

## **DNA draft bill 2017**

### **What is the issue?**

\n\n

The DNA draft Bill which seeks to streamline genetic profiling activities, has potential once approved.

\n\n

### **What is DNA draft bill?**

\n\n

\n

- The Law Commission of India submitted a draft of the DNA Based Technology (Use and Regulation) Bill, 2017 to the government in July.

\n

- The DNA Bill seeks to regulate human DNA profiling and establish standard procedures for DNA testing.

\n

- The draft Bill has substantially modified the earlier Bill and suggested various measures to fortify the use of uncontaminated DNA samples for investigation purposes and for identifying missing persons.

\n

- Given that there are no appropriate legal mechanisms with regard to identifying missing persons, victims of disasters, etc.

\n

- It proposed a Plan for Constituting a statutory body called the DNA profiling board and a DNA data bank.

\n

\n\n

### **What is DNA profiling board?**

\n\n

\n

- The profiling board will undertake functions such as laying down procedures and standards to establish DNA laboratories and granting accreditation to such laboratories.

- \n
- It will advise the concerned Ministries/ departments of the Central and State governments on issues relating to DNA laboratories.
- \n
- It will also be responsible for supervising, monitoring, inspecting and assessing the laboratories.
- \n
- The Board will frame guidelines for training the police and other investigating agencies dealing with DNA-related matters.
- \n
- Its functions also include giving advice on all ethical and human rights issues relating to DNA testing in consonance with international guidelines.
- \n
- It will recommend research and development activities in DNA testing and related issues.
- \n
- DNA profiling will be undertaken exclusively to identify a person and will not be used to extract any other information.
- \n

\n\n

### **What are the features of DNA data bank?**

\n\n

- \n
- DNA data banks both nationally and on a regional basis in the States will be setup.
- \n
- The data bank will primarily store DNA profiles received from the accredited laboratories and maintain certain indices for various categories of data such as
- \n

\n\n

- \n
1. Crime scene index.
- \n
2. Suspect's index.
- \n
3. Offender's index.
- \n
4. Missing persons' index
- \n

5. Unknown deceased persons index - with a view to assisting families of missing persons on the basis of their bodily samples and substances.

\n

\n\n

\n

- Strict confidentiality will be maintained with regard to keeping records of DNA profiles and their use.

\n

- The DNA profiles shall be shared with and by foreign governments or government organisations or agencies only for the purposes enumerated in the Act.

\n

- Violators of the provisions will be liable for punishment of imprisonment which may extend up to three years and also a fine which may extend up to Rs. 2 lakh.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n

