

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



Issue

The Lok Sabha has unanimously passed the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022.

Background

The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005 will be amended by the new bill.

Details

- The bill seeks to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in line with India's commitments.
- The previous law controlled manufacturing, transport, and transfer of weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

There is no clear definition of WMD but they refer to nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons that can harm large number of people.

Controlling WMD

- International treaties regulate use of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. India has been a signatory of such conventions.
- Conventions such as Geneva Protocol, 1925, the Biological Weapons Convention, 1972, and Chemical Weapons Convention, 1992, bans chemical and biological weapons.

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) regulate use of Nuclear Weapons.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

- It is an international treaty that aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
- Four UN member states of India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan have never accepted the NPT.
- The treaty discriminates between UN P-5 states and other nuclear states by giving legitimacy to P-5 to own nuclear weapons.

NOTES

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