

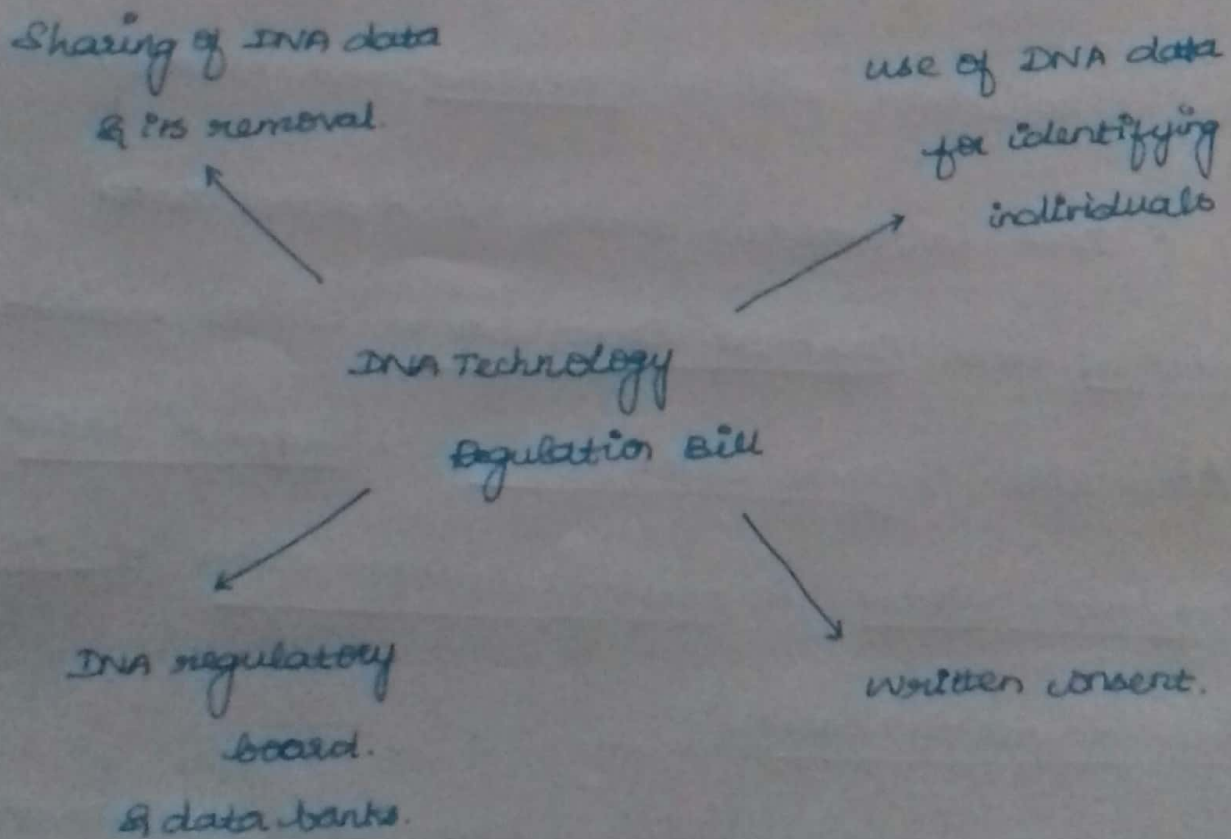
The utility of the DNA technology (use & application)

Regulation Bill could be of enormous help in many areas but has multiple flaws which needs to be rectified.

Elucidate.

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a set of instructions found in the cell which is unique for each individual. So, it can be used in identifying persons involved in crime scene and in some civil cases.

Utility of DNA Technology Regulation Bill:



KEY FEATURES OF DNA REGULATION BILL.

• This bill allows DNA testing for identification of individuals involved in crime and civil cases as mentioned in it.

• Bill creates a requirement of written consent from the person for crime cases which has jail term upto 7 years. Beyond 7 years, no written consent is required.

• DNA regulatory Board will be setup to give accreditation to DNA laboratories which undertake DNA testing. If that laboratory is found forged its accreditation will be cancelled and penalty also.

• DNA laboratories shares DNA data with National and Regional Data banks which maintains indices like i) crime scene index ii) Suspects' index iii) offenders' index iv) missing person index v) unknown deceased person index.

• DNA profile can be removed by court or police order and written consent (differs from each index).

## Flaws in DNA Technology Regulation bill:

- It is unclear that DNA labs which conduct medical or research testing is regulated under it or not. It may breach the RIGHT TO PRIVACY of an individual.

- This bill requires written consent from the person but it doesn't say it is voluntary or not.

- DNA profiles are created from RNA samples only. It is unclear that RNA samples are taken from video or photographs.

- Removal of DNA profile of unknown deceased person is not covered.

- No grievance redressal mechanism if the DNA laboratories failed to remove RNA profiles.

- Under this bill, it does not specify the information other than identity won't be taken.

Eg: Law in South Africa covers that it not contain medical or research information.