

(U.S.) pressure and released a draft nuclear doctrine that ruled out first use and endorsed "credible minimum deterrence" while noting that the latter was a dynamic concept related to the strategic environment, technological imperatives and the needs of national security. That elasticity was exploited in the next iteration of the nuclear doctrine, a terse official statement issued in 2003. By that year, India's nuclear doctrine stood on two connected pillars: India would not use nuclear weapons first, but if its opponents did so, then India's response would be overwhelming. However, successive governments directly or indirectly reaffirmed their commitment to NFU, the doctrine has been questioned at various times by strategic experts in domestic policy debates, and the idea that India should revisit this position has been put forward at various high-level fora.

Evolution of India's Nuclear Doctrine

India's nuclear doctrine was first enunciated following a Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting in January 2003 – over four and a half years after the May 1998 tests. It contained few surprises being largely built around the pronouncements made by then Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee following the tests to the effect that India's nuclear weapons were meant only for self defence, that India was not interested in arms racing and encapsulating concepts such as "no first use" of nuclear weapons and their "non use" against non nuclear weapon states. Apart from these pronouncements, several entities, notably the Armed Forces, the National Security Council Secretariat and the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), made detailed contributions to the government, on

the nuclear doctrine, through 1999 and 2000, which were considered by it in firming up its views on the subject.

Main Features of India's Nuclear Doctrine

The main features of India's nuclear doctrine were summarized as follows:

- Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent;
- A "No First Use" posture; nuclear weapons to be used only "in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere";
- Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be "massive" and designed to inflict "unacceptable damage".
- Nuclear retaliatory attacks to be authorized only by civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.
- Non use of nuclear weapons against non nuclear weapon states.
- India to retain option of retaliating with nuclear weapons in the event of a major attack against it with biological or chemical weapons;
- Continuance of strict controls on export of nuclear and missile related materials and technologies, participation in Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) negotiations, continued moratorium on testing;
- Continued commitment to goal of nuclear weapon free world, through global, verifiable and non discriminatory disarmament.

Reasons for Call to Revisit the Nuclear Doctrine

The major factor behind the questioning of the nuclear doctrine stems from concerns about NFU. Dissatisfaction with our NFU posture is not new. Ab initio, in discussions on this in the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) a case against it was made out on the grounds that such

an approach unnecessarily kept us on the back foot and on the defensive and made it axiomatic that we would have to face the consequences of a first strike before being able to respond. Moreover, it prevented us from keeping a potential adversary off balance.

Currently, there are various technological and financial constraints for India in erecting an effective first strike capability against Pakistan or China. A credible FU nuclear strike capability, before anything, would require significant investments in Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) and Target Acquisition (TA) capabilities. The essence of FU strike capability is pre-emption and accuracy, and would require an unfailing intelligence and shorter time-gap in the readiness sequence: passing of intelligence, civil-military decision-making, mating weapons with warheads, leading to final pre-empting strike on the enemy.

What is new about the increased opposition to the NFU posture is that it arises in part from increasing evidence of Pakistan's proclivity to use tactical nuclear weapons against us, and in part from scepticism about our deterrent capability and about our willingness to respond to a tactical strike with a "massive" retaliatory attack. Advocates of a change in our NFU policy would

like our nuclear doctrine mimic those of most of the established Nuclear Weapon States which contemplate the use of nuclear weapons even in sub nuclear conflicts.

Circumstances against Revisiting Our Nuclear Doctrine

Revoking our NFU policy will not only destroy the power balance of the region but will also lead to a destructive nuclear war and armed race in the region as predicted by many. It will also hamper India's international and regional image of a non- aggressor as there will be a sense of apprehension among the friendly neighbors too. In terms of China's reaction, it will definitely use the opportunity to denigrate India's status as a responsible nuclear power. So, India's claim to be a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group or for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council will come under strain as a result of that.

There are many factors which militate against revisiting our nuclear doctrine and sacrificing the restraint it encapsulates by, for instance abandoning NFU, some of which are enumerated below:

- All the gains enjoyed by us in the international community by the restraint of our nuclear posture would be frittered away. These do not merely constitute intangibles

NUCLEAR REACTION

The Indian position	The Pakistani doctrine	The new nuclear option
NEW DELHI has held that it will not be the first to initiate a nuclear strike, but will retaliate should deterrence fail.	ISLAMABAD does not espouse a no-first use policy. It's doctrine promises 'massive retaliation' to any aggression.	ADDING an element of flexibility to unconditional no first use posture can help underpin deterrence, according to analysts.

Pokhran witnessed Atalji's firm resolve to make India a nuclear power and yet remain committed to the doctrine of 'no first use'. India has adhered to this. What happens in future depends on the circumstances.

RAJNATH SINGH, Defence minister



but entailed the termination of sanctions, support for our entry into the multilateral nuclear export control regimes as well as our civil nuclear cooperation agreements.

2. It would enormously complicate and increase the expenditure incurred by us in regard to our command and control mechanisms which would have to be reconfigured to engage in calibrated nuclear war fighting.
3. It would weaken the possibility of our engaging in conventional warfare insulated from the nuclear overhang.
4. It would encourage the use of tactical nuclear weapons against us under the illusion of no massive response.
5. It would facilitate the painting of South Asia as a nuclear flashpoint and thereby encourage foreign meddling.

Nuclear Doctrine – An Evaluation

NFU policy of India has helped to promote peace in the region in the last

decade but it has outlived its expected time period. This has been proved in the two surgical strikes carried out by India in Pakistan after Uri attack and Pulwama attack where the nuclear bluff of Pakistan has been busted successfully. Further, the situation can be in the favour of India if India tries to review its NFU policy as Pakistan will fear India more and will refrain from terrorist and secessionist activities in India.

Reconsidering NFU policy will affect India's relationship with neighbours like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan as they will start fearing India. Here they can also go closer to China as it can be an alternative protector of them due to its commitment to NFU policy till today. This issue can be addressed by the suggestions of the former National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon who signaled a significant shift from 'No first use' to 'no first use against non-nuclear weapon states'. This new doctrine, as per Menon, would reflect India's strategic significance, with its emphasis on minimal deterrence.

Way Forward

All doctrines need periodic reviews and India's case is no exception. Given how rapidly India's strategic environment is evolving, it is imperative to think clearly about all matters strategic. But if Indian policymakers do indeed feel the need to review the nation's nuclear doctrine, they should be cognizant of the costs involved in so doing. A sound policy debate can only ensue if the costs and benefits of a purported policy shift are discussed and debated widely.

There should be a new nuclear doctrine of India with revised NFU policy to address the strategic needs of the country in a hostile neighborhood. This will offer India an edge over Pakistan and will also help India retain its friendly neighbours for a peaceful, balanced South Asia region.

General Studies Paper- III

Topic: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.



7. SLOWDOWN IN TEXTILE SECTOR : REASONS AND OUTCOMES

Why in News?

The textile industry, which is the second-largest employer in the country, is reeling under a severe crisis similar to the one witnessed in the automobile sector across India. In the past one year alone, 300 spinning and open-end mills in Tamil Nadu have shut down for various reasons and close to 1.20 lakh workers have lost jobs due to the crisis in the last one year.

Introduction

Textiles and apparel industry plays a pivotal role in Indian economy through its significant contribution to country's

industrial output, employment generation and exports earnings. The textile industry in India is the biggest employer after the agriculture industry. The industry accounts for around 10% in manufacturing production, 2% in gross domestic product (GDP) and 13% in total exports of the country. Employing over 45 million people directly and 60 million people indirectly the industry is one of the largest source of employment generation in the country. Further, India currently commands a share of about 4.5% in the world exports of textiles.

The Indian textile industry is extremely varied, with the hand-spun and hand-woven textiles at one end, while the capital intensive sophisticated mills sector at the other end of the spectrum. The decentralised power looms/ hosiery and knitting sector form the largest component of the textiles sector. The close linkage of the textile industry to agriculture (for raw materials such as cotton) and the ancient culture and traditions of the country in terms of designs make the Indian textile sector unique. The presence of entire value chain for textile production beginning from

production of natural fibre to the production of yarn, fabric and apparel within the country gives it an edge over the countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh etc. The Indian textile industry has the capacity to produce a wide variety of products suitable to different market segments, both within India and across the world.

Present Crisis

According to the Northern India Textile Mills Association (NITMA) the Indian textile industry, is staring at huge job loss, not seen in last 10 years, which has forced spinning companies to cut down their production and shut down their mills, resulting in huge job losses.

According to the industry body, excess spinning capacity in the country and poor demand for yarn from overseas markets has led to accumulation of yarn stocks and liquidity crisis in the industry. The industry body claimed that India's cotton-spinning industry has been struggling with profitability over the years due to a sharp decline in yarn exports, cheaper import, state and central level taxes on export and high interest rates. Adding to the woes, the recent spurt in cotton prices has resulted in higher input costs for the spinning sector in the country leading to financial stress.

Northern India Textile Mills' Association

Northern India Textile Mills' Association (NITMA) is an association of textile mills located in Northern India and was established in the year 1958. It is registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860 and is a non-profit body solely engaged in helping promote the interests of Indian textile industry not only in the Northern part as the name suggests but also in Central and Western states of the country.

Effects on India's Spinning Sector

- ◆ Resulted in closure of approximately one third of spinning capacity across India.
- ◆ Currently running mills are incurring huge cash losses.
- ◆ Mills are not in a position to buy and consume the Indian cotton.
- ◆ Upcoming Cotton Crop of about 40 mn. bales valued at Rs. 80,000 cr. wouldn't find any buyer in India and abroad as India still has not moved to globally adopted purely market driven agri-commodity markets with government directly supporting farmers at minimum support price (MSP) level.

Thus, the Indian textile industry employing over 100 million people directly and indirectly needs immediate attention of government of India to prevent job losses and avoid the spinning industry from becoming Non Performing Assets (NPA).

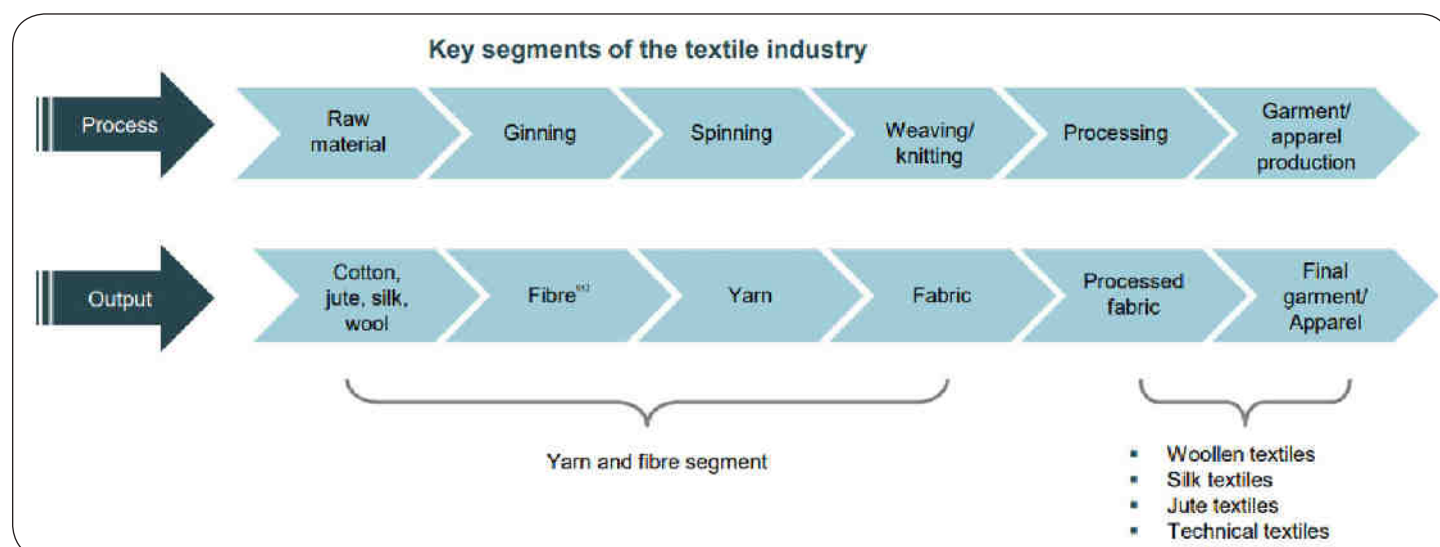
NITMA Appeal to Government

- ◆ Scheme for Rebate of State & Central Taxes & levies (RoSCTL) to be extended to Cotton and Blended yarns.
- ◆ Interest subvention on yarn exports.
- ◆ The government, should pay the Difference of MSP and market price of Seed Cotton (Kapas) to farmers by Direct Bank Transfer (DBT). The Competition Commission of India (CCI) and NAFED buying Seed Cotton (Kapas) at MSP results in distortion of market price of Ginned Cotton and makes raw material expensive than global prices. Hence, this practice be replaced with DBT to Farmers.
- ◆ Spinning industry be allowed with immediate effect, 2 years of moratorium in term loan installments.

Issues and Challenges in Textile Sector

Presently, the industry due to international and domestic challenges is losing its competitiveness and global presence. Some of the issues that are holding the Indian textile sector back:

- ◆ **Higher Taxes:** The industry body alleged that a multi-stage tax is levied on every value addition. State



and central taxes, plus levies are resulting in Indian yarn becoming non-competitive in global markets.

- ◆ **High Cost of Raw Materials:** Compared to its global competitors, Indian spinning mills have to spend more on raw materials, which directly affects its cost of production and hence the country's competitiveness in the global market. The cost of raw materials is much higher as compared to global prices, which results in loss of Rs 20-25 per kg to Indian mills.
- ◆ **Cheaper Import:** The cotton-spinning industry has been hit by cheaper import of garments and yarn from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. This is because of lower cost of their raw materials as compared to India.
- ◆ **Competition:** Rising competition from neighboring countries such as China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Turkey in areas such as cotton fabric, apparels, MMF and carpets.
- ◆ **Low Demand:** Sluggish demand in major export destinations, EU and USA as a result of global economic crisis.
- ◆ **Domestic Challenges:** Domestic challenges such as lack of technology up-gradation, inefficient infrastructure and fragmented industry structure among others.
- ◆ Duties and taxes are not being refunded in time.

Other Challenges

The Indian textile industry is highly fragmented and is being dominated by the unorganized sector and small and medium industries. The changing government policies at the state and Central levels are posing major challenges to the textile industry. The tax structure GST (Goods and Service Tax) makes the garments expensive. Another important threat is raising interest rates and labor wages and

workers' salaries. There is higher level of attrition in the garment industry. Although Central government is wooing the foreign investors the investment is coming in the textile industry. In India places such as Bangalore, Mumbai, New Delhi and Tirupur are the hubs of textile garment industries. These manufacturers have ability to produce the entire range of woven wear and knitwear at low cost with reasonably good quality within the short notices. The Indian textile industry has its own limitations such as accesses to latest technology and failures to meet global standards in the highly competitive export market. There is fierce competition from China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the low price garment market. In the global market tariff and non-tariff barriers coupled with quota is posing major challenge to the Indian textile Industry. The environmental and social issues like child labor and personal safety norms are also some of the challenges for the textile industry in India.

Global Challenges

Sector specialists attribute the slump in demand to the trade standoff between the US and China, and the free-trade agreement between China and Pakistan. Betting big on the demand from Chinese markets, major industrial expansion activities were carried out in the recent past. However, over the last decade, China has switched to buying from Bangladesh and Vietnam, cutting off the supply from India almost fully, pushing the sector here into a state of chaos. Indian exporters are unable to compete with them.

Also, countries like Vietnam, Turkey and Peru have increased the production capacity which also gives us stiff competition. Indian textile industry doesn't get preferential treatment or access anymore due to the import duty that they (customers) need to pay if they import from India.

Because countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh get free access to both US and UK markets.

Recent Reforms in Textile Sector

The recent reforms are undertaken by the present government for the development of the textile sector, with a focus on boosting employment generation, investment, production and export promotion. Furthermore, the government is aimed at strengthening textile production and encouraging the industry to cater to the domestic and international market efficiently. Some of the initiatives are discussed below:

1. **Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS):** It has infused investment of more than USD 41.33 billion in the industry. Support has been provided for modernisation and upgradation by providing credit at reduced rates and capital subsidies.
2. **Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP):** It provides funding for infrastructure, buildings for common facilities like design & training centre, warehouse, factories and plant & machinery, as of date 74 textiles parks have been approved and are at various stages of implementation with 18 parks operational, 32 under implementation. The investment of USD 692 million is sanctioned by the government which will create 66,000 jobs.
3. **Integrated Processing Development Scheme (IPDS):** It is being implemented to make Indian textiles more competitive and environment-friendly.
4. **Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS):** It plans to bridge the skill gap by training 1.5 million people for which USD 300 million has been allocated by the government.

5. **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for textile industry (ATUFS):** It designed to provide incentives to entrepreneurs and business owners for upgrading technologies. ATUFS facilities are expected to receive an investment of USD 15 billion and create 3 million jobs in the country.
6. **Technology Mission for Technical Textiles (TMTT):** It has two mini missions to create a healthy ecosystem for the production of technical textiles in India. The 'Mini Mission I' of the plan aims at standardisation, creating common testing facilities and several resource centres with IT infrastructure. Under 'Mini Mission II', support will be provided to create domestic and export markets for the technical textiles.
7. **Special package for Textile and Apparel Sector:** It is announced

to boost exports, labour friendly policies, scaling up the production and to generate over 10 million jobs in the textile industry over the period of next three years.

8. **Implications of Goods and Services Tax (GST):** The implications of GST for Indian textiles sector will result in 'Fibre-neutrality effect' on the Indian textile sector that means all man-made and natural fibres will be treated equally from the tax point of view.

Road Ahead

The future for the Indian textile industry looks promising, buoyed by both strong domestic consumption as well as export demand. With consumerism and disposable income on the rise, the retail sector has experienced a rapid growth in the last decade with the entry of several international players

like Marks & Spencer, Guess and Next into the Indian market.

The Indian textile and clothing exports have the resilience and strength to face challenges and grow in its own way. The policy measures adopted by Indian Government facilitate establishing Indian exports within the global market. However, India must pursue the path of rationalised inclusive trade policy to grow in the export market as well as retain a huge coveted domestic market, which is already the target of international retail chains.

General Studies Paper- III

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

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SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

India's Tourism Sector : Huge Scope of Development

Q 1. The growing influence of the tourism sector as an economic powerhouse and its potential as a tool for development are irrefutable. Critically discuss it in the context of India's tourism sector.

Hints:

- ◆ Tourism is a major engine of economic growth in most parts of the world. Several countries have transformed their economies using the tourism potential the fullest.
- ◆ The growing influence of the tourism sector as an economic powerhouse and its potential as a tool for development are irrefutable. Not only does the tourism sector spearhead growth, it also improves the quality of people's lives with its capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind. It supports environmental protection, champions diverse cultural heritage and strengthens peace in the world.
- ◆ Tourism in India has emerged as an instrument of income and employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development. It contributes 6.23% to the national GDP and 9.3% of the total employment in India. More than 20 million people are now working in the India's tourism industry.
- ◆ Tourism in India, though growing consistently, is yet to realize its full potential due to several challenges that plagued the sector. Alleviation of these challenges will be essential for the industry to realize its full potential.

Legalising Cannabis : Good or Bad for India?

Q 2. There is a growing movement in the West to legalise cannabis, with rumblings of the same in India. Discuss why India should not legalise cannabis.

Hints:

- ◆ India has a history of misuse of even prescription drugs that are otherwise beneficial. In Indian context, when prescription drugs are grossly misused, how can we

ensure disciplined use of cannabis? It is obvious that arguments of medicinal or industrial use are simply smokescreens to fool policymakers and swing public support.

- ◆ Further, India is struggling to control the three addictive substances of tobacco, alcohol and areca nut. As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, 270 million Indians use tobacco and it kills around 1.35 million Indians every year. Legalisation of cannabis is not only going to worsen these alarming statistics, but also serve as a gateway for one of these carcinogens.
- ◆ Following legalisation in the West, various newer products with marijuana are available in the market and on online portals, without proper prescription. These include marijuana chewing gums, candies, etc, which youngsters can easily take to. This, will lead to popularity of marijuana products among youth.
- ◆ The younger generation is living in an era of personal liberty, rising affluence, more prone to addiction and struggling with personal relationships. However, promotion of addiction and sufferings among millions is a heavy price to pay for protection of individual freedom of a handful.
- ◆ There is a growing movement in the West to legalise cannabis, with rumblings of the same in India. However, India should carefully weigh the risks and benefits of cannabis before blindly following suit with the West.

World Organ Donation Day 2019 : Motivate People to Donate

Q 3. What do you understand by 'brain death'? Discuss the main challenges in organ donation in India.

Hints:

- ◆ A person is said to be brain dead when there is an irreversible loss of consciousness, absence of brain stem reflexes and no spontaneous respiration. Patients classified as brain dead can have their organs surgically removed for organ donation.
- ◆ In the case of living organ donations (from a living donor to a recipient), if the donor is not related to

the patient, the transplant needs to be approved by a state-level committee or hospital committee, including government officials. Naturally these requirements lead to delays in the whole process.

- ◆ In the case of deceased organ donations, few hospitals declare brain deaths and people are not in place to counsel families, both of which lead to a poor conversion rate. Brain death as a form of death is not widely understood or recognized by the public. Also there is hesitation on the part of the medical fraternity to certify brain death. This has to change if the organ donation rates have to be increased. Lack of awareness is also one of the leading reasons for such low organ donation rates in India. There are no structured/focused awareness initiatives or drives to help people understand the what, why or how of organ donation.
- ◆ Religious beliefs also may be a reason why families do not agree to deceased organ donation. The idea of charity and perceptions about donation varies from one community to another.
- ◆ India does not have any centralized system in place to enable/assist donors or medical institutions. There is no centralized list of potential recipients being available to different hospitals so that organs could reach the right people in time.

G7 Summit 2019 : An Overview

Q 4. India's presence at the G7 as an observer state is an acknowledgement of another dimension of this new reality. Discuss.

Hints:

- ◆ The G7 Summit, 2019 was held on 24–26 August 2019 in Biarritz, France. The leaders of industrialized economy, along with the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, gathered at the summit to discuss global policy issues of high relevance on diplomatic agendas.
- ◆ This year, the format of G7 has changed by the French President to invite leaders of four countries as observer state at Summit level meeting. India's presence at the G7 as an observer state is an acknowledgement of another dimension of this new reality. There is a growing realization that revamping the post-war order for the twenty-first century requires new torchbearers, especially from Asia and Africa.
- ◆ India's ability to safeguard its core sovereign concerns even as it deepens its partnership with the West is growing. Issues such as trade, Kashmir and India's

relations with Russia and Iran were all discussed with G7 members. A decade ago, it was more likely that the G7 would have censured India's policies. But this year G7 leaders are on common page with regards to Kashmir issue i.e. it is internal matter of India and hence, is a sovereign issue.

- ◆ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in two sessions at the Summit, on climate change and digitization, signaling India's growing willingness to lead on issues that are points of contention for the transatlantic actors.
- ◆ Today we stand at a crossroads in terms of the future of the global economy and our planet. But, what is concerning is that G7 leaders seem intent on each forging their own path on major global challenges. The collective political leadership needed to deal with a range of systemic risks — from Brexit to the climate emergency — appears dangerously absent at Biarritz Summit.

China's Xinjiang Conflict : An Introduction

Q 5. What is China's Xinjiang conflict? Discuss the global implication of this conflict.

Hints:

- ◆ Xinjiang has long had a rebellious and autonomous streak, with the indigenous ethnic Uyghurs clashing with the authorities. Uyghurs think that this unequal division of wealth favours Han Chinese at their expense. Those involved with the development of the province's wealth are mainly Han Chinese, rather than Uyghurs, and the profits go mainly to Beijing.
- ◆ Uninhibited Chinese repression in Xinjiang thus threatens to destabilise neighbouring countries while creating significant blowback within China.
- ◆ The international community's mute response will only raise the temptation for leaders considering implementing equally repressive measures on their own minority populations.
- ◆ There is every indication that China is using Xinjiang as a laboratory as it seeks to become a world leader in the technologies of 21st century authoritarianism. Beijing has taken advantage of the Uyghurs' non-Han features to perfect their mass surveillance technology, which is being further enhanced by insights provided by big data. China fully intends to export this technology, and sales are in the pipeline or have already been made to countries ranging from Malaysia to Venezuela.

India's 'No First Use' Policy : Time to Rethink?

Q 6. Recently, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the future of India's 'No First Use' (NFU) policy on nuclear weapons depend on "circumstances". Discuss the pros and cons of revisiting the NFU Policy.

Hints:

- ◆ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh statement has raised apprehensions on the likely revision of India's NFU policy and nuclear doctrine.
- ◆ The major factor behind the questioning of the nuclear doctrine stems from concerns about NFU. Dissatisfaction with our NFU posture is not new. Ab initio, in discussions on this in the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) a case against it was made out on the grounds that such an approach unnecessarily kept us on the back foot and on the defensive and made it axiomatic that we would have to face the consequences of a first strike before being able to respond. Moreover, it prevented us from keeping a potential adversary off balance.
- ◆ Revoking our NFU policy will not only destroy the power balance of the region but will also lead to a destructive nuclear war and armed race in the region as predicted by many. It will also hamper India's international and regional image of a non- aggressor as there will be a sense of apprehension among the friendly neighbors too.
- ◆ NFU policy of India has helped to promote peace in the region in the last decade but it has outlived it's expected time period. This has been proved in the two surgical strikes carried out by India in Pakistan after Uri attack and Pulwama attack where the nuclear bluff of Pakistan has been busted successfully. Further, the situation can be in the favour of India if India tries to review it's NFU policy as Pakistan will fear India more and will refrain from terrorist and secessionist actives in India.
- ◆ Reconsidering NFU policy will affect India's relationship with neighbours like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar, Bhutan as they will start fearing India. Here they can also go closer to China as it can be an alternative protector of them due to its commitment to NFU policy till today. This issue can be addressed by the suggestions of the former National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon who signaled a significant shift from 'No first use' to 'no first use against non-nuclear weapon states'. This new doctrine, as per Menon, would reflect India's strategic significance, with its emphasis on minimal deterrence.

Slowdown in Textile Sector : Reasons and Outcomes

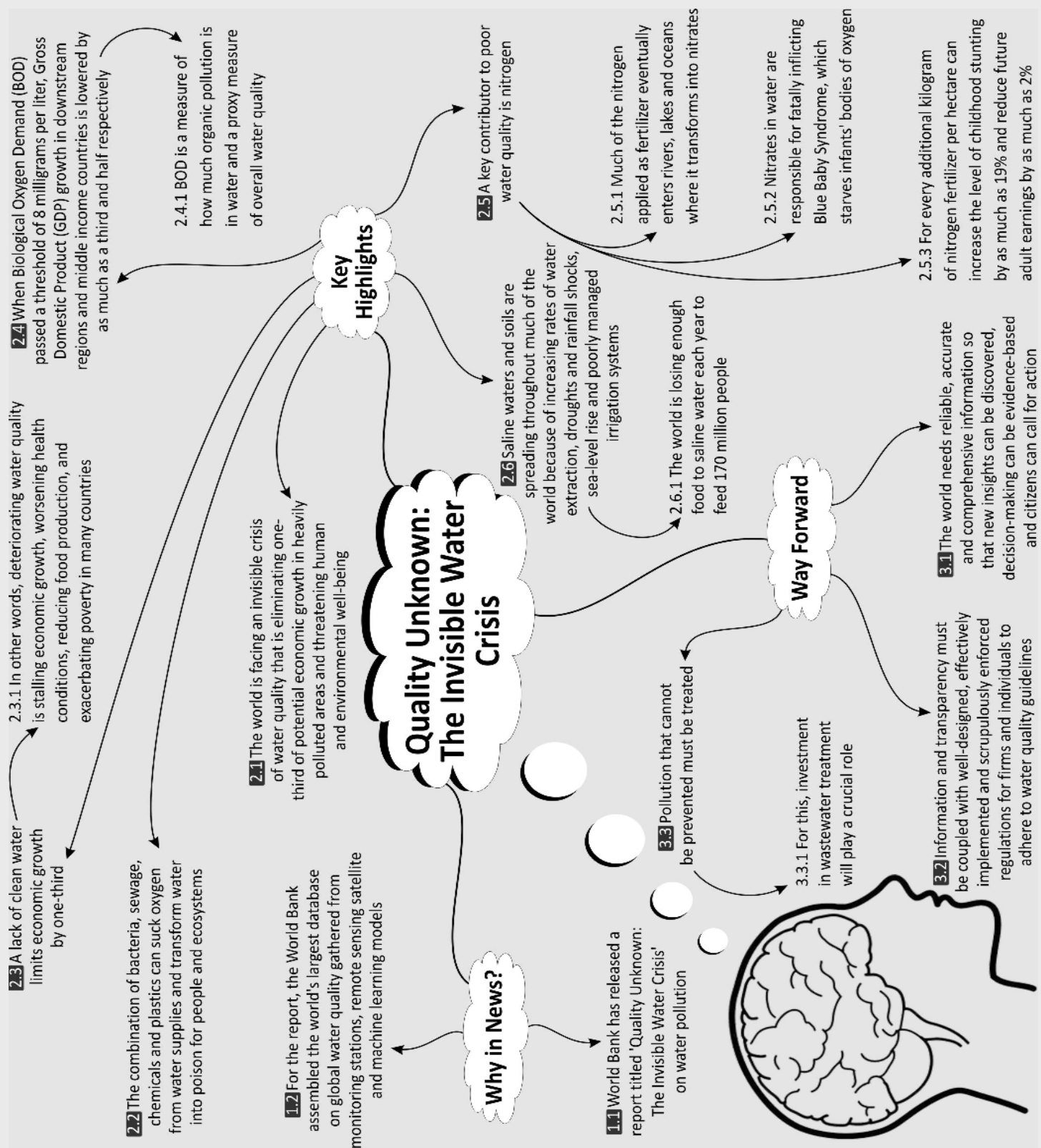
Q 7. Discuss the reasons of slowdown in textile sector and its implications on Indian economy.

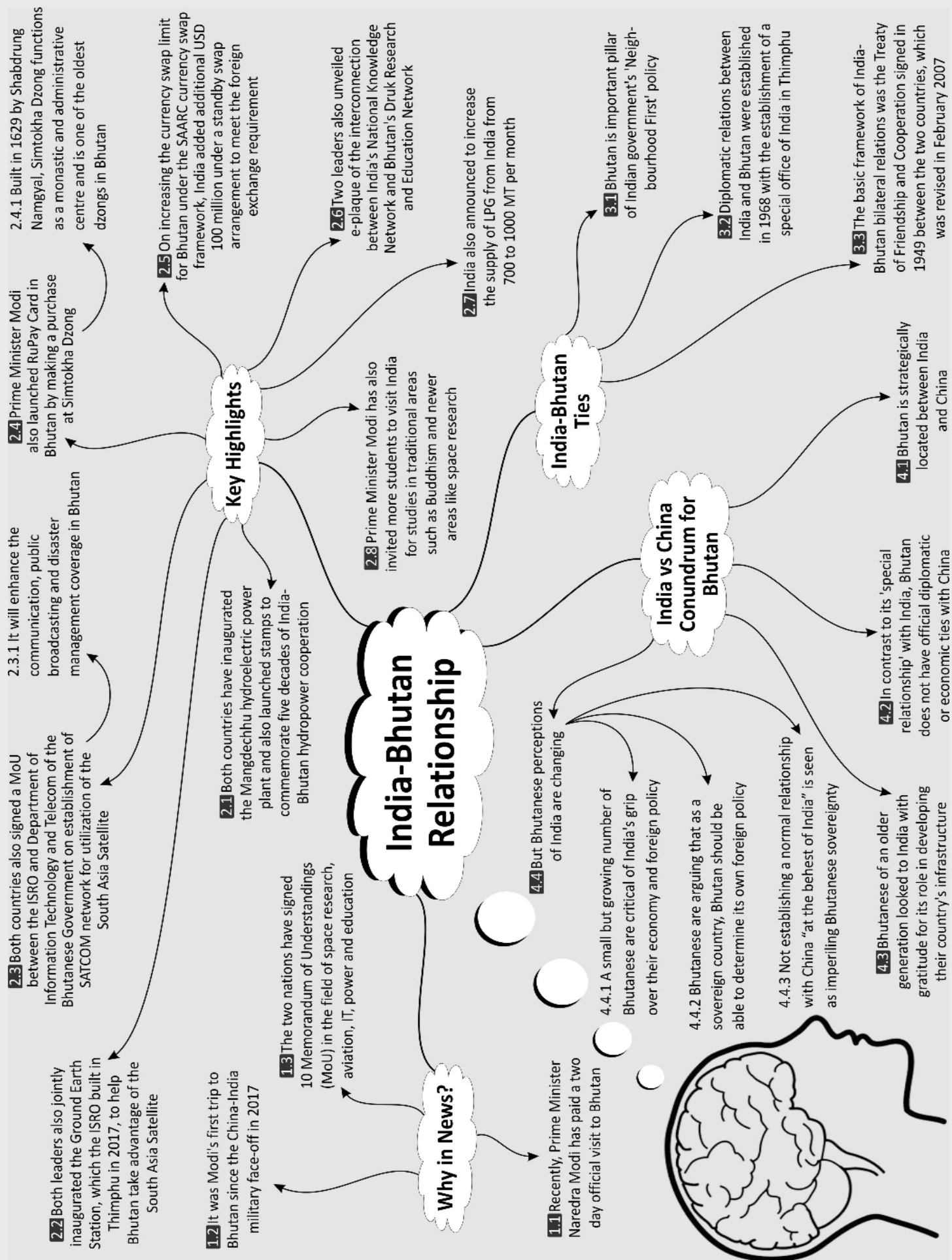
Hints:

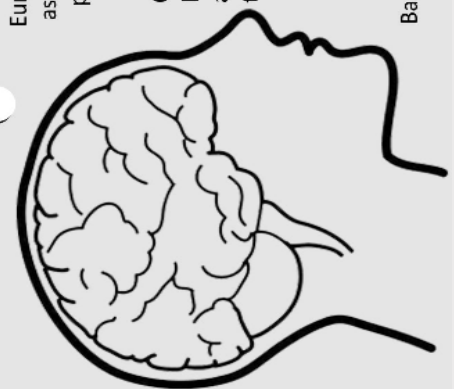
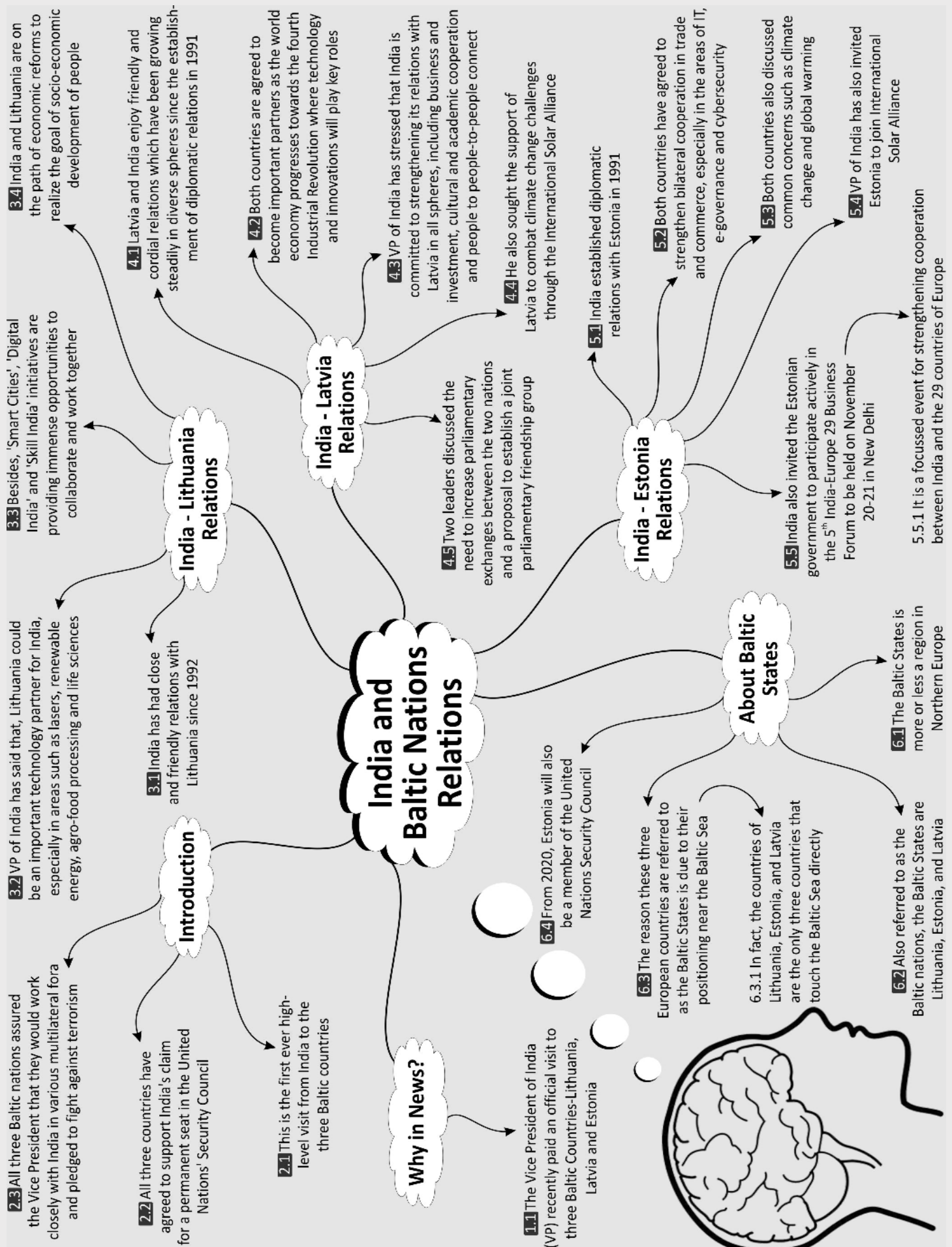
- ◆ The textile industry, which is the second-largest employer in the country, is reeling under a severe crisis similar to the one witnessed in the automobile sector across India.
- ◆ The industry body claimed that India's cotton-spinning industry has been struggling with profitability over the years due to a sharp decline in yarn exports, cheaper import, state and central level taxes on export and high interest rates. Adding to the woes, the recent spurt in cotton prices has resulted in higher input costs for the spinning sector in the country leading to financial stress.
- ◆ The Indian textile industry has its own limitations such as accesses to latest technology and failures to meet global standards in the highly competitive export market. There is fierce competition from China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the low price garment market.
- ◆ In the global market tariff and non-tariff barriers coupled with quota is posing major challenge to the Indian textile Industry. The environmental and social issues like child labor and personal safety norms are also some of the challenges for the textile industry in India.

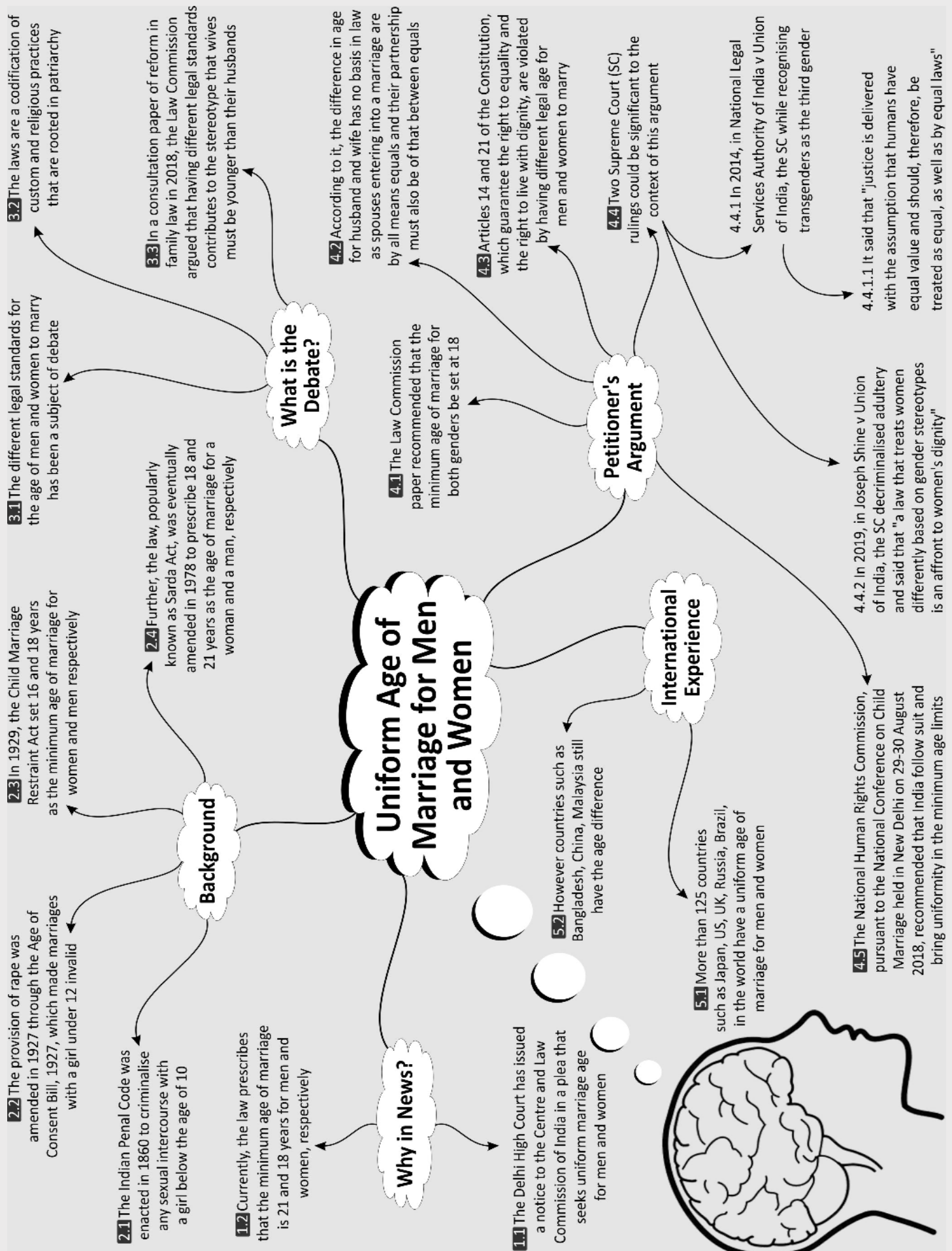


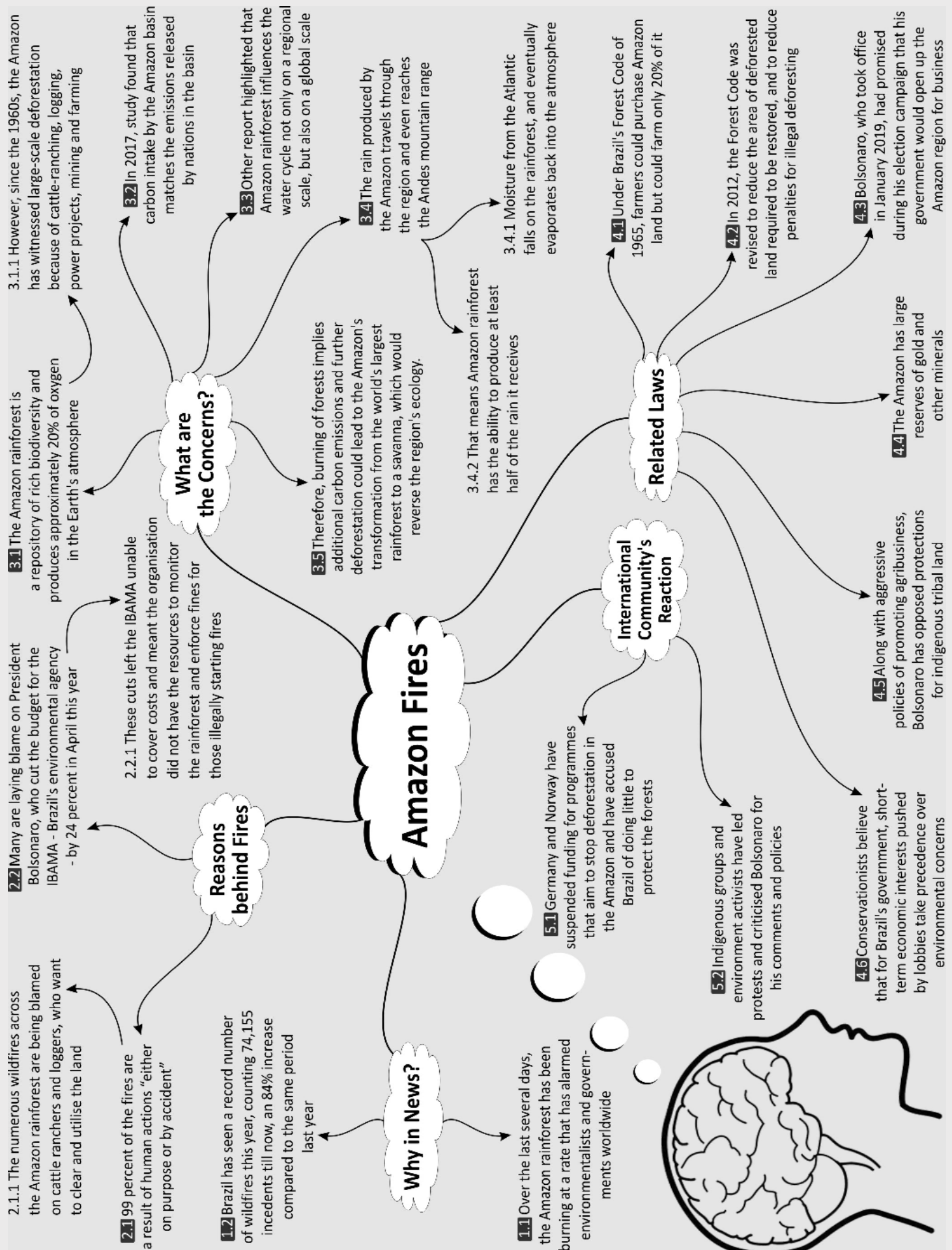
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

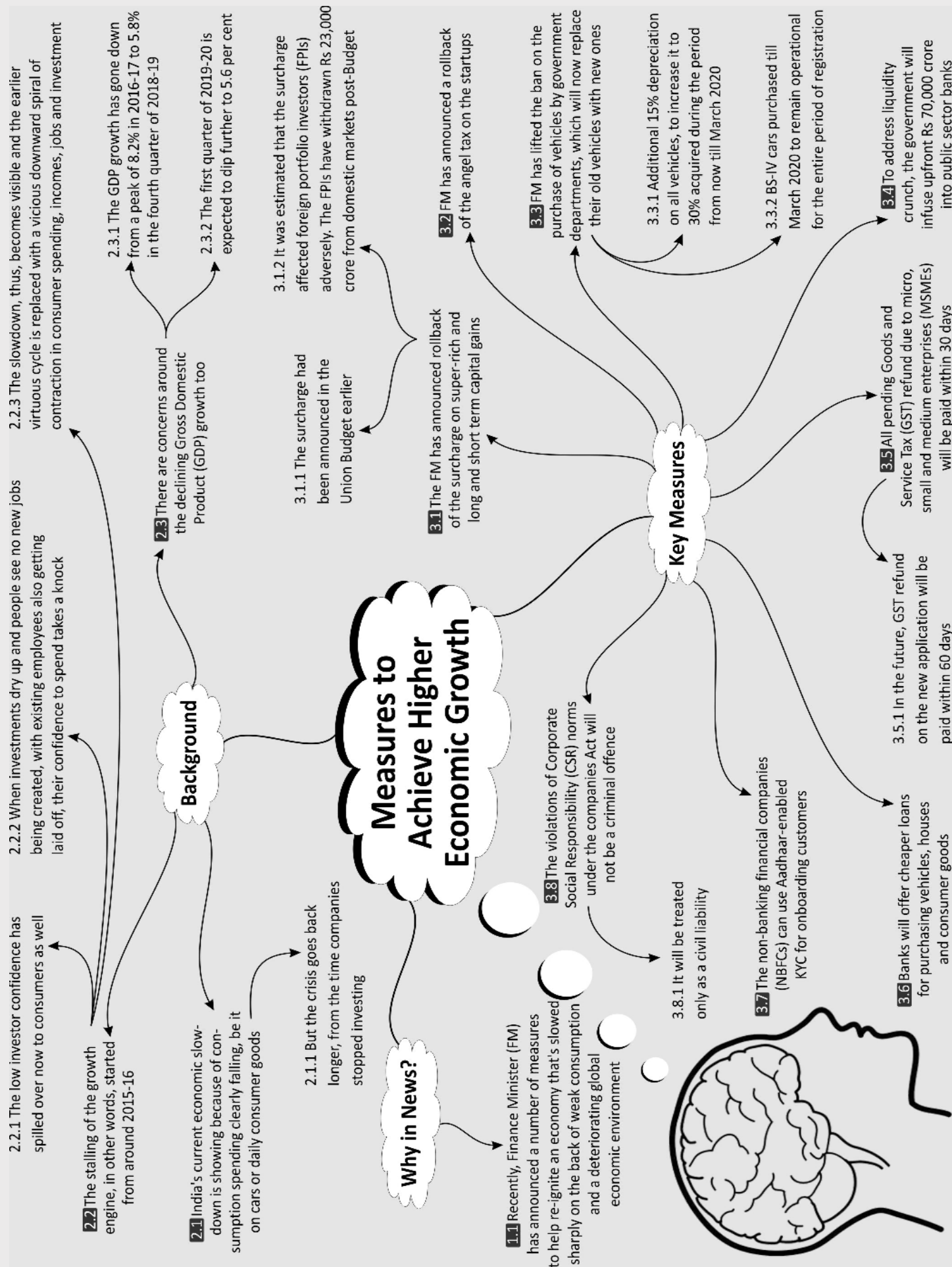


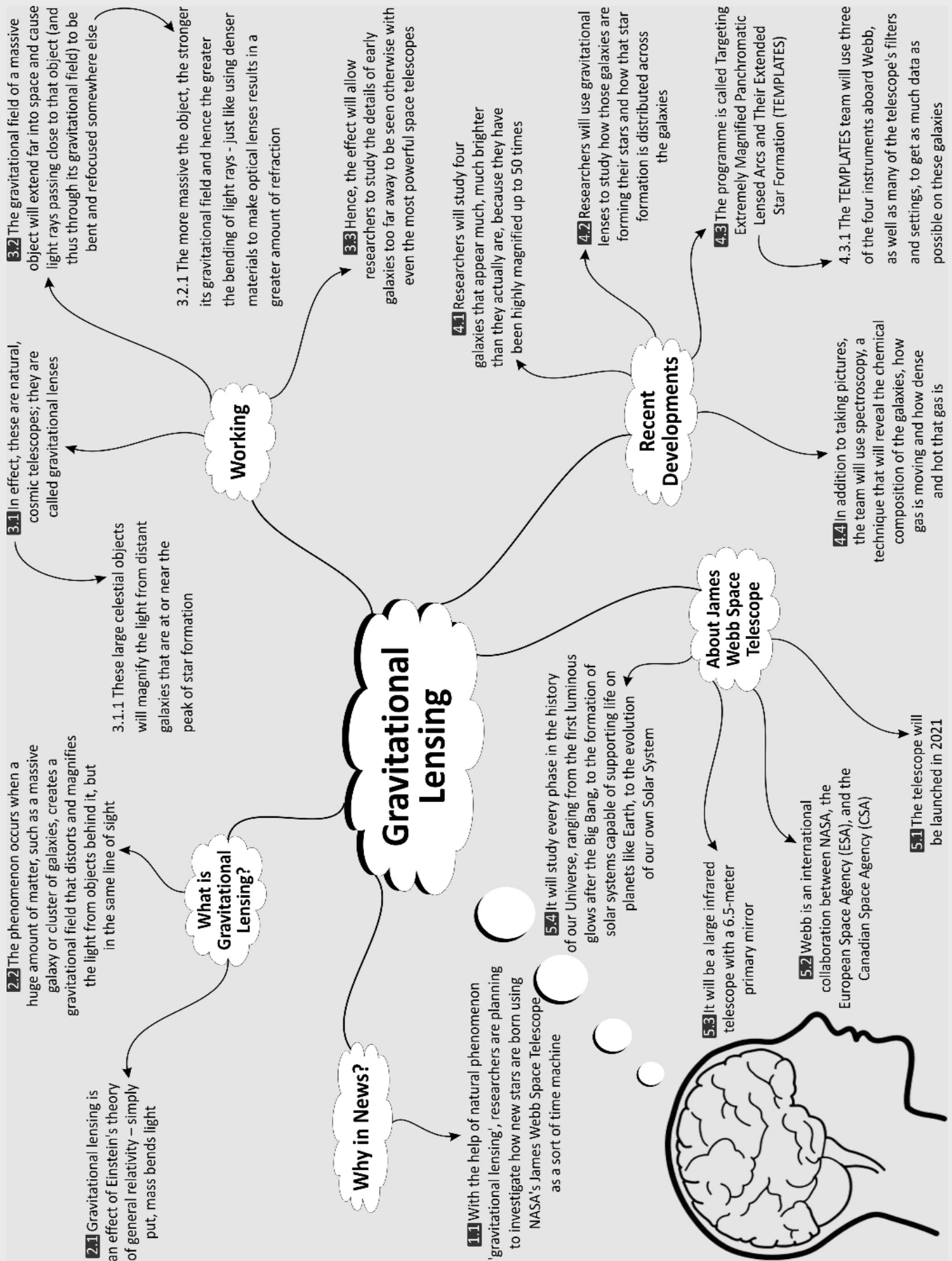












SEVEN MCQ's WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis

Q1. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis':

1. It is one of the six special reports of IPCC.
2. Nitrogen is key contributor to poor water quality.
3. Nitrates (Transform from Nitrogen) in water are responsible for fatally inflicting Blue Baby Syndrome, which starves infants' bodies of oxygen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct. World Bank has released a report titled 'Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis' on water pollution.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. A key contributor to poor water quality is nitrogen. Much of the nitrogen applied as fertilizer eventually enters rivers, lakes and oceans where it transforms into nitrates. Nitrates in water are responsible for fatally inflicting Blue Baby Syndrome, which starves infants' bodies of oxygen.

India-Bhutan Relationship

Q2. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid a two day official visit to Bhutan. Consider the following statements in this respect:

1. Reserve Bank of India has launched RuPay Card in Bhutan with the help of Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.
2. The Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network were developed by DoITT, Bhutan, for utilization of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan.

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 incorrect. Prime Minister Modi has launched RuPay Card in Bhutan, which became the second foreign country where the card was rolled out. Singapore was the first foreign nation to have RuPay cards.

Both leaders also jointly inaugurated the Ground Earth Station, which the ISRO built in Thimphu in 2017, to help Bhutan take advantage of the South Asia Satellite. Both countries also signed a MoU between the ISRO and Department of Information Technology and Telecom of the Bhutanese Government on establishment of SATCOM network for utilization of the South Asia Satellite.

India and Baltic Nations Relations

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria and Latvia are known as Baltic countries because of their positioning near the Baltic Sea.
2. The Vice President of India (VP) recently paid an official visit to the Baltic Countries.
3. This is the first ever high-level visit from India to the Baltic countries.

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. The Baltic States is more or less a region in Northern Europe. Also referred to as the Baltic nations, the Baltic States are Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The Vice President of India (VP) recently paid an official visit to three Baltic Countries- Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This is the first ever high-level visit from India to the three Baltic countries. All three countries have agreed to support India's claim for a permanent seat in the United Nations' Security Council.

Uniform Age of Marriage for Men and Women

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'uniform age of marriage for men and women':

1. Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 18 and 21 years for men and women, respectively.
2. But, the Law Commission paper 'Reform of Family Law in 2018' has recommended that the minimum age of marriage for both genders be set at 18.

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. Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 and 18 years for men and women, respectively. However, the different legal standard for the age of men and women to marry has been a subject of debate.

Statement 2 is correct. In a consultation paper of reform in family law in 2018, the Law Commission argued that having different legal standards contributes to the stereotype that wives must be younger than their husbands. It also recommended that the minimum age of marriage for both genders be set at 18.

Amazon Fires

Q5. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Amazon fires':

1. The Amazon rainforest is a repository of rich biodiversity and produces approximately 20% of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.
2. But it has seen a record number of wildfires this year, an 84% increase compared to the same period last year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. The Amazon rainforest is a repository of rich biodiversity and produces approximately 20% of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere. But over the last several days, the Amazon rainforest has been burning at a rate that has alarmed environmentalists and governments worldwide. Brazil has seen a record number of wildfires this year, counting 74,155 incidents till now, an 84% increase compared to the same period last year.

Measures to Achieve Higher Economic Growth

Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of 'measures to boost economy':

1. To address liquidity crunch, the government will infuse upfront Rs 70,000 crore into public sector banks.
2. The FM has announced rollback of the surcharge on super-rich and long and short term capital gains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. India's current economic slowdown is showing because of consumption spending clearly falling. In order to boost economy, FM has announced a number of measures to help re-ignite an economy that's slowed sharply on the back of weak consumption and a deteriorating global environment.

For automobile sector, FM has announced that BS-IV cars purchased till March 2020 to remain operational for the entire period of registration.

Gravitational Lensing

Q7. With reference to the 'gravitational lensing', consider the following statements:

1. Gravitational lensing is an effect of Einstein's theory of general relativity – simply put, mass bends light.
2. It occurs when a huge amount of matter, such as a massive galaxy, creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies the light from objects behind it, but in the same line of sight.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Both statements are correct. Gravitational lensing is an effect of Einstein's theory of general relativity – simply put, mass bends light. It occurs when a huge amount of matter, such as a massive galaxy or cluster of galaxies, creates a gravitational field that distorts and magnifies the light from objects behind it, but in the same line of sight.

With the help of this natural phenomenon, researchers are planning to investigate how new stars are born using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope as a sort of time machine.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Which country has conferred its highest civilian award 'Order of Zayed' to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

–United Arab Emirates

2. Which state government has proposed piggery mission with the help of central government?

–Meghalaya

3. Which country has sent humanoid robot Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research (Fedor) to International Space Station?

–Russia

4. Which Union ministry has declared Ocean Energy as renewable energy?

–The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

5. Which women hockey team has won the Olympic Test event by registering a 2-1 win against Japan?

–Indian Women Hockey Team

6. Which player has become the first Indian shuttler to win the World Championships title?

–P. V. Sindhu

7. Which amnesty scheme has been announced by the government of India for service tax and excise duty dues?

–The Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme

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SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS EXAM

- Q1. Recently, Reserve Bank of India's Central Board has decided on a record transfer of Rs 1.76 lakh crore. Critically discuss its implications on the economy and central bank itself.
- Q2. Fires across the Brazilian Amazon have sparked an international outcry for preservation of the world's largest rainforest. What do Amazon fires mean for the world's climate? Discuss.
- Q3. Discuss the phenomenon of 'gravitational lensing'.
- Q4. Russia has sent the humanoid robot 'Fedor' to the International Space Station (ISS). What is he supposed to do?
- Q5. Discuss the phenomenon of 'Mars solar conjunction'.
- Q6. Discuss how 'One Nation, One Ration Card scheme' could be a boon for poor migrants.
- Q7. What is Oxytocin? Why does the government want to ban its commercial use?

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SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. Tardigrade- The Water Bear

The Beresheet spacecraft made by SpaceIL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) crashed into the Moon spilling few thousand water bears — also known as Tardigrades — on to the lunar surface. As per the report, the Beresheet lander was carrying a “backup” of planet Earth that included a lunar library of human knowledge and human

DNA samples alongside thousands of microscopic tardigrades, which are known to survive pretty much every environment— including space.

Although the tardigrades on the spacecraft were dehydrated, the organism is known to “come back to life” on rehydration. In fact, they themselves expel water from their

bodies and set off a mechanism to protect their cells, and can still revive if placed in water later. However, there is no evidence of liquid water on the Moon, although there is ice. Without liquid water, it is possible

that the tardigrades will remain in their current state, unless future astronauts find them and revive them in water.

About Tardigrades

The tardigrade derives its name from the fact that it looks like an eight-legged bear, with a mouth that can project out like a tongue. Its body has four segments supported by four pairs of clawed legs. A tardigrade typically eats fluids, using its claws and mouth to tear open plant and animal cells, so that it can suck nutrients out of them. It is also known to feast on bacteria and, in some cases, to kill and eat other tardigrades. Although they are famed for their resilience, they are destructible too.



2. IMAC and IFC-IOR

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has reviewed the functioning of the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) and Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). Further, the capabilities of these two centres are being enhanced under the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project. The NMDA Project was launched in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region).

Key Highlights

The IMAC monitors movement of more than 120,000 ships a year passing

through the Indian Ocean. The cargo carried by these ships account for 66 per cent of world crude oil, 50 per cent of container traffic and 33 per cent of bulk cargo.

Thus, IMAC performs a very crucial role in collecting shipping information, analysing traffic patterns and sharing the inputs with the user agencies.

The IFC-IOR, which is a collaborative initiative by the Indian Navy in coordination with partner nations and multi-national maritime agencies to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness and Maritime Security. The Centre is likely to host International

Liaison Officers from the partner nations in the near future.

About SAGAR

SAGAR is a maritime initiative which gives priority to IOR for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India in Indian Ocean region. The goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency; respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries; sensitivity to each other's interests; peaceful resolution of maritime issues; and increase in maritime cooperation. It is in line with the principles of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

3. India declared Ocean Energy as Renewable Energy

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has declared Ocean Energy as renewable energy. It has also clarified that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion among others shall be considered as renewable energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO). However, as of date, there is not any installed Ocean Energy capacity in India.

Ocean Energy Potential of India

Oceans cover 70 percent of the earth's surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient. According to MNRE, the total identified potential of tidal energy is about 12,455 MW, with potential locations identified at Khambat & Kutch regions, and large backwaters, where barrage technology could be used. The total theoretical potential of wave

energy in India along the country's coast is estimated to be about 40,000 MW – these are preliminary estimates. This energy is however less intensive than what is available in more Northern and Southern latitudes. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) has a theoretical potential of 180,000 MW in India subject to suitable technological evolution. ■

4. New Measles Surveillance Data for 2019: WHO

According to the latest measles surveillance data released by the World Health Organization (WHO), Measles outbreaks continue to spread rapidly around the world. In the first six months of 2019, reported measles cases are the highest they have been in any year since 2006, with outbreaks straining health care systems, and leading to serious illness, disability, and deaths in many parts of the world. There have been almost three times as many cases reported to date in 2019 as there were at this same

time last year.

India's Performance

India stood fourth among 194 countries in the number of measles cases registered between July 2018 and June 2019. With 39,299 cases India bagged the fourth spot after Madagascar (150,976), Ukraine (84,394) and Philippines (45,847). However, India had the lowest measles incidence rate per million in the top 10 countries — 29.68.

Children under the age of one get infected by the virus the most in India as they have the highest incidence rate of 76.4 per million population. Moreover, this is the same age bracket that has received highest number of zero doses of measles vaccination between July 2018 and June 2019.

The second highest rate of incidence occurs in children in the age group of 1-4 years. This age bracket had received second highest number of zero doses of vaccination. The trend is almost similar for children between 5-9 years who have the third highest incidence.

India has taken several initiatives to protect its children and has made significant progress in decreasing measles incidence and related mortality and morbidity. ■



5. Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist)

The Asia-Pacific Group (APG) of the global terror financing and money laundering watchdog Financial Action

Task Force (FATF) has put Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its failure to

meet its standards. The APG found Pakistan non-compliant on 32 of the 40 'compliance parameters' of terror

financing and money laundering. It also said that Pakistan had failed 10 out of the 11 'effectiveness parameters'.

FATF and APG

The FATF is an inter-governmental body. It is working to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. The APG, one of nine regional affiliates

of the FATF has reviewed Pakistan's processes, systems, and weaknesses on the basis of a standard matrix for anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) regime.

Impact on Pakistan

Pakistan is in a precarious financial situation. It faces an estimated annual loss of \$10 billion if it stays in the greylist; if blacklisted, its already fragile economy will be dealt a powerful blow. Pakistan's \$6 billion loan agreement



with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could be threatened. The IMF has asked Pakistan to show commitment against money laundering and terror financing. ■

6. Retirement Age of Armed Forces Personnel

The Union Home Ministry (MHA) has fixed the retirement age of all Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel at 60 years. The order following a January 2019 Delhi High Court verdict asking the Ministry to fix a retirement age that would be uniform for all members of the CAPFs.

Key Highlights

All personnel in the Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles

retire at the age of 60. However, in the other four forces — Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal — those from the ranks of constable to commandant retire at 57, but those above them retired at 60.

This order is directed all the forces to comply with the court order and amend provisions of rules. Those who have retired (at 57 years) in between

the court order and the recent order of MHA will have two options - either to join service after returning all pensionary benefits (if received) or straightaway get all pension benefits as due to them as on completion of 60 years of service.

Those personnel who had retired and approached court for clarification or were granted stay will be deemed "not superannuated" and will continue to serve till 60 years of age. ■

7. Super 50 Scheme for Tribal Students

Maharashtra's Tribal Development Department in association with the Pace Educational Trust has launched an academic programme for young tribal students aspiring to be doctors and engineers.

Key Highlights

- ◆ The aim of the scheme is to get young students into renowned engineering and medical institutions of the country.
- ◆ The scheme is open to all tribal students enrolled in the state government's 491 ashramshalas (tribal schools), 25 Eklavya residential ashramshalas started

under the Centre's Eklavya Model Residential Schools scheme, and 11 English medium ashramshalas.

- ◆ The department has instructed the state's tribal development commissioner to review the progress of the selected students every three months, and has appointed a six-member committee to address any glitches in the scheme's implementation. The committee is required to meet once every three months at the same school where the tribal students are to be housed.
- ◆ The department held a first round of the entrance test on June 28,

followed by a second round on July 14.

- ◆ After evaluation, 34 students were selected for the engineering course and 16 for the medical course training programme. All selected students are from government-run Adivasi ashram schools, Eklavya Nivasi ashram schools, and English medium ashram schools.

Background

Inspired by the work of Patna's Anand Kumar and his Super 30, which prepares smart but underprivileged students to sit for IIT entrance exams. ■

SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy, 2019. Resource efficiency (RE) implies judicious use of earth's limited resources to achieve maximum benefit for sustained human well-being while minimizing the adverse impacts on environment. It is the ratio between a given benefit or result and the natural resources use required for it.

Key Highlights

The Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP) envisions a future with environmentally sustainable and equitable economic growth, resource security, healthy environment (air, water and land) and restored ecosystems with rich ecology and biodiversity.

The Policy is guided by the principles of reduction in primary resource consumption to 'sustainable' levels, in keeping with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and staying within the planetary boundaries, creation of higher value with less material through resource efficient and circular approaches, waste minimization, material security and creation of employment opportunities and business models beneficial to the cause of environment protection and restoration.

The Policy also provides an overarching collaborative framework for resource efficiency across all sectors in the country, covering both biotic and abiotic resources and life cycle stages and aspires for cross-sectoral stakeholder partnerships for the cause of resource efficiency for sustainable development.

Need

Natural resources form the backbone of any economic development. India, as one of the fastest growing economies with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 2.6 trillion USD, has increased its material consumption to six times, from 1.18 billion tonnes (BT) in 1970 to 7 BT in 2015. The material consumption is expected to increase further to provide for an increasing population, rapid urbanization and growing aspirations.

Enhancing resource efficiency and promoting the use of secondary raw materials has emerged as a strategy for ensuring that the potential trade-off between growth, resource constraints and environmental well-being can be minimized.

2. World Youth Conference for Kindness

The President of the Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on Kindness organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development on the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World'.

Key Highlights

This conference was organised with the aim to impart critical competencies (i.e. empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry) in global youth to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, the conference aimed to provide global youth and policymakers an innovative, engaging and inspiring platform to come together and strive to discover ground-breaking pathways to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The President said that Mahatma Gandhi was not just a great leader and visionary, he was one who personified certain timeless ideals and values. Gandhiji remains extremely relevant to our present day concerns such as need for peace and tolerance, terrorism and climate change.

The strife and violence that we see in the world today is often based in deep-rooted prejudices. These make us see the world through the binary of "us versus them". Following Gandhiji's footsteps, we must let ourselves and our children interact and engage with those whom we tend to define as 'them'.

3. Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme

In order to tackling the problem of malnutrition in India, the Department of Food and Public Distribution will prepare a detailed roadmap for the nationwide distribution of fortified rice through public distribution system. For this, all state government departments and other stakeholders shall be consulted to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of state governments in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

Background

In February this year, the government had approved centre-sponsored pilot scheme on "Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System". Under this scheme rice is fortified with Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B-12. The Pilot Scheme has been approved for a period of three year beginning 2019-20. Currently, the scheme

focuses on 15 districts preferably 1 district per State during the initial phase of implementation.

About Fortified Rice

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.

Rice can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating. Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc.

4. State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index

The government of India has launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL).

About SARAL

SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY). SARAL currently captures five key aspects namely robustness of policy framework, implementation environment, investment climate, consumer experience and business ecosystem.

It will encourage each state to assess the initiatives taken so far, and what it can do to improve its solar rooftop ecosystem.

This will also help states to channelize investments that can eventually help the sector to grow. In addition, such an exercise is likely to create a more conducive environment for

solar rooftop installations, encourage investment and lead to accelerated growth of the sector.

Key Findings

The state of Karnataka has been placed at the first rank in the Index that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have got 2nd, 3rd and 4th rank respectively.

Background

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, of which 100 GW solar power is to be operational by March 2022, of which 40 GW is expected to come from grid connected solar rooftops. The Indian Grid Connected Rooftop PV (GRPVP) segment is slowly gaining momentum with substantial interest from entrepreneurs, developers, financial institutions, development banks, end users and government entities.

5. Indian Railways to Ban Single-use Plastic

Taking a cue from the Prime Minister's clarion call on Independence Day to eliminate single use plastic in the country from 2nd October, 2019, Indian Railways has directed all railway units to enforce ban on single use plastic material, with less than 50 micron thickness from 2nd October, 2019. The main emphasis is on making necessary arrangements to minimize generation of plastic waste and its eco- friendly disposal.

Key Highlights

In this regard, Ministry of Railways has issued a circular stating the following instructions are to be enforced:

- ◆ Ban on single use plastic material. All railway vendors to avoid use of plastic carry bags.
- ◆ Staff should reduce, reuse and refuse plastic products and to use inexpensive reusable bags to reduce plastic footprint.

- ◆ Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Development Corporation (IRCTC) to implement return of plastic drinking waterbottles as part of Extended Producer Responsibility.
- ◆ Plastic Bottle crushing machines to be provided expeditiously.
- ◆ Railway employees were also advised to reduce, reuse and refuse plastic products and to use inexpensive reusable bags to reduce plastic footprint.
- ◆ Indian Railways was identified as a “Waste Generator” and had to take adequate preventive measures to follow Plastic Waste Management rules. Accordingly steps should be taken to minimise generation of plastic waste and for its eco-friendly disposal.

6. National Food Laboratory of FSSAI

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated of the first ever state-of-the-art National Food Laboratory of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad.

Key Highlights

This national is built under public-private-partnership, first-of-its-kind in the food laboratory sector. It houses state-of-the-art collaborative training centres, namely, the Food Safety Solution Centre (FSSC) and the Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training (C-MAT).

It symbolises the synchronisation of policy-driven partnerships and collaboration with a holistic approach and a futuristic vision. The lab has a comprehensive array of equipment with the latest technologies and facilities to conduct analysis as per global accreditation standards for testing and calibration.

FSSAI will also be establishing such laboratories at Mumbai and Chennai in the near future along the same lines.

Background

In the past few years, FSSAI has taken various steps to create and invest in an effective food-testing ecosystem in the country.

FSSAI has brought out a simple lab in a box which is named Food Safety Magic Box with a compilation of 101 easy tests. It will serve as a best pedagogical tool to educate children about the concept of safe food. The Magic Box would certainly enhance the engagement and build scientific temper to unleash creative potential among students through simple and fun experiments around food.

FSSAI has also launched ‘Food Safety on Wheels’ (FSW), a mobile food testing lab for testing, awareness and training. This first-of-its-kind, the innovative van will take food testing infrastructure to remote villages and far-flung areas, thus, instilling confidence among citizens. There are 44 FSWs currently, which are expected to cross 500 in the coming years.

7. Composite Water Management Index 2.0

To supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry, NITI Aayog has prepared the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0).

Key Highlights

- ◆ CWMI 2.0 has ranked various states for the reference year 2017-18 as against the base year 2016-17.
- ◆ Gujarat hold on to its rank one in the reference year (2017-18), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged number 1 in 2017-18 followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura and Assam.
- ◆ The Union Territories have first time submitted their data and Puducherry has been declared as the top ranker.
- ◆ In terms of incremental change in index (over 2016-17 level), Haryana holds number one position in general states and Uttarakhand ranks at first position amongst North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- ◆ On an average, 80% of the states assessed on the Index over the last three years have improved their water management scores, with an average improvement of +5.2 points.

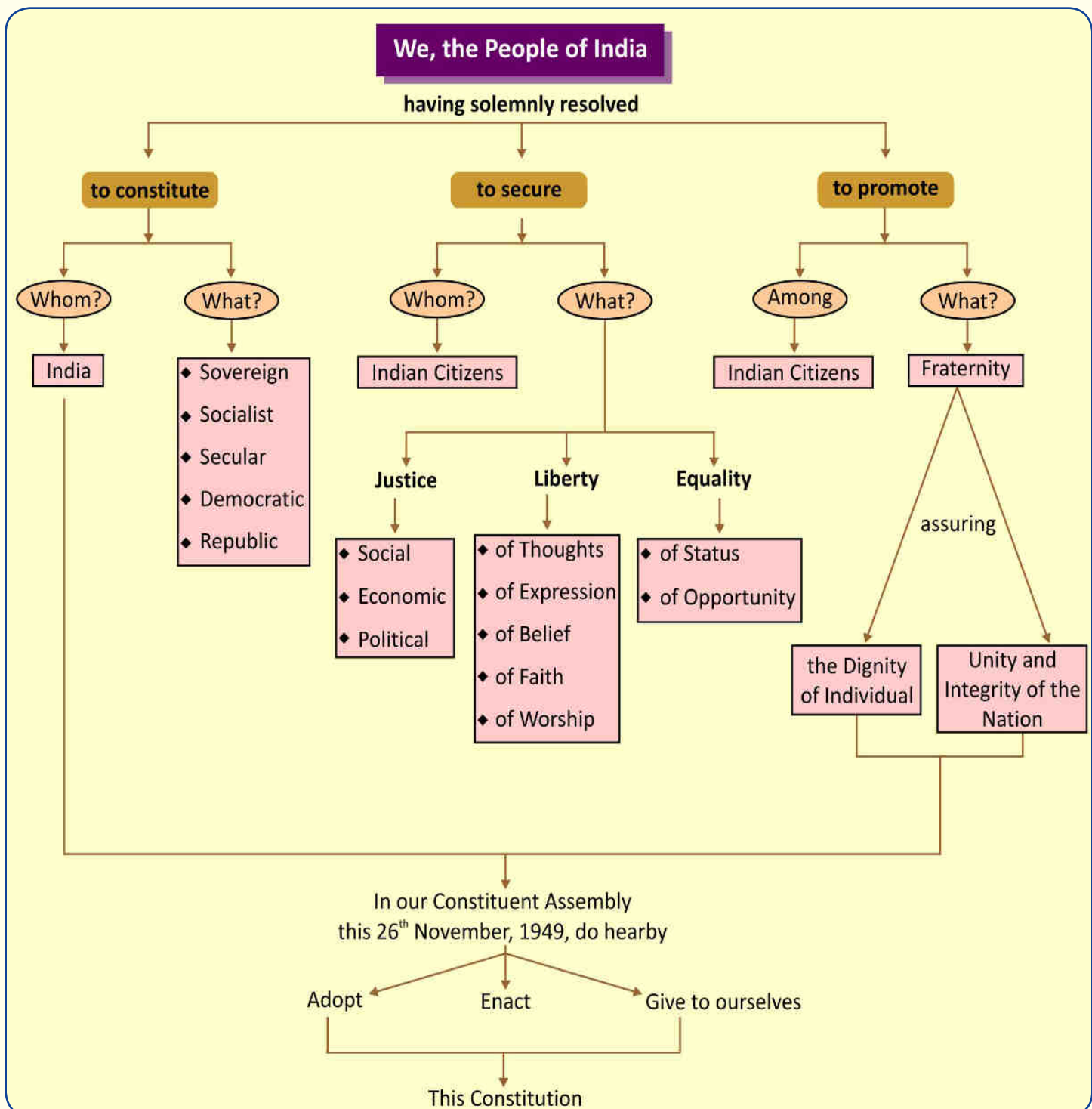
Background

NITI Aayog first launched and conceptualized the Composite Water Management Index in 2018 as a tool to instill the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states. This was a first ever attempt at creating a pan-India set of metrics that measured different dimensions of water management and use across the lifecycle of water.



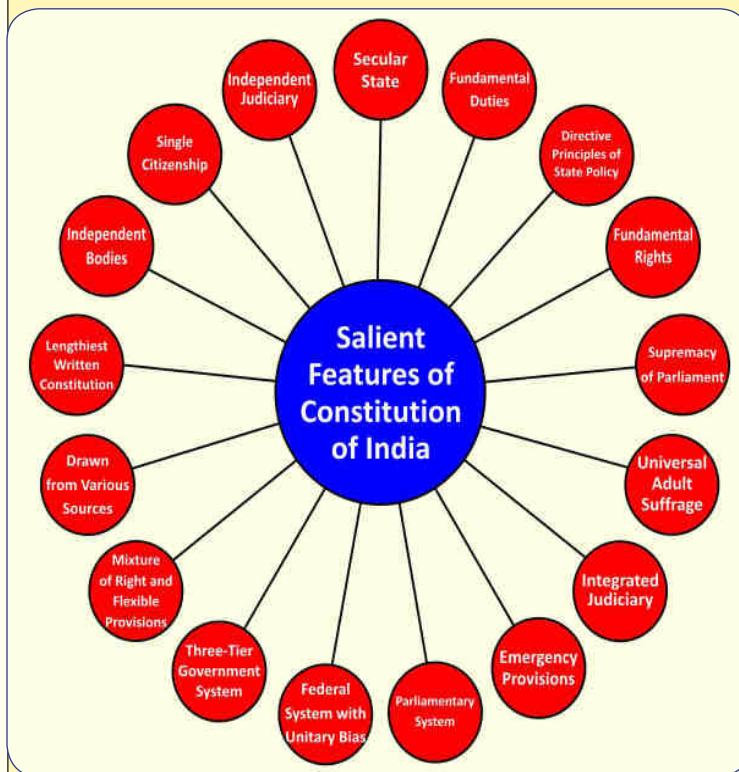
SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Basic Features of Preamble



2. Salient Features of Constitution of India

Key Facts

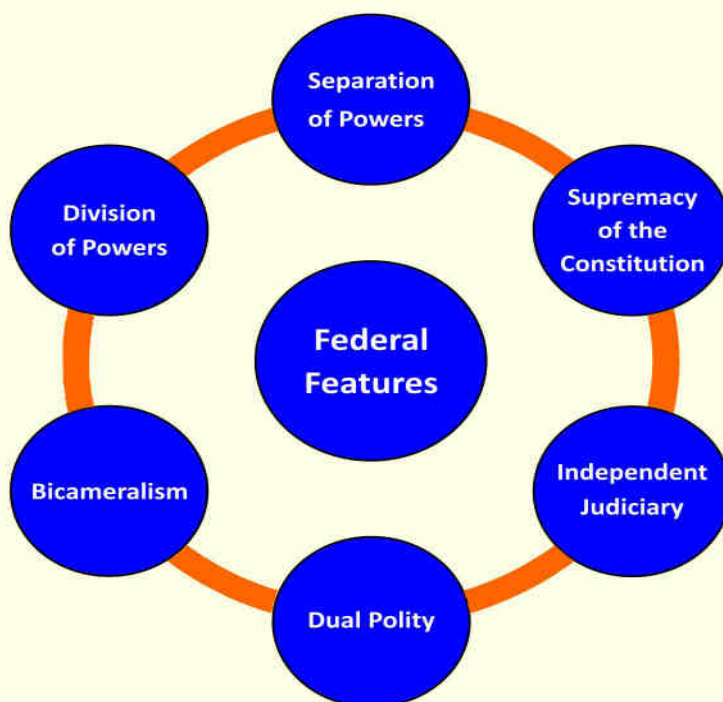


- The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949 and came into force on 26th January, 1950.
- It took the Assembly 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to write and enact the Constitution.
- It offers for a mixture of federalism and Unitarianism, and flexibility and with rigidity.
- It consists of originally 395 Articles divided into 22 Parts with 12 Schedules.
- Constitutions are also classified into rigid and flexible. A rigid Constitution is one that requires a special procedure for its amendment. A flexible constitution, on the other hand, is one that can be amended through ordinary procedure.
- The Constitution of India has opted for the British parliamentary system of government rather than American Presidential system of government.
- The Constitution of India stands for a secular state. Hence, it does not uphold any particular religion as the official religion of the Indian State.
- The Indian Constitution adopts universal adult franchise as a basis of elections to the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies. Every citizen who is not less than 18 years of age has a right to vote without any discrimination of caste, race, religion, sex, literacy, wealth, and so on.

3. Federal Features of Constitution of India

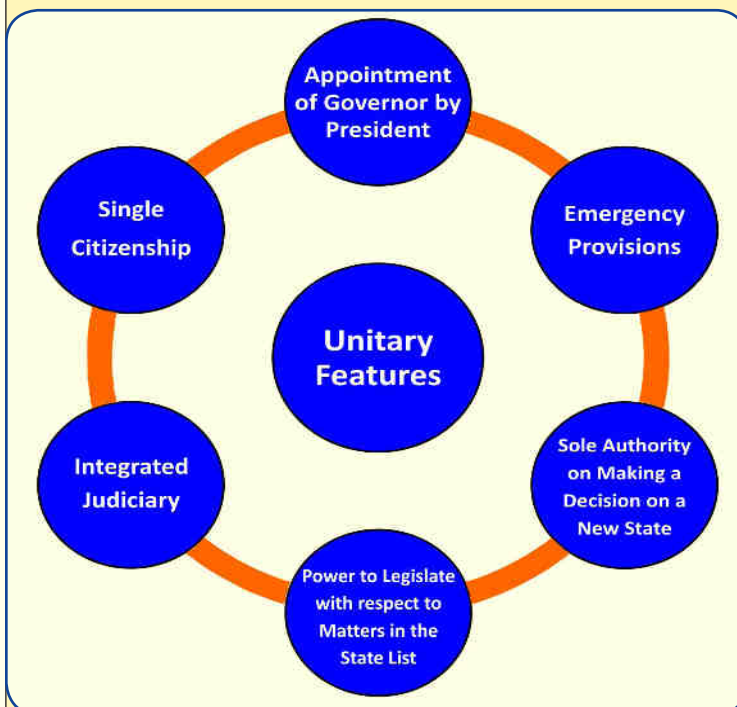
Key Facts

- The Constitution of India divided the powers between the Centre and the states in terms of Union List, State List and Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.
- The Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting of the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery.
- The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and a Lower House (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha represents the states of Indian Federation, while the Lok Sabha represents the people of India as a whole.
- It ensures the independence of judiciary in India.
- It has made various provisions to ensure its independence through security of tenure of the judges, fixed service conditions for the judges, prohibition on discussion on the conduct of judges in the legislatures, separation of the judiciary from the executive, and so on.
- In India, Constitution is the supreme law of the land and all the State organs including Parliament and State Legislatures are bound by it.
- According to the phrase 'Union of States', the states have no right to secede from the federation. The federation is an Union because it is indestructible.



4. Unitary Features of Constitution of India

Key Facts

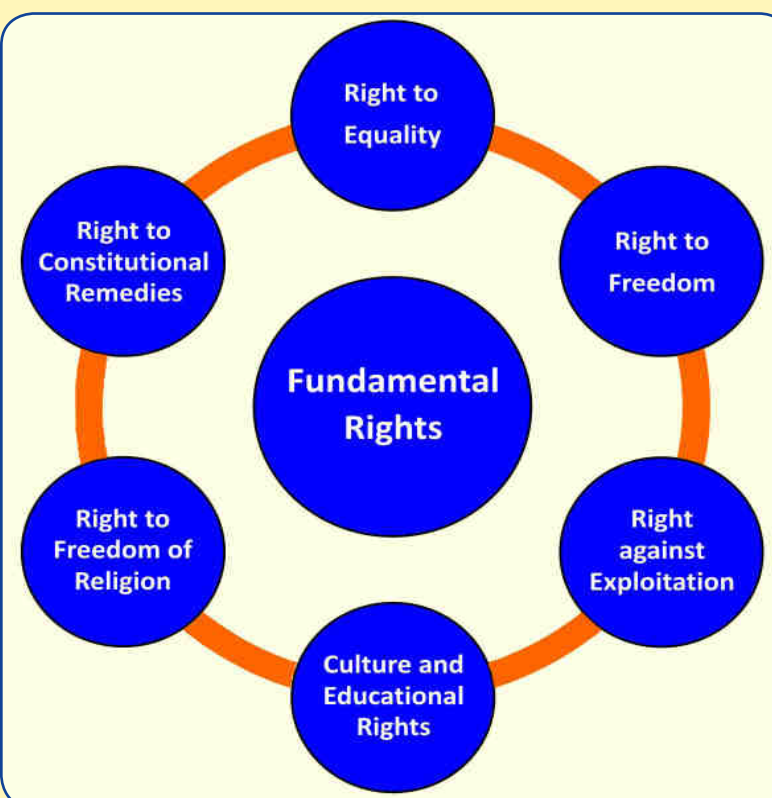


- Though the Indian Constitution is federal and envisages a dual polity (Centre and states), it provides for only a single citizenship, that is, the Indian citizenship.
- The Indian Constitution contains elaborate emergency provisions to enable the President to meet any extraordinary situation effectively. The Constitution envisages three types of emergencies, namely National emergency (Article 352), State emergency (President's Rule) (Article 356) and Financial emergency (Article 360).
- The Indian Constitution establishes a judicial system that is well integrated. The Supreme Court is a federal court, the highest court of appeal, the guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens and the guardian of the Constitution.
- The governor, who is the head of the state, is appointed by the President. He holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- The governor is empowered to reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President. The President can withhold his assent to such bills not only in the first instance but also in the second instance. Thus, the President enjoys absolute veto (and not suspensive veto) over state bills.

5. Fundamental Rights

Key Facts

- The Fundamental Rights (FRs) are guaranteed by the Constitution of India to all persons without any discrimination and they are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35.
- There are six Fundamental Rights:
 - Right to Equality (Articles 14–18)
 - Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22)
 - Right against Exploitation (Articles 23–24)
 - Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28)
 - Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30)
 - Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- FRs are justiciable, allowing persons to move the courts for their enforcement, if and when they are violated.
- FRs are also defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court. Hence, the aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court, not necessarily by way of appeal against the judgement of the High Courts.
- FRs can be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except the rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21. Further, the six rights guaranteed by Article 19 can be suspended only when emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression (i.e., external emergency) and not on the ground of armed rebellion (i.e., internal emergency).



6. Directive Principles of State Policy



Socialistic Principles

- ◆ Article 38 - Promotion of welfare of the people
- ◆ Article 39A - Equal justice and free legal aid
- ◆ Article 41 - Right to work, to education and to public assistance
- ◆ Article 42 - Securing humane conditions of work
- ◆ Article 43 - Living wage, etc., for workers

GANDHAIAN PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Article 40 - Organisation of village panchayats
- ◆ Article 43 - Promote cottage industries in rural areas
- ◆ Article 43B - Promotion of co-operative societies
- ◆ Article 46 - Promotion of educational and economic interests of SCs, STs and other weaker sections
- ◆ Article 47 - Raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living
- ◆ Article 48 - Prohibit the slaughter, of cows and other milch cattle

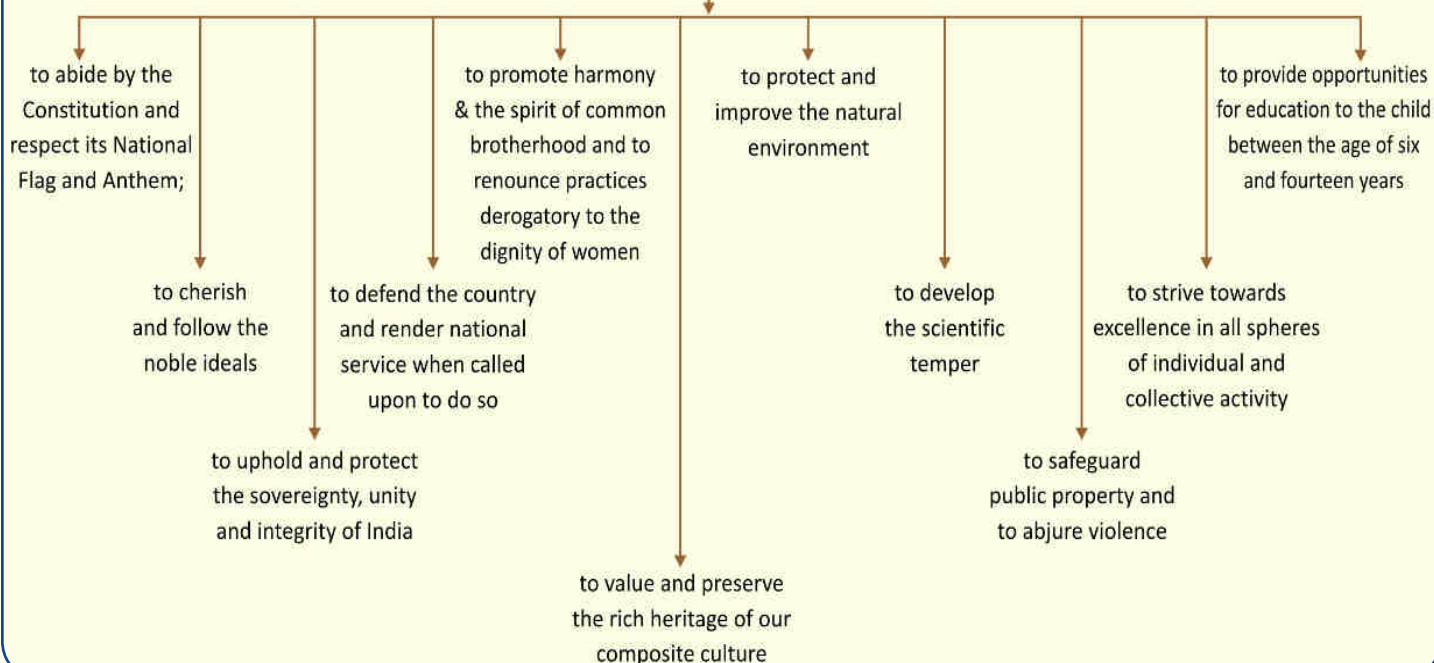


LIBERAL - INTELLECTUAL PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Article 44 - Uniform civil code for the citizens
- ◆ Article 45 - Provide early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years
- ◆ Article 48 - Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry
- ◆ Article 48A - Protection of environment and safeguarding of forests and wild life
- ◆ Article 49 - Protection of monuments and places of national importance
- ◆ Article 50 - Separation of judiciary from executive
- ◆ Article 51 - Promotion of international peace and security

7. Fundamental Duties

Article 51A - It shall be the duty of every citizen of India



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