DNA Technology Regulation Bill, 2018

Why in news?

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Cabinet has approved the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018.

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What are the key provisions?

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- The Bill provides for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories.
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- It seeks to ensure that the DNA test results are reliable.
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- It also ensures that the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of citizens.
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- The Bill's provisions will enable the cross-matching between\n
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    i. persons who have been reported missing
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    ii. unidentified dead bodies
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    iii. victims in mass disasters
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- The government will set up DNA data banks across India to store profiles.
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- It imposes jail term of up to 3 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh on those who leak the information stored in such facilities.
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- These banks will maintain a national database for identification of victims, accused, suspects, undertrials, missing persons and unidentified human remains.
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- The Bill creates a DNA Profiling Board that would be the final authority to -
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i. authorise the creation of State-level DNA databanks
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ii. approve the methods of collection
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iii. analyse DNA-technologies
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What is the objective?

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- Forensic DNA profiling helps in offences categorized as affecting the human body and those against property.
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- It includes murder, rape, human trafficking, or grievous hurt and theft, burglary, dacoity.
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- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) put the number of such crimes in excess of 3 lakhs per year.
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- Of these, only a very small proportion is being subjected to DNA testing at present.
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- The primary purpose of the Bill is thus to expand the application of DNA-based forensic technologies.
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- The expanded use of DNA technology in these cases would result in speedier justice delivery.
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- It could also help in increased conviction rates, which at present is only around 30%.
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Source: PIB, Economic Times

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