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