



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## CSE MAINS 2018

# IAS PARLIAMENT REFLECTIONS

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## UPSC - MAINS-2018

### GENERAL STUDIES PAPER III

We are glad to inform that, in spite of being a relatively younger platform, IAS Parliament has made its impeccable mark in the recently-concluded CSE Mains 2018.

With our UPSC-oriented approach in content crafting and unique aspirants-friendly technique of presentation, IAS Parliament has proved that it is the most relevant Current Affairs Material available.

Just like in the G.S II, our materials turned out to be feeders for **14 questions in CSE Mains 2018 G.S Paper III**, which is worthy of **175 marks**.

Among these, we have hit the bull's eye of **10 questions for which our contents offer you the exact answers**. (They have been highlighted in yellow)

Find below the related IAS Parliament Current Affairs and Mainstorming questions, which bear testimony to our claims.

- Q.1** *“Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (Answer in 150 words) 10*

#### IAS Parliament Question

India does not have the luxury to develop now and clean up later. In this context, how could it manage between its commitments to provide universal access to energy and to reduce the environmental degradation?

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/infrastructure-7>

- Q.2** *Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long-term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019. (Answer in 150 words) 10*

#### IAS Parliament Material

##### Budget 2018 - Long Term Capital Gains Tax

##### Why in news?

Stock markets have reacted adversely to the proposed Long-Term Capital Gains Tax (LTCG) on securities.

##### What is a LTCG?

- Any profit from the sale of a capital asset is deemed as ‘capital gains’.
- A capital asset is officially defined as any kind of property held by an assessee, excluding goods held as stock-in-trade, agricultural land and personal effects.
- If an asset is held for less than 36 months, any gain arising from selling it is treated as a short-term capital gain (STCG).
- If an asset is held for 36 months or more, any gain arising from selling it is treated as a ‘long-term’ capital gain (LTCG).

- Shares and equity mutual funds alone enjoy a special dispensation which is, holding period of 12 months or more qualifies as 'long-term' in this case.

#### **What is the current scenario?**

- Prior to the budget, long-term capital gains arising from the transfer of long-term capital assets, which are held as equity shares is exempt from taxation.
- However, transactions in such long-term capital assets are liable to securities transaction tax (STT).
- This regime is seen as inherently biased against manufacturing and has encouraged diversion of investment to financial assets.
- It has also led to significant erosion in the tax base, which has been further compounded by abusive use of tax arbitrage due ambiguities in exemptions.

#### **What is the new proposal?**

- The withdrawal of the exemption to LTCG from April 1, has been proposed in the budget.
- Hence, the long-term capital gains arising from transfer of long-term capital assets like such as shares or share-oriented products, exceeding Rs. 1 lakh will be taxed at a concessional rate of 10%.
- The short-term capital gains tax at 15% will continue for transfer of shares within 1 year.
- **The Application** - The new tax is applied if the assets are held for a minimum period of 1 year from the date of acquisition.
- Long-term capital gains will be computed by deducting the **cost of acquisition** from the full value of consideration on transfer of the capital asset.
- The proposed tax applies to the following types of equity capital:
  1. Equity Shares in a company listed on a recognised stock exchange
  2. Unit of an equity oriented fund
  3. Unit of a business trust
- **'Grandfathering' Clause** - It is the exemption granted to existing investors or gains made by them before the new tax law comes into force.
- The government said that gains from shares or equity mutual funds made till January 31, will be grandfathered/exempted. There will be no LTCG tax on notional profit in shares till then.

#### **What are the concerns?**

- **Inflation Indexing** - Inflation indexation is a technique to adjust the the cost of acquisition to present level of inflation.
- This will convert the profit earned by transaction of long term capital assets in real terms and safeguards the purchasing power of the public.
- But in the current proposal, Inflation indexation of the cost of acquisition would not be available for computing LTCG tax.
- This has been provided in the proposal and has been subsequently clarified.
- **Continuation of STT** - The STT is made to continue.

- STT is paid at the time of transaction.
- But it is to be noted that the STT was introduced as an alternative to LTCG tax on equities.
- So retaining STT is a bigger shock for investors.
- Logically there should only be on tax.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/budget-2018-long-term-capital-gains-tax>

#### **Other Related Links**

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/re-imposing-ltcg-taxes>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/the-case-against-ltcg-tax>

#### **IAS Parliament Question**

Explain what a Capital gains tax is. Also discuss whether the government's move to bring back LTCG taxes to equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds a step in right direction?

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/economy-35>

**Q.3** *What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap? (Answer in 150 words) 10*

#### **IAS Parliament Material**

##### **Issues in MSP**

##### **What is the issue?**

Amid farmers' unrest in many parts of the country, the demand for an increase in minimum support price (MSP) has been voiced regularly.

##### **What is MSP?**

- MSP is the price at which the government offers to procure farmers' produce during the season.
- The farmers are free to sell their produce to government agencies or in the open market.
- It is when market prices fall below the MSP that government agencies step in to buy the crop to protect the growers.
- It aims to safeguard the interest of the consumer by ensuring supplies at a reasonable price.

##### **How MSP is fixed?**

- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces the MSP at the start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- The key considerations, while recommending the MSP for crops, are demand and supply, production cost, price trends in the domestic and international market and the likely implications of the price on consumers.
- The CACP's recommendations are in the form of price policy reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities: kharif crops, rabi crops, sugarcane, raw jute and copra.

- At present, agricultural commodities for which MSP is given include paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet etc..

### **When MSP was introduced?**

- The Union government set up a committee on August 1, 1964 to advise the Agriculture Ministry to determine the prices of rice and wheat.
- The domain of coverage was expanded to coarse cereals.
- Later, the government decided to set up a permanent body, called the Agricultural Prices Commission, in 1965.
- This was renamed as the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in 1985.

### **Why MSP is needed?**

- The key purpose of the government's price support policy is to provide a fair return to farmers and to protect the interests of consumers by keeping the prices of food and other agriculture commodities at reasonable levels.
- Agricultural commodities are prone to price fluctuations.
- MSP ensures that farmers get a minimum price for their produce in unfavourable market conditions.
- Also with MSP, farmers are incentivised to grow crops, which are short in supply.
- In the absence of support price, farmers may not find certain crops lucrative, which would lead to poor production, resulting in high prices.

### **What are the problems?**

- Farmers across the country have been facing problems of selling their produce at the minimum support price.
- Problems like delay in the setting up of procurement centres, exploitation by commission agents defeat the purpose of MSP.
- Taking advantage of the complexities in the supply chain, middlemen appear to be causing disparities in the price.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/daily-news/issues-in-msp>

### **Other Related Links**

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/decoding-the-msp-formula>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/solutions-beyond-msp>

### **IAS Parliament Question**

1. Union Budget 2018–19 has announced the proposal to fix the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at 50% in excess over the cost of production of crops. Will such increase in MSPs cure Indian Agriculture? Discuss

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/agriculture/agriculture-19>

2. In a bid to address farm sector distress, the GoI has recently increased the minimum support prices (MSP) for kharif crops. Evaluate how far it could help to meet the objective? (200 words)



<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/agriculture/agriculture-26>

- Q.4** *Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries? (Answer in 150 words) 10*
- Q.5** *Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics. (Answer in 150 words) 10*
- Q.6** *What are the impediments in disposing huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment? (Answer in 150 words) 10*

## IAS Parliament Material

### Addressing Solid Waste Management Constrains in India

#### What is the issue?

- India is facing a serious solid waste management problem due to unregulated landfills and incineration.
- Recycling, composting and Bio-methanation will address the solid waste management constrains.

#### What are the issues with solid waste management in India?

- **Landfills** - In India Landfills are neither scientifically engineered nor scientifically closed, they serve as open dumpsites.
- The discarded plastics in the mixed waste are a major contributor to dumpsite fires.
- Disposal of mixed waste including biodegradable matter in this landfills under anaerobic conditions generate methane and leachate.
- Methane and leachate causes global warming and unhealthy living conditions respectively.
- **Incineration** - Incineration of solid waste generate (GHGs) is not carried under out with state of the art features.
- It generates carbon dioxide, methane, and small amounts of nitrous oxide leading to global warming.
- **Collection and segregation** - The biodegradable waste is being mixed with other waste at the point where waste is generated.
- This increases the volume that has to be transported as the waste is hauled all the way to the landfill sites.
- The increased fuel usage in transportation results in more emissions.

#### What are the alternative measures?

- **Composting** - The volume of waste sent to the landfill sites can be reduced if biodegradable waste is processed locally through aerobic decomposition with the help of microbes or earthworms (vermicomposting) to produce compost or organic fertiliser.
- Compost helps store carbon back in the soil, improves moisture retention in the soil usage, it also reduces the need for chemical fertilisers.
- **Bio-Methanation** - An alternative to composting for biodegradable waste is bio methanation or anaerobic decomposition.

- Bio methanation generates biogas which is a substitute for fossil fuel and produces slurry which is an excellent organic fertiliser, both helping to mitigate global warming.
- Local processing also means that bio methanation saves on transportation.
- **Recycling** - Recycling of waste reduces GHG emissions because the energy required to manufacture a product using virgin materials is higher than when using recycled materials.
- Recycling requires up to 50 per cent less energy compared to production of paper based on wood pulp, and it also saves trees from being cut.
- **Controlled Incineration** - Waste-to-Energy technologies can be implemented with the help of controlled incineration or gasification from segregated waste.
- Already established Indian incineration plants can install appropriate filters in incineration plants.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/addressing-solid-waste-management-constrains-in-india>

#### Other Related Links

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/gs-ii/sustainable-strategy-of-solid-waste-management>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/mains/urban-solid-waste-management>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/waste-management>

#### IAS Parliament Question

Critically examine the ill-effects of unsegregated waste to our environment. Suggest measures to enhance the practice of source waste segregation.

[http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/gs-iii/environment biodiversity/environment-15](http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/gs-iii/environment%20biodiversity/environment-15)

**Q.7** *What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India. (Answer in 150 words) 10*

#### IAS Parliament Material

##### Wetlands Rules, 2017

##### Why in news?

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has recently notified the Wetlands Rules, 2017.

##### What are the notable provisions?

- **Definition** - Wetlands are defined as an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water.
- It could be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt.
- It includes areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.
- The rules apply to:
  - i. wetlands categorised as "wetlands of international importance" under the Ramsar Convention.

- ii. wetlands as notified by the central and state governments and UT administration.
  - **Management** - The new Rules farm out wetland management to states and union territories.
  - The State or UT Wetlands Authority will have to prepare a list of all wetlands and a list of wetlands to be notified, within specified time.
  - However, it is up to the states to decide which wetlands are to be notified.
  - A comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands is to be prepared within a year.
  - **CWRA** - The new rules have done away with the earlier Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) entirely.
  - CWRA has been replaced by the National Wetland Committee, which has a merely advisory role. These include -
    - i. advising the central government on proposals received from states/UTs for “omission of the prohibited activities”.
    - ii. prescribing norms and guidelines for integrated management of wetlands based on wise-use principle.
    - iii. recommending trans-boundary wetlands for notification.
    - iv. reviewing the progress of integrated management of Ramsar Convention sites.
      - **Restrictions** - As per the new rules, encroachments on wetlands have been banned.
      - It also prohibits solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries and human settlements.
      - It says that conservation and management would be based on the principle of ‘wise use’, which is to be determined by the Wetlands Authority.

#### **What are the shortfalls?**

- **Definition** - The 2010 Rules included in the definition of wetlands all inland waters such as lakes, reservoir, tanks, backwaters, lagoon, creeks, estuaries, etc.
- It also included man-made wetland and the zone of direct influence on wetlands.
- However, the 2017 Rules are not as comprehensive as this.
- It does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically for drinking water purposes, aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes.
- It also do not include wetlands under forest and coastal regulation zones..
- **Management** - There were lethargic response from states and UTs, in the past, on wetlands protection.
  - So devolving management to states and UTs could be ineffective
- **Restrictions** - The term ‘wise use’ is subjective and could dilute the earlier restrictions.
- There is also no timeline specified for phasing out solid waste and untreated waste from being dumped into wetlands.
- The restrictions on “any other activity likely to have an adverse impact on the ecosystem of the wetland”, are not specified clearly in the Rules.





- **Appeal** – The older provision of appealing to the National Green Tribunal does not exist in the 2017 Rules.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/wetlands-rules-2017>

### Other Related Links

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/prelim-bits-12-04-2018>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/gs-ii/04-01-2018-prelims-bits>

**Q.8** *Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic state? (Answer in 150 words) 10*

**Q.9** *The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same. (Answer in 150 words) 10*

### IAS Parliament Material

#### CPEC - The Way Ahead

##### What is the issue?

- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a thorn in India-Pakistan relations, and needs to be resolved soon.
- Beyond mere symbolic opposition, India needs to evolve a concrete counter narrative to garner the deserved International support for its view.

##### What is the problem with CPEC?

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is China's ambitious project for increasing connectivity and economic cooperation within Eurasia.
- Since its announcement in 2013, the BRI has been positively received by many countries covered within its ambit.
- But India has been averse to the idea on multiple grounds of which, the CPEC (which is within BRI's ambit) is the primary factor.
- Notably, the even recent informal meet between the Indian PM and the Chinese President at Wuhan (China) failed to resolve this issue.
- As "CPEC passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir" (India claims PoK as its own territory), India sees this as an affront on its sovereignty.

##### What are the larger implications?

- PoK is an emotional issue for India, and China's push for CPEC is being seen as an act of deliberately disregarding its territorial claims.
- At a broader level, if China invests heavily in the region, it risks becoming another party to the troubling Indo-Pak bilateral dispute.
- Also, if CPEC gets functional, it will establish a fully functional China-Pakistan axis, which would hamper India's larger interests in South Asia.
- Additionally, if CPEC proves to be an economic success, Pakistan's claim over Pok might become more legitimate.

##### What is the way ahead?



- There is no clarity on whether India has any road map to take the conversation on PoK forward.
- But no country can afford to not register a protest against a project that is likely to undermine its sovereignty.
- CPEC will indeed remain a stress point not just in the India-Pakistan relationship but also in the India-China relationship.
- At this juncture, it is hence important for India to evolve a comprehensive outlook to confront CPEC.
- If such thinking hasn't caught up, then there is a risk that India's claims might become irrelevant amidst other nations.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/cpec-the-way-ahead>

### Other Related Links

<http://www.iasparliament.com/article/chinas-belt-and-road-initiative?q=cpec>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/relooking-the-cpec>

### IAS Parliament Question

In recent times, it has been said that, India by joining China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would accrue immense benefits for itself along with South Asia. Do you agree with that view? Comment

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/india-and-its-neighborhood/india-its-neighbourhood-3>

**Q.10** *Lefts Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. (Answer in 150 words) 10*

### IAS Parliament Material

#### Decision on Red Corridor Region

##### Why in news?

Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has redrawn the red corridor region which are affected by Left-wing extremism.

##### What is a red corridor region?

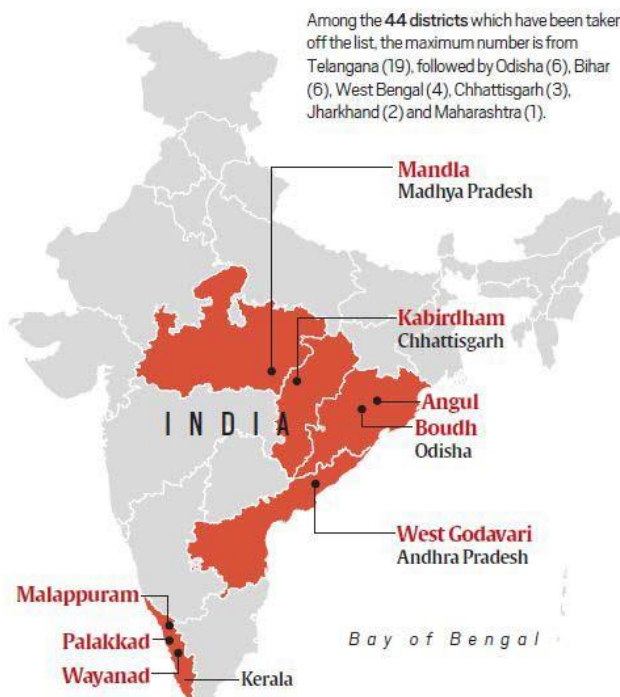
- Red corridor region is demarcated by the union government to notify the districts which are affected by left wing extremism.
- It is spanning across 106 districts in 10 States, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

##### What is the recent decision on red corridor region?

- A recent report of MoHA classifies the red corridor region with respect to the severity of the Naxal influence.
- The three main categories are -

1. **Severely affected** - Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar
  2. **Partially affected** - West Bengal, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh
  3. **Slightly affected** - Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
- 44 districts have been removed from the list and eight new districts which could be slightly or partially affected has been added to the list.
  - The recent decision is taken since only 30 worst affected districts account for 90% of the LWE violence.

### EIGHT NEW DISTRICTS IN, 44 OUT



#### What were the actions taken by government to tackle LWE?

- The National Policy & Action Plan constituted by the MoHA had been introduced to reduce the concentration of Naxal affected districts.
- All expenses incurred by the affected areas were covered under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme.
- This provides funds for projects related to development such as infrastructure, transportation, communication, bridges and schools.
- Under which mobile towers, boarding schools and roads were installed in LWE affected areas.
- Government also aims for a multi-pronged strategy which primarily includes development and security aspects of affected districts.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/mains/decision-on-red-corridor-region>

#### Other Related Links

<http://www.iasparliament.com/article/prelim-bits-14-05-2017?q=bs>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/gs-ii/issues-with-indian-internal-security>

**IAS Parliament Questions**

1. The trajectory of Maoist violence has been showing a downward trend and it is being claimed that the challenge of Naxalism in the country is on its “last legs”. How far are such claims valid? Also, discuss how India could use such situation to solve the problem completely.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/internal-security-18>

2. Trace, how the government’s response over tackling Naxalism has changed over time. (200 words)

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/internalsecurity/internal-security-11>

**Q.11** *How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15 ---→ Static*

**IAS Parliament Question**

India cannot transform with new ideas without having a paradigm of planning for development. In this context, discuss the relevance of NITI Aayog.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/governance-20>

**Q.12** *How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India. (Answer in 250 words) 15*

**IAS Parliament Material**

<http://www.iasparliament.com/article/uss-tariff-increase-on-imports?q=bs>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/gs-ii/turkeys-currency-crisis>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/usas-protectionist-move-on-imported-metals>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/concerns-with-protectionism>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/daily-news/implications-of-a-currency-war>

**IAS Parliament Material**

Increasing protectionism in the West and the rise of new digital technologies pose both challenges and opportunities for India’s IT services industry. Discuss.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/economy/economy-31>

**Q.13** *Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms how far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? (Answer in 250 words) 15*

**IAS Parliament Material**

[http://www.iasparliament.com/uploads/downloads/Kurukshetra\\_-April\\_2017.pdf](http://www.iasparliament.com/uploads/downloads/Kurukshetra_-April_2017.pdf)

**Q.14** *How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption? (Answer in 250 words) 15*



**Q.15** *Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? (Answer in 250 words) 15*

### IAS Parliament Material

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/archives/00/00/00/updated-year-end-review-of-the-department-of-biotechnology>

**Q.16** *With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programmes? Discuss the fact and fears associated with nuclear energy. (Answer in 250 words) 15*

### IAS Parliament Material

#### Nuclear energy concerns in India

##### Why in news?

- Indian government recently approved ten new nuclear reactors.
- These reactors deserve to be carefully appraised.

##### What is the issue with India's decision?

- In March an US company Westinghouse, the largest historic builder of nuclear power plants in the world, declared bankruptcy creating a major financial crisis for its parent company, Toshiba.
- The French nuclear supplier Areva went bankrupt a few months earlier and is now in the midst of a restructuring that will cost French taxpayers about €10 billion.
- Both Areva and Westinghouse had entered into agreements with the Indian government to develop nuclear plants.
- Areva had promised to build the world's largest nuclear complex at Jaitapur (Maharashtra).
- Westinghouse would build six reactors at Kovvada (Andhra Pradesh).
- The collapse of these companies vindicates critics of these deals, who consistently pointed out that India's agreements with Areva and Westinghouse were fiscally irresponsible.
- Therefore, the government's recent decision to approve the construction of ten 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) deserves to be scrutinised carefully.

##### What is status of upcoming Indian reactors?

- The first 700 MW PHWRs already under construction which was signed in 2012.
- the 700 MW PHWRs are cheaper than imported reactors, their electricity is likely to be costly.
- These reactors are commercially untested, since the largest PHWRs constructed so far in India are the 540 MW twin units at Tarapur.
- There are two 700 MW PHWRs under construction at Rawatbhata (Rajasthan) and Kakrapar (Gujarat), but these have been delayed by over two years, and the government has not revealed the resultant cost increases.
- The changed international scenario for nuclear energy, and the ongoing reductions in the cost of renewable energy all imply that these earlier plans are best abandoned.

##### What are the problems with new nuclear installations?

- The cost of electricity during the operations at the reactors is likely to be costly than the current prices.
- The capital invested in any plant yields no returns while the plant is being constructed.
- The new reactors promised various employment opportunity but in the present trend those promises find to be questionable.
- The solar energy is cheaper, in comparison it is even more unfavourable to nuclear power when viewed in terms of jobs created per rupee spent.
- Nuclear power poses its own set of threats to the environment and public health, and is therefore an inappropriate tool to mitigate climate change.
- Nuclear waste remains an unavoidable long-term problem for the environment.
- A single nuclear disaster can contaminate large tracts of land with radioactive materials, rendering these areas uninhabitable for decades.

#### **What is the way forward?**

- Local communities are keenly aware of the hazardous nature of nuclear power.
- Since the 1980s, every new site chosen for a nuclear plant has been greeted with a protest movement.
- The risks and costs of these reactors are borne overwhelmingly by poor rural communities, who consume only a tiny fraction of the electricity that is generated.
- If these new projects had gone ahead, Indian taxpayers would have been left holding the bag billions of dollars of debt, and incomplete projects.
- Nuclear power would be even less economically attractive if a methodology that consistently incorporates the time value of capital were to be used to establish tariffs.
- The narrow escape calls not only for a hard look at the credibility of those members of the nuclear establishment who advocated these deals for a decade, but for a comprehensive reevaluation of the role of nuclear power in the country's energy mix.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/gs-iii/nuclear-energy-concerns-in-india>

#### **Other Related Links**

<http://www.iasparliament.com/article/india-japan-civil-nuclear-agreement>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/nuclear-power-in-india>

**Q.17** *How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? (Answer in 250 words) 15 ->Static*

**Q.18** *Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005? (Answer in 250 words) 15*

<http://www.iasparliament.com/uploads/downloads/IAS-parliament-Yojana.pdf>

**Q.19** *Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber crimes. The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? (Answer in 250 words) 15*

## IAS Parliament Material

### Srikrishna Committee - White Paper on Data Protection Framework

#### Why in news?

Srikrishna Committee recently released a white paper as part of its mandate to draft a data protection and privacy Bill.

#### What is the need?

- The Committee was set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT following the decision to make Aadhaar compulsory for many government services.
- Private entities are also increasingly using Aadhaar for the purpose of authentication and financial transactions.
- Notably, the Aadhaar is being issued by the UIDAI after collecting individual's personal and biometric data.
- Despite an obligation to adopt adequate security safeguards, no database is 100 per cent secure.
- Evidently, despite UIDAI's various in-built data protection mechanisms, it is not bound to inform an individual in cases of misuse or theft of his or her data.
- Thus, the interplay between any proposed data protection framework and the existing Aadhaar framework will have to be analysed.

#### What are the highlights?

- The committee has identified seven key principles for the data protection law, which include:
  1. **Technology agnosticism** - flexibility of the law for adapting to changing technologies and standards of compliance.
  2. **Holistic application** - governing both private sector entities and the government; differential obligations for certain legitimate state aims.
  3. **Informed consent** - informed and meaningful consent of the individual must be ensured by the law.
  4. **Data minimization** - Data that is processed ought to be minimal, only for targeted and other compatible purposes.
  5. **Controller accountability** - The data controller shall be held accountable for any processing of data.
  6. **Structured enforcement** - There should be a high-powered statutory authority with sufficient capacity and decentralized mechanisms for enforcement of the data protection framework.
  7. **Deterrent penalties** - Penalties on wrongful processing of data must be adequate to ensure deterrence.
- **SPDI** - The white paper has laid down for the protection of sensitive personal data or information (SPDI) by which a person is identifiable.
- This essentially means that any social media site, search engine, telecom operator or government agency cannot sell or disclose SPDI of individuals.

- It has identified health and genetic information, religious beliefs and affiliation, sexual orientation, and racial and ethnic origin as SPDI.
- It has also placed caste and financial information in this category.
- The committee prescribes punishments in case of violations of regulations in using SPDI.
- At present, the IT Act rules on security practices and sensitive personal data are applicable only to private or corporate entities.
- **Data Breaches** - The law may require that individuals be notified of data breaches where there is a likelihood of privacy harms.
- However the paper noted that fixing too short a time period for individual notifications might be too onerous on smaller organisations.
- As, such an organisation may not have the necessary information about the breach and its likely consequences.
- Thus it is suggested that both government and the private entities be brought under the ambit of the proposed law.
- **Exemptions** - The Committee has made certain exemptions in relation to collecting information.
- This is in reference to investigating a crime, apprehension or prosecution of offenders, and maintaining national security and public order.
- But, the committee also insists on devising an effective review mechanism.
- **Penalty** - A civil penalty of a specific amount may be imposed on the data controller for each day of violation.
- **Besides**, it suggested setting up a data protection authority, data audit, registration of data collectors, enacting provisions for protecting children's personal data, etc.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/srikrishna-committee-white-paper-on-data-protection-framework>

#### Other related links

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/gs-ii/concerns-with-data-protection-bill>

<http://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/draft-personal-data-protection-bill-2018>

#### IAS Parliament Question

Though the draft data privacy bill addresses various issues plaguing the data ecosystem in India and clearly articulates the rights of individuals, it falls short on key principles that are at the core of a robust data protection framework. Discuss.

<http://www.iasparliament.com/mainstorming/archives/00/00/00/government-policies-15>

**Q.20** *India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkage between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter measures should be taken to prevent the same? (Answer in 250 words) 15*