

## NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC

Parliament passes the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019

The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both the houses of Parliament.

The Bill will now be sent for President's assent.

### **About the Bill**

- The Bill replaces the "The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Ordinance, 2019".
- The new bill considers the University/College as one unit restoring earlier reservation system based on 200 point roster.
- No longer will 'Department/Subject' be treated as one unit.
- This decision will:
  - Allow up of more than 7000 existing vacancies in Central Educational Institutions and pave the way for filling up 3 lakh vacancies in the Government (Central and State) Educational institutions by direct recruitment in Teacher's Cadre.
  - Ensure compliance of the Constitutional Provisions of Articles 14, 16 and 21.
  - Ensure full representation of the Scheduled Castes/ the Scheduled Tribes, the socially and Educationally Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections in direct recruitment in teachers' cadres.
  - This decision is also expected to improve the teaching standards in the higher educational institutions by attracting all eligible talented candidates belonging SCs/STs/SEBCs/EWS.
  - It will also ensure providing of 10% reservation to EWS.

### **Cabinet clears Bill banning Commercial Surrogacy**

The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 to ban commercial surrogacy in India.

### **Background**

- India has emerged as a surrogacy hub for couples from other countries.
- There have been reports concerning unethical practices, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy, and rackets involving intermediaries importing human embryos and gametes.
- The 228th report of the Law Commission of India has recommended prohibiting commercial surrogacy and allowing altruistic surrogacy by enacting suitable legislation.

### **What is Surrogacy?**

- Surrogacy is considered as one of many assisted reproductive technologies.
- It is an arrangement, often supported by a legal agreement, whereby a woman (the surrogate mother) agrees to become pregnant and give birth to a child for another person(s) who is or will become the parent(s) of the child.
- People may seek a surrogacy arrangement when pregnancy is medically impossible, when pregnancy risks are too dangerous for the intended mother, or when a single man or a male couple wishes to have a child.

### **About the Bill**

- The Bill proposes to regulate surrogacy in India by establishing National Surrogacy Board at the central level and State Surrogacy Boards and Appropriate Authorities in the State and UTs.
- It aims to prohibit commercial surrogacy and allows surrogacy services only for married Indian couples who have no children.

### **Why such bill again?**

- The Bill had been passed by the 16th Lok Sabha but lapsed after it did not clear the Rajya Sabha.
- There have been several reports about the exploitation of surrogate mothers, who are confined to "hostels" during pregnancy.
- They are not allowed to meet their families and were forced to do it for a paltry amount, putting their own bodies at risk.

### **Benefits**

- The benefits of the Act would be that it will regulate the surrogacy services in the country.
- While commercial surrogacy will be prohibited including sale and purchase of human embryo and gametes, ethical surrogacy to the infertile couples will be allowed on fulfillment of conditions.

- It will also prohibit exploitation of surrogate mothers and children born through surrogacy.

### **INDIAN ECONOMY**

#### **Economic Survey 2018-19**

##### **Slowest projection of growth**

- The Economy Survey 2018-19 presented by the Finance Minister in Parliament has projected that economic growth in the current fiscal year could rise to 7% from the 6.8% in 2018-19 — the slowest rate of growth in five years.

##### **Macroeconomic Indicators**

- The survey has flagged the challenges on the fiscal front following an economic slowdown impacting tax collections amid an expected surge in agri-spending.
- It has underlined the need for India to shift gears to accelerate and sustain a real GDP growth rate of 8% in order to achieve the target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.
- It flags the need for a “virtuous cycle” of savings, investment and exports to be catalyzed and supported by a favorable demographic phase required for sustainable growth.
- Private investment has been highlighted as a key driver for demand, capacity, labor productivity, new technology, creative destruction and job creation.

##### **Era for behavioral change**

- The Survey lays out an agenda for behavioral change by applying the principles of behavioral economics to several issues.
- It includes gender equality, a healthy and beautiful India, savings, tax compliance and credit quality.
- It highlights a transition from ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ to ‘BADLAV’ (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi), from ‘Swachh Bharat’ to ‘Sundar Bharat’, from ‘Give it up’ for the LPG subsidy to ‘Think about the Subsidy’ and from ‘Tax evasion’ to ‘Tax compliance’.

##### **Policy prescriptions**

- The Survey flags the case for intervention in the case of “dwarfs” (firms with less than 100 workers) despite being more than 10 years old, account for more than 50% of all organized firms in manufacturing by number.
- In this context, it calls for a sunset clause of less than 10 years, with necessary grand-fathering, for all size-based incentives and deregulating labor law restrictions to create significantly more jobs.
- It calls for a need to ramp up capacity in the lower judiciary, including a focus on delays in dispute resolution.
- Contract enforcement biggest constraint to improve EODB ranking; much of the problem is concentrated in the lower courts.
- It also calls for policy changes to lower overall lifetime ownership costs and make electric vehicles an attractive alternative to conventional vehicles.

##### **Problem areas**

- While the investment rate was expected to pick up following improvement in consumer demand and bank lending, the GST, farm schemes will all pose challenges on the fiscal front.
- Fiscal deficit has been pegged at 3.4% of GDP for 2018-19.
- There are apprehensions of slowing growth, which will have implications for revenue collections.
- Crude oil prices are projected to decline in 2019-20, which could push consumption.
- Flags need to gear up for ageing population; necessitating more healthcare investment, increasing retirement age in a phased manner.

##### **What is Economic Survey?**

- Each year, a day before the presentation of the full-fledged annual Union Budget, the country Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) releases the Economic Survey.
- However, notwithstanding the close proximity of its release with the Union Budget, the Economic Survey is not exactly a predictor of the Budget proposals.
- Still, it is a very important document because it provides an authoritative, detailed and official annual summary of the current state of play in the Indian economy.
- Beyond the summary, the ES paints a variety of future scenarios, highlighting likely challenges and pointing to possible solutions.
- In the past few years, the ES has been presented in two volumes.
- Volume 1 focussed on research and analysis about the challenges — both contemporary and long-term — facing the Indian economy.

- Volume 2 provided the more descriptive review of the fiscal year, encompassing all the major sectors of the economy.

### **Importance of Economic Surveys**

- Apart from providing a comprehensive snapshot of the various sectors of the economy, the ES is also used as a sounding board for introducing new policy ideas and triggering fresh debates.
- As the years have rolled by, successive CEAs have used every aspect of the Economic Survey to convey some key idea.
- For instance, the colour of the 2018 Survey's cover — pink — was chosen "as a symbol of support for the growing movement to end violence against women, which spans continents".

## **ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

### **Mumbai marooned**

Mumbai once again struggled to stay afloat after the first heavy spell of rain this year, bringing back memories of the July 2005 flood. Each massive rainfall event is making it evident that the city is putting on a brave front and projecting resilience, but the failure of the Maharashtra government to upgrade its tattered infrastructure is taking a heavy toll and weighing down on the financial capital.

### **Impact of monsoon**

- A single day of rain has killed 22 people in a wall collapse in north Mumbai, while many more died in Pune and elsewhere.
- In Ratnagiri, a dam gave way creating a catastrophe; flights have been cancelled and normal life is affected.
- Clearly, the State government should have regarded the 94 cm of rain that paralysed Mumbai in one day 14 years ago as the baseline disaster to prepare for.

### **Ineffective Administration**

- That it could not manage 37 cm in 24 hours, that too after incurring a massive expenditure on management projects, shows a lack of resolve among political leaders, rampant inefficiency and lack of integrity in the administrative machinery.
- As one of the wettest metropolises in India getting about 210 cm of rain annually, it should have been a top order priority to restore rivers and canals to manage floods.
- The government's needs to explain why Mumbai is yet unprepared to cope, especially when rainfall is projected to become erratic in coming years, and when scientific insights point to intense rainfall in a short span of time, driven by warmer oceans and hotter cities.

### **CAG's Report on ineffectiveness**

- In a recent report, the Comptroller and Auditor General identified prolonged delays in the upgrading of storm water drain infrastructure in Mumbai.
- On the other hand, after the deluge of 2005, the consensus was for the flood-carrying capacity of the Mithi river in the city to be increased.
- But the choked and polluted river was again overflowing this year.

### **Change in monsoon rainfall pattern**

- Beyond the sclerotic management of flood waters that relies on storm drains in Mumbai, and several other Indian cities, there is a need for a new urban paradigm.
- For one thing, Mumbai, Thane, Ratnagiri and Raigad have, during the last century, displayed a high seasonality index, indicating a relatively small monsoon window bringing a lot of rain.
- This is in contrast to steady, prolonged rain in the central districts in Maharashtra.
- So a new climate change-influenced normal could mean fewer days of torrential rain and erratic monsoons.

### **Way Forward**

- Managing them calls for a new approach that is ecological, and makes restoration of existing urban wetlands and creation of reservoirs and water channels a high priority.
- The water question is the biggest challenge for Indian cities today, as both drought and flood are common.
- State governments should give it priority and address it by making urban planning people-centric. A strong framework is needed to manage water, starting with Mumbai.

## **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**Don't stop until you're proud of yourself.**

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns: Discuss the causes of Urban Flooding . What are the guidelines of NDMA on the same?**

**Ans:** Flood is defined as “an overflow of a large body of water over areas not usually inundated”. Thus, flooding in urban areas is caused by intense and/or prolonged rainfall, which overwhelms the capacity of the drainage system. Urban flooding is significantly different from rural flooding- urbanization increases flood risk by up to 3 times, increased peak flow result in flooding very quickly. Further, it affects large number of people due to high population density in urban areas

**Natural Causes**

- Heavy Rainfall / Flash floods Water of Heavy rainfall concentrates and flows quickly through urban paved area and impounded in to low lying area raising the water level. It creates more havoc when a main drain or a river passing through the area over-flows or breaches
- Lack of Lakes Lakes can store the excess water and regulate the flow of water. When lakes become smaller, their ability to regulate the flow become less and hence flooding.
- Silting The drains carry large amounts of sediments and deposited in the lower courses making beds shallower thus channel capacity is reduced. When there is heavy rain, these silted drains can't carry full discharge and result in flooding.

**Human Causes**

- Population pressure Because of large amount of people, more materials are needed, like wood, land, food, etc. This aggravates overgrazing, over cultivation and soil erosion which increases the risk of flooding.
- Deforestation Large areas of forests near the rivers/catchment of cities are used to make rooms for settlements, roads and farmlands and is being cleared due to which soil is quickly lost to drains. This raises the drain bed causing overflow and in turn urban flooding.
- Trespassing on water storm drains The areas which were essentially created by the storm water drains to let their flood waters pass freely being tress-passed for developmental purposes result in obstruction of water flow and thus contributed immensely to the fury of floods.
- Urbanisation leads to paving of surfaces which decreases ground absorption and increases the speed and amount of surface flow. The water rushes down suddenly into the streams from their catchment areas leading to a sudden rise in water level and flash floods. Unplanned urbanisation is the key cause of urban flooding. Various kinds of depression and low lying areas near or around the cities which were act as cushions and flood absorbers are gradually filled up and built upon due to urbanisation pressure. This results in inadequate channel capacity causing urban flooding.
- Un Authorised colonies have been developed by the local colonisers on the agriculture land, earlier being used for crop has been purchased at lucrative prices from farmers, without consideration to the city plans ,drainage, sewerage etc. and thus subjected to flooding during heavy rain falls.
- Poor Water and Sewerage Management Old drainage and sewerage system has not been overhauled nor is it adequate now .All the drainage and sewer system in many parts of Delhi has collapsed resulting in flooding. This can be seen during rainy seasons every year.
- Lack of attention to the nature of hydrological system.
- Lack of flood control measures.
- Multiple authorities in a city but owning responsibility by none.

**National Disaster Management (NDMA) Guidelines on Urban Flood Management:**

- In 2010, NDMA had issued guidelines on Urban Flood Management in India
- To create a National Hydro-meteorological Network.
- The guidelines say that for providing early warning, the Central Water Commission (CWC) CWC should maximize the real-time hydro-meteorological network to cover all urban centres to effectively deal with the problem of urban flooding
- Use of Doppler Weather Radars to be expanded to cover all urban areas in the country
- An inventory of the existing storm water drainage system to be prepared. The inventory will be both watershed based and ward based.
- Catchment to be the basis for planning and designing the storm water drainage systems in all ULBs
- All future road and rail bridges in cities crossing drains to be designed such that they do not block the flows resulting in backwater effect
- Every building in an urban area must have rainwater harvesting as an integral component of the building utility.
- Low-lying areas in cities have to be reserved for parks and other low-impact human activities.
- Encroachments on the drain should attract penal action.
- Pre-monsoon desilting of all major drains to be completed by March 31 each year.
- Urban Flooding has to be dealt as a separate disaster, de-linking it from riverine floods which affect the rural areas.
- Suitable interventions in the drainage system like traps, trash racks can be provided to reduce the amount of solid waste going into the storm sewers.
- Inlets to be provided on the roads to drain water to the roadside drains and these has to be designed based on current national and international practices.
- Every building in an urban area must have rainwater harvesting as an integral component of the building utility.
- Concept of Rain Gardens to be incorporated in planning for public parks and on-site storm water management for larger colonies and sites those are to be developed.
- Flood hazard assessments should be done on the basis of projected future scenarios of intensities and duration of rainfall and land use changes.