

Human Smuggling

Why in news?

The recent deportations of illegal Indian migrants from the U.S. must push Parliament to enact a central law that strikes at the roots of human smuggling.

- **Human Smuggling** - It is also known as *business of death or Kabootarbazi*.
- It generates high net worth profits for criminals, who in turn fuel corruption and organised crime.
- **Vulnerability of migrants** - They face grave risks by ending up being suffocated in containers, perish in scorching deserts, drown at sea or be herded into slave camps to work as forced labour.
- **Legislation in India** -
 - ***Emigration Act of 1983***
 - Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)
 - IPC Section 370

***Punjab has enacted a law** related to human smuggling which no other State in India has done.*

- **Issues** - Emigration Act of 1983 *neither defines human smuggling* nor looks at the serious problems connected with this deathly trade.

Punjab Travel Professionals Regulation Act, 2012

- **Objectives** - To *regulate the profession of travel agents* to check and curb illegal, fraudulent activities, and malpractices such as organised human smuggling.
- To provide a *licensing regime for travel agents* with penal provisions.
- **Travel agent** - It means a person who is doing a profession which involves arranging, managing or conducting affairs related to the sending of persons abroad.
- **Human smuggling** - It shall mean and include illegally exporting, sending or transporting persons out of India by receiving money from them by inducing, alluring or deceiving or cheating them.

Reference

[The Hindu| India need to Frame a law for Human Smuggling](#)