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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; T – Thiruvananthapuram; D – Delhi
The terrorist tag

India needs tough laws to combat terror, but the proposed amendments could be misused.

The idea of designating an individual as a terrorist, as the latest amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act propose to do, may appear innocuous. However, designating an individual as a terrorist raises serious constitutional questions and has the potential for misuse. The practice of designating individuals under anti-terrorism laws, prevalent in several countries, is seen as being necessary because banned groups tend to change their names and continue to operate. However, there is no set procedure for designating an individual a terrorist. Parliament must consider whether an individual can be called a ‘terrorist’ prior to conviction in a court of law. The absence of a judicial determination may render the provision vulnerable to invalidation. There ought to be a distinction between an individual and an organisation, as the former enjoys the right to life and liberty. The likely adverse consequences of a terrorist tag may be worse for individuals than for organisations. Further, individuals may be subjected to arrest and detention; even after obtaining bail from the courts, they may have their travel and movements restricted, besides carrying the taint. This makes it vital that individuals have a faster means of redress than groups. Unfortunately, there is no change in the process of getting an entity removed from the list. Just as any organisation getting the tag, individuals, too, will have to apply to the Centre to get their names removed.

Why an amendment to UAPA 1967?

- To remove the difficulties faced by NIA in investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases
- To align the domestic law with international obligations

Proposed Changes:

1. Fourth Schedule - to add names of individual terrorists (Section 35)
2. Empowering Dm, NIA to grant approval of seizure/attachment of property (Section 26)
3. Inserting new clause (b) in Section 43 for Inspectors, NIA to investigate offences

Listing of ‘Individuals’ in Fourth Schedule

- Appear ‘innocuous’
- Raises serious constitutional questions
  - Listing prior to conviction in court
  - Article 21 of Indian Constitution
- Potential for Misuse
  - Wrongful designation
  - Statement made by Home Minister
  - Investigation by Inspectors - Section 43

UAPA Amendment Bill, 2019
- Also anti-federal

Conclusion:

- Govt. should be mindful of its obligations to preserve fundamental rights while enacting legislation.
**How to make the Surrogacy Bill more inclusive**

- **Part A—Preliminary Examination**
  - Paper I - (200 marks)
    - Current events of national and international importance.
    - Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
    - Economic and Social Development—Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographic, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
  - Paper II—Main Examination
  - General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.
    - Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

**PAPER-III**

- General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
  - Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
  - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
  - Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
  - Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
  - Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

**PAPER-IV**

- General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management
  - Science and Technology—developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

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**Surrogacy:**

* Practice in which one woman bears the child and gives birth to that child for an intending couple
* Intending Couple → medically certified to be an infertile couple & opts Surrogacy

**Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019:**

* Intends to facilitate altruistic surrogacy in the country
* Altruistic Surrogacy → Surrogacy with

- Charges
- Medical Expenses
- Remuneration
- Monetary incentive

**Needed for Regulation of Surrogacy:**

* To put an end to commercialisation of Surrogacy
  - Commercial Surrogacy → Commercialisation of Surrogacy services or procedures
  - Selling / buying → Human Embryo
  - Trading → Human embryo / gametes

- Selling
- Buying

**Motherhood**

- Payment
- Reward
- Benefit
- Fees
- Remuneration
- Monetary incentive

- Underprivileged women
  - Surrogate for exchange of money
  - Exploited by agents
Practice Question – Mains
GS-II

Q. What is meant by ‘altruistic surrogacy’? Critically examine the provisions of the Surrogacy (Regulation) bill, 2019.

1. Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Bill should have been brought before Surrogacy Regulation Bill
   - Intended parents undergo In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) → embryo created & transferred to surrogate
   - IVF is Assisted Reproductive Technology
   - ‘donor eggs’ → rules and regulations
   - Increased rapidly!
   - IVF Clinics → false advertisement of 100% success rate
   - Increased cost of IVF procedures

2. Intending Couples → Should be married.
   - Indian Couples
   - No mention of NRIs, unmarried couples, gay
   - Couples, single men and women, transgenders

3. Surrogacy can be opted by ‘infertile couples’ only
   - Women cannot have reproductive choice
   - ‘Right to Reproduce or not to reproduce’
   - Constitution
     - Justice K.S. Puttaswamy Vs UoI, 2012
     - Part of personal liberty under Article 21
     - B.K. Parthasarathy Vs Govt. of A.P.,
     - Personal decisions about birth & babies – reproductive autonomy
     - Baby Manji Yamada Vs UoI, 2008
     - Surrogacy - Method of reproduction

4. Allows only Altruistic Surrogacy
   - failed in other countries
   - Relying on relatives → Relatives may not come forward
   - left unprivileged woman → means of livelihood
   - Solution → Surrogacy as ‘Profession’
     - Contract → paid properly
     - → insurance
     - → medical checks
     - → post-partum care

5. Bill drafted without considering physical and emotional factors
   - Can hire a surrogate or not
   - Already hired a surrogate → what happens to the baby
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statement with reference to the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

1. It is a printer attached with the Electronic Voting Machine.
2. Any discrepancy in the match between VVPAT slips and Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) counts, the EVM count prevails.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

VVPAT Mismatch:

★ Mismatch in the counting of VVPAT slips and EVM counts
★ Found in 8 cases
★ 51 out of 1.2 crore VVPAT slips mismatched
★ 0.004%
★ 7/8 cases → probe team setup by ECI
★ 1 case → Election petition is filed - no probe
★ Probe to - ascertain technological, procedural, systemic & human errors / lapses in rules and regulations
★ Discrepancy in counting → VVPAT slip count prevails
★ Rule 56 (d) (4)(b) of Conduct of Election Rules of 1961
GSLV Mk-III helps reduce orbit-raising manoeuvres

Rocket placed Chandrayaan-2 at a 6,000 km higher apogee.

In its maiden operational flight, the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle – Mark III (GSLV Mk-III) used for launching Chandrayaan-2 successfully placed the moon-bound spacecraft in a temporary orbit called the Earth Parking Orbit (EPO) with perigee closest distance from the earth of 170 km and an apogee (farthest distance from the earth) of 41,479 km.

The apogee of the EPO was about 6,000 km more

P.S. 9 → C, D
P.S. 7 → B, T

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to Chandrayaan-2.

1. It is the first mission from India to soft land on the south polar region with lander-Pragyan and rover -Vikram
2. With this mission, India aims to be the 5th country to soft land on the moon.
3. It was launched with GSLV MKIII, the most powerful launcher till date in India.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV

- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of Space
Practice Question – Prelims

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Practice Question – Mains

GS-II

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LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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