

PERFECT 7

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

September: 2019 / Issue-02

FIT INDIA MOVEMENT

Urged People to Stay Healthy

- Status of Policing in India Report 2019 : An Overview
- Food for All : Need of the Hour
- The Menace of Ragging in India
- RBI's Surplus Transfer to Government : An Understanding
- Power for All : Needs Availability and Sustainability
- Climate Change and India's Coastal Infrastructure



DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003



DHYEYA IAS®
most trusted since 2003

Prepare for
**INDIA'S
BEST
CAREER**
IAS-PCS

**COMPREHENSIVE ALL INDIA PRELIMS
TEST SERIES (CAIPTS) TARGET 2020**
(ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM)

1 SEPTEMBER 2019

This programme is available for all centres

UP-PCS PT TEST SERIES
(ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM)

1 SEPTEMBER 2019

This programme is available for all centres

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.

The rigorous syllabi not only instills in them, a passion for knowledge but also attempts to teach them how to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. The programmes lay emphasis on well-rounded personality development of the students and also in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity in them.

Vinay Kumar Singh
CEO and Founder
Dhyeya IAS



Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the student. Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multi-disciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material.

Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into stalwarts of tomorrow's society.

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

An Initiative of Dhyeya IAS (for Civil Services Examination)

September: 2019 | Issue: 02

Founder & CEO
Vinay Kumar Singh

Managing Director
Q.H.Khan

Chief Editor
Qurban Ali

Managing Editor
Ashutosh Singh

Editors
Omveer Singh Chaudhary,
Rajat Jhingan, Jeet Singh, Avaneesh Pandey,
Shashidhar Mishra

Editorial Support
Prof. R. Kumar, Baghendra Pratap Singh

Lead Authors
Rama Shankar Nishad, Ajay Singh, Ahamad Ali,
Dharmendra Mishra

Authors
Sanjan Gotam, Ashraf Ali, Vivek Shukla,
Swati Yadav, Ranjeet Singh, Anshu Chaudhary,
Giriraj Singh

Chief Reviewers
Prerit Kant, Anuj Patel, Rajhans Singh

Copy Readers
Baghendra Pratap Singh, Pankaj Rathour

Design & Development
Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Punish Jain

Promotion & Advertisement
Gufran Khan, Rahul Kumar

Layout & Graphics
Vipin Singh, Krishna Kumar,
Nikhil Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Sachin Kumar

Computer Operators
Krishna Kant Mandal, Tarun Kanoujia

Articles Support
Mrityunjay Tripathi, Priya Singh,
Rajni Singh, Rajni Tiwari, Lokesh Shukla,
Vishishth Mishra, Ankit Mishra, Ayushi Jain,
Preeti Mishra, Ravi Ranjan, Prabhat

Office Assistants
Hari Ram, Sandeep, Rajeev Kumar, Raju Yadav,
Subham, Chandan, Arun Tripathi

Content Office

DHYEYA IAS
302, A-10/11, Bhandari House,
Near Chawla Restaurants,
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009



Contents

Seven Important Issues & Subjective Questions Based on Them.....1-23

- Fit India Movement : Urged People to Stay Healthy
- Status of Policing in India Report 2019 : An Overview
- Food for All : Need of the Hour
- The Menace of Ragging in India
- RBI's Surplus Transfer to Government : An Understanding
- Power for All : Needs Availability and Sustainability
- Climate Change and India's Coastal Infrastructure

Seven Brain Boosters & MCQ's Based on Them 24-32

Seven Important Facts for Prelims 33

Seven Practice Questions for Mains Exam 34

Seven Important News35-37

Seven Important Highlights from PIB38-40

Seven Important Concepts through Graphics.....41-44

Our other initiative



Hindi & English
Current Affairs
Monthly
News Paper



DHYEYA TV
Current Affairs Programmes hosted
by Mr. Qurban Ali
(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

SEVEN IMPORTANT ISSUES

1. FIT INDIA MOVEMENT : URGED PEOPLE TO STAY HEALTHY

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the "Fit India Movement", highlighting the need to stay healthy amid rising instances of lifestyle disorders and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The campaign was announced at an event organized to celebrate the National Sports Day.

Introduction

Prime Minister during the launch of 'Fit India Movement' urged people to change their lifestyle and make fitness a daily routine. A healthy individual, a healthy family and a healthy society are the essentials to make New India - a Fit India. 'Fit India Movement' will be a very interesting campaign for everyone-children, the elderly, the young and women, and it will be everyone's movement.

Public health experts agreed that physical activity has reduced due to the advent of technology, leading to disorders such as cardiovascular diseases, stroke, cancer, diabetes and obesity. Technology has reduced our physical ability and has robbed us of our daily fitness routines and today we are unaware of our traditional practices and lifestyle which could keep us fit. With time, fitness has been relegated a lower priority in our society. Earlier a person used to walk or cycle for kilometers; today mobile apps have to tell us how many steps we walked.

Success is related to fitness, success stories of all of our icons from

any field of life have a common thread-most of them are fit, have a focus on fitness and are fond of fitness. In an effort to inspire the nation, 'Fit India Movement' may have been started by the government but it is the people who have to lead it and make it a success. Thus, 'Fit India Movement' should become a national goal and its aspiration.

Fit India Movement

The 'Fit India Movement' will be a "multi-ministry effort", including the sports, HRD ministry, panchayati raj, rural development ministries, aimed at bringing about behavioural change and introducing basic fitness practices in the daily lives of Indians, a majority of whom lack access to sports or fitness infrastructure in their neighbourhoods.

A special focus of the campaign will be on rural India that lacks basic facilities to improve physical well-being and awareness of fitness. Awareness programmes through involvement of celebrities, sports activities undertaken in tier 1 and 2 cities, and other such events are being planned during the campaign. This will also be used to promote Yoga in a big way.

In order to prepare universities for 'Fit India Movement', the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked affiliated higher educational institutes to prepare and implement an institutional fitness plan incorporating sports/exercises/physical activities for fitness, into the daily routine. Further,

it asked institutes to encourage every person to walk 10,000 steps. They have also been told to upload their fitness action plans on UGC's Fit India Movement Portal which is under development.

In addition to it, a committee comprising government officials, members of Indian Olympic Association (IOA), national sports federations, private bodies and fitness promoters has been formed to advise the government on the 'Fit India Movement'. The 28-member committee, under the chairmanship of sports minister Kiren Rijiju, has 12 members from the government, including secretaries of sports, secondary education, AYUSH, youth affairs, among others. Along with them, IOA President and seven NSF heads, including those of boxing, athletics, football and cycling, are also a part of the committee.

Finally, private industries are also made part of the 'Fit India Movement'. Representatives of private bodies such as Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Reliance Foundation, JSW Cement and JSW Paints, SE TransStadia Pvt Ltd, Tata Trusts, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and actors Shilpa Shetty and Milind Soman will also be involved in the movement.

Why Fit India Movement?

- ◆ World Health Organization (WHO) statistics say one in four adults

globally is not active enough, while more than 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active.

- ◆ According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated proportion of all deaths due to Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) has increased from 37.09% in 1990 to 61.8% in 2016.
- ◆ WHO blames unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity for increasing instances of high blood pressure, increase in blood glucose, elevated blood lipids and obesity. In fact, NCDs, or metabolic risk factors, lead to cardiovascular diseases, the primary reason behind premature deaths.
- ◆ WHO has also recognized diabetes as a growing challenge in India with an estimated 8.7% diabetic population between the age group of 20 and 70 years.
- ◆ As per the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, 11% of women (1 in 10) and 15% of men (1 in 7) of 15-49 years are hypertensive.
- ◆ In India, the Global Disease Burden (GBD) 2015 ranks chronic kidney disease as the eighth leading cause of death.

Lifestyle Diseases

Lifestyle diseases are happening due to lifestyle disorders. Lifestyle disorders can be cured by making lifestyle changes. An alarming number of diseases fall under this category- Obesity, Cardiovascular diseases, Depression, Diabetes Mellitus, Metabolic Syndrome to name just a few. More disturbing is the fact that a majority of these diseases are interrelated in the sense that one of them can perpetuate the other leading to a vicious cycle. For example, it is fast being recognised that prevalence of physical health issues spill over their effect on the mental health of individuals and it surfaces in the form of depression, anxiety disorders and others which, in turn, lead to numerous other non-physical irregularities and disruptions. The astonishing rate at which the lifestyle diseases are rising in the population has made them diseases of public health concern.

According to GOQii's latest 'India Fit Report', more than 57% population across key cities such as Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai are overweight. Further, lifestyle diseases have witnessed a steady rise – diabetes has increased to 5.1% in 2018 from 3.6% in 2017, cholesterol has increased to 12.1% in 2018 from 5.2% in 2017 and high blood pressure has increased to 9.4% in 2018 from 4.9% in 2017.

In another study by Stanford in 2017, Indians were found to be among the world's laziest citizens clocking in an average of just 4,297 steps a day. India is ranked 39 among the 46 countries surveyed.

Physical Inactivity - A Global Pandemic

Globally, 27.5% people are 'insufficiently physically active' and not meeting the WHO norms, with women being less active than men, showed data from 168 countries that included 1.9 million people, published in 'The Lancet' in 2018.

People in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and high-income Western countries were the least active, while men from Oceania, East and Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa were the most active. Physical inactivity was twice as high in high-income countries compared to low-income countries in 2016, the study found. Physical inactivity damages health as much as obesity and smoking. It is the fourth leading

risk factor for death (6% of deaths globally) and the leading cause for 21–25% of breast and colon cancers, 27% of diabetes, and 30% cardiovascular disease.

Benefits of Fit India Movement

People in any profession can make themselves efficient in their profession if they are mentally and physical fit. If body is fit, then you would be mentally fit. Sports has a direct relation to fitness but 'Fit India Movement' aims to go beyond fitness. Fitness is not just a word but an essential pillar to a healthy and prosperous life. Some key benefits are:

- ◆ The launch of 'Fit India Movement' doesn't just highlight the indispensable need for physical fitness, it marks a conscious effort to make a shift in the common attitude among Indians to consider engagement in sports as an activity beyond recreation.
- ◆ The proliferation of technology made our lives much easier and much better, but at the same time, it made many people turn to a sedentary lifestyle. So, there is a need to take effective steps to turn to an active lifestyle to protect our health. Thus, 'Fit India Movement' was launched at the right time and



encourages people to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

- ◆ Due to the inactive lifestyle and stressful lives, many people are getting lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension etc. 'Fit India Movement' can encourage people to consume healthy food and to maintain physical and mental fitness.

The Lancet Global Health 2018

- Physical inactivity is a global pandemic, leading to 5.3 billion deaths a year.
- It is as critical a modifiable risk factor for chronic diseases as obesity and tobacco.
- Regular physical activity improve muscular and cardiorespiratory fitness, improves bone and functional health, reduces risk of hypertension, coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, various types of cancer (including breast cancer and colon cancer), and depression; reduces the risk of falls and hip or vertebral fractures; and improves weight control.
- Moderate activity for at least 150 min of per week lowers risk of cardiovascular disease (coronary heart disease, stroke, and heart failure) by 20%, and overall risk of death by 28%.
- Physical inactivity leads to global economic losses of US \$67.5 billion from health-care expenditure and lost productivity.
- Non communicable diseases like diabetes and heart disease linked to inactivity and unhealthy diets cost India \$6.2 trillion between 2012 and 2030.
- WHO has set a global target to reduce physical inactivity by 10% by 2025, and 15% by 2030.

- ◆ 'Fit India Movement' will make children think about the negative consequences of junk food. As a result, this movement will encourage children to consume healthy food.
- ◆ Some parents put too much stress on children to study. This movement has the potential to change their minds and as a result, they may encourage their children to go out and play.

- ◆ Some people are already focusing on fitness. But that is a small proportion of people. Generally, many people want to maintain an active lifestyle, but all they need is some encouragement. So, this movement constantly reminds people to focus on fitness goals just like 'Swachh Bharat' reminds us of the importance of keeping our surroundings clean.

- ◆ Emphasizing that sports is more than an extra-curricular activity, the government is making efforts to bring sports in to the mainstream and is rightly pushing for the change that everyone should play some sport or the other.

- ◆ This movement has the potential to make more people embrace traditional Indian martial art forms like Kathi Samu, Musti Yuddha, etc., and traditional dance forms and also healthy Indian snacks. And as a byproduct, this may result in creating some jobs.

Issues and Challenges

Some key challenges are:

- ◆ 'Fit India Movement' may not reach the people of below poverty line. To maintain a healthy lifestyle, both physical activity and nutritious food are necessary. But in India, still many people are malnourished and some people do not have access to safe drinking water. So, without solving the issue of poverty and lack of access to affordable nutritious food, a section of people in India will not be able to take advantage of this movement.
- ◆ The motivation to maintain fitness should start from childhood. But in India, many schools lack playgrounds. Lack of playgrounds may push children to turn into an inactive lifestyle.
- ◆ There is apprehensions that pollution, infrastructure, lack of safe public spaces such as parks, walking routes and cycling tracks will act as a hindrance for India in achieving "Fit India" tag.

- ◆ In India, it is still widely believed that sports is an 'extra-curricular' activity – an activity that is extra and not essential. Bringing a change in this deep-rooted mindset is the challenge for the government.

WHO Recommendations

- **Children (5-17 years):** Sixty minutes of moderate to vigorous activity daily, including play and sports.
- **Adults (18-64 years):** Walking, gardening, hiking, swimming, walking, household chores, play, games, sports or planned exercise at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity or at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week. Muscle-strengthening activities at least twice a week.
- **Older adults (>65 years):** Walking, cycling, chores, play, games, sports or planned exercise at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity throughout the week. Muscle-strengthening activities at least two days a week.

Way Forward

Today lifestyle diseases are on a rise in India affecting even the young. Cases of diabetes and hypertension is on the rise and even common among children in India. But small lifestyle changes can prevent these lifestyle diseases. 'Fit India Movement' is an effort to bring these small lifestyle changes.

Fit India is an idea whose time has come, but it needs to be properly and scientifically executed, particularly directed towards vulnerable groups in children, women and people belonging to middle and low socio-economic strata. A healthy individual, a healthy family and a healthy society are the essentials to make New India- a Fit India.

General Studies Paper- II

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

○○○

2. STATUS OF POLICING IN INDIA REPORT 2019 : AN OVERVIEW

Why in News?

Recently, the study, titled 'Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2019: Police Adequacy and Working Conditions', has been conducted by the NGO Common Cause, and the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). It relies on a survey of 11,834 officers from police stations across 20 states and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It also includes responses from 10,535 family members of police officers.

Introduction

Police reforms in India have been traditionally seen from two extreme perspectives: either from the standpoint of the oppressed who seek to limit police's monopoly over violence and end misuse of power by the state, or from the perspective of professional autonomy of the police as an institution, particularly from the political class, and their right to decent working conditions. After many reports and recommendations from statutory commissions gathered dust over decades, the cause of police reforms got a stimulus in the year 2006 when the landmark Supreme Court (SC) judgement in *Prakash Singh vs Union of India* laid down directives to control political interference in the functioning of the police.

Directions of the Supreme Court in *Prakash Singh vs Union of India*

Directions: In September 2006, the court issued various directions to the Centre and states including:

- Constitute a State Security Commission in every state that will lay down policy for police functioning, evaluate police performance, and ensure that state governments do not exercise unwarranted influence on the police.

- Constitute a Police Establishment Board in every state that will decide postings, transfers and promotions for officers below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, and make recommendations to the state government for officers of higher ranks.
- Constitute Police Complaints Authorities at the state and district levels to inquire into allegations of serious misconduct and abuse of power by police personnel.
- Provide a minimum tenure of at least two years for the DGP and other key police officers (e.g., officers in charge of a police station and district) within the state forces, and the Chiefs of the central forces to protect them against arbitrary transfers and postings.
- Ensure that the DGP of state police is appointed from amongst three senior-most officers who have been empanelled for the promotion by the Union Public Service Commission on the basis of length of service, good record and experience.
- Separate the investigating police from the law and order police to ensure speedier investigation, better expertise and improved rapport with the people.
- Constitute a National Security Commission to shortlist the candidates for appointment as Chiefs of the central armed police forces.

Implementation: According to a report of the NITI Aayog (2016), out of 36 states and UTs (excluding Telangana), State Security Commissions had been set up in all but two states, and Police Establishment Boards in all states. The two states in which the State Security Commissions were not set up by August 2016 were Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha. Note that the report also found that the composition and powers of the State Security Commissions and the Police Establishment Boards were at variance with the Supreme Court directions. For example, in states such as Bihar, Gujarat and Punjab, the State Security Commission were dominated by government and police officers. Further, many of these Commissions did not have the power to issue binding recommendations.

Despite a long list of the committees and judgements advocating police

reforms, it was found that the level of awareness is dismal about the landmark verdict of *Prakash Singh vs Union of India*, 2006, a vital document giving specific directions for reforms in the policing structure of India. Only about 14 percent of the police reported that they have heard of it.

Status of Policing in India Report 2019: Police Adequacy and Working Conditions

The SPIR 2019 is part of an ongoing series of studies on policing in India conceived by Common Cause. This report builds on the foundation laid by Common Cause leadership since the nineties.

The report has avoided the temptation of reducing the findings of the entire report into elegant policy prescriptions or direct recommendations. This is to ensure that the policymakers and researchers take a closer look at the comparative figures and come to their conclusions. The report focus on the following issue relating to policing in India such as, Working Conditions, Resources at Disposal, Crime investigation, Police and Gender, Police and the Society, Police People Contact and Official Capacity. Here we will discuss all given issues:

Working Conditions: Working in the Indian police is no easy task. Not only do the police work for 14 hours a day on an average, their probability of getting a weekly off is at best around 50 percent. The police personnel in Punjab and Odisha reported working for an average of 17 and 18 hours in a day. Maharashtra is the only state where all the police personnel reported getting at least one day off every week, while more than 90 percent police personnel in Odisha and Chhattisgarh reported getting no weekly off. Added

to this, an environment in which junior officers often have to face the brunt of work pressure and do menial domestic duties for the seniors, the stress levels are extremely high. Even four out of five of the family members of personnel admitted that policing is a stressful job. Thus, it is no surprise that the police personnel feel that their workload adversely affects their ability to do their job well.

Resources at Disposal: With basic facilities like a toilet or drinking water still not available in one out of every ten police stations, the infrastructure is far from perfect. Bihar comes across as particularly backward in providing basic facilities at police stations. The study confirms that the police personnel have often been in situations where lack of access to vehicles or fuel in emergencies have forced them to spend from their own pockets. Lack of staff at the police stations is a common impediment for discharging routine duties like escorting criminals to the court or reaching crime spots on time. When it comes to mobility and staffing, Rajasthan, Odisha and Uttarakhand are relatively worse performing states. On the other hand, West Bengal, Gujarat and Punjab perform consistently well in providing adequate infrastructure for policing.

Crime Investigation: The study also found that most police personnel believe unemployment and lack of education are primary factors behind the rise in crime. Political interference emerged as the biggest factor adversely impacting crime investigation, with about every three out of ten police personnel reporting it. This was followed by non-cooperation of witnesses. In fact, in the past 2–3 years of their work experience, two out of three personnel reported frequently facing political pressures, while about seventy percent police personnel reported frequently having faced non-cooperation from witnesses. This pattern is also seen in cases involving influential people, where police reported frequently facing political

pressure and departmental pressure during investigation. The most common consequence of not complying with these pressures is transfer or posting to a different area. Thus, the system is further weakened by undue external pressures, besides harsh working conditions and scanty resources.

Police and Gender : The service conditions are equally harsh for women and men in police forces, but women have to fight extra battles in a misogynist environment. The study found that the Indian police system reeks of bias against women working in the police, with about one in four male personnel demonstrating high bias against their female colleagues. Without getting into the quality of training on gender sensitisation, the numbers of those who never received any training on gender sensitisation altogether indicates a sad state of affairs, with about one out of four police personnel in Nagaland, Gujarat and Bihar having never received any gender sensitisation training. In a country where 99 percent of the complaints of sexual violence are still unreported, this narrative of police personnel raises pertinent questions about the attitude of the law enforcers towards victims of gender-based violence.

Police and the Society: On matters of caste-based divisions, the Indian police system comes across as a subset of the larger Indian society. On comparing the treatment meted out to police personnel from Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) groups, less than half of the personnel reported that there is completely equal treatment. Roughly half of the police personnel reported that the last time they received any training on caste sensitisation was at the time of joining the police force. About one out of every five police person interviewed also reported that in their experience, complaints under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act are often false and motivated. The attitude of the police towards Dalits or Adivasi communities thus appears to be linked to a larger

societal attitude towards people from these communities.

The perception of a community being naturally prone towards committing crimes was the highest for Muslims, with roughly 14 percent of the police personnel holding the opinion that Muslims are very much naturally prone towards committing crimes. While 65 percent of the respondents consider Hindus and Sikhs to be generally peaceful, a similar positive perception is held by only 42 percent of the respondents towards Muslims; a decline of more than 20 percentage points. On the other hand, three percent of the respondents perceive Hindus, Christians and Sikhs to be extremely violent but the number for Muslims is 5 percentage points higher, at eight percent. Here again, the police attitude towards Muslims seems to be aligned with the societal perceptions.

Police People Contact: One of the first steps in the criminal justice system is to file a complaint. Thus it becomes imperative to understand the incentives and attitudes of the police personnel towards the process of registering complaints. More than half of the police personnel reported that an increase in FIR indicates a rise in crime in their given jurisdiction, as against this being an indication of improved reporting and registering of crimes. This was despite the fact that a similar proportion (60%) also believed that the crimes reported are less than the number of crimes that are actually committed in the society. Police personnel were also cognisant of the possibility that common people are hesitant in approaching the police even when there is a need — primarily on account of being fearful of the police.

In fact, about one in five personnel themselves would not advise their daughters to report a crime at a police station beyond their zone of influence. The awareness of fear as the main cause of severe under-reporting of crimes, coupled with a high inclination to use or justify violence underlines an

enigma for the Indian criminal justice system.

Official Capacity: Data from the reports of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) were analysed for the years 2007 to 2016 to gauge the performances of the states on parameters of adequacy of police structure. It was found that the police forces across the selected states, with the exception of Nagaland, are extremely under-staffed. Overall, the police in the selected states works at just above two-thirds of its sanctioned capacity, with states such as Uttar Pradesh performing much worse, with its actual strength less than half of the state's sanctioned strength.

Basic infrastructure, such as communications and transport, are also poorly allocated. Diversity, a central feature of a functional, people-friendly police system, also comes out poorly when studied through the lens of official data. The inability of states to fill in the reserved seats for SCs, STs, Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and women is coupled with the disproportionately lower representation of these groups at the officer-level ranks. It needs to be pointed out that the lack of official data on several parameters of diversity, such as data on the number of SCs, STs and OBCs at the IPS level, or data on the proportion of Muslims in the police force, are hindrances in the analysis. There is a need for the governments to curb the tendency to hide all such data about vulnerable and under-represented communities and bring it out in the public domain.

Critical Issues and Challenges

The new and emerging threats of cybercrimes, money laundering, terrorism and insurgency have posed new challenges to policing and intelligence gathering operations. World over police forces are experimenting with new levels of training and proficiencies, real-time use of data, humane but effective

interrogation techniques and transparent tools of surveillance. Cybercrimes like phishing, identity theft, online banking frauds are forcing the police to keep itself updated with the latest technology, and hence an urgent need to modernise and digitise our policing.

Campaigns like 'Digital India' would ring hollow, if the police are not equipped with computers and necessary software, along with the skilled and trained staff. We are also aware that big data policing may distort the traditional roles of police and prosecution. Global experiences show that the invasive ways of human targeting that are incrementally being used today can be inaccurate, and if misused or left unchecked, even damaging for the perception of fairness in the justice system. This tells us that technology is not value-neutral and the users must be made aware of its threats along with advantages. There is no alternative to a decisive policy change with abundant caution and appropriate capacity-building efforts down to the lowest rungs of police structures. But sadly, despite India seeing itself as a global hub for information technology, there are still police stations without access to wireless, computers, vehicles or even telephones. Police personnel are often unable to reach a spot of crime or unrest because of the unavailability of vehicles or the staff. While the infrastructure to fight cybercrimes or terrorism is woefully inadequate, we still lack the rudimentary facilities. Hundreds of police stations are unable to provide drinking water or clean toilets to their personnel.

Conclusion

Law enforcing agencies all over the world face the onerous expectation of being tough and yet people friendly. Democracies in particular bring in sharp focus this duality of their role. As representatives and instruments of the coercive arm of the state, they need

to wield the stick (and occasionally the gun) but democracies also seek to minimise the actual exercise of coercion. Legitimacy of the police force is in part dependent on their ability to extract obedience and at the same time to only sparingly resort to exercise of force. Often, therefore, the police are at the receiving end of negative public opinion.

No wonder, SPIR 2019 underlines the dismal work conditions in which the police in India operates. It also brings out, at the same time, the social stereotypes that the persons in uniform are unable to shake off. In both respects, thus, the institutional neglect of two key responsibilities of improving work conditions and of orienting the police to a more sophisticated, democratic and humane work ethic emerges as the most striking finding of the study.

India aspires to be, and rightly so, an economic superpower with prosperity for all its citizens. But it is also true that India's future as a democracy and an economic powerhouse cannot be secured by an obsolete criminal justice system where the police works for the rulers of the day and not for the real masters, the people of the country. The police in a just and democratic setup, has to be made responsive to the prevailing and emerging needs of this new India.

General Studies Paper- II

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

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.



3. FOOD FOR ALL : NEED OF THE HOUR

Why in News?

A Public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to all states and Union Territories (UTs) to formulate a scheme for community kitchens to combat hunger and malnutrition. The PIL, has also sought a direction to the Centre for creating a national food grid for people falling outside the purview of the public distribution scheme.

Introduction

The world has the capacity to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately. Yet despite progress made over the past two decades, about 793 million (2015) people in the world, or just over one in every nine human beings, still suffer from hunger on a daily basis. While it has decreased from 18.6 per cent in 1990-92 to less than 11 per cent in 2014-16, this persistently high number remains unacceptable.

As far as India is concerned, the statistics on starvation deaths are unavailable and starvation as the cause of death can only be ascertained upon autopsy after death. The global agencies report that over three lakh children die every year in India because of hunger, whereas 38 per cent below the age of five are stunted.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, has also stated that malnutrition is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections. There are a number of causes of death of children such as prematurity, low birth weight, pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, non-communicable diseases, birth asphyxia & birth trauma, injuries, congenital anomalies, acute bacterial sepsis and severe infections, etc.

Food Security and the Right to Food

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern.

The right to adequate food is a universal human right that is realized when all people have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or the means for its procurement, without discrimination of any kind.

Ensuring food security requires action in multiple dimensions, including: improving the governance of food systems; inclusive and responsible investments in agriculture and rural areas, in health and education; empowering small producers; and strengthening social protection mechanisms for risk reduction.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution embarks that right to life does not mean mere existence, but life with dignity but the Centre and state governments as well as ministries in the present grim scenario have failed to fulfil their obligations for effectively providing food security in the country.

Issue of Malnutrition and Starvation in India

The acute problem of malnutrition and starvation deaths that continue to take place in India, in violation of the Right to Food and inspite of various food security schemes introduced by the government. In-spite of various schemes in operation, the figures pertaining to hunger-related deaths is alarming high, and even in the case

where death has not occurred, the mere fact that an estimated figure of 19 crore people going to sleep on an empty stomach in this country, itself is socially and morally unjust and perturbing, as food is rudimental to survival.

- ◆ The most alarming figure revealed is that approximately 4500 children die every day under the age of 5 years in our country resulting from hunger and malnutrition, amounting to over 3 Lakh deaths every year owing to hunger, of children alone. Additionally, it has been reported that 7000 persons (including children) die of hunger every day and over 25 Lakh persons (including children) die of hunger, annually.
- ◆ Global Hunger Index 2018 report prepared by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe ranked India at 103 out of 119 qualifying countries. India also scored 31.1, indicating that it suffers from a level of hunger that is critical and serious.
- ◆ Pursuant to a global comparison, the Food and Agriculture Report, 2018 stated that India houses 195.9 million of the 821 million undernourished people in the world, accounting for approximately 24% of the world's hungry.
- ◆ FAO indicate that 38% of children below the age of 5 are stunted, and 21% are categorized as wasting or low weight for height.

The irony of the present situation is reflected by a group of activists reported 56 deaths owing to starvation between 2015-2018, out of which 42 deaths took place between 2017-2018; while 25 of the 42 deaths were solely related to non-linking of Aadhaar with ration card or loss of ration card,

with the highest deaths recorded in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Community Kitchens in India

The State-funded community kitchen is not a new concept in the country. Tamil Nadu's Amma Unavagam had become a roaring success by involving peers in self-help groups, employing the poor to serve hygienic food to eradicate the growing problem of hunger on the streets. Other example are Rajasthan's Annapurna Rasoi, Indira Canteens in Karnataka, Delhi's Aam Aadmi Canteen, Anna Canteen in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Dal Bhat and Odisha's Ahaar Centre were combating starvation and malnutrition crisis and serve meals at subsidised rates in hygienic conditions.

In other countries, there are concepts of soup kitchen, meal centre, food kitchen or community kitchen, where food is offered to the hungry usually for free or sometimes at a below-market price.

In the interest of justice and for entitlement of nutritious food, which has been held as a basic fundamental and human right, in both national and international law, alike, the establishment of community kitchens may be directed as an added mechanism for provision of nutritious food with the intent of holistically combating eradication of hunger, malnutrition and starvation in the country, and diseases, illnesses and deaths resulting thereof.

Why Community Kitchen is Important?

Various schemes run by government to address the problem of hunger are futile in as much as there are eligible persons who have not been issued cards requisite to avail subsidies and benefits and then there is a segment of persons who are homeless and outside the grid of these schemes for the mere reasons that they do not possess a roof on their head. Public Distribution

system (PDS) in India which accounts for distribution of wheat and rice, only, does not account for proteins and other components of a well-balanced diet, in turn leads to malnutrition.

As per statistics of the UN World Food Programme, World Health Organisation (WHO), Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition, UN Food and Agriculture, an estimated 7000 persons, including children die of hunger and malnutrition every day, and an estimated 25 Lakh persons, including children die of hunger, annually. According to the Food For Thought: Tackling Child Nutrition To Unlock Potential To Boost Prosperity Report, India loses an estimate between 0.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), equivalent to \$15-46 billion, owing to malnutrition. The figures pertaining to nutritional status of the country provided by the National Health Family Survey 4, 2016, are alarming. These statistics also have a fair bearing on the GDP of the country.

Supreme Court: Food Security and Right to Food

Supreme Court has in a plethora of cases held that right to food comes within the purview of right to life and is a basic component to right to life. Issues pertaining to malnutrition and starvation deaths, emerging from inadequate nutrition and hunger crisis breach the fundamental right to food and are violative of Articles 14, 21, 38, 39 and 47, 51(c) of the Constitution of India.

- ◆ In the People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India., (2013), commonly known as the "Right to Food Case", the Supreme Court directed all the States and UTs to introduce Mid-day meals for all children between the age of 6 to 14. This petition however sought implementation of a scheme providing cooked food to all persons.

- ◆ The present government's schemes to eradicate hunger suffer on account of ineffective implementation and the proposed community kitchens, managed with funding from the state as well as funds from Corporate Social Responsibility of the Companies Act, 2013 by a Public-Private Partnership, may be implemented to complement the existing schemes.
- ◆ The Supreme Court in the case of Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, 1978, stated that "Right to life enshrined under Article 21 means something more than animal instinct and includes the right to live with human dignity, it would include all aspects which would make life meaningful, complete and living."
- ◆ In Shantistar Builders v. Narayan Khimala Totame, (1990), it was held that "the right to life is guaranteed in any civilized society. That would take within its sweep the right to food."
- ◆ The Supreme Court in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation v. Nawab Khan Gulab Khan, 1997, reminded the government of its duty towards the hungry and starving persons in the country and further held that the nation state should promote socio-economic justice and fulfill the basic human needs.

Key Challenges

Despite progress made in fighting hunger and food insecurity, the international community must address significant challenges to meet the needs of the millions of hungry people today and those of a rapidly growing world population. Recent progress in reducing food insecurity has been mixed across continents and within countries.

The broad environment that encompasses food systems, and

their production and consumption components, has changed considerably in recent years. New forms of investment are flowing into food and agriculture systems and new patterns of food system governance are emerging. The environment for food and agricultural production is increasingly challenging – particularly for smallholders – due to natural resource degradation, more frequent and severe weather events, globalization, urbanization and market concentration, just to mention a few examples.

Higher and more volatile food prices have slowed or even reversed progress in reducing food insecurity in many countries, highlighting the fragility of the global food system. Food prices are likely to remain relatively high and price volatility is expected to become more common in the future.

Government's Initiatives

The government is running various schemes for combating hunger and malnutrition such as:

- ◆ The Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ◆ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).
- ◆ The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, also known as “Mid-Day Meal Scheme”.
- ◆ The Integrate Child Development Services (ICDS).
- ◆ Annapurna Scheme.
- ◆ The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS).
- ◆ The National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS).
- ◆ The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS).

Furthermore, the Parliament of India enacted the National Food Security Act causing a paradigm shift in the approach food security from welfare to rights based approach. Hence, both the State and Central Government in the country have launched a range of promotional, preventive and protective social measures to tackle deprivation, food insecurity and poverty alleviation.

Way Forward

India houses a staggering proportion of persons suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, in today's day and age. Despite there being a wide range of governmental schemes and programmes intended to achieve the decline and eradication of pertinent issues of hunger and malnutrition, the desired result at present poses as a distant reality. As each of these schemes appear to be ridden with problems, ensuring right to food requires action on multiple fronts. It is noteworthy that in spite of the existence of a plethora of schemes aimed at eradicating Hunger, Malnutrition, Starvation Deaths, and allied issues, the country is still grappling with the said problems on a large scale, leaving scope for newer radical solutions to combat the same.

General Studies Paper- II

Topic: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.



4. THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN INDIA

Why in News?

Recently, a group of 150 first-year medical students were forced to shave their heads and salute their seniors, in an alleged case of ragging that took place at a university in Uttar Pradesh. Despite number of measures taken by government to curb the menace of ragging, the above incident has happened. In this context, there is need to understand anti-ragging laws, which are present in India.

Introduction

Today, ragging may have become deep rooted in the Indian educational set up, but many would be surprised to know that ragging is originally a Western concept. Ragging is supposed to have its creation in certain European Universities where seniors played

practical jokes at the time of welcoming freshmen to the institutions. Gradually, the practice of ragging became popular throughout the world. However, with time, ragging assumed obnoxious and harmful connotations and was severely condemned. Today, almost all countries of the world have enacted stern laws that ban ragging and it has been completely eradicated in countries such as Canada and Japan. But sadly, India, which inherited ragging as a legacy from the British Raj, has not been able to free itself from the clutches of this inhuman practice. It can be said, without any room for doubt, that the worst form of ragging is committed in India. Infact, according to a research conducted by Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education (CURE), India and Sri Lanka are the only two

countries in the world where ragging exists.

Definition of Ragging

As per the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009, Ragging means the following:

"Any disorderly conduct whether by words spoken or written or by an act which the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or indiscipline activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or any other student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not do in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or any other student."

Forms of Ragging: From Bad To Worse

It is said that man's imagination knows no bounds. Very true, but when it comes to ragging, it can be rightly said that man's perverted imagination too knows no bounds! From what was intended to provide good humour and harmless fun to students, ragging today has assumed torturous, vulgar and inhuman forms that defy all norms of decency and morality. Some of the most popular forms of ragging in colleges are:

1. **Dress Code Ragging:** The freshmen are asked to dress in a specific dress code for a particular period of time. But this isn't as easy as it seems. For the dress code prescribed is generally weird, eg., dressing totally in white or black with the hair oiled and combed in a particular style. The dress code ragging may make the freshmen feel awkward and uncomfortable as it often brings them unnecessary attention from everybody.
2. **Formal Introduction:** This involves asking the freshmen to introduce themselves in 'Shudh Hindi'. The introduction includes the freshmen's name, address, school, marks, etc.
3. **Verbal Torture:** Verbal torture involves indulging in loose talks. The freshmen may be asked to sing the lyrics of any vulgar song or use abusive language while talking to the seniors.
4. **Sexual Abuse:** This is the severest form of ragging that takes place in colleges. The seniors are mainly interested in 'juicy' details such as the anatomical description of one's body parts, his or her sexual interests, etc. In many cases, the freshmen have been asked to strip before the seniors.
5. **Playing the Fool:** The freshmen may be asked to enact scenes

from a particular movie or mimic a particular film star. In many cases, the seniors may also ask the freshmen to do silly things like climbing a tree, kissing a tree, proposing to someone from the opposite sex, etc.

6. **Hostel Ragging:** Outstation students who stay in the hostel are most vulnerable to ragging. They may be asked to do all odd acts from cleaning the room of seniors to washing their clothes, from fetching them water or milk to completing their assignments.
7. **Drug Abuse:** This can be the worst form of ragging wherein the freshmen are forced to try drugs thereby driving them into addiction.

Increasing Cases of Ragging in India

- ◆ India has witnessed the stark 75% increase in ragging in educational institutes, the highest since 2013. While Gujarat has registered a rise of almost three-fold in 2017 than it was in 2016, the number of cases has risen to double in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand.
- ◆ The latest government statistics stated that 901 cases of ragging were registered in the country's colleges and universities in 2017 while such cases were just at 515 in 2016.
- ◆ Gujarat recorded a total of 16 cases of ragging in 2017 against five cases in 2016 while the number of such cases in higher education institutions in Assam climbed up to 33 in 2017 from 10 in 2016.
- ◆ Higher education institutions in Karnataka, which had seen 24 cases of ragging in all in 2016, recorded 49 such cases in 2017.
- ◆ The total number of ragging incidents reported from medical

colleges in 2017 and 2018 were 171 and 163 respectively, compared to 2016 when this number was 86.77 per cent rise in ragging cases, medical colleges 'worst culprits.'

Understanding the Psyche of a Ragger

It is to be understood that ragging is not merely a socio-legal problem. It has a certain psychological basis too. Just as every crime has a motive, what is it that propels a 'professional ragger' to indulge in ragging? Let us examine some possible reasons that initiate ragging :

1. **Ragging gives a Sense of Authority:** By having the freshmen always at his command, a senior student nurtures a sense of authority which boosts his morale and puts him on a high.
2. **Ragging can be a Means of Retaliation:** A senior who has some previous history of ragging may like to get back by venting his frustrations on the freshmen.
3. **Satisfaction of Sadistic Pleasures:** A potential ragger sees ragging as a good opportunity to satiate his sadistic pleasures all at the cost of a poor freshmen's imagination.
4. **Peer Pressure:** It is also a reality that not all seniors who commit ragging enjoy doing it at their sweet will. Seeing most of their batchmates indulging in ragging, they fear being left out. So in order to avoid isolation, they too join the herd.
5. **Ragging Makes a Fashion Statement:** Many senior students live under the misconception that ragging makes a style statement and thus will put them in the 'influential crowd' of their college.

Consequences of Ragging

It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. This truly stands

apt in the case of ragging. What begins from a friendly introduction in the name of ragging takes no time to assume disgusting and perverted overtones. Let us examine some shocking consequences of ragging on victim:

- ◆ An unpleasant incident of ragging may leave a permanent scar in the victim's mind that may haunt him for years to come.
- ◆ The victim declines into a shell, forcing himself into ignominy and alienation from the rest of the world.
- ◆ It demoralizes the victim who joins college life with many hopes and expectations.
- ◆ Though incidents of physical assault and grievous injuries are not new, ragging also simultaneously causes grave psychological stress and trauma to the victim.
- ◆ Those students who choose to protest against ragging are very likely to face ostracism from their seniors in the future.
- ◆ Those who succumb to ragging may drop out thereby hampering their career prospects.
- ◆ In extreme cases, incidents of suicides and culpable homicide have also been reported.

Preventing Ragging: The Landmark Supreme Court Guidelines

With ragging becoming a national issue affecting thousands of students across India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (SC) has seriously condemned the issue. So far there have been two landmark judgments prohibiting ragging. These are:

1. Ragging of Freshers in Thiruvananthapuram Government Engineering College vs. State of Kerala.
2. Vishwa Jagriti Mission vs. Central Government.

The judgment in the case of Vishwa Jagriti Mission vs. Central Government is particularly significant as SC, while exercising its jurisdiction under Articles 32 and 142 of the Constitution of India, has laid down broad guidelines for colleges and educational institutes to prevent ragging. Some of these guidelines are:

- ◆ Anti-Ragging movements to be initiated by all colleges and educational institutes right from the time of advertisement for admissions.
- ◆ Undertakings to be taken both from the freshmen and their parents/guardians that they are aware of the institution's approach towards ragging and the punishment to which he or she shall be liable if found guilty of ragging.
- ◆ Notices to be issued indicating where to approach for redressal in case of ragging.
- ◆ Management, principles and the teaching staff to have personal interaction with the freshmen and take them in confidence by apprising them of their right as well as obligation to fight against ragging.
- ◆ Ragging prone zones such as the canteen, the playground, etc. shall be identified and carefully guarded.
- ◆ Migration certificates to mention whether the student ever indulged in ragging.
- ◆ Withdrawal of financial assistance to institutes where ragging incidents are reported.

Government's Steps against Ragging

In India, some states have their own legislations on ragging. But, many states don't have their own legislation and therefore these states have to follow central legislations on ragging. Some of the central legislations, which keep check on the practice of ragging in India, are:

1. **Indian Penal Code (IPC):** Every single incident of ragging or abetting in ragging puts an obligation on the institution to get the FIR registered. There are provisions in the IPC, which can be used by a student to register an FIR in the nearest police station.
2. **UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009:** In 2009, in the wake of Aman Kachroo's death, UGC passed these regulations to curb the menace of ragging in the universities in India. The guidelines extend to all the premises, whether located in the campus or outside and also in means of transportation whether public or private. The objective of these guidelines is to ensure completely wiping and prohibiting the activities of ragging. These regulations mandate every college responsibilities to curb the menace of ragging, including strict pre-emptive measures, like lodging freshers in a separate hostel, surprise raids especially at nights by the anti-ragging squad and submission of affidavits by all senior students and their parents taking oath not to indulge in ragging.
3. **Other Institute Specific Regulations:** Apart from IPC and the UGC Regulations, there are other government bodies that have their own laws on ragging in their respective acts. For example, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Medical Council of India have made their own regulations under their respective acts. The AICTE has created "All India Council for Technical Education (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Technical Institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education)

Regulations, 2009” under Section 23 and Section 10 of the AICTE Act, 1987. Similarly, the Medical Council of India has made “Medical Council of India (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical Colleges/Institutions) Regulations, 2009” under Section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

Anti-Ragging Movement

With the situation of ragging worsening yearly, there is emerging a spontaneous anti-ragging movement in India. Several voluntary organisations have emerged, who conduct drives for public awareness and arrange for support to victims.

Online groups like CURE, Stop ragging, No Ragging Foundation became the major Anti Ragging groups on the internet. Among them, the No Ragging Foundation has transformed into a complete NGO and got registered as Society Against Violence in Education (SAVE) which is India’s first registered Anti Ragging non profit organisation (NGO). These groups are working on

issues related to ragging. Each of them is running anti ragging websites and online groups.

The Indian media has been playing a crucial role by exposing ragging incidents and the indifference of many concerned institutions towards curbing the act. The Supreme Court of India has directed, in its interim judgement, that action may be taken even against negligent institutions.

Conclusion

Ragging is a problem of the students and by the students; and therefore, the solution to it also lies with the students. With ragging becoming rampant in colleges, it is about time that the the student community awakens its conscience to this inhuman practice before more and more innocent students become victims of it and before more and more educational institutes are degraded by it.

The primary responsibility to curb ragging would vest with the educational institutions. There is a requirement to

active participation of media and civil society as well in controlling them. As rightly observed by SC, declaring ragging as a cognizable offence cannot control ragging, as the students going to educational institutions should not be subjected to live under fear of police. However, in view of the recent impact on the students, guidelines to curb the menace of ragging were put in place. The court also has been ensued responsibility to ensure that there is speedy disposal of matters related to ragging. The past memories of adverse impact of ragging can only be wiped by strict implementation of these laws.

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.

○○○

5. RBI'S SURPLUS TRANSFER TO GOVERNMENT : AN UNDERSTANDING

Why in News?

After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board meeting, it was decided that RBI will transfer Rs. 1.76 trillion to the government this fiscal. The transfer includes Rs. 1.23 trillion of surplus for 2018-19 and Rs. 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) adopted at the meeting. The surplus transfer was finalized in line with the recommendations of the committee under former Central Bank Governor Bimal Jalan. RBI’s central board accepted all the recommendations of the committee.

Introduction

The RBI, like other central banks, must ensure the credibility, autonomy, and

effectiveness of its policy actions. The RBI is counterparty in many financial transactions and is expected to deliver on its obligations even in the worst possible market conditions and times for the country. As a consequence, the RBI needs to have a very resilient balance sheet. That is, the RBI needs adequate capital reserves and other buffers that it can use to stabilise the economy during times of distress.

But how much capital should a central bank hold? This is a question that has no clear answer either in theory or practice. In theory, there is a spectrum of views. At one end is the view that central bank capital holdings do not matter, for three reasons. First, central banks can always deliver on their domestic obligations

regardless of their net worth because they can always issue liabilities (“print money”). Second, central banks are part of the government and it is the broader government balance sheet that matters, not that of any of its constituents. Third, as long as overall conditions are reasonable, central banks’ stream of profits will eventually make up for any capital shortfalls because of their unique ability to generate income or “seigniorage”. As monopoly providers of a zero-interest liability, namely currency, which the public will always demand (at least, until the world becomes cashless), central banks will always generate net income as long as the assets they hold provide some returns. As shown here, this has certainly been true for the RBI.

For these reasons, a number of central banks such as those of Israel, Chile, the Czech Republic and Mexico have continued to operate quite successfully for long periods with negative capital.

Against this, another view is that if central banks run short of capital, this may bias their monetary policy, leading to higher inflation. For example, central banks with weak capital positions tended to have lower interest rates than might otherwise be warranted. There is also the concern that if government finances are themselves fragile, central banks cannot rely on the government to recapitalise them in difficult circumstances, and thus, they should protect themselves by building up their capital.

RBI's Reserve

The total reserves with the RBI stand at Rs 9.6 lakh crore, up from Rs 8.38 lakh crore in FY17. The RBI reserves are divided under several heads. It holds contingency fund worth Rs 2.32 lakh crore, up from Rs 2.28 lakh crore in FY17. Under currency and gold revaluation account, the RBI holds Rs 6.92 lakh crore, up from 5.3 lakh crore in FY17. It has 0.23 lakh crore under asset development fund, same as in FY17. Under investment revaluation account for rupee, it holds Rs 0.13 lakh crore, down from Rs 0.57 lakh crore in FY17.

The reserves with the RBI accumulate due to several factors. First is its income from three sources: interest on government bonds held for conducting open market operations; fees from government's market borrowing programme; and income from investment in foreign currency assets. Second source is earnings retained after giving dividends to government. Third source is revaluation of foreign assets and gold.

Yet another view is that central banks need capital not so much for economic reasons but for political ones. For example, if central banks are short of capital and need to turn to governments, their independence might be compromised. A twist to this argument is that if central banks are unable to make profits and unable to contribute to the public exchequer, they could come under public scrutiny.

Economic Capital Framework

The Economic Capital Framework (ECF) is a structural break from previous methodologies which largely involved analysis of scenarios to arrive at the potential risk to the RBI balance sheet. The RBI has developed an ECF to provide an objective, rule-based, transparent methodology for determining the appropriate level of risk provisions to be made under Section 47 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The framework was developed in 2014–15, and while it was used to inform the risk provisioning and surplus distribution decisions for that year, it was formally operationalized in 2015–16. The ECF was supplemented by a Staggered Surplus Distribution Policy (SSDP) in 2016–17 to smoothen the cyclicity in RBI's economic capital and incorporate a certain degree of flexibility in surplus distribution.

The ECF considers the following risks in deciding the capital requirement:

- ◆ Market risk captures the risk arising out of changes in valuation of the assets of the RBI, including foreign reserves, gold and g-secs.
- ◆ Credit risk in the form of losses arising due to default by counterparties.
- ◆ Operational risk arises from losses incurred from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems; or from external events (including legal risk).
- ◆ Contingent risk, which arises from: (a) the RBI's Emergency Liquidity Assistance (ELA) operations and their impact on the balance sheet size and structure (for example, losses on collateral obtained when injecting emergency liquidity into troubled banks); (b) inflation management operations; (c) currency stabilisation operations.

Transfer of excess funds from RBI to Government

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) transfers its surplus profits to the government of India in terms of the provisions of Section 47 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 which is as follows:

"After making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation funds and for all matters for which provision is to be made by or under this Act or which are usually provided for by bankers, the balance of the profits shall be paid to the Central Government."

Need for Changes in ECF

Existing ECF which governs the RBI's capital requirements and terms for the transfer of its surplus to the government is based on a conservative assessment of risk by the central bank and that a review of the framework would result in excess capital being freed, which the RBI can then share with the government.

The government believes that RBI is sitting on much higher reserves than it actually needs to tide over financial emergencies that India may face. Some central banks around the world (like US and UK) keep 13% to 14% of their assets as a reserve compared to RBI's 27% and some (like Russia) more than that.

Recommendation of the Expert Panel

- ◆ The committee has recommended a review of the ECF every five years. However, in case of a significant change in the RBI's risks and operating environment, an intermediate review may be considered.
- ◆ It has also suggested that an interim dividend to the government must only be made in exceptional circumstances.
- ◆ It has recommended the alignment of the financial year of RBI with the fiscal year of the government for

greater cohesiveness in various projections and publications brought out by RBI.

- ◆ The panel has also suggested a clearer distinction between the two components of economic capital namely (a) realised equity and (b) revaluation balances.
- ◆ Revaluation reserves comprise of periodic marked-to-market notional gains or losses in values of foreign currencies and gold, foreign securities and rupee securities and a contingency fund. Revaluation balances could be reckoned only as risk buffers against market risks as they represented unrealised valuation gains and hence were not distributable.
- ◆ Realized equity is a form of a contingency fund for meeting all risks or losses primarily built up from retained earnings. It is also called the Contingent Risk Buffer (CBR).
- ◆ The panel has given a range of 5.5-6.5% of RBI's balance sheet for CBR. Hence, the RBI has decided to set the CBR level at 5.5% of the balance sheet.

Concerns

The RBI's balance sheet should be strong enough to support banks if there is a need to recapitalise them during a financial crisis. India, with one the lowest sovereign ratings, and not having a reserve currency to boot, should not think that risky actions by the government would still be as safe as advanced economies.

The fact that emergency liquidity assistance (ELA) operations by the advanced economy (AE) central banks did not result in losses for them should not draw the central banking community into any false sense of complacency about the riskiness of such actions. ELA is a form of exceptional financing provided by a central bank to financial institutions

such as banks facing temporary liquidity needs. Had the AEs, which are 'issuers of reserve currencies', not followed up their 'qualitative easing' programmes with the very significant 'quantitative easing', it is possible that their ELA operations could have ended very differently.

Quantitative Easing (QE) is an increase in the size of the balance sheet of the central bank through an increase in its monetary liabilities where as Qualitative Easing (QuaE) is a shift in the composition of the assets of the central bank towards less liquid and riskier assets, holding constant the size of the balance sheet.

As a stark warning to the government, which now seems to be depending upon the RBI transfers to bridge the fiscal deficit, the committee said the centre's manoeuvrability on recapitalisation of commercial banks or of the RBI could be constrained during a financial stability crisis.

The committee recognised the need for the RBI to maintain its realised equity at an appropriate level to ensure that the country is not battling a financial stability crisis with a level of financial resources that is not perceived as credible by the market. The committee, therefore, recognised that the RBI's financial stability risk provisions need to be viewed for what they truly are, i.e. the country's savings for a rainy day (a financial stability crisis), built up over decades and maintained with the RBI in view of its role as the lender of last resort (LoLR). Its balance sheet, therefore, has to be demonstrably credible to discharge this function with the requisite financial strength.

Government's View on Transfer

The NITI Aayog Vice Chairman emphasised that transferring reserves would not endanger RBI's balance sheet. Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian had estimated RBI could give Rs 4 lakh crore, but out

of that they are only giving Rs 58,000 crore (the surplus component).

The move is expected to help the government at a time when India is going through a period of economic slowdown, triggered by slower consumption demand and weaker investment. Further, the move will help the government to counter the shortfall in revenue and tax collection. Since inflationary pressure is low, economists believe that the move will not have a negative impact in the long run.

Issues and Challenges

The first issue related to the latest move is the manner in which RBI's board accepted the committee's recommendations and readily acted upon it. This then sets the precedent for future transfers and risks becoming the accepted template—in years good and bad.

The second problem is the embedded belief among large sections of the government and bureaucracy about the nature of RBI's reserves and how it should be deployed.

The third issue related to how advocates of surplus distribution have ignored a home truth. The reality is that the roots of RBI's surplus during 2018-19 lie in the government's policy missteps—primarily demonetization and a flawed goods and services tax structure—and thereafter the central bank's attempts to apply band-aids and patches through an expansionary monetary policy. The board's attitude seems to indicate that it is only bothered with transferring this year's surplus, and is indifferent to what happens next year.

It also re-emphasizes an oversized role for monetary policy in bringing about an economic revival, despite global evidence on the contrary. That apart, there are unavoidable questions about moral hazard and central bank

independence: The government can impart shocks to the economy, safe in the knowledge of a central banking safety net.

The fourth dilemma arises from the committee's risk assessment process, which spans financial and monetary stability risks, credit risk, liquidity risk, market risk and operational risk. The committee forgot to add another risk that could impact the central bank's ability to withstand black swan events, or influence the sovereign's credit rating: governance risk.

The massive payout has raised concerns that the government may be confiscating money from the RBI to meet its urgent spending needs, thus effectively turning the central bank into a banker for the government. Central banks such as the RBI, however, are supposed to be independent from all forms of government influence. In reality, governments across the world try to influence decision-making

by their respective central banks in various ways.

In July, the government amended the Finance Bill to ensure that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) transferred surplus funds in its custody over to the government. Some economists argue that the government has the right to make use of funds in the custody of public institutions such as the RBI to meet its fiscal needs. Critics, however, argue that stripping the financial assets of regulatory institutions such as the RBI and SEBI can compromise their independence.

Way Ahead

One of the important lessons of the current slowdown for the government is that it is always easier for a government to hurt and even halt economic activity than to revive it. However, the government is expected to achieve its 3% fiscal deficit target this year with the help of the funds it has

received from the RBI. The fresh funds will also help the government to spend more on any fiscal stimulus plan that it may decide to implement in order to tackle the slowdown in the economy. The transfer of money from the vaults of the RBI to fund government spending will increase the amount of money supply in the economy, thus exerting an upward pressure on prices. The RBI's transfer of surplus funds to the government could thus effectively turn into a monetary stimulus for the economy which has been slowing down for several consecutive quarters now.

General Studies Paper-III

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

○○○

6. POWER FOR ALL : NEEDS AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Why in News?

As per Ministry of Power, the government of India has been preparing perspective plans for generation and transmission sectors under the aegis of the National Electricity Plan, to ensure round-the-clock power supply for all.

Introduction

Electricity is one of the essential infrastructures for economic growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation. The route of economic growth in the new globalized economy is dependent on the availability of adequate, reliable and quality electricity at competitive rates. The rural agricultural and non-agricultural consumers (domestic and non-domestic load) of the country are generally serviced through the local distribution network. The demand of

power in both rural and urban areas is increasing day-by-day due to changing consumer base, improving living standards for which augmentation of rural and urban infrastructure needs to be regularly undertaken.

Seventy years after independence, India is racing to connect thousands of villages with electricity as it looks to accelerate growth whose dividend are distributed to all. Previous governments took several steps to make power accessible to the entire country, but present government has put extra efforts to achieve the mammoth task of reaching power to more than a quarter of a billion people who lack access to electricity. Year 2017 was an important year, when government unveiled Rs 16,320 crore Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) to provide

electricity connection to around 4 crore families in rural and urban areas by March 2019, in addition to, several other programmes and digital initiatives that have made electricity accessible to all corners of the country. As on 21 May 2019, the government's data shows that of the 26.30 million households targeted under the SAUBHAGYA scheme, 99.93%, or 26,28 million households have got electricity connections.

Further, to ensure round-the-clock power supply for all, the government of India has been preparing perspective plans for generation and transmission sectors under the aegis of the National Electricity Plan. The distribution plan keeps the needs of consumers at the centre of its focus. The draft plan is the first ever plan at distribution level which has been prepared by the

Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the guidance of the Power Ministry. The plan has laid emphasis on 100% metering of all consumers and providing an electricity connection on demand. It also envisages frontier technology initiatives with an objective of providing reliable quality power supply to consumers.

Besides, the plan also envisages conversion of all electricity consumer meters into smart meters in prepaid mode within the next three years. Smart metering would empower consumers with tools to help them conserve energy and plan their electricity usage in an efficient and optimum manner. The plan, once released, would be operationalised along with the States and their distribution companies (DISCOMs) under the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism.

Challenges

Despite such massive efforts, the battle against electricity poverty is far from won. The erection of electricity poles and an extension of wires do not necessarily mean uninterrupted power flow to households. By tracking more than 9,000 rural households, since 2015, across six major States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal), the Access to Clean Cooking Energy and Electricity Survey of States (ACCESS) report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), has highlighted the gap between a connection and reliable power supply. While the median hours of supply increased from 12 hours in 2015 to 16 hours a day in 2018, it is still far from the goal of 24x7. Similarly, while instances of low voltage and voltage surges have reduced in the last three years, about a quarter of rural households still report low voltage issues for at least five days in a month.



A majority of the challenges pertain to the operations and performance of state electricity distribution companies. Challenges in infrastructure planning, deployment, as well as maintenance lead to unreliable and poor supply at the local level. Thirty per cent of the rural electrified households in the six states did not have electricity supply for 24 hours on more than four days a month. This indicates a frequent breakdown of the infrastructure as well as delays in repairing them. Only about half the electrified households in the six states had a metered connection, with the situation much worse in UP that had only 15% metered connections.

Unmetered connections with flat fees provide no incentive for households to be judicious about energy consumption, discouraging distribution companies to supply reliable power. DISCOMs in these states often struggle with limited or non-performing staff to effectively operate and maintain services in rural areas. A fourth of the metered households either received either a fixed bill or no bill at all, indicating that DISCOMs did not have the capacity to read meters and generate bills regularly. Electricity theft and payment defaults pose further challenges for the DISCOMs.

Government's Initiatives

The government of India has initiated several initiatives and policies for

the development and improvement of power sector. Key schemes are discussed below:

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana (DDUGJY): The government launched the DDUGJY for rural areas. It has components like separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders; strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas including metering at distribution transformers, feeders and consumers end; and rural electrification.

Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) : The government launched the IPDS for urban areas. It has components like strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks in urban areas; metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers in urban areas; and IT enablement of distribution sector and strengthening of distribution network.

Operationalization of Power System Development Fund (PSDF): PSDF shall be utilized for the project proposed by distribution utilities for creating necessary transmission system of strategic importance; installation of shunt capacitors etc. for improvement of voltage profile in the grid; installation of standard and special protection schemes; and Renovation and Modernisation of

transmission and distribution systems for relieving congestion; etc.

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY): For the success of several schemes to provide electricity to all, the good financial health of electricity distribution utilities is necessary. In order to improve the financial health and operational efficiency of DISCOMs, the government of India has launched UDAY in 2015. Under this scheme, DISCOMs can convert their debt into state government bonds on certain stringent conditions.

URJA (Urban iyoti Abhiyaan): In order to rate the performance of DISCOMs, an app-based digital initiative URJA is launched to place before the people, the performance of DISCOMs in IT-enabled towns, with a vision to generate a sense of positive competition amongst the stakeholders and urge all concerned for better performance in all consumer-centric parameters.

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA): UJALA has emerged as the world's largest domestic lighting programme. It was developed to address India's high cost of electrification and high emissions from inefficient lighting. UJALA's success lies in its inimitable strategic approach to energy efficiency. Globally, India is at advantage point of mitigating climate change, while also building and strengthening its access to energy and lighting. While high-quality energy efficient appliances meet both these criteria, India was held back from adopting them due to lack of awareness and affordability. Taking these challenges head on, EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) adopted a strategy of demand aggregation, mass awareness and bulk procurement, designed to attract the support of utility companies, state governments, and the price conscious Indian public.

Roadmap for Future

In order to achieve 24x7 power for all, we need to focus on three frontiers. First, India needs real-time monitoring of supply at the end-user level. We achieve what we measure. While the government is bringing all feeders in the country online, we currently have no provision to monitor supply as experienced by households. Only such granular monitoring can help track the evolving reality of electricity supply on the ground and guide discoms to act in areas with sub-optimal performance. Eventually, smart meters (that the government is planning to roll out) should help enable such monitoring. However, in the interim, we could rely on interactive voice response systems (IVRS) and SMS-based reporting by end-users.

Second, discoms need to focus on improving the quality of supply as well as maintenance services. Adequate demand estimation and respective power procurement will go a long way in reducing load shedding. Moreover, about half the rural population across the six states reported at least two days of 24-hour-long unpredictable blackouts in a month. Such incidents are indicative of poor maintenance, as opposed to intentional load-shedding. DISCOMs need to identify novel cost-effective approaches to maintain infrastructure in these far-flung areas. Some states have already taken a lead in this. Odisha has outsourced infrastructure maintenance in some of its rural areas to franchisees, while Maharashtra has introduced village-level coordinators to address local-level challenges. Such context-based solutions should emerge in other states as well.

Finally, the improvement in supply should be complemented with a significant improvement in customer service, which includes billing, metering and collection. Around 27%

of the electrified rural households in the six states were not paying anything for their electricity. Despite the subsidies, constant loss of revenue would make it unviable for discoms to continue servicing these households in the long run. Low consumer density along with difficult accessibility mean that conventional approaches involving meter readers and payment collection centres will be unviable for many rural areas. We need radically innovative approaches such as the proposed prepaid smart meters and last-mile rural franchisees to improve customer service and revenue collection. Rural renewable energy enterprises could especially be interesting contenders for such franchisees, considering the social capital they already possess in parts of rural India.

Way Forward

Electricity is the driver for India's development. As the government races to meet the 2019 target to electrify all households, it must also focus on designing robust and innovative tools to measure and monitor the progress on a multi-dimensional level, rather than just counting the number of connections. Further, we also need to prioritise electricity access for livelihoods and community services such as education and health care. Only such a comprehensive effort will ensure that rural India reaps the socio-economic benefits of electricity.

Finally, new India should also embrace a new electricity system, built on the smart technologies and decentralised approaches offering resilience, flexibility, and above all, inclusiveness.

General Studies Paper- III

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



7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIA'S COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Why in News?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has unveiled a draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will dictate how prospective infrastructure projects situated along the coast ought to be assessed before they can apply for clearance. It laid down guidelines out for coastal states to adopt when they approve and regulate projects in coastal zones.

Introduction

In recent years, India has been witnessing increasingly more intense and frequent climatic events and climate-induced natural disasters in recent times. The country's fragile coasts are particularly vulnerable. Intense cyclones such as the recent Fani, Gaja and Hudhud as well as severe floods have caused massive devastation to its coastal states, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, respectively. Many of these coastal states have upgraded their disaster preparedness and response mechanisms, instituting effective early warning systems and well-planned evacuation strategies. These measures have helped millions of people safely move to disaster shelters, thereby saving the lives of the vulnerable population of the sensitive coastal ecosystem.

However, most of these states are facing significant challenges in rebuilding the critical infrastructure lost and damaged, and in recovering from the consequent disruptions caused by disasters. The April 2019 cyclone Fani damaged 500,000 houses, 6,700 hospital buildings, and 100,880 lakh ha. of agricultural land. Electricity infrastructure was also damaged, bringing the total losses to INR 500

billion. Studies and the damage assessment report indicate that it will take the coastal states about five to 10 years to rebuild and recover.

Vulnerability of India's Coastal Infrastructure

India is the third worst-affected country due to climate-induced natural disasters. The country's coastal regions, in particular, are highly vulnerable because of rapid urbanisation, high population densities and related economic activities such as agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, industries and trade. Development gains, however, are being threatened by the impacts of climate change—including sea-level rise, floodings, storm surges and cyclones. An increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, predominantly from the economic activities, is projected to aggravate the impacts of climate change and the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems.

India today is projected to be at 'very high' risk levels in terms of intensity of cyclones. The mangroves ecosystem along the coastal regions that act as a natural barrier against cyclones and coastal erosion have become severely degraded and face even worse decline due to the cumulative climate change impacts.

Furthermore, India's coastline has already been affected by the sea level rise (SLR) that has been recorded at a rate of 2.5 mm per year since the 1950s. A 15 and 38 cm projected rise in sea level along India's coast by 2050 is likely to affect 5,763 sq km combined area of the coastal states, resulting in the submergence of coastal areas, floodings and an increase in tropical cyclones and storm surges, thereby threatening infrastructure. According to data from the Central Water Commission (CWC), the cost of

damages from climate-related extreme weather events on infrastructure and housing has been INR 3,65,860 crore, or three percent of India's GDP. Poor or inadequate infrastructure such as drainage capacity of rivers, unplanned regulation and failure of flood control structures to withstand the climate impact, will further add to the vulnerability of coastal regions.

Opportunities and Benefits

Planning and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure would yield India and its coastal regions multiple benefits. It would help avoid losses during extreme weather events, unlock development potential, and produce economic, social, and environmental co-benefits.

Avoiding loss and damage:

According to the World Bank, over eight percent of India's landmass is susceptible to floods; almost 5,700 kilometres is prone to cyclones; and 68 percent of the country's total territory is susceptible to drought episodes. India's average losses due to multi-hazard disasters are worth around US\$9.8 billion, of which US\$7.4 billion is lost due to floods alone. According to the Asian Development Bank, the economic damage and loss from climate impact in India is projected to be around 1.8 percent of its GDP annually by 2050. For a middle-income country such as India that faces significant resource constraints, to begin with, incurring huge economic losses due to climatic calamities would significantly set the country back in terms of development. Making the infrastructure of the most vulnerable coastal regions "climate-proof" would allow the resources to be utilised for constructive welfare projects and economic programmes.

Ensuring growth and development: India's coastal regions are of immense economic and strategic significance, as approximately 90 percent of their trade by volume (or 70 percent in terms of value) is carried out by sea. Reducing the burden of background risk by increasing the resilience of infrastructure would generate benefits that extend across sectors to the macroeconomic level. For instance, protecting coastal regions, towns, business districts, or ports with flood protection infrastructure, will foster economic activity, long-term planning and capital investments. In turn, a boost to entrepreneurship, innovation and productive investments would aid India's overall growth and development.

Co-benefits: Aiming for resilient infrastructure in coastal regions will deliver co-benefits that are not related to extreme weather events. For instance, building new resilient infrastructure or retrofitting existing ones would create direct employment opportunities for the coastal communities. Similarly, community participation in developing and managing climate-resilient infrastructure may also generate significant social benefits. The local government's reliance on communities for knowledge, communications, vehicles, storage facilities and labour, can strengthen community cohesion, as well as local-state-society relations even during non-emergency situations. Measures to build resilience can therefore contribute significantly to social welfare and inclusiveness.

Challenges

The coast of India is confronted with a host of challenges such as liberalisation of coastal regulations; lack of scientific data and regulatory frameworks; unplanned cities and urbanisation; inadequate capacities of municipal councils; and lack of funds.

Liberalisation of Coastal Zone Regulations: The Union Cabinet approved the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2018 which, will lead to enhanced activities in the coastal regions thereby promoting economic growth while also respecting the conservation principles of coastal regions. However, environment activists said that the notification dilute(s) India's protection system for the fragile ecology and open(s) it up for large-scale development projects. Since India's coastline is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts such as erosion, cyclones and floods, allowing for infrastructure development and construction along the shoreline will further heighten the vulnerability. By opening up 6,068 km of mainland coastline for more commercial activities, India's own regulation has put at risk the sensitive ecology and infrastructure that are already vulnerable to extreme weather events and sea level rise.

Uncertainties in Modelling Future Climate Scenarios: Policy planners at the national and subnational levels in the coastal region would require definite risk assessment and data of time, probability, occurrence, and the degree of potential hazard to different infrastructure, to be able to plan for new infrastructure or retrofit existing ones. These assessments are either not available with the government or are not in a useable format, that could inform public policies and decisions. Moreover, there are inherent uncertainties in modelling how the climate, and other factors affecting infrastructure resilience, will evolve in the future. For example, assessments for sea level rise (SLR) project scenarios for 100 years, whereas development planning is carried out considering a much shorter 10–15-year horizon.

Lack of Inventory/Database System : To plan for resilient infrastructure, it is imperative for policymakers and

planners to have comprehensive information on the infrastructure's design details, age, maximum capacity, and location. However, no Indian state maintains up-to-date records of their current infrastructure. The data on infrastructure and services in India is generally spread across various departments. In the absence of a single repository where the data is either inventoried or maintained, it would be difficult for the decision-makers to use such data to formulate strategic plans and designs.

Lack of Integration: The environment and sustainability concerns have just begun to be mainstreamed in master and land use planning processes in the coastal cities. National government schemes like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) have been channelling financial resources for urban infrastructure development. However, it does not stress on making the newly developed infrastructure in coastal cities climate resilient.

Potential Misalignments and Non-compliance with Policies: Majority of infrastructure planning in coastal states such as water, sewage, telecommunication and roads, lie with various government departments that have no integration point for multi-sectoral planning. Issues of jurisdiction and overlapping policies and mandates of government agencies often interfere with the effective implementation of resilience-building measures in development plans.

Gaps in Financing for Resilience: India's economy has suffered a massive US\$ 79.5-billion loss due to climate-related disasters in the last 20 years. The impacts of climate change are projected to increase the demand of investment required for development infrastructure such as flood defences, water supply and sanitation. It is critical for developing countries such as India to see the building of climate-resilient

infrastructure not as an additional expense but as an opportunity to create shared value for the economy and society. Developing infrastructure plans of the coastal states based on their different climate vulnerability needs would allow policymakers to gain a strategic view and aid in designing investment pathways that address sustainable and resilient development.

Steps Towards Creating Climate-resilient Coastal Infrastructure

- ◆ The lack of enabling legislations or the absence of institutional frameworks prevents the implementation of climate-resilient development measures in coastal regions. The governments, both at the Centre and states must formulate appropriate zoning regulations, building by-laws and land use restrictions to conserve the coastal ecosystems and protect its critical infrastructure from future climate impacts.
- ◆ Technical assessments through modelling of climate change impacts and vulnerability mapping is an extremely important tool that supports policy decision-making on infrastructure design, planning and locations. Generating analyses on cyclones and storm surges, or flood modelling would help in a holistic evaluation of future risks.
- ◆ Climate-resilient coastal infrastructure development is a major challenge for India given the enormous funding requirements. Coastal regions are projected as 'high risk' zones, thereby making the flow of investments from the

private sector extremely difficult. There is a need therefore for 'out of the box' solutions as well as institutional innovations for bundling risks and returns.

- ◆ To protect the longevity and performance of India's coastal infrastructure from damage due to SLR and extreme weather, there is a need to adopt innovative measures that involve elevating road embankments, water treatment works, and enhancing design and maintenance standards. Incorporating global standards on resilience and sustainability, that could assess environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance and impact of infrastructure projects is crucial to monitor resilience building. While innovations to foster resilient infrastructure is a priority, there is a need for creating standards, codes and manuals to integrate state-of-the-art engineering technologies. There is also the need to promote the use of science and technology applications such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), geological-geographical and hydrological research capacities that can improve risk and vulnerability assessments.
- ◆ Capacity building at all levels has to be taken up in terms of state and city level decision-makers, community, and key stakeholders in the cities. Sensitisation and awareness generation amongst the citizens is also integral to city-level resilience planning. Strong community support and community demand can often lead

to building consensus at the level of the decision-makers and planners.

Conclusion

Given the importance of India's coastal regions to the country's economy and growth, massive investments would be required for building even the most basic of essential infrastructure. This level of investment provides a window of opportunity to ensure that all new infrastructure is made resilient to withstand future shocks, including those brought about by a changing climate.

As climatic variabilities and extreme weather events are becoming the new normal in an increasingly climate-constrained world, it is important for a developing country such as India to invest in making its infrastructure climate-resilient, if it has to protect the development gains it has achieved so far. It is imperative to build climate-resilient infrastructure and services to equip coastal states to withstand the impacts of extreme events such as floods, cyclones, and storm surges. Given the multiple sustainable development challenges that already cost India significant amounts of resources, building climate-resilient infrastructure will aid in the achievement of goals set by the Paris Agreement, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

General Studies Paper- III

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



SEVEN SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS WITH MODEL ANSWERS

Fit India Movement : Urged People To Stay Healthy

Q 1. A healthy Individual, a healthy family and a healthy society are the essentials to make New India - a Fit India. Discuss it in context of recently launched 'Fit India Movement'.

Hints:

- ◆ The launch of 'Fit India Movement' doesn't just highlight the indispensable need for physical fitness, it marks a conscious effort to make a shift in the common attitude among Indians to consider engagement in sports as an activity beyond recreation.
- ◆ The proliferation of technology made our lives much easier and much better, but at the same time, it made many people turn to a sedentary lifestyle. So, there is a need to take effective steps to turn to an active lifestyle to protect our health. Thus, 'Fit India Movement' was launched at the right time and encourages people to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ Due to the inactive lifestyle and stressful lives, many people are getting lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension etc. 'Fit India Movement' can encourage people to consume healthy food and to maintain physical and mental fitness.
- ◆ 'Fit India Movement' may not reach the people of below poverty line. To maintain a healthy lifestyle, both physical activity and nutritious food are necessary. But in India, still many people are malnourished and some people do not have access to safe drinking water. So, without solving the issue of poverty and lack of access to affordable nutritious food, a section of people in India will not be able to take advantage of this movement.
- ◆ Fit India is an idea whose time has come, but it needs to be properly and scientifically executed, particularly directed towards vulnerable groups in children, women and people belonging to middle and low socio-economic strata. A healthy individual, a healthy family and a healthy society are the essentials to make New India- a Fit India.

Status of Policing In India Report 2019 : An Overview

Q 2. The police in a just and democratic setup, has to be made responsive to the prevailing and emerging needs of new India. Discuss it in context of SPIR 2019 report.

Hints:

- ◆ Police reforms in India have been traditionally seen from two extreme perspectives: either from the standpoint of the oppressed who seek to limit police's monopoly over violence and end misuse of power by the state, or from the perspective of professional autonomy of the police as an institution, particularly from the political class, and their right to decent working conditions.
- ◆ Despite a long list of the committees and judgements advocating police reforms, it was found that the level of awareness is dismal about the landmark verdict of Prakash Singh vs Union of India, 2006, a vital document giving specific directions for reforms in the policing structure of India. Only about 14 percent of the police reported that they have heard of it.
- ◆ The service conditions are equally harsh for women and men in police forces, but women have to fight extra battles in a misogynist environment. The study found that the Indian police system reeks of bias against women working in the police, with about one in four male personnel demonstrating high bias against their female colleagues.
- ◆ The new and emerging threats of cybercrimes, money laundering, terrorism and insurgency have posed new challenges to policing and intelligence gathering operations.
- ◆ India aspires to be, and rightly so, an economic superpower with prosperity for all its citizens. But it is also true that India's future as a democracy and an economic powerhouse cannot be secured by an obsolete criminal justice system where the police works for the rulers of the day and not for the real masters, the people of the country.

Food for All : Need of the Hour

Q 3. What do you understand by 'community kitchen'? Discuss how community kitchens could be effective tools to combat hunger & malnutrition in India.

Hints:

- ◆ The State-funded community kitchen is not a new concept in the country. Tamil Nadu's Amma Unavagam had become a roaring success by involving peers in self-help groups, employing the poor to serve hygienic food to eradicate the growing problem of hunger on the streets. Other example are Rajasthan's Annapurna Rasoi, Indira Canteens in Karnataka, Delhi's Aam Aadmi Canteen, Anna Canteen in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Dal Bhat and Odisha's Ahaar Centre were combating starvation and malnutrition crisis and serve meals at subsidised rates in hygienic conditions.
- ◆ Various schemes run by government to address the problem of hunger are futile in as much as there are eligible persons who have not been issued cards requisite to avail subsidies and benefits and then there is a segment of persons who are homeless and outside the grid of these schemes for the mere reasons that they do not possess a roof on their head. Public Distribution system (PDS) in India which accounts for distribution of wheat and rice, only, does not account for proteins and other components of a well-balanced diet, in turn leads to malnutrition.
- ◆ India houses a staggering proportion of persons suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, in today's day and age. Despite there being a wide range of governmental schemes and programmes intended to achieve the decline and eradication of pertinent issues of hunger and malnutrition, the desired result at present poses as a distant reality.
- ◆ As each of these schemes appear to be ridden with problems, ensuring right to food requires action on multiple fronts. It is noteworthy that in spite of the existence of a plethora of schemes aimed at eradicating Hunger, Malnutrition, Starvation Deaths, and allied issues, the country is still grappling with the said problems on a large scale, leaving scope for newer radical solutions to combat the same.

The Menace of Ragging in India

Q 4. Despite number of measures taken by the government to curb the menace of ragging, the problem still exist. Discuss the steps to control this menace.

Hints:

- ◆ Today, almost all countries of the world have enacted stern laws that ban ragging and it has been completely

eradicated in countries such as Canada and Japan. But sadly, India, which inherited ragging as a legacy from the British Raj, has not been able to free itself from the clutches of this inhuman practice.

- ◆ The latest government statistics stated that 901 cases of ragging were registered in the country's colleges and universities in 2017 while such cases were just at 515 in 2016.
- ◆ Anti-Ragging movements to be initiated by all colleges and educational institutes right from the time of advertisement for admissions.
- ◆ Management, principles and the teaching staff to have personal interaction with the freshmen and take them in confidence by apprising them of their right as well as obligation to fight against ragging.
- ◆ The primary responsibility to curb ragging would vest with the educational institutions. There is a requirement to active participation of media and civil society as well in controlling them.

RBI's Surplus Transfer to Government : An Understanding

Q 5. Discuss the pros and cons of the RBI's decision to transfer surplus fund to government.

Hints:

- ◆ After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board meeting, it was decided that RBI will transfer Rs. 1.76 trillion to the government this fiscal. The transfer includes Rs. 1.23 trillion of surplus for 2018-19 and Rs. 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) adopted at the meeting.
- ◆ The move is expected to help the government at a time when India is going through a period of economic slowdown, triggered by slower consumption demand and weaker investment. Further, the move will help the government to counter the shortfall in revenue and tax collection. Since inflationary pressure is low, economists believe that the move will not have a negative impact in the long run.
- ◆ The latest move is the manner in which RBI's board accepted the committee's recommendations and readily acted upon it. This then sets the precedent for future transfers and risks becoming the accepted template—in years good and bad.
- ◆ The massive payout has raised concerns that the government may be confiscating money from the RBI to meet its urgent spending needs, thus effectively turning the central bank into a banker for the government. Central banks such as the RBI, however,

are supposed to be independent from all forms of government influence. In reality, governments across the world try to influence decision-making by their respective central banks in various ways.

- ◆ The transfer of money from the vaults of the RBI to fund government spending will increase the amount of money supply in the economy, thus exerting an upward pressure on prices. The RBI's transfer of surplus funds to the government could thus effectively turn into a monetary stimulus for the economy which has been slowing down for several consecutive quarters now.

Power for All : Needs Availability and Sustainability

Q 6. Discuss the efforts made by the government to achieve the target of power for all 24x7.

Hints:

- ◆ Electricity is the driver for India's development. As the government races to meet the 2019 target to electrify all households, it must also focus on designing robust and innovative tools to measure and monitor the progress on a multi-dimensional level, rather than just counting the number of connections. Further, we also need to prioritise electricity access for livelihoods and community services such as education and health care. Only such a comprehensive effort will ensure that rural India reaps the socio-economic benefits of electricity.
- ◆ The government of India has initiated several initiatives and policies for the development and improvement of power sector. Key schemes are: Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Operationalization of Power System Development Fund (PSDF), Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), URJA (Urban iyoti Abhiyaan), Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA), among others.
- ◆ In order to achieve 24x7 power for all, we need to focus on three frontiers. First, India needs real-time monitoring of supply at the end-user level. We achieve what we measure. While the government is bringing all feeders in the country online, we currently have no provision to monitor supply as experienced by households. Only such granular monitoring can help track the evolving reality of electricity supply on the ground and guide discoms to act in areas with sub-optimal performance. Eventually, smart meters (that the government is planning to roll out) should help enable such monitoring. However, in the interim, we could rely on interactive voice response systems (IVRS) and SMS-based reporting by end-users.
- ◆ Finally, new India should also embrace a new

electricity system, built on the smart technologies and decentralised approaches offering resilience, flexibility, and above all, inclusiveness.

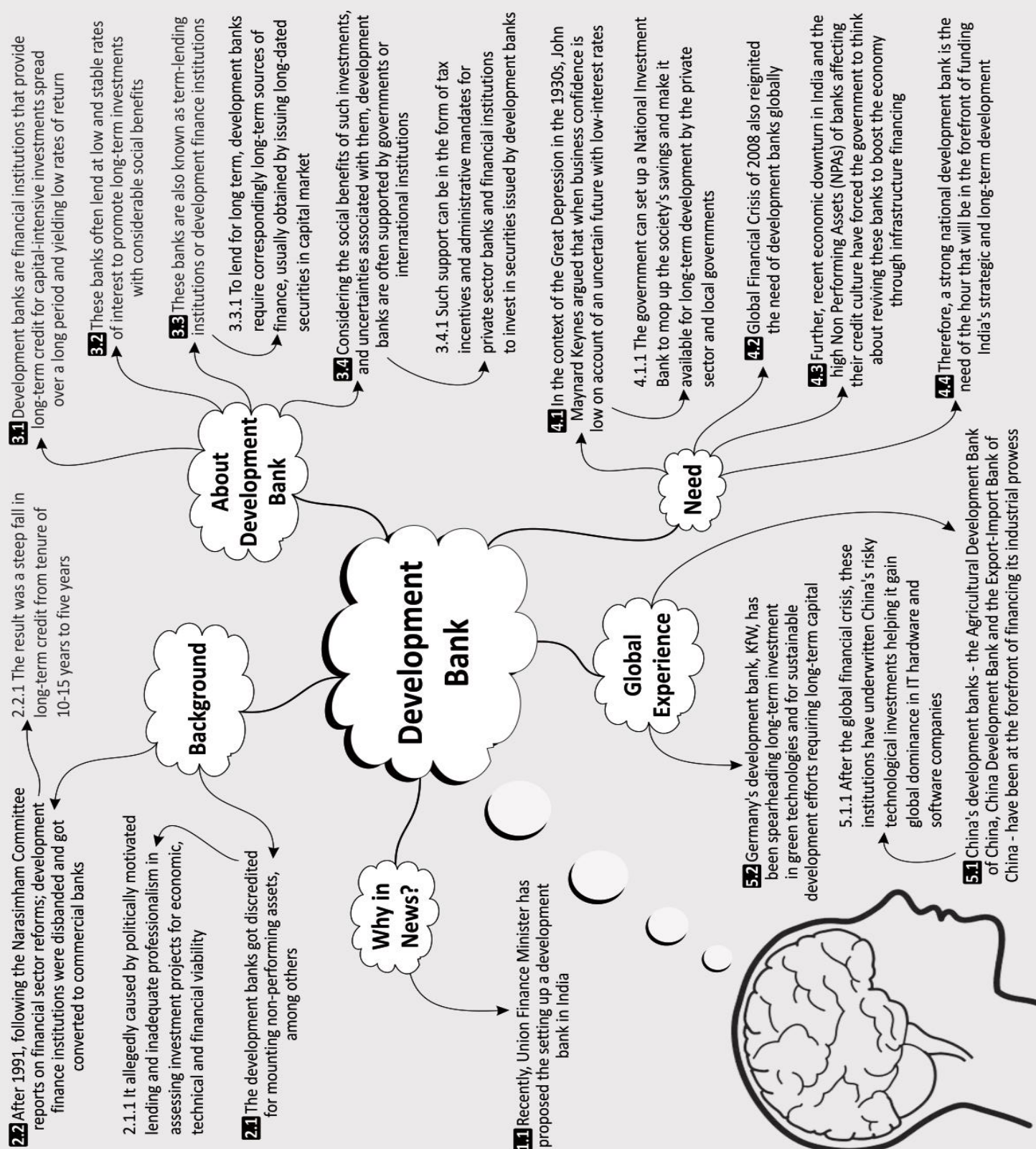
Climate Change and India's Coastal Infrastructure

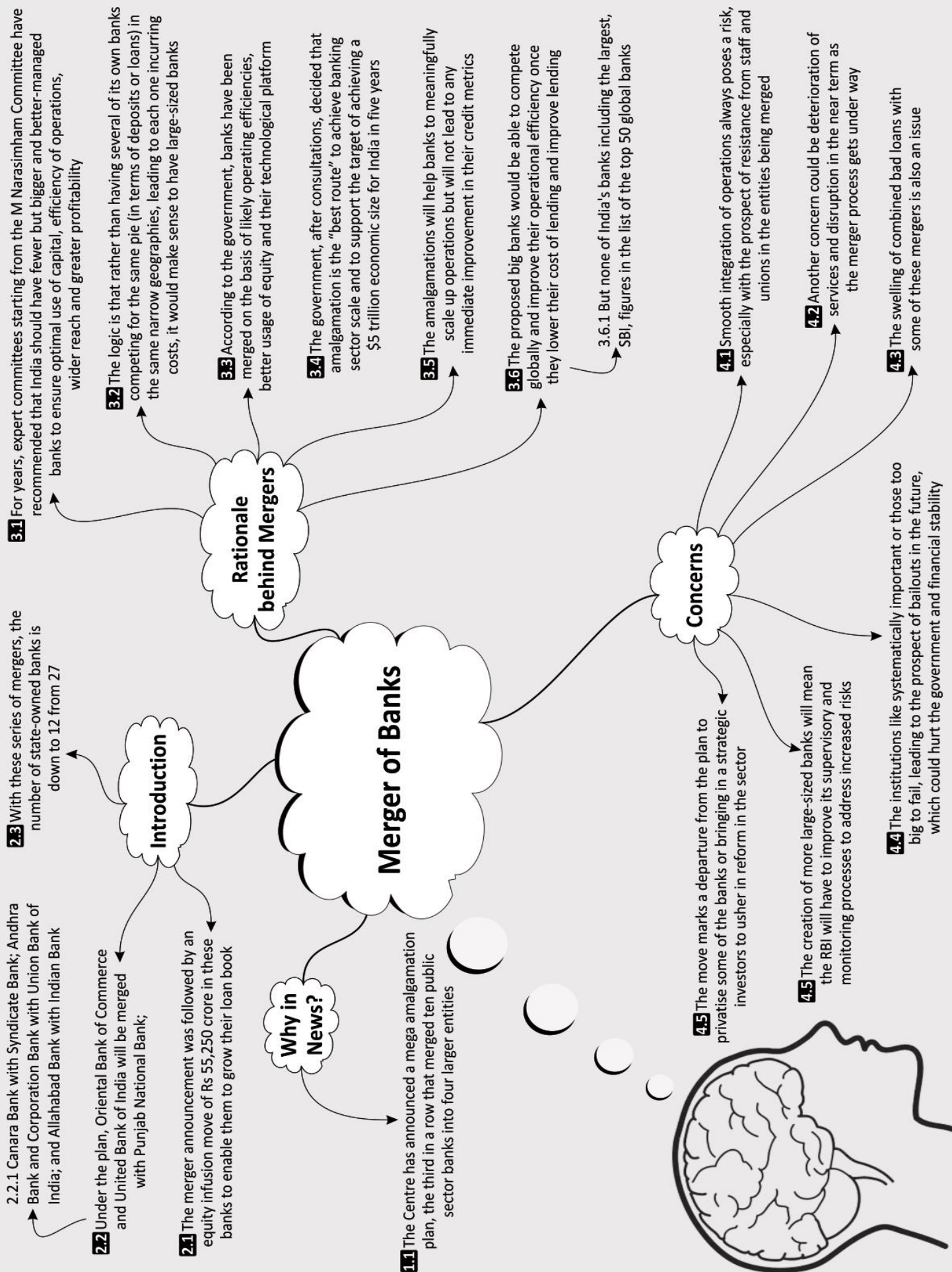
Q 7. "In recent years, India's coastal regions have become more vulnerable to multiple risks related to climate change." Discuss why making coastal infrastructure climate resilient is need of the hour.

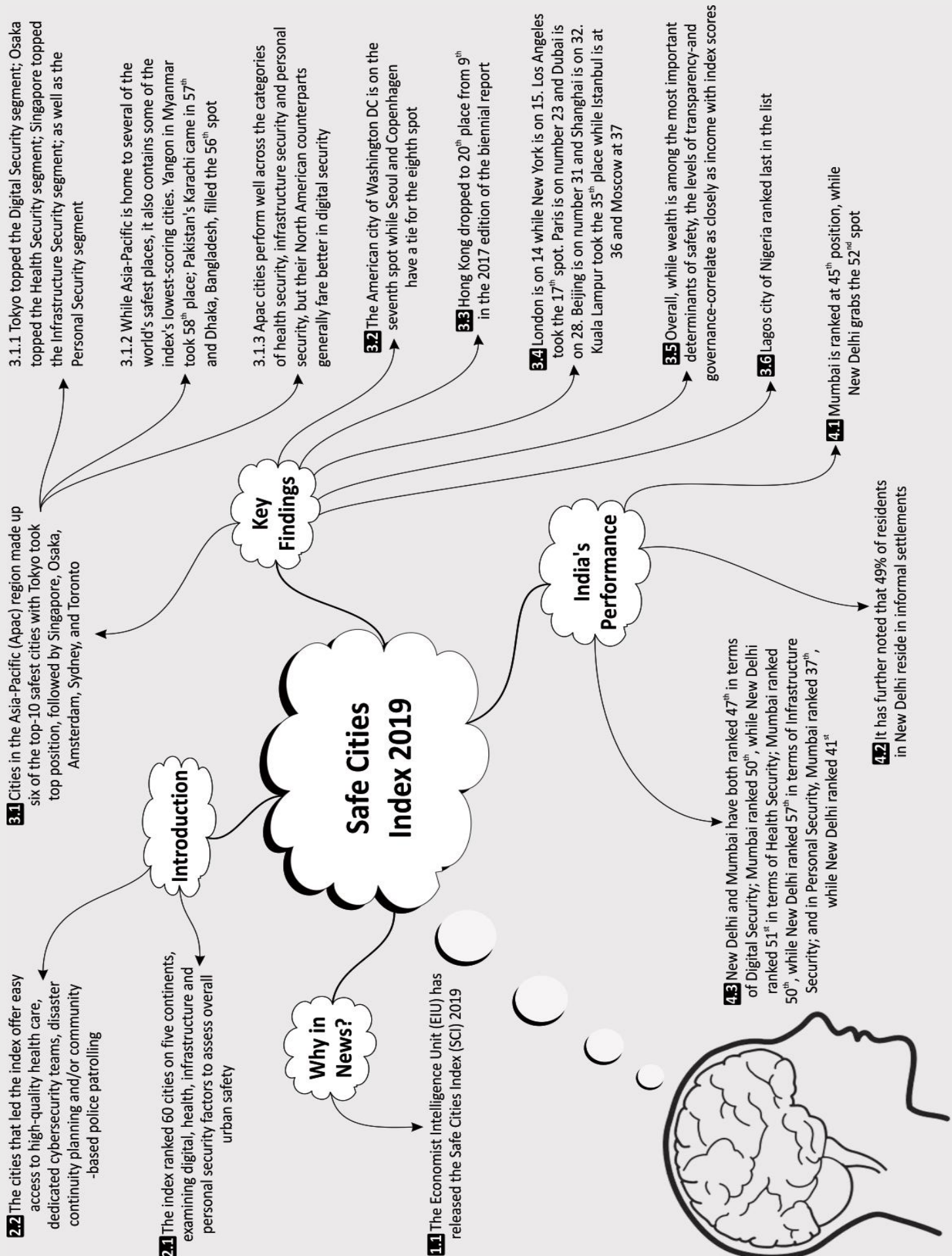
Hints:

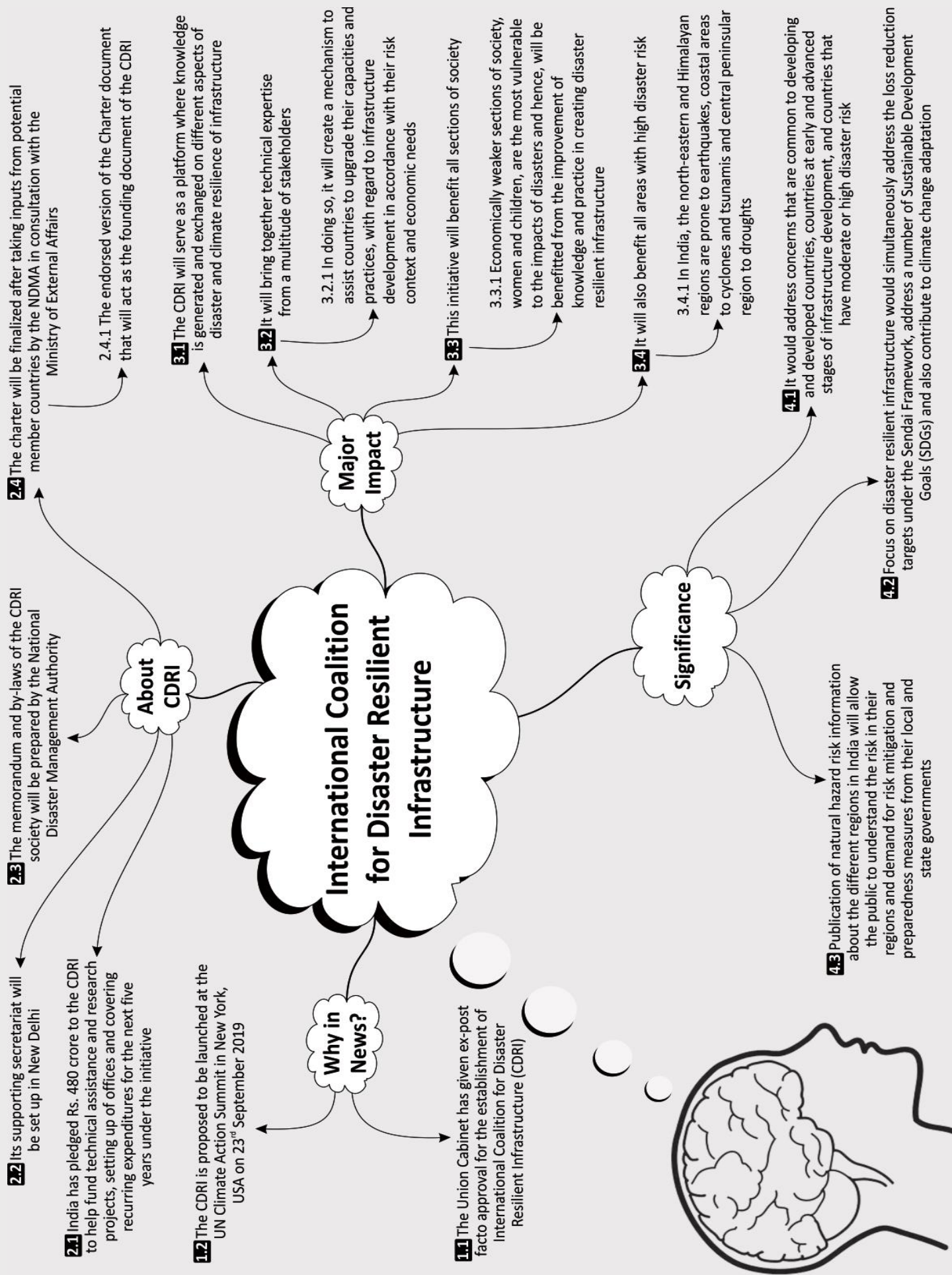
- ◆ In recent years, India has been witnessing increasingly more intense and frequent climatic events and climate-induced natural disasters in recent times. The country's fragile coasts are particularly vulnerable. Intense cyclones such as the recent Fani, Gaja and Hudhud as well as severe floods have caused massive devastation to its coastal states, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, respectively.
- ◆ Furthermore, India's coastline has already been affected by the sea level rise (SLR) that has been recorded at a rate of 2.5 mm per year since the 1950s. A 15 and 38 cm projected rise in sea level along India's coast by 2050 is likely to affect 5,763 sq km combined area of the coastal states, resulting in the submergence of coastal areas, floodings and an increase in tropical cyclones and storm surges, thereby threatening infrastructure.
- ◆ Ensuring growth and development: India's coastal regions are of immense economic and strategic significance, as approximately 90 percent of their trade by volume (or 70 percent in terms of value) is carried out by sea. Reducing the burden of background risk by increasing the resilience of infrastructure would generate benefits that extend across sectors to the macroeconomic level. For instance, protecting coastal regions, towns, business districts, or ports with flood protection infrastructure, will foster economic activity, long-term planning and capital investments. In turn, a boost to entrepreneurship, innovation and productive investments would aid India's overall growth and development.
- ◆ Given the importance of India's coastal regions to the country's economy and growth, massive investments would be required for building even the most basic of essential infrastructure. This level of investment provides a window of opportunity to ensure that all new infrastructure is made resilient to withstand future shocks, including those brought about by a changing climate.

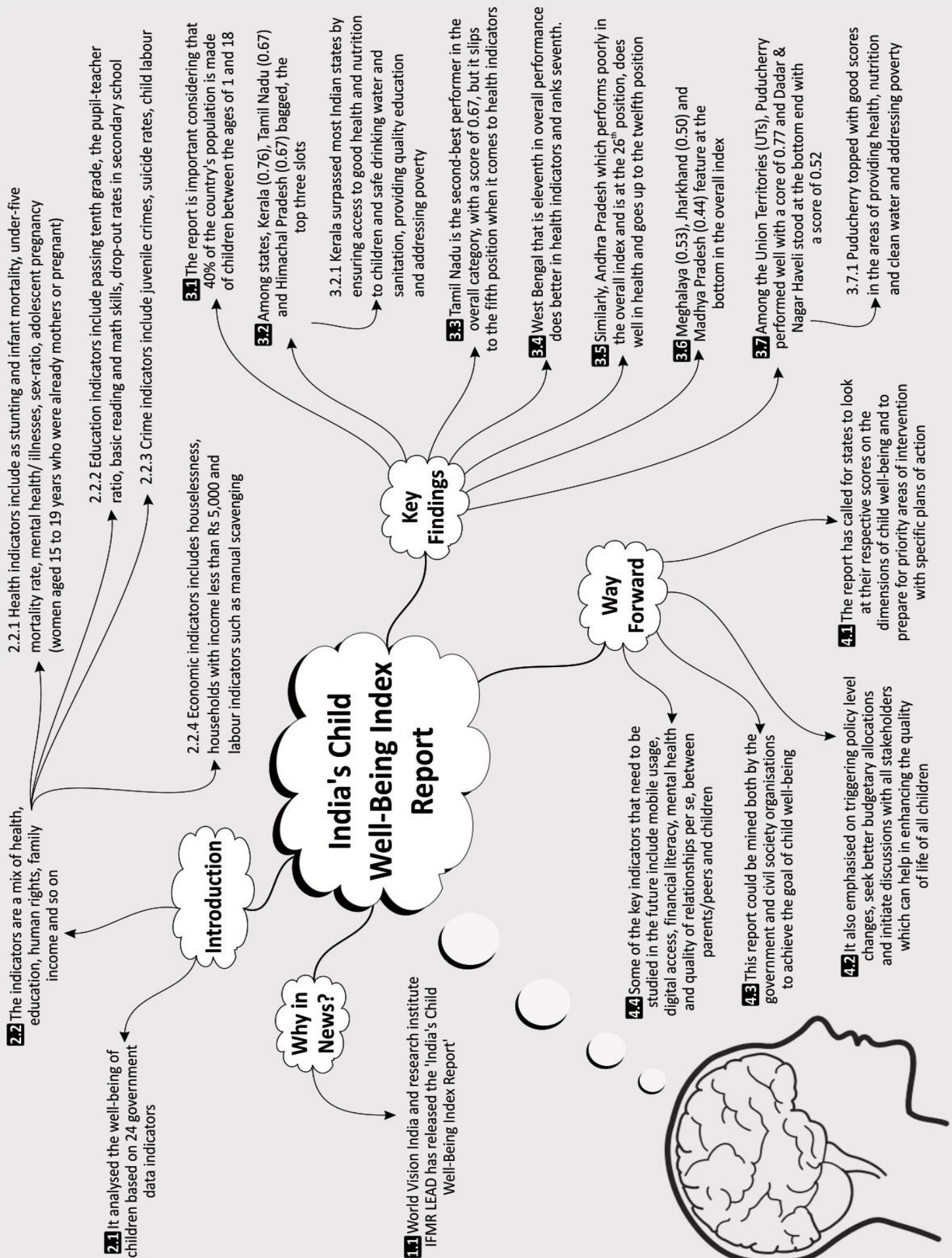
SEVEN BRAIN BOOSTERS

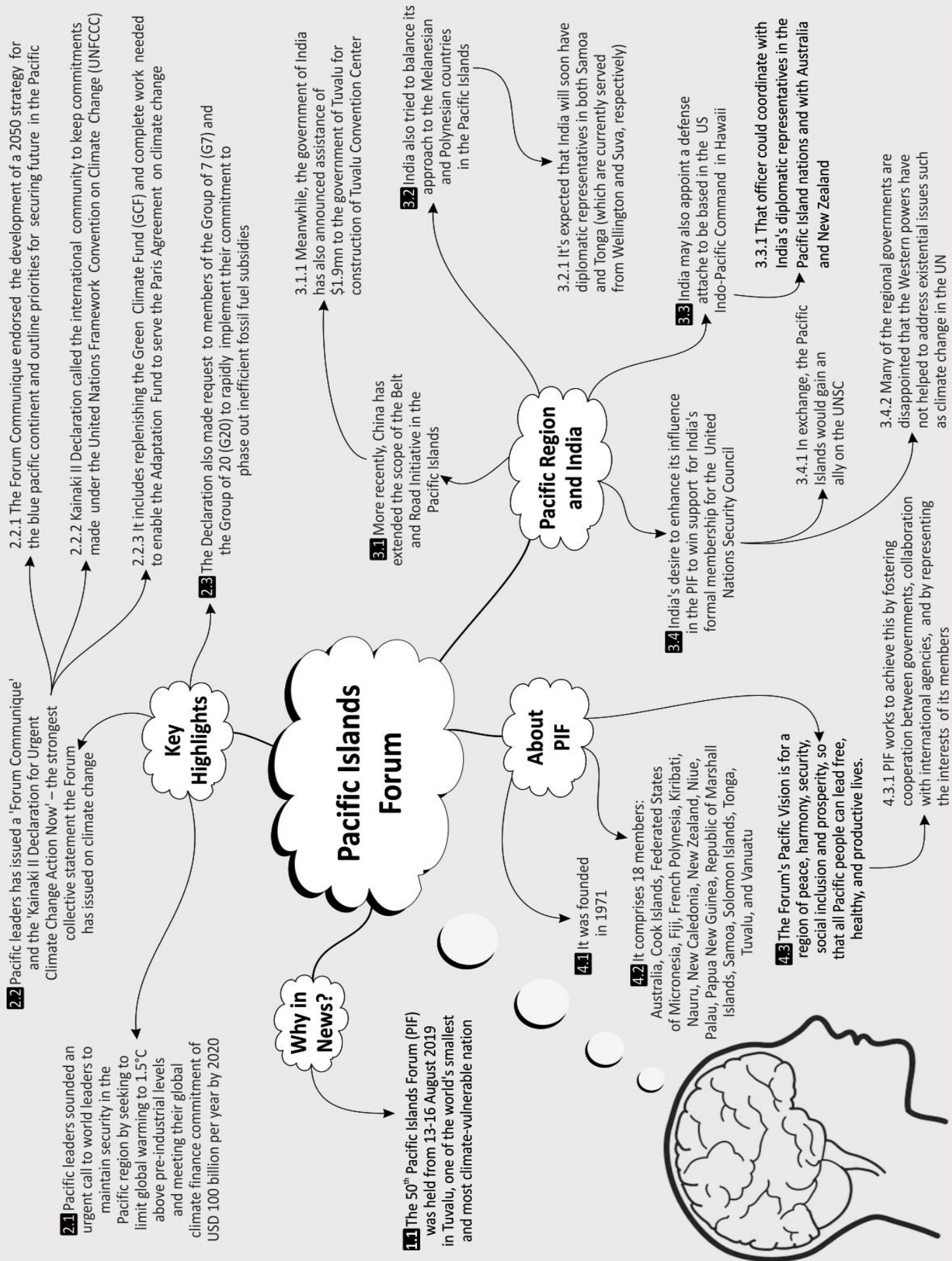


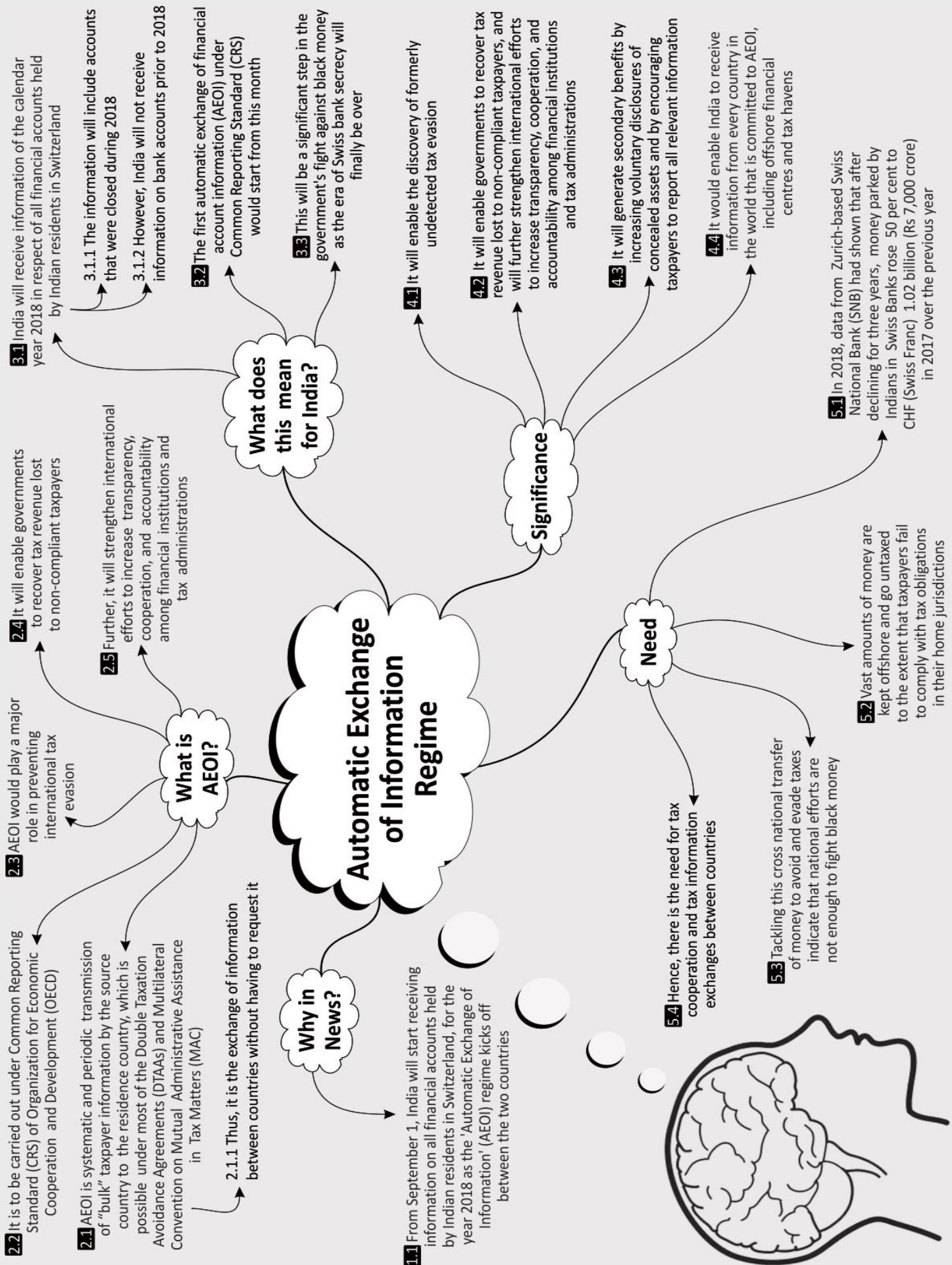












SEVEN MCQ'S WITH EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

(Based on Brain Boosters)

Development Bank

Q1. Consider the following statement in respect of 'development banks':

1. Development banks are financial institutions that provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments such as urban infrastructure, mining, etc.
2. These banks are often supported by governments or international institutions.

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.

Development banks are financial institutions that provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments spread over a long period and yielding low rates of return. These banks often lend at low and stable rates of interest to promote long-term investments with considerable social benefits.

Considering the social benefits of such investments, and uncertainties associated with them, development banks are often supported by governments or international institutions.

Merger of Banks

Q2. Recently, the government has announced the merger of 10 state-owned banks to create four large banks. Consider the following statement in this regard:

1. With this latest merger, the number of state-owned banks is down to 12.
2. This merger is done to meet the norms under the BASEL III.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Recently, the government has announced the merger of 10 state-owned

banks to create four large banks. With these series of mergers, the number of state-owned banks is down to 12 from 27.

Statement 2 is not correct. The government, after consultations, decided that amalgamation is the "best route" to achieve banking sector scale and to support the target of achieving a \$5 trillion economic size for India in five years.

Safe Cities Index 2019

Q3. With reference to the 'Safe Cities Index 2019', consider the following statements:

1. World Bank and the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) have released the Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019.
2. Tokyo topped the index.
3. As far as India is concerned, two cities Mumbai and Delhi got 45th and 52nd place respectively.

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 Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Cities in the Asia-Pacific (Apac) region made up six of the top-10 safest cities with Tokyo took top position, followed by Singapore, Osaka, Amsterdam, Sydney, and Toronto.

As far as India is concerned, As far as India is concerned, two cities Mumbai and Delhi got 45th and 52nd place respectively.

International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Q4. Consider the following statements in respect of 'International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)':

1. The CDRI is launched at the 14th COP to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

2. It is proposed jointly by the government of India and UNCCD.
3. It will serve as a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect.

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the establishment of International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The CDRI is proposed to be launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, USA on 23rd September 2019.

Statement 3 is correct. The CDRI will serve as a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.

India's Child Well-Being Index Report

Q5. With reference to the 'India Child Well-Being Report', consider the following statements:

1. It has been released by the NITI Aayog to analyse the well-being of children based on 24 government data indicators.
2. Among states, Kerala (0.76), Tamil Nadu (0.67) and Himachal Pradesh (0.67) bagged the top three slots in the index.

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. World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD has released the 'India Child Well-Being Report'. It analysed the well-being of children based on 24 government data indicators. The indicators are a mix of health, education, human rights, family income and so on.

Statement 2 is correct. Among states, Kerala (0.76), Tamil Nadu (0.67) and Himachal Pradesh (0.67) bagged the top three slots in the index. Kerala surpassed most Indian states by ensuring access to good health and nutrition to children and safe drinking water and sanitation, providing quality education and addressing poverty.

Pacific Islands Forum

Q6. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Pacific Islands Forum':

1. Pacific leaders have issued the 'Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now.'
2. The forum has comprises 18 members and India as an observer member state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Pacific leaders have issued a 'Forum Communique' and the 'Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now' – the strongest collective statement the Forum has issued on climate change.

Statement 2 is not correct. India is not an observer state of the PIF. It comprises only 18 member states.

Automatic Exchange of Information Regime

Q7. Consider the following statements in respect of 'Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI)':

1. AEOI is to be carried out under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS).
2. The CRS has been developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and World Bank.
3. Under this agreement, India will start receiving information on all financial accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland.

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: (c)

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The automatic exchange of information (AEOI) is to be carried out under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS), the global reporting standard for such exchange of information, which takes care of aspects such as confidentiality rules and data safeguards.

Statement 2 is not correct. The CRS has been developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Statement 3 is correct. From September 1, India will start receiving information on all financial accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland, for the year 2018 as the 'AEOI' regime kicks off between the two countries.



SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. Who has been invited as Chief Guest at the 5th Eastern Economic Forum?
–Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi
2. Which tiger reserve has been chosen as a study site for clouded leopards?
–Dampa Tiger Reserve (Mizoram)
3. Who has launched the USD 4.2 million redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Lord Sri Krishna temple in the Bahrain?
– Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi
4. Which body has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) under the chairmanship of T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore?
–Central Vigilance Commission
5. Which body has banned the 15-inch MacBook Pro laptops on all aeroplanes in India, due to fears that their batteries may overheat and pose a safety risk?
–Directorate General of Civil Aviation
6. Which place has been awarded as India's 'Best Swachh Iconic Place' under the Swachh Bharat Mission?
–Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
7. Which place has got India's highest sky cycling track?
–Nature Park at Gulaba in Kullu District (9000 ft from Sea)

SEVEN PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS EXAM

- Q1. Household air pollution has emerged as one of the key causes of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in India. What it means for India? Discuss.
- Q2. "The uneaten food is responsible for emitting about 8% of planet-warming greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. " Suggest the measures to curb this menace.
- Q3. What do you understand by 'bank merger'? Discuss how is it intended to help the banks and the government.
- Q4. What is 'automatic exchange of information' between India and Switzerland? What does this mean for India, and how will the exchange of information be governed? Discuss.
- Q5. "Global power axis is shifting Eastwards from the Pacific-Atlantic. India's future lies in the Indian Ocean region." Do you agree? Give reasons.
- Q6. "Falling fertility rate will have a direct impact on the child sex ratio in India irrespective of the methods of population control." Discuss.
- Q7. India has embarked on a large-scale plan to screen all children for leprosy and tuberculosis. Why it is necessary? Discuss.

SEVEN IMPORTANT NEWS

1. Study to check Antibiotic Resistance in Ganga

The government of India has commissioned a Rs. 9.3 crore study to assess the microbial diversity along the entire length of the Ganga River and test if stretches of the 2,500 km long river contain microbes that may promote “antibiotic resistance”.

The aims of this research project is to indicate the type of “contamination” (sewage and industrial) in the river and “threat to human health (antibiotic resistance surge)”, identifying sources of *Escherichia coli*, a type of bacteria that lives in the gut of animals and humans. While largely harmless, some species have been linked to intestinal disease as well as aggravating antibiotic resistance. The project, expected to

last two years, is to be undertaken by scientists at the Motilal Nehru Institute of Technology, Allahabad; the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; Sardar Patel Institute of Science & Technology, Gorakhpur, as well as start-up companies, Phixgen and Xcelris Labs. The latter two provide genome sequencing services, which in this case will involve mapping the genomes of the microbes sampled.

Earlier Studies

There have been several studies that have looked at microbial diversity in the Ganga but these have been isolation. No study has looked at the entire stretch of the river.

In 2014, researchers from Newcastle University in the U.K. and IIT-Delhi sampled water and sediments at seven sites along the Ganga in different seasons. They reported that levels of resistance genes that lead to superbugs were about 60 times greater during the pilgrimage months of May and June than at other times of the year.

A 2017 report commissioned by the Union Department of Biotechnology and the U.K. Research Council underlined that India had some of the highest antibiotic resistance rates among bacteria that commonly cause infections.

2. Electors Verification Programme

The Election Commission of India has launched a nation-wide 'Electors Verification Programme' to update electoral rolls through crowd sourcing.

Key Highlights

Under the programme, a voter from each family will get a username and password, allowing a person to upload all documents related to electoral registration and tag similar details about his or her family members.

These details will then be verified by block level officers (BLOs) and therefore, it will save a lot of time. The idea is also to empower voters to assess electoral roll details, self-authenticate



and then get mistakes rectified, if any.

The EVP is "meant for improvement of health of electoral rolls and enrolment of all eligible citizens during special summary revision 2020 by verification or authentication of electors' details through crowd sourcing and verification through field inputs by BLOs.

The 'mega million' launch will take place in all states and union territories. It will be done by 36 CEOs at the state headquarters level, by 740 district electoral officers at the district level and by BLOs and electoral registration officers in around one million polling stations.

The commission has decided that in addition to the already approved seven documents - passport, driving license, Aadhaar, ration card, identity card for government/semi-government officials, bank passbooks, and farmer's identity card; three more documents will also be used for authentication of electors' details.

3. Centre released Rs. 47,436 crores for Afforestation to States

In a major boost towards promoting afforestation and achieving green objectives of the country, the government of India has handed over Rs.47,436 crores of CAMPA funds to various states.

Key Highlights

The State budget for forests shall remain unaffected and the fund being transferred would be in addition to State budget and it is expected that all states will utilize this fund towards forestry activities to achieve the objectives of the Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) of increasing its forest & tree cover, which will create an additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by the year 2030.

Important activities on which the fund will be utilised will be for the Compensatory Afforestation, Catchment Area Treatment, Wildlife Management, Assisted Natural Regeneration, Forest Fire Prevention and Control Operations, Soil and Moisture Conservation Works in the forest, Improvement of Wildlife Habitat, Management of Biological Diversity and Biological Resources, Research in Forestry and Monitoring of CAMPA works etc.

Background

With the initial experience of the states regarding under-utilisation of the money collected towards compensatory afforestation, Supreme Court (SC) has ordered

for establishment of Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in 2001.

In 2009, SC permitted release of Rs.1000 crore every year to States/UTs for compensatory afforestation and other activities. In 2014, SC permitted release of 10% of total deposit of states in the fund from interest accrued on the deposits.

In 2018, after notification of CAF Rules, with approval of the SC on 28 Jan 2019, an amount of Rs.54,685 Crore from Ad-hoc CAMPA has been brought under the control of Government of India. ■

4. GI Tag for Dindigul lock and Kandangi Saree

The Geographical Indications Registry has given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Dindigul lock and the Kandangi saree.

About Dindigul Lock

The famous Dindigul locks are known throughout the world for their superior quality and durability, so much so that even the city is called Lock City. The abundance of iron in this region is the reason for the growth of the lock-

making industry. But over the last few years, this industry has been slowly dying due to competition from Aligarh and Rajapalayam. Marketing these locks has also been a challenge. So, the GI tag will help people differentiate Dindigul locks from others.

About Kandangi Saree

The original Kandangi saree is manually made using a winding machine, loom, shuttle and bobbin. These sarees are

characterised by the large contrast borders, and some of them are known to have borders covering as much as two-thirds of the saree. The sarees are usually around 5.10 meters – 5.60 meters in length. The Kandangi sarees exude brilliant colours like bright yellow, orange, red and a minimal black in the traditional pattern of stripes or checks with broad borders woven in coarse cotton. ■

5. Bahrin conferred 'King Hamad Order of the Renaissance' to Indian PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with the key Gulf nation. He is the first Indian Prime Minister to recient the recognition.

Recent Developments

India and Bahrain has agreed to collaborate in the areas of space technology, solar energy, culture exchange. The two sides agreed on collaboration of the Kingdom with the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Both countries reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the identity of the perpetrators and their motives and they agreed to further enhance cooperation in the field of security, counter-terrorism and the exchange of intelligence and

information. India and Bahrain further discussed ways and means to further promote cooperation in cyber security, including prevention of use of cyber space for terrorism, radicalization and for disturbing social harmony.

Both countries has agreed to enhance cooperation in energy,

covering the areas of joint exploration and training of human resources. The Indian side highlighted the interest of its energy companies to pursue opportunities of conventional exploration as well as development of newly discovered oil and gas assets in Bahrain.

The two nations also agreed that regional connectivity projects should be based on international law including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. They also reaffirmed the commitment to pluralism, values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and religious freedom. ■

6. Hurricane Dorian

The Hurricane Dorian has become the strongest storm in modern records to hit the Northwestern Bahamas (a country in the Caribbean Islands). After slamming into the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane, Dorian was recategorized to a Category 4 storm and has since been downgraded to a Category 3. However, Hurricane Dorian remains extremely dangerous and inching towards florida. It is developed from a tropical wave in the Central Atlantic. Earlier it was categorised as

a Category 5 storm on Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale (SSHWS) with maximum sustained winds of 285 km per hour.

Categories of Hurricance

Meteorologists use the Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale to measure a hurricane's strength. The system divides storms into five categories:

Category 1: Winds 74 to 95 mph (Minor damage)

Category 2: Winds 96 to 110 mph (Extensive damage — Can uproot trees and break windows)

Category 3: Winds 111 to 129 mph (Devastating — Can break windows and doors)

Category 4: Winds 130 to 156 mph (Catastrophic damage — Can tear off roofs)

Category 5: Winds 157 mph or higher (The absolute worst and can level houses and destroy buildings) ■

7. Apache Attack Helicopters

In a significant boost to India's combat capabilities, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has formally inducted to its fleet eight latest-generation AH-64E(I) Apache attack helicopters. IAF had signed a contract with aerospace major Boeing and the United States government in 2015 for 22 Apache AH-64Es. The first eight of these attack helicopters have been delivered on schedule, and the last of the choppers is to be delivered by March 2020. The Apache helicopters will replace the ageing Mi-35 helicopters, which the IAF has been operating for the past three decades.

Key Features

The helicopter has modern electronic warfare (EW) capabilities to provide versatility in a network-centric aerial warfare.

The helicopter is capable of delivering a variety of weapons, which include air-to-ground Hellfire missiles, 70 mm Hydra rockets, and air-to-air Stinger missiles.

The Apaches also carry a 30 mm chain gun with 1,200 rounds as part of the area weapon subsystem. The helicopter carries the fire control Longbow radar, which has 360-degree

coverage and a nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night-vision systems.

The weapons and radar systems in the helicopter will enhance the capability of the IAF in providing integrated combat aviation cover to the Army strike corps. These tandem seating helicopters are day/night, all weather capable, and have high agility and survivability against battle damage. These are easily maintainable even in field conditions, and are capable of prolonged operations in tropical and desert regions. ■

SEVEN IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PIB

1. 12th India Security Summit

The 12th India Security Summit on the theme “Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy” was organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Key Highlights

Indian society has gone through rapid evolution as far as technology, special communication technology is concerned. Moreover, 'digital culture' is being transferred from generation to generations.

Further, every technology has a utility; similarly cyber technology is a big boom nowadays. But besides being a boon the same technology has become one of the greatest threat. The concept of security has itself undergone change in the last few decades. It has assumed proportions; external

as well as internal. So here, it is important to understand that terrorism is terrorism and there cannot be a distinction based on caste, creed and religion. He added that we need to set the priorities to combat cyber threat.

Cyber security is the need of the hour for cyber safe society. New tools and technologies must be developed at faster rate for cyber security.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has rolled out a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' to combat cyber crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.

Government also launched “Cyber Swachhta Kendra” which is a part of the government of India's Digital India initiative.

2. Campaign Angikaar & E-Course on Vulnerability Atlas

The government of India has launched “angikaar” a campaign for change management and e-Course on Vulnerability Atlas of India.

About Campaign Angikaar

Angikaar has been launched for social behaviour change, focusing on issues such as water and energy conservation, waste management, health, tree plantation, sanitation and hygiene for beneficiaries of completed houses under PMAY (U), through community mobilisation and IEC activities. For this purpose, the campaign will converge with schemes and Missions of other Ministries dealing with these subjects. The convergence would especially focus on Ujjwala for gas connection and Ayushman Bharat for health insurance to the beneficiaries of PMAY (U).

Under PMAY (U) about 88 lakh houses has been approved till now as against demand of 1.12 crore. The angikaar aims at reaching out all the beneficiaries of the Mission in phased manner.

The campaign will be initiated in all target cities on 2nd October 2019 commemorating 150th Gandhi Jayanti after

preparatory phase and culminate on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10th December, 2019. The campaign will include door to door activities, ward and city level events.

About e-course on Vulnerability Atlas

The e-course on Vulnerability Atlas is offered by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in collaboration of School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).

It is a unique course that offers awareness and understanding about natural hazards, helps identify regions with high vulnerability with respect to various hazards (earthquakes, cyclones, landslides, floods, etc.) and specifies district-wise level of damage risks to the existing housing stock.

The e-course will be a tool for effective and efficient disaster mitigation & management in the field of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Urban & Regional Planning, Housing & Infrastructure Planning, Construction Engineering & Management and Building & Materials Research.

3. 'Shagun' Portal

Union Human Resource Development Minister has launched one of world's largest Integrated Online Junction for – School Education 'Shagun'.

Key Highlights

School Education Shagun is an over-arching initiative to improve school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the government of India and all states and Union Territories (UTs). The word Shagun is coined from two different words- 'Shala' meaning Schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning Quality and this online junction of different websites and portals into a single platform will enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools and will ensure a holistic approach to transform education sector.

Around 1200 Kendriya Vidyalayas, 600 Navodaya Vidyalayas, 18000 other CBSE affiliated schools, 30 SCERTs, 19000 organisations affiliated with NTCE among others are integrated with Shagun.

Report cards of 15 lakh schools all over the country will be available on the newly created junction. The portal seeks to connect approximately 92 lakh teachers and 26 crore students.

Common people can directly give their feedback about schools which will further increase the public participation and will ensure accountability and transparency.

This single source of information will immensely benefit all the stakeholders, viz. the parents and the general public, the heads of the schools, the teachers, the students, the policy makers, the officials and the researchers.

4. SKOCH Governance Gold Award

Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA).

About PAiSA

- ◆ PAiSA was launched in November 2018. It is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission.
- ◆ It offers end to end online solution for processing, payment, monitoring and tracking of interest subvention claims from banks on a monthly basis.
- ◆ Claims for subvention are uploaded by banks through their Core Banking Solution (CBS) in respect of the beneficiaries of the Self Employment Programme,

which are verified and approved by the ULB and State concerned.

- ◆ The approved claim amount gets credited directly to the beneficiary's loan account through DBT mode.
- ◆ The portal has been designed and developed through the Allahabad Bank. As of now, 28 States/UTs and 74 Banks including 21 Public Sector, 18 Private and 35 Regional Rural Banks have been on boarded on the portal. Till now approximately 1.50 lakh beneficiaries have been paid Rs. 27 Cr (approx.) as interest subvention through PAiSA.

About SKOCH Award

SKOCH Award, instituted in 2003, is the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by an independent organisation. It recognises people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

5. North East Rural Livelihood Project

The North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) has empowered rural poor and improved livelihoods of about 300,000 rural households in 1,645 villages under 58 development blocks across the eleven districts of four states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. Under this project, the Skills development and placement has trained 10462 boys and girls in various job skills and a total of 5494 of them are employed today.

About NERLP

NERLP is World Bank aided, multi-state livelihood project under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). It was launched in 2012.

The project has been implemented in 11 districts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The project aims "to improve rural livelihoods especially that of women,

unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States. The project has focussed on five development strategies, namely, social empowerment, economic empowerment, partnership development, project management and livelihood & value chain developments.

Across the project districts, livelihood activities pursued by Self Help Group (SHG) members have increased considerably, thus increasing family incomes. Women have become more knowledgeable and expressive and they display better leadership qualities.

6. Facial Bio-Metric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document

India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers.

Key Highlights

The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy.

The new document will give a foolproof identification to seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.

The new card is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organisation on BSID. India ratified the Convention in October 2015.

The BSID has the dimensions of a smart ID card. It

introduces modern security features like an embedded biometric chip, as well as optical security features such as micro prints/micro texts and Unique Guilloche pattern.

The security of the BSID card is ensured at various levels and through different methods. At the time of data capturing the live face is cross matched through passport photo using a face matching software.

A record of each SID issued will be maintained in a national database and its related information will be internationally accessible.

The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000. All the existing seafarers will be given BSID within the next 2 years. After this, it is estimated that around 15000 new seafarers will be issued BSIDs annually.

Nine data collection centers have been setup at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag & Kandla for issue of BSID.

7. Janaushadhi Sugam

The government also launched 'Jan Aushadhi Sugam' Mobile App for locating Jan Aushadhi kendras along with details of generic medicines available in these stores. Through this app, people they can avail a host of user-friendly options like locating nearby Jan Aushadhi kendra, search Janaushadhi generic medicines, analyse product comparison of generic vs branded medicine in form of maximum retail price (MRP) and overall savings.

What are Generic Medicines?

Generic drugs are copies of brand-named drugs that have exactly the same dosage, intended use, effects, side effects, route of administration, risks, safety, and strength as the original drug.

About Jan Aushadhi Yojana

In September 2015, the 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' was revamped as 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana' (PMJAY). In November, 2016, to give further impetus to the scheme, it was again renamed as "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana" (PMBJP).

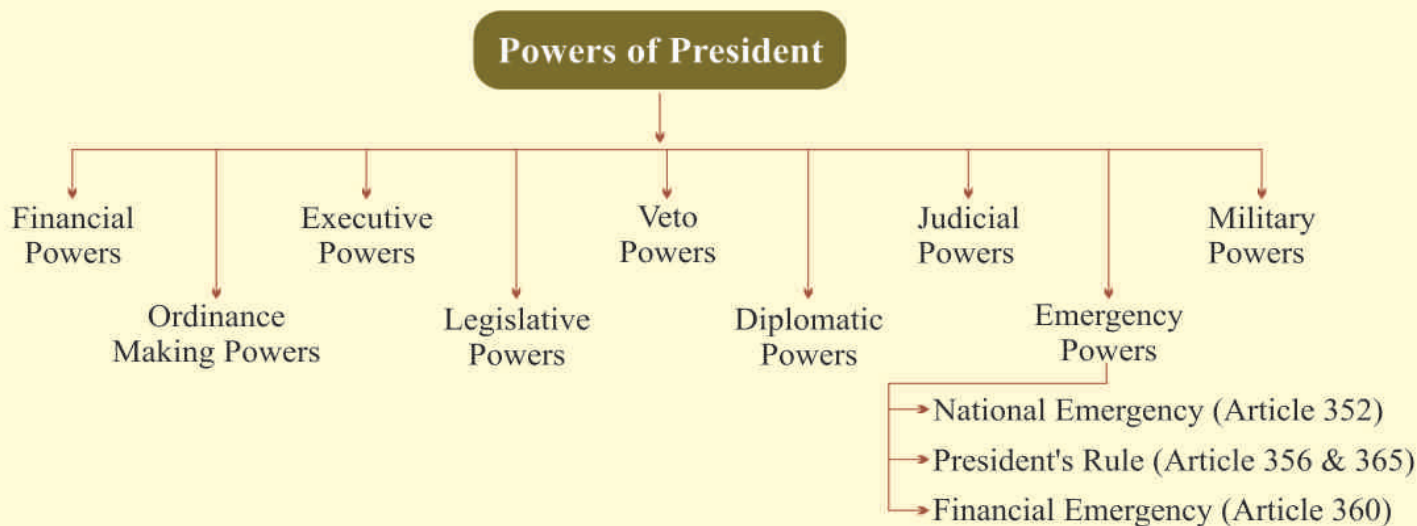
PMBJP is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses. PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.



SEVEN IMPORTANT CONCEPTS THROUGH GRAPHICS

1. Powers of President of India

Key Facts



- Article 52 to 78 in Part V of the Constitution of India deal with the Union executive. Article 52 of the Constitution of India says that there shall be a President of India. Article 53 says that all the executive powers of the Union shall be exercised by the President either directly or through officers subordinate to him.
- All executive actions of the government of India are formally taken in his name. (Article 77(1)).
- He appoints the Prime Minister and the other ministers. They hold office during his pleasure.
- He can summon or prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha. He can also summon a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, which is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Money Bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with his prior recommendation.
- Under Article 72, he can grant pardon, reprieve, respite and remission of punishment, or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence:
 - (a) In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a court martial;
 - (b) In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union law; and
 - (c) In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.
- The international treaties and agreements are negotiated and concluded on behalf of the President.
- Parliament is not always in session and when it becomes necessary to have a law on some urgent public matter, the Constitution via Article 123 provides the power to the President to issue ordinances if he is satisfied with the circumstances of issuing such ordinance.
- Article 53 vests the supreme command of the Armed Forces of India in the President. President of India can declare war or conclude peace, under the regulation by the Parliament.

2. Powers and Functions of Lok Sabha

Key Facts

- For all its work, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible before the Lok Sabha. The leader of the majority in the Lok Sabha becomes the Prime Minister. Most of the ministers are from the Lok Sabha. The ministers remain in office so long as they enjoy the confidence of majority in the Lok Sabha.
- The Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha and not to the Rajya Sabha. It remains in office so long as it enjoys the confidence of majority in the Lok Sabha.
- The Lok Sabha has vast financial powers. A money bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha. After having been passed by it, the money bill goes to the Rajya Sabha. Such a bill can be delayed by the Rajya Sabha for a maximum period of 14 days.
- The Lok Sabha also performs some judicial functions. The impeachment proceedings can be taken up against the President either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. The President can be removed from office only when an impeachment resolution is adopted by each of the two Houses with a 2/3 majority of its members.
- The Lok Sabha also performs some electoral functions. The elected members of the Lok Sabha take part in the election of the President. The members of the Lok Sabha also elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker from amongst themselves.
- An ordinary bill can become law only after it has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament.
- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can together amend the constitution by passing an amendment bill with 2/3 majority in each House.



3. Powers and Functions of Rajya Sabha

Key Facts

- Rajya Sabha has the power to select of ministers including the Prime Minister. Under the Constitution, the ministers including the Prime Minister can be members of either House. However, irrespective of their membership, they are responsible only to the Lok Sabha.
- The Rajya Sabha has been given two exclusive or special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha:

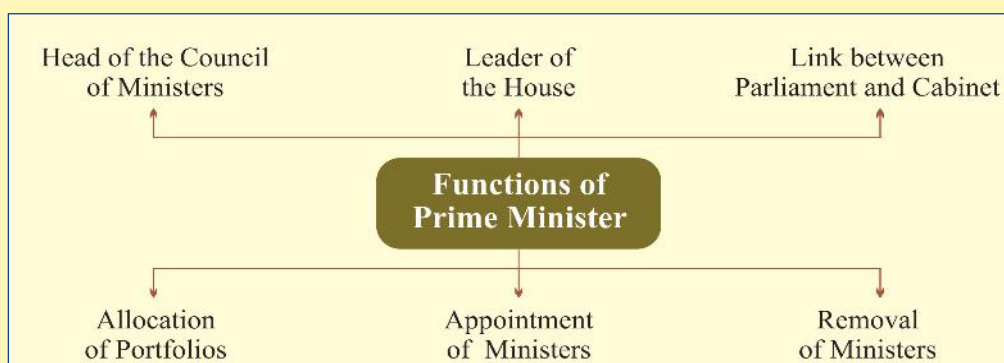


- It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249).
 - It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312).
- Except in financial matters and control over the council of ministers, the powers and status of the Rajya Sabha in all other spheres are broadly equal and coordinate with that of the Lok Sabha.
 - It also maintains the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre.
 - In the sphere of ordinary law-making the Rajya Sabha enjoys equal powers with the Lok Sabha. An ordinary bill can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha and it cannot become a law unless passed by it.
 - Under certain circumstances, however, Rajya Sabha enjoys special powers during emergency. If a Proclamation is issued at a time when Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of Lok Sabha takes place within the period allowed for its approval i.e. within a month, then the proclamation remains effective, if the resolution approving it is passed by Rajya Sabha within the period specified in the Constitution under articles 352, 356 and 360.

4. Functions of Prime Minister

Key Facts

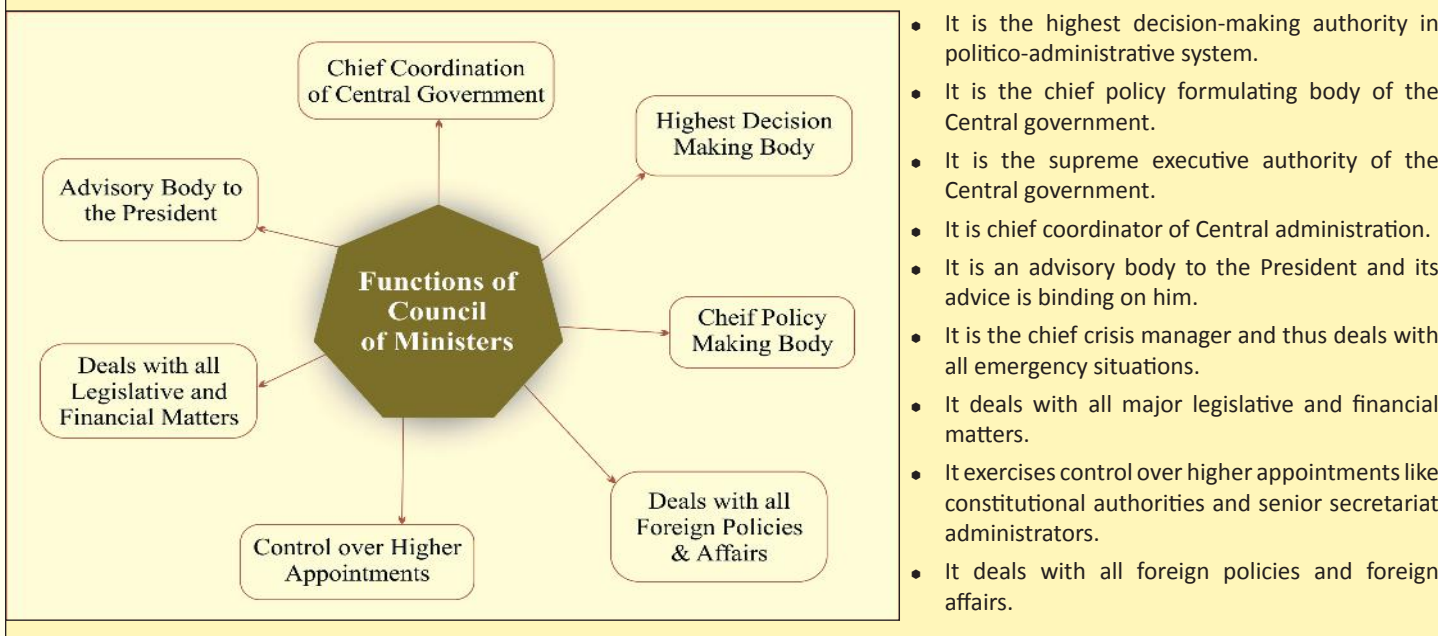
- Article 75 of the Indian Constitution envisages that there will be a Prime Minister (PM) of India who shall be appointed by the President.
- Article 74(1) of the Constitution states that there shall be a council of ministers with Prime Minister as its head to aid and advise the President who shall exercise his function in accordance with advice tendered. Thus the real power is vested in council of ministers with Prime Minister as its head.
- Though President is head of the state, Prime Minister is head of the government. All the decisions are taken in the name of President but with the aid and advice of Prime Minister and council of minister. Even regarding appointing other ministers he has to appoint according to PM's recommendation.
- The PM summons and presides over meetings of the cabinet and determines what business shall be transacted in these meetings.
- The PM is also the link between the cabinet and the Parliament. He is the chief spokesperson of the government in the Parliament.
- All the decision making bodies in India, like the Union Cabinet and the NITI Aayog, among others, run under his supervision.
- The PM has the power to advise the President in favour of a dissolution of the Lok Sabha. This power of dissolution really means that the members hold their seats in the House at the mercy of the Prime Minister.
- The emergency powers of the President are in reality the powers of the Prime Minister. The President declares an emergency only under the advice of the Cabinet, which in reality means the advice of the Prime Minister. All decisions taken to meet an emergency are really the decisions of the Prime Minister.



5. Functions of Union Cabinet

Key Facts

- Originally Indian Constitution did not mention about 'Cabinet'. However, the word 'Cabinet' was inserted by 44th Amendment Act in Article 352.

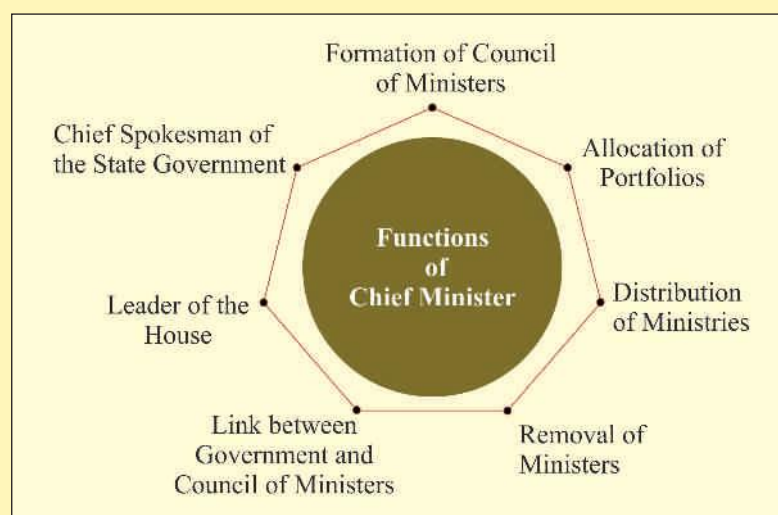


- It is the highest decision-making authority in politico-administrative system.
- It is the chief policy formulating body of the Central government.
- It is the supreme executive authority of the Central government.
- It is chief coordinator of Central administration.
- It is an advisory body to the President and its advice is binding on him.
- It is the chief crisis manager and thus deals with all emergency situations.
- It deals with all major legislative and financial matters.
- It exercises control over higher appointments like constitutional authorities and senior secretariat administrators.
- It deals with all foreign policies and foreign affairs.

6. Functions of Chief Minister

Key Facts

- According to the Constitution of India, the Governor is a state's de jure head, but de facto executive authority rests with the Chief Minister.
- Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor.
- He acts as the principal channel of communication between the Governor and the council of ministers.
- He advises the Governor with regard to the appointment of important officials like advocate general, chairman and members of the state public service commission, state election commissioner, and so on.
- He presides over the meetings of the council of ministers and influences its decisions.
- He advises the Governor with regard to the summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the state legislature.
- He is the chairman of the State Planning Board.
- He is the chief spokesman of the state government.
- He is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.
- He acts as a vice-chairman of the concerned zonal council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- He is a member of the Inter-State Council and the National Development Council, both headed by the Prime Minister.



7. Jurisdiction and Powers of Supreme Court

Key Facts



- Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court (SC).
- Exclusive means, no other court can decide such disputes and original means, the power to hear such disputes in the first instance, not by way of appeal. The SC have original jurisdiction in any dispute involving: between the government of India and one or more states; between the government of India and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other; and between two or more states.
- The SC is primarily a court of appeal and hears appeals against the judgements of the lower courts. It enjoys a wide appellate jurisdiction which can be classified under four heads: Appeals in constitutional matters; Appeals in civil matters; Appeals in criminal matters; and Appeals by special leave.
- The Writ Jurisdiction of SC is mentioned under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution has constituted the Supreme Court as the guarantor and defender of the fundamental rights of the citizens. The Supreme Court is empowered to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo-warranto and certiorari for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen.
- Under Article 136, the SC can exercise the power of judicial review. Judicial review is the power of the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and state governments. On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution (ultra-vires), they can be declared as illegal, unconstitutional and invalid (null and void) by the Supreme Court. Consequently, they cannot be enforced by the government.
- Article 143 of the Indian Constitution confers upon the SC advisory jurisdiction. The President may seek the opinion of the SC on any question of law or fact of public importance on which he thinks it expedient to obtain such an opinion.

Books & Magazines of DHYEYA IAS

Classroom Study Material

A comprehensive in-depth study material which complements classroom teaching and guidance. From basic level to an advanced learner, it caters to all needs of the aspirants.



& Many more...

Sprinter (Questions & Answers for Mains)

In this series we have covered previous years' questions of UPSC with compact model answers. We have also covered those important questions which are most probable for upcoming exams.



Weekly Magazines

Build your knowledge every week and keep in touch with the world around you and everything that is important for the examination. With the smart preparation approach, it covers complex issues in easy and concise manner.



Yearly Magazines

Yearly topic-wise compilation of important current issues. Exclusively designed to cover UPSC examination cycle. A smart and time saving way for the aspirants.



AN INTRODUCTION

Dhyeya IAS, a decade old institution, was founded by Mr. Vinay Singh and Mr. Q.H. Khan. Ever since its emergence it has unparalleled track record of success. Today, it stands tall among the reputed institutes providing coaching for Civil Services Examination (CSE). The institute has been very successful in making potential realize their dreams which is evident from success stories of the previous years.

Quite a large number of students desirous of building a career for themselves are absolutely less equipped for the fairly tough competitive tests they have to appear in. Several others, who have a brilliant academic career, do not know that competitive exams are vastly different from academic examination and call for a systematic and scientifically planned guidance by a team of experts. Here one single move invariably put one ahead of many others who lag behind. Dhyeya IAS is manned with qualified & experienced faculties besides especially designed study material that helps the students in achieving the desired goal.

Civil Services Exam requires knowledge base of specified subjects. These subjects though taught in schools and colleges are not necessarily oriented towards the exam approach. Coaching classes at Dhyeya IAS are different from classes conducted in schools and colleges with respect to their orientation. Classes are targeted towards the particular exam. Classroom guidance at Dhyeya IAS is about improving the individual's capacity to focus, learn and innovate as we are comfortably aware of the fact that you can't teach a person anything you can only help him find it within himself.

DSDL Prepare yourself from distance

Distance learning Programme, DSDL, primarily caters the need for those who are unable to come to metros for economic or family reason but have ardent desire to become a civil servant. Simultaneously, it also suits to the need of working professionals, who are unable to join regular classes due to increase in work load or places of their posting. The principal characteristic of our distance learning is that the student does not need to be present in a classroom in order to participate in the instruction. It aims to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance. Realizing the difficulties faced by aspirants of distant areas, especially working candidates, in making use of the institute's classroom guidance programme, distance learning system is being provided in General Studies. The distance learning material is comprehensive, concise and exam-oriented in nature. Its aim is to make available almost all the relevant material on a subject at one place. Materials on all topics of General Studies have been prepared in such a way that, not even a single point will be missing. In other words, you will get all points, which are otherwise to be taken from 6-10 books available in the market / library. That means, DSDL study material is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and that will definitely give you added advantage in your Preliminary as well as Main Examination. These materials are not available in any book store or library. These materials have been prepared exclusively for the use of our students. We believe in our quality and commitment towards making these notes indispensable for any student preparing for Civil Services Examination. We adhere all pillars of Distance education.

Face to Face Centres

DELHI (MUKHERJEE NAGAR) : 011-49274400 | 9205274741, **DELHI (RAJENDRA NAGAR)** : 011-41251555 | 9205274743, **DELHI (LAXMI NAGAR)** : 011-43012556 | 9205212500, **ALLAHABAD** : 0532-2260189 | 8853467068, **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ)** 9506256789 | 7570009014, **LUCKNOW (GOMTINAGAR)** 7234000501 | 7234000502, **GREATER NOIDA RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY** : 9205336037 | 9205336038, **BHUBANESWAR** : 8599071555, **SRINAGAR (J&K)** : 9205962002 | 9988085811

Live Streaming Centres

BIHAR: PATNA – 6204373873, 9334100961 | **CHANDIGARH** – 9216776076, 8591818500 | **DELHI & NCR** : FARIDABAD – 9711394350, 1294054621 | **GUJRAT**: AHMEDABAD - 9879113469 | **HARYANA**: HISAR – 9996887708, 9991887708, KURUKSHETRA – 8950728524, 8607221300 | **MADYA PRADESH**: GWALIOR -9993135886, 9893481642, JABALPUR- 8982082023, 8982082030, REWA –9926207755, 7662408099 | **MAHARASHTRA**: MUMBAI -9324012585 | **PUNJAB**: PATIALA - 9041030070, LUDHIANA – 9876218943, 9888178344 | **RAJASTHAN**: JODHPUR - 9928965998 | **UTTARAKHAND**: HALDWANI-7060172525 | **UTTAR PRADESH**: ALIGARH – 9837877879, 9412175550, AZAMGARH - 7617077051, BAHRAICH - 7275758422, BAREILLY - 9917500098, GORAKHPUR - 7080847474, 7704884118, KANPUR - 7275613962, LUCKNOW (ALAMBAGH) - 7518573333, 7518373333, MORADABAD - 9927622221, VARANASI - 7408098888



YouTube **dhyeyaias**

dhyeyaias.com



/dhyeya1

STUDENT PORTAL

Dhyeya IAS Now on Telegram



We're Now on Telegram

Join Dhyeya IAS Telegram

Channel from the link given below

"https://t.me/dhyeya_ias_study_material"

You can also join Telegram Channel through

Search on Telegram

"Dhyeya IAS Study Material"

Join Dhyeya IAS Telegram Channel from link the given below

https://t.me/dhyeya_ias_study_material

नोट : पहले अपने फ़ोन में टेलीग्राम App Play Store से Install कर ले उसके बाद लिंक में क्लिक करें जिससे सीधे आप हमारे चैनल में पहुँच जायेंगे।

You can also join Telegram Channel through our website

www.dhyeyaias.com

www.dhyeyaias.in



Address: 635, Ground Floor, Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009
Phone No: 011-47354625/ 26 , 9205274741/42, 011-49274400

Subscribe Dhyeya IAS Email Newsletter

(ध्येय IAS ई-मेल न्यूजलेटर सब्सक्राइब करें)

जो विद्यार्थी ध्येय IAS के व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप (Whatsapp Group) से जुड़े हुये हैं और उनको दैनिक अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त होने में समस्या हो रही है | तो आप हमारे ईमेल लिंक Subscribe कर ले इससे आपको प्रतिदिन अध्ययन सामग्री का लिंक मेल में प्राप्त होता रहेगा | **ईमेल से Subscribe करने के बाद मेल में प्राप्त लिंक को क्लिक करके पुष्टि (Verify) जरूर करें** अन्यथा आपको प्रतिदिन मेल में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त नहीं होगी |

नोट (Note): अगर आपको हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों माध्यम में अध्ययन सामग्री प्राप्त करनी है, तो आपको दोनों में अपनी ईमेल से **Subscribe** करना पड़ेगा | आप दोनों माध्यम के लिए एक ही ईमेल से जुड़ सकते हैं |



Join Dhyeya IAS Whatsapp Group by Sending "Hi Dhyeya IAS" Message on 9205336039.

Subscribe Dhyeya IAS Email Newsletter

Step by Step guidance for Subscription:

- **1st Step:** Fill Your Email address in form below. you will get a confirmation email within 2 min.
- **2nd Step:** Verify your email by clicking on the link in the email. (Check Inbox and Spam folders)
- **3rd Step:** Done! you will receive alerts & Daily Free Study Material regularly on your email.

Subscribe