

ISSUE 7 | 2018 | JAN-MAR



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FOR ESE AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS

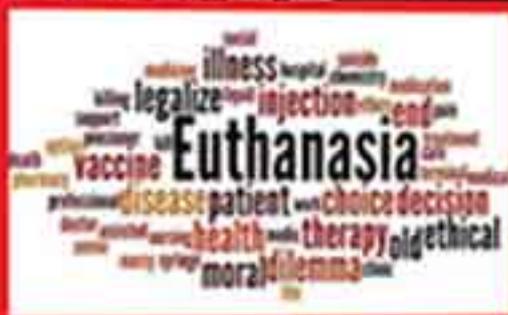
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TOP STORY
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INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE 2018
Founding conference of ISA 2018 held in India



Euthanasia: Supreme Court of India allows Passive Euthanasia

Fugitive offender bill:
The Fugitive Economic Offender bill 2018 introduced in the Parliament



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**Australia Group
India's Entry**



Australia group: India joins Australia Group



H-1B Visa: H-1B Visa issues and India



PSLV C-40: India's 100th satellite launched by ISRO



National Science Day: Discovery of the Faman effect

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**JANUARY TO MARCH
2018**



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CHAPTER

1

Polity Governance and Social Issues

PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

- ❖ Its main objective is to lower down the unemployment and create sustainable employment opportunities in rural and urban areas of the country.
- ❖ It is a credit linked Scheme of Government of India and is created by merging Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) scheme.
- ❖ The implementing agency for this scheme at the national level is Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). State offices of KVIC, Khadi and Village Industries Boards and District Industry Centres are the implementing agencies at the state/district level.
- ❖ Its targets are fixed by taking into account the following indicators:
 - ❖ (a) Extent of backwardness of state; (b) extent of unemployment; (c) extent of fulfilment of previous year targets; (d) population of state/union territory; and (e) availability of traditional skills and raw material.
- ❖ Under the scheme, **no income ceiling** is there for setting up of projects.
- ❖ The **assistance** under the Scheme is available only to **new units** to be established.
- ❖ Existing units or units already availed any Government Subsidy either under State/Central Govt. Schemes are **not eligible**.
- ❖ Any industry including Coir Based projects is eligible for the benefits of the scheme excluding those mentioned in the negative list.
- ❖ The scheme states that **the per capita investment**

should not exceed ₹ 100000 in plain areas and ₹ 150000 in Hilly areas.

- ❖ The maximum project cost should be ₹ 2.5 million in manufacturing sector and ₹ 1 million in Service Sector.

Note: Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana was launched by Central Government in 1993 to help those who were unemployed to find opportunities of self-employment.

It targeted the youth and women by giving them a financial boost to help get them into the employment sector. The implementation of this scheme is carried out by the District Industries Centres (DIC) and the Directorates of Industries as well as the banks.

TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS BILL, 2018

- ❖ **Need for a new law to deal with Trafficking:**

Anti Trafficking Bill

Trafficking of Persons
(Prevention, Protection and
Rehabilitation
Bill 2018

Why a new law?

- A coordinated unified focus is required to combat trafficking
- Keeping in view the scale of the problem, a more stringent punitive framework is required.
- Trafficking has taken new aggravated forms which need to be included in the ambit of law
- Separate mechanism to investigate cases of trafficking as an organised crime is needed

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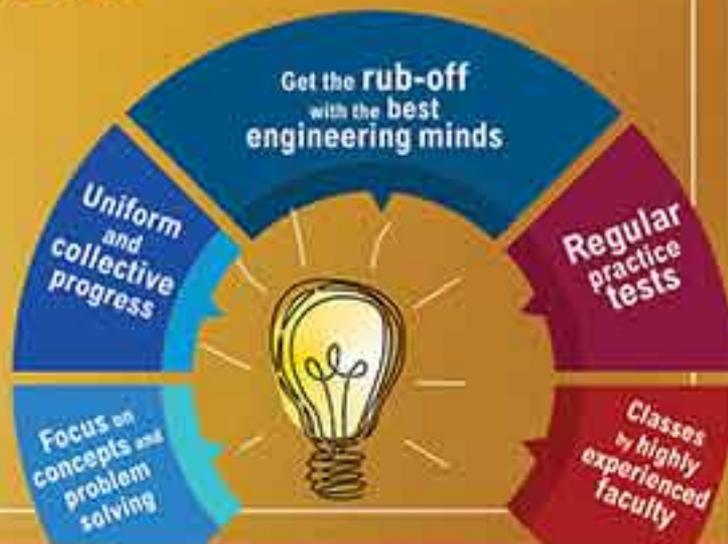
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Key facts:

- ❖ The aim of this bill is to **prevent, rescue and rehabilitate people who suffer from trafficking.**
- ❖ It lists the various forms of trafficking, which includes trafficking for the purpose of (a) **forced labour**, (b) **begging**, (c) **trafficking by administering chemical substance** or hormones on a person for the purpose of early sexual maturity, (d) **trafficking of a woman or child for the purpose of marriage** or under the pretext of marriage or after marriage etc.
- ❖ This bill states the punishment for promoting or facilitating trafficking of a person which includes producing, printing, issuing or distributing unissued, tampered or fake certificates, registration or stickers as proof of compliance with Government requirements; or commits fraud for procuring or facilitating the acquisition of clearances and necessary documents from Government agencies.
- ❖ Punishment ranges from **rigorous minimum 10 years to life and fine not less than ₹ 100000.**

Anti Trafficking Bill
Trafficking of Persons
(Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation Bill 2018)

Key features:

- Victim, witness and Complaint protection
- Monetary relief and compensation
- Forfeiture and attachment of property
- Applicability of the punishment
- Payment of the victim: Backwages, compensation and relief

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- ❖ As per the provisions of the bill, the **confidentiality of the victims is maintained** by recording their statement through video conferencing (It also assists in trans-border and inter-State crimes).
- ❖ **Time bound trial and repatriation of the victims:** The bill states that the trial will take place within a period of one year from taking into cognizance.
- ❖ **Immediate protection of rescued victims and their rehabilitation:** The Victims are entitled to interim relief immediately within 30 days to address

their physical, mental trauma etc. and further appropriate relief within 60 days from the date of filing of charge sheet.

- ❖ The bill also creates the **rehabilitation Fund** for the first time which will be used for the physical, psychological and social well-being of the victim such as education, skill development, health care/psychological support, legal aid, safe accommodation etc.
- ❖ It also provides that **designated courts** will be established in **each district** for the speedy trial of the cases.

Anti Trafficking Bill
Trafficking of Persons
(Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation Bill 2018)

Key features:

- Immunity of the victims in certain cases
- Strong rehabilitation framework for victims
- Rehabilitation fund
- Confidentiality: Video conferencing and in-camera trial
- Designated courts and Special Public Prosecutors

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- ❖ It also creates **dedicated institutional mechanisms at District, State and Central Level** which will be responsible for prevention, protection, investigation and rehabilitation work related to trafficking.
- ❖ The functions of **Anti-Trafficking Bureau** at the national level will be performed by **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** (under the Ministry of Home Affairs).
- ❖ It provides for the **attachment & forfeiture of property and also the proceeds for crime with the objective to break the organized nexus at the national and international level.**
- ❖ The Bill also addresses the **transnational nature of the crime** in detail. It designates the National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to perform the following functions:
 - International coordination with authorities in foreign countries and international organizations

- International assistance in investigation; facilitate inter-State and trans-border transfer of evidence and materials, witnesses and others for expediting prosecution
- To facilitate inter-state and international video conferencing in judicial proceedings etc.

Anti Trafficking Bill

Trafficking of Persons
(Prevention, Protection and
Rehabilitation
Bill 2018)

Key features:

- Covers new forms of aggravated trafficking
- Prescribe stringent punishment
- Institutional mechanism from district to national level
- Time bound trial and repatriation
- Immediate protection of rescued victim
- Rehabilitation not contingent on criminal proceedings

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Note: At present there is no specific law to deal with the crime of trafficking in human being.

The Bill has been prepared in consultation with line Ministries, Departments, State Governments, NGOs and domain experts and a large number of suggestions have been incorporated in the Bill.

The Draft Bill discussed in regional consultations held in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bombay with various stakeholders.

Thus, the new law will make India a leader among South Asian countries to combat trafficking.

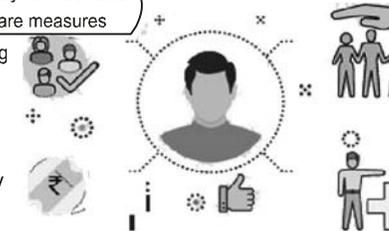
SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR WORKERS

- ❖ It is a **proposed social security system** with the aim to provide retirement, health, old age, disability, unemployment and maternity benefits to **50 crore workers in the unorganized sector** and people below the poverty line.
- ❖ It will be implemented in **three phases** over a time period of 10 years.
- ❖ In the **first phase**, all workers will be provided with minimum benefits such as health security and retirement benefits.

- ❖ In the **second phase**, unemployment benefits will be added to it, followed by other welfare measure in the **third phase**.
- ❖ After the time period of ten years, it will be made universal.
- ❖ The scheme will be phased out in **four tiers** which are described below:
 - **First tier:** It will comprise destitute and people below poverty line who cannot contribute for their security and hence the cost will be entirely borne by the government under tax-based schemes.
 - **Second tier:** It will comprise workers in the unorganised sector who have some contributory power but are not self-sufficient.
 - **Third tier:** It will include beneficiaries will include those who either by themselves or jointly with their employers can make adequate contribution to the schemes, so as to be self-sufficient.
 - **Fourth tier:** It will comprise comparatively affluent people who can make their own provisions for meeting the contingencies or risks as they rise.
- ❖ It will be funded from the **Building and Construction Worker Cess** and funds allocated to other scattered schemes through the **National Stabilisation Fund** set up for the motive.
- ❖ The **implementation** of the scheme would be **regulated and monitored** by **National Social Security Council**. This council will be chaired by the prime minister and the members will be finance minister, health minister and chief ministers of all states along with workers and employers.

Protection Plan

Labour ministry's comprehensive social security system

To be implemented in 3 phases over 10 years	Target beneficiaries: The destitute and people below poverty line Workers in unorganised sector
In first phase: Health security, retirement benefits	
In second phase: Unemployment benefits	
In third phase: Other welfare measures	

- Govt to wholly financing cost for people below poverty line
- First phase to cost Rs. 18,500 crore
- National Social Security Council to regulate the scheme

ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

- ❖ It was observed across the world on **March 1, 2018** with the objective **to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.**
 - ❖ It was first celebrated by the United Nations on 1 March 2014 and was observed after **UNAIDS launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013.**
- Note:** *United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is a UN program on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).*
- ❖ It was launched in 1996 with **the aim to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.**
 - ❖ Its main functions are **to provide strategic direction, advocacy, coordination and technical support to deliver life-saving HIV services.**

AMA GAON, AMA VIKAS PROGRAMME

- ❖ It means **Our Village, our development** and has been launched by **Odisha Government.**
- ❖ Its main aim is **to reach out to people in rural areas and involve their participation in developmental activities.**
- ❖ Under this programme, people can directly send their grievances to Chief Minister's Office at Secretariat in Bhubaneswar through Wi-Fi enabled latest technology video wall vans.
- ❖ One of its benefits is that **it will help people in solving their grievances instantly.**

SPECIAL CATEGORY STATE (SCS) STATUS

- ❖ It was introduced by the **Fifth Finance Commission** in **1969** and **Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, and Nagaland** were the first states to be given the special category status through additional Central assistance and tax concessions.
- ❖ It is based on the recommendations of the **National Development Council (NDC)** under the five guidelines mentioned below:
 - Hilly and difficult terrain;
 - Low population density or sizable share of tribal population;
 - Strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries;
 - Economic and infrastructural backwardness;

and

- Non-viable nature of State finances.
- ❖ The states which are receiving it right now are **Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, and Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.**
- ❖ **Central assistance** to all the states of India is broadly divided into **three components.**
 - Normal Central Assistance (NCA)
 - Additional Central Assistance (ACA)
 - Special Central Assistance (SCA)
- ❖ **Normal Central Assistance** is split to favor special category states i.e. the 11 Special Category Status states get **30%** of the total assistance while the remaining states receive the remaining **70%.**
- ❖ The nature of the assistance also varies for special category states; **the ratio between grants and loans for special category states is 90% grants and 10% loans, whereas the ratio for other states is 30:70.**
- ❖ For allocation among special category states, there are no explicit criteria for distribution and funds are allocated on the basis of the state's plan size and previous plan expenditures.
- ❖ Special category states also receive specific assistance addressing **features like hill areas, tribal sub-plans and border areas.**
- ❖ Special category states are also **given concessions in excise and customs duties, income tax rates and corporate tax rates as decided by the government.**
- ❖ The **non special category states** are allocated funds on the basis of **Gadgil Mukherjee formula** that gives weightage to **population (60%), per capita income (25%), fiscal performance (7.5%) and special problems (7.5%).**

Note: *Andhra Pradesh has been demanding a Special Category State (SCS) status from Centre ever since it was decided to carve out Telangana along with capital city Hyderabad.*

Planning Commission and National Development Council doesn't exist now and are replaced by NITI Aayog.

The NITI Aayog has no power to allocate funds-therefore, the discretion that the ruling party at the Centre had to dole out special favours to states through the Plan panel, no longer exists.



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