

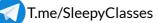
# Weekly Editorial Analysis (WEA)

# 27th March 2021

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# **Table of Contents**

1.	Junk Inefficiency (Scrappage policy) Watch 19th March video	.1
2.	Rising poverty (Pew report)-22 March video	.2
З.	Iran deal could be rescued by the IAEA	.3
4.	The surge of geopolitics in South Asia's power trade	.7
5.	Remove the wedges in India-Bangladesh ties	.8
6.	Changes to NCT Act revive power tussle (17 March)	.11



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## 1. Junk Inefficiency (Scrappage policy) Watch 19th March video

• Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Parliament that the Ministry is introducing a voluntary vehicle fleet modernisation programme, which seeks to create an ecosystem to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles.

#### Proposed Vehicle scrapping policy

- Private vehicles be de-registered after 20 years if found unfit or in case of failure to renew registration certificate.
- As a disincentive measure, increased re-registration fees will be applicable for private vehicles 15 years onward from the date of initial registration.
- It is being proposed that all government vehicles may be de-registered and scrapped after 15 years from date of registration.
- The criteria will take into account emission tests, braking and safety equipment, among other tests. A vehicle failing the fitness test may be declared as end-of-life vehicle.
- Policy will offer a rebate of about 5 per cent to buyers on new car purchases in lieu of scrapping of the old.
- The scrap value for the old vehicle will be approximately 4-6 per cent of the ex- showroom price of a new vehicle.
- State governments may be advised to offer a road tax rebate and waive registration fees for the purchase of a new vehicle against the scrapping certificate.
- With a simplified registration process through a single window, the scrapping facility shall have to comply with environmental and pollution norms and with all applicable Acts What are the vehicles that would be deregistered?
- Older vehicles pollute 10-12 times more than fit vehicles and pose a risk to road safety. Commercial vehicles can be deregistered after 15 years, if they fail to get a fitness certificate.

#### Significance of policy

- Firstly, the policy could provide a major boost to the Indian automobile sector, which is reeling under the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Secondly, the policy can reduce population caused by older and defective vehicles. it will help in achieving better fuel efficiency, formalising the informal vehicle scrapping industry, and boost the availability of low-cost raw materials for the automotive, steel and electronics industry.
- Finally, it can also improve road and vehicular safety. Challenges & Solution
- Heavy commercial vehicles, which contribute disproportionately to pollution 1.7 million lack fitness certificates pose the biggest challenge.
- It will take until April 1, 2022 for vehicles belonging to the government and the public sector to be scrapped, another year thereafter to identify junk heavy commercial vehicles through mandatory fitness checks, and finally other vehicles by 2024, it is a constructive road map

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- To put in place a credible system of automated fitness checking centres with help from States to assess whether commercial and private vehicles are roadworthy after 15 and 20 years, respectively, as the policy envisages
- States must also come on board to provide road tax and registration concessions, while the automobile industry is expected to sweeten the deal with genuine discounts on new vehicles
- Limited success of Motor Vehicles Act of 2019 because States are not entirely on board, has the difficult task of ensuring that the scrappage plan gets their support
- The Centre has to arrive at a balance and have incentives that reward manufacturers of vehicles that are the most fuel-efficient.
- Failure to prioritise fuel efficiency and mandate even higher standards and enhance taxes on fuel guzzlers will only repeat the mistakes of vehicle exchange programmes abroad, where full environmental benefits could not be realised, and taxpayers ended up subsidising inefficiency.
- Ecological scrapping, as a concept, must lead to high rates of materials recovery, reduce air pollution, mining and pressure on the environment.

# 2. Rising poverty (Pew report)-22 March video

• Pandemic may have doubled poverty in India, says Pew study

#### **Key findings**

- Number of poor people (\$2 or less/day)
  - ✓ From 2011 to 2019, the number of poor in India was estimated to have reduced to 78 million from 340 million.
- In 2020, the number increased by 75 million.
- Low income group (\$2.01-10/day)
- Majority of India population fall into the low income group.
- LIG shrank from 119.7 crore to 116.2 crore per day, with about 3.5 crore dropping below the poverty line
- Middle Class: (\$10.01-20/day)

✓ Estimated to have shrunk by 3.2 crore in 2020.

- $\checkmark$  Likely to have decreased from almost 10 crore to just 6.6 crore.
- Rich Population (> \$20 /day)

 $\checkmark$  Fell almost 30% to 1.8 crore people. Global scenario

- The global poverty rate also increased
  - $\checkmark$  South Asia saw the greatest reduction in the number of middle class and the largest expansion in poverty in 2020.
  - ✓ China's middle class is likely to see a miniscule dip of just one crore, while the number of poor people may have gone up by 10 lakh.

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#### Analysis

- Varying base years for income/consumption figures with India's from 2011 and 2016 for China. Still, the study serves as a stark reminder of the economic disparities, both within India and at a comparative level with its northern neighbour.
- The latest report once again spotlights the widening inequality in India, exacerbated by the pandemic, ahuhs the lower income populations have disproportionately borne the brunt of job and income losses in the wake of the multiple lockdowns.
- The fiscal policy response to redress this massive increase in precarity has also been underwhelming, especially when viewed from the perspective of the pre- pandemic tax cuts that the government handed to corporates in an attempt to revive private investment and rekindle growth.
- That the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme has been seeing record levels of demand is testimony to the struggles those in the rural hinterland have been facing in finding gainful employment since the onset of the pandemic.
- With the number of COVID-19 cases once again rising disconcertingly across the country, there is a clear and present danger that not only could any nascent economic recovery be stymied even before it gains traction but that the number of those sliding into poverty could jump dramatically.
- The policy responses to the rising wave of infections could well test the government's 'lives versus livelihoods' playbook to the hilt.

### 3. Iran deal could be rescued by the IAEA

• Iran Nuclear deal (Watch 8 March editorial)

#### Nuclear enrichment

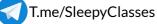
- Mined uranium has less than 1 percent of the uranium-235 isotope used in fission reactions, and centrifuges increase that isotope's concentration. Uranium enriched 3-4 % percent is used in nuclear power plants
- 20 percent it can be used in research reactors or for medical purposes.
- High-enriched uranium, at some 90 percent, is used in nuclear weapons

#### About IAEA

- The IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear/atomic field. It is a UN agency. It works with its member countries and many partners to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.
- Set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family.
- Reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- Headquarters in Vienna, Austria

#### Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT -1968)

- aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons including three elements:
  - ✓ non-proliferation,



√ disarmament,



 $\checkmark$  peaceful use of nuclear energy.

#### Nuclear & Non-Nuclear Weapon States

- The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states (NWS) as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967.
- All the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS). The five nuclear weapon states are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

#### Nonproliferation

- Nuclear weapon states are not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons and not to assist, encourage, or induce any NNWS to mNon-nuclear weapons states are not to receive nuclear weapons from any transferor, and are not to manufacture or acquire them.
- NNWS must accept the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards on all nuclear materials on their territories or under their control.

#### Disarmament

• All Parties must pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

#### NPT

#### **Peaceful Use**

• All state parties undertake to facilitate, and have a right to participate, in the exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

#### Members

- South Sudan, India, Israel, and Pakistan remaining outside the treaty
- North Korea announced January 10, 2003, that it was withdrawing from the treaty, effective the next day. Although Article X of the NPT requires that a country give three months' notice in advance of withdrawing, North Korea argued that it satisfied this requirement because it originally announced its decision to withdraw March 12, 1993, and suspended the decision one day before it was to become legally binding. There is not yet a definitive legal opinion as to whether North Korea is still a party to the NPT.

#### About

• Iran's interest in nuclear technology dates to the 1950s, when the Shah of Iran received technical assistance under the U.S. Atoms for Peace program

#### Atom for peace

• A U.S. program announced by President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the United Nations on 8 December 1953 to share nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes with other countries.

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#### **Increase enrichment**

• Negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU).

#### Iran Nuclear Program and JCPOA

- In 2015, Iran with the P5+1 group of world powers the USA, UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany agreed on a long-term deal on its nuclear programme.
- The deal was named as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and in common parlance as Iran Nuclear Deal.
- Under the deal, Iran agreed to curb its nuclear activity in return for the lifting of sanctions and access to global trade. Iran
- Iran's uranium stockpile was reduced by 98% to 300kg (660lbs), a figure that must not be exceeded until 2031. It must also keep the stockpile's level of enrichment at 3.67%.
- No enrichment will be permitted at Fordo until 2031, and the underground facility will be converted into a nuclear, physics and technology centre. The 1,044 centrifuges at the site will produce radioisotopes for use in medicine, agriculture, industry and science
- US experts estimated then that if Iran had decided to rush to make a bomb, it would take two to three months until it had enough 90%-enriched uranium to build a nuclear weapon the so-called "break-out time"
- For the first year after the U.S. withdrawal, Iran's response was muted as the E-3 (France, Germany, the U.K.) and the EU promised to find ways to mitigate the U.S. decision. The E-3's promised relief Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), created in 2019 to facilitate limited trade with Iran
- INSTEX-to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding the use of the dollar.
- However, by May 2019, Iran's strategic patience ran out as the anticipated economic relief from the E-3/EU failed to materialize. As the sanctions began to hurt, Tehran shifted to a strategy of 'maximum resistance'.

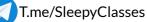
#### Iran's Policy of 'Maximum Resistance'.

• Beginning in May 2019, Iran began to move away from JCPOA's constraints incrementally: exceeding the ceilings of 300kg on low-enriched uranium and 130 MT on heavy-water; raising enrichment levels from 3.67% to 4.5%; stepping up research and development on advanced centrifuges; resuming enrichment at Fordow, and violating limits on the number of centrifuges in use.

#### **Roadblocks in Restoration of Deal**

#### Regional Cold War Between Iran & Saudi Arabia

- The traditional Shia vs Sunni conflict precipitated into a regional cold war between Iran & Suadi Arabia.
- Thus, a major challenge for the US to restore the nuclear deal is to maintain peace between the two regional rivals.





#### Iran Gone too Far

- The challenge in resuming the agreement in its present form is that Iran is currently in violation of several of its important commitments, such as the limits on stockpiles of enriched uranium.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency noted that Iran now had more than 2,440 kilograms, which is more than eight times the limit set by the 2015 nuclear deal.
- Further, Iran says it wants the US to pay for the billions of dollars in economic losses it incurred when it pulled the United States out of the Iran deal in 2018 and reinstituted sanctions that it had lifted.

#### Impacts on India For Restoration of JCPOA

- May ease many restrictions over the Iranian regime, which may directly or indirectly help India.
- Boost to Regional Connectivity: Removing sanctions may revive India's interest in the Chabahar option,
  - ✓ This would further help India to neutralize the Chinese presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan.
  - ✓ Revival of International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), which runs through Iran, which will improve connectivity with five Central Asian republics, may also get a boost.
- Energy Security: Due to the pressure linked to the US' Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), India has to bring down oil imports to zero.
  - ✓ Restoration of ties between the US and Iran will help India to procure cheap Iranian oil and aid in energy security.

#### Iran deal could be rescued by the IAEA

• The U.S. tried to pressurise Iran by proposing a resolution in the IAEA Board of Governors (March 1-5) meeting criticising Iranian non-compliance with the JCPOA and its alleged IAEA safeguards violations amidst rumours that Iran might withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty(NPT) and proceed to develop nuclear weapons

#### IAEA'S Role

- Monitoring by the IAEA to continue in Iran for three months augured well for a possible IAEA effort in case the JCPOA talks broke down.
- Iranians had also agreed to an early April visit to Iran by an IAEA technical team to discuss outstanding safeguard matters. It was important for the IAEA to pursue its non-proliferation efforts with Iran outside the JCPOA.
- it should be possible to consider a fresh initiative by the IAEA to deal with the issue
- The IAEA is neither the Secretariat of the NPT nor is it empowered to request States to adhere to it.
- It does, however, have formal responsibility in the context of implementing Article III of the Treaty.
- The IAEA's mandate, expertise, and experience also equip it well to assist in the implementation of other Articles.
- At the broadest level, the IAEA provides two service functions under the NPT.





- It facilitates and provides a channel for endeavours aimed at the "further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world."
- Its other major function is to administer international nuclear safeguards, in accordance with Article III of the Treaty, to verify fulfilment of the non- proliferation commitment assumed by non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty.

#### The NPT assigns to the IAEA the responsibility

• For verifying, at the global level, through its safeguards system, that non-nuclear weapon States fulfil their obligations not to use their peaceful nuclear activities to develop any nuclear explosive devices of any kind

#### Way forward

• With the experience of the JCPOA, any new arrangement has to ensure that Iran must have sanctions relief, the stockpile of enriched uranium should not exceed the limits established, and there should be iron clad guarantees that Iran will not violate the safeguards agreement.

## 4. The surge of geopolitics in South Asia's power trade

- The new rules on power trade by India define the contours of the South Asian electricity market, placing clear limits on who can buy from and sell into India. This has ramifications for the electricity markets of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, which, to varying degrees, have aligned their energy futures with the Indian market.
- Rules strongly discourage the participation of plants owned by a company situated in "a third country with whom India shares a land border" and "does not have a bilateral agreement on power sector cooperation with India".

#### **New rules**

- According to the new rules, Power plants owned by a company based in the country, not having a bilateral agreement with India on power sector cooperation, cannot participate.
- The rules place the same security restrictions on tripartite trade.
- The rules establish a surveillance procedure to detect changes in the ownership patterns of entities trading with India

#### Advantage to India

• India is placed in the middle of south Asian countries. Moreover, India at present is the fourth-largest global energy consumer. It puts India in a dominant position.

#### Issues

- India's monopolistic tendency in power will attract displeasure from its neighbours as their economic growth will hurt.
- Also, the prospect of an independent regional body governing electricity trade is unlikely in the near future.

• Impact India's vision of One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)

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• OSOWOG aims to connect West Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa. An impartial institution is important for making it functional

#### Issues

• South Asian lesson, contained in these latest rules tells us that political realities will hamper the vision of borderless trade.

# 5. Remove the wedges in India-Bangladesh ties

• The friendship between India and Bangladesh is historic, evolving over the last 50 years. India's political, diplomatic, military and humanitarian support during Bangladesh's Liberation War played an important role towards Bangladesh's independence

#### History of Indo Bangladesh relation

#### **Post-Independence**

• The India-Bangladesh relationship has oscillated as Bangladesh passed through different regimes. The relationship remained cordial until the assassination of Bangladesh's founding President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 15, 1975, followed by a period of military rule and the rise of General Ziaur Rahman who became President and also assassinated in 1981

#### **Relation since 1991**

• Since Bangladesh's return to parliamentary democracy in 1991, relations have gone through highs and lows. However, in the last decade, India-Bangladesh relations have warmed up, entering a new era of cooperation, and moving beyond historical and cultural ties to become more assimilated in the areas of trade, connectivity, energy, and defence.

#### Issues in Indo -Bangladesh relation

- Teesta waters issue remains a big problem due to continuous protest by the Mamata Banerjee led West Bengal government.
- National Register of Citizens has left out 1.9 million people in Assam and they are being labelled as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh is overwhelmingly dependent on China for military hardware. China's economic footprint is growing.
- Since the ban by India on cattle export, cattle trade has fallen from 23 lakh in 2013 to 75,000 till the end of May this year.

#### Water

- Water remains another difficult issue. Bangladeshis have observed the tug-of-war on the Teesta water-sharing issue between the Centre and state.
- As rivers run dry and farmers are cut off from their livelihood.
- However, during PM Sheikh Hasina's India tour, an MoU was signed allowing India 1.82 cusecs of water from the Feni River.

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#### Citizenship & migrants

- India's controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) have created a negative impression in Bangladesh of India's intent, which the Bangladesh Prime Minister termed "unnecessary".
- Syed Muazzem Ali, the late Bangladesh high commissioner to India and recipient of the Padma Bhushan, once said, "Bangladeshis are not interested to migrate to India; they would rather go to Italy."
- The CAA excludes Muslims from being granted citizenship as persecuted minorities, while the NRC in Assam excluded 1.9 million people, majority of them Muslims.
- The NRC and CAA can't be brushed aside as "internal matters" when they have ramifications across the border.

#### **China factor**

- The China factor also adds another dimension to the ties.
- Bangladesh is China's second-largest arms export destination. Chinese firms have been outbidding their Indian counterparts in infrastructure projects.
- Bangladesh is deftly navigating relations with its two biggest neighbours in a neighbourhood in flux.
- Nepal is increasingly becoming closer to China; Bhutan has withdrawn from the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) initiative, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are playing a balancing act, both rooted in Chinese investments;
- Afghanistan is increasingly under the Taliban's sphere of influence as the US withdraws troops

#### Areas of cooperation

#### Land boundary agreement 2015

- The Bangladeshi enclaves in India and Indian enclaves in Bangladesh were transferred on July 31, 2015.
- The agreement involved handing over 17,000 acres of land to Bangladesh in return for 7,000 acres in 162 enclaves in West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya.
- LBA settles land boundary dispute which dates back to colonial times as India transfers 111 border enclaves to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 enclaves.
- It also settles the question of citizenship for over 50,000 people in these enclaves

#### Issues

#### Recent report released by civil rights organisation - Masum

- The condition of the people is far from what they had imagined. They are yet to get land records and nothing has been done for providing them employment Need
- The report calls for a comprehensive survey should be undertaken to identify and assimilate the people whose names have been left out of the headcount previously, and all the benefits of being a citizen in India should be extended to them

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#### **Economic Cooperation**

- Bangladesh today is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia with exports to Bangladesh in FY 2018-19 at \$9.21 billion and imports at \$1.04 billion. India has offered duty free access to multiple Bangladeshi products
- On the development front, cooperation has deepened, with India extending three lines of credit to Bangladesh in recent years amounting to \$8 billion for the construction of roads, railways, bridges, and ports

#### Need

- Trade could be more balanced if non-tariff barriers from the Indian side could be removed. Tourism
- Bangladeshis make up a large portion of tourists in India, outnumbering all tourists arriving from western Europe in 2017, with one in every five tourists being a Bangladeshi.
- Bangladesh accounts for more than 35% of India's international medical patients and contributes more than 50% of India's revenue from medical tourism.

#### The connectivity boost

- Connectivity between the two countries has greatly improved.
- A direct bus service between Kolkata and Agartala runs a route distance of 500 km, as compared to the 1,650 km if it ran through the Chicken's Neck to remain within India.
- Recently, a 1.9 kilometre long bridge, the Maitri Setu, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, connecting Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh allows the shipment of goods from its Mongla and Chattogram (Chittagong) seaports carried by road, rail, and water ways to Agartala (Tripura) via Akhura; Dawki (Meghalaya) via Tamabil; Sutarkandi (Assam) via Sheola, and Srimantpur (Tripura) via Bibirbazar. This allows landlocked Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura to access open water routes through the Chattogram and Mongla ports

#### Keeping the momentum going

- India-Bangladesh relations have been gaining positive momentum over the last decade. As Bangladesh celebrates its 50 years of independence (March 26, 1971), India continues to be one of its most important neighbours and strategic partners.
- As the larger country, the onus is on India to be generous enough to let the water flow and ensure that people are not killed on the border for cattle even if it is illegal when there are appropriate means for justice.
- These small but important steps can remove long-standing snags in a relationship which otherwise is gradually coming of age in 50 years.
- To make the recent gains irreversible, both countries need to continue working on the three Cs cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation.

## 6. Changes to NCT Act revive power tussle (17 March)

- The Union cabinet earlier this week approved some proposed amendments to the Government of NCT of Delhi Act that sought to give more powers to the Lieutenant Governor, prompting the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government to call it "a murder of constitutional democracy".
- Further It will also give more teeth to the L-G, and the validity of any decision taken as per such discretion shall not be questioned.

#### Need

- Promote cooperative federalism between the centre and the state.
- Address the ambiguities in the interpretation of legislative provisions.
- Seeks to give effect to the 2018 judgement and implementing the verdict. Structural Clarity:
- The Ministry of Home Affairs' statement on "objects and reasons" of the Bill stated that Section 44 of the 1991 Act deals with conduct of business and there is no structural mechanism for effective time-bound implementation of the said section.
- Section 44 of the 1991 Act says that all executive actions of the LG, whether taken on the advice of his Ministers or otherwise shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the LG

GNCTD Act 1991	NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021
Section 21- deals with the restrictions on laws passed by the Legislative Assembly concerning certain matters	the term "government" referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply Lieutenant Governor (L-G).
The <b>L-G will</b> reserve the bills for the consideration of the President in a <b>few matters</b> .	L-G <b>to reserve bills</b> for the President that <b>incidentally</b> <b>cover any of the matters outside the purview</b> of the powers of the Legislative Assembly.
Legislative Assembly will make <b>rules to regulate the</b> procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly.	such rules must be consistent with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the <b>Lok Sabha</b> .
All <b>executive decisions</b> taken by the elected government should be <b>under the L-G's name</b> .	Empowers the L-G to specify his suggestions on certain matters. His <b>opinions has to be taken before</b> <b>making any executive action</b> on decisions of the Minister/ Council of Ministers.

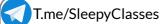
#### Concerns

#### Idea of democracy

- The Delhi assembly at present is examining multiple issues ranging from riots to the environment but bill restricts the Delhi government from inquiring into executive matters. This disregards the ideal of democracy conceived for the NCT of Delhi by Article 239AA of the Constitution.
- Equating the L-G with the government simply undermines the legitimacy of the elected government thereby disrespecting representative democracy.

#### Distort the federal equilibrium

• Excess powers to L-G can also distort the federal equilibrium. The centre can use this bill as a precedent to curtail the powers of other states in the future.





#### **Spirit of Supreme court Verdict**

• The bill goes against the spirit of the 2018 verdict. The provisions such as getting the compulsory opinion from the L-G are against the verdict.

#### Others

- The NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill if passed would be a huge setback for Delhi's quest for full statehood. As the L-G gets precedence to the Delhi government.
- The bill empowers L-G to specify certain matters on which his opinion must be taken. This can curtail the autonomy that any elected government legitimately requires for governance.

#### About Union territory of Delhi

• The Union Territory of Delhi with a Legislative Assembly came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by 'the Constitution (Sixty- ninth Amendment) Act, 1991

#### Article 239AA

- Public Order, Police & Land in NCT of Delhi fall within the domain and control of Central Government which shall have the power to make laws on these matters.
- For remaining matters of State List or Concurrent List, in so far as any such matter is applicable to UTs, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for NCT of Delhi.
- Further, for Offences against laws, Jurisdiction & powers of Courts (except SC) and Fees (except court fees) so far as they relate to Public Order, Police & Land in NCT of Delhi; Central Government would have power to make laws
- Issues (239 Vs 239AA) Union government
- New Delhi being a Union Territory Article 239 empowers the Lieutenant Governor to act independently of his Council of Ministers.

#### Delhi government

• Article 239AA of the Constitution bestows special status to Delhi of having its own legislatively elected government.

#### Supreme Court judgment (2018)

• Held that the L-G was bound by the "aid and advice" of the Delhi government and both had to work harmoniously with each other.

#### Lack of clarity Article 239AA (4)

• The court did not very clearly delineate the issues in respect of which the LG can refer a decision taken by the Council of Ministers to the President in the event of a difference of opinion between the LG and the State government.

#### Interpretation

• In the event of referring any matter to the President, the Court enunciated that LG must adhere to the constitutional principles of collaborative federalism, constitutional balance and the concept of constitutional governance. However, these terms are very wide and open- ended. They are subject to different interpretations.