

## Office of Governor

### Way Ahead

- Need to review and restructure the office of the Governor.
- State governments be included in the appointment process of Governors to drastically reduce their discretionary powers.
- There is a need to rectify the imbalance in Centre-State equations.
- Supreme Court has powers to review the actions of the Governors.
- Any decision of the Governor can be subjected to judicial scrutiny, including the materials placed to arrive at that decision.
- The powers and privileges attached to the office of the Governor must be accompanied by answerability, transparency, and accountability.
- Westminster model of sovereign and symbolic head of state is past its expiry date
- Governors and their offices must be scrutinised as much as any other public office.
- The Supreme Court must lay down guidelines in this regard.

### Context

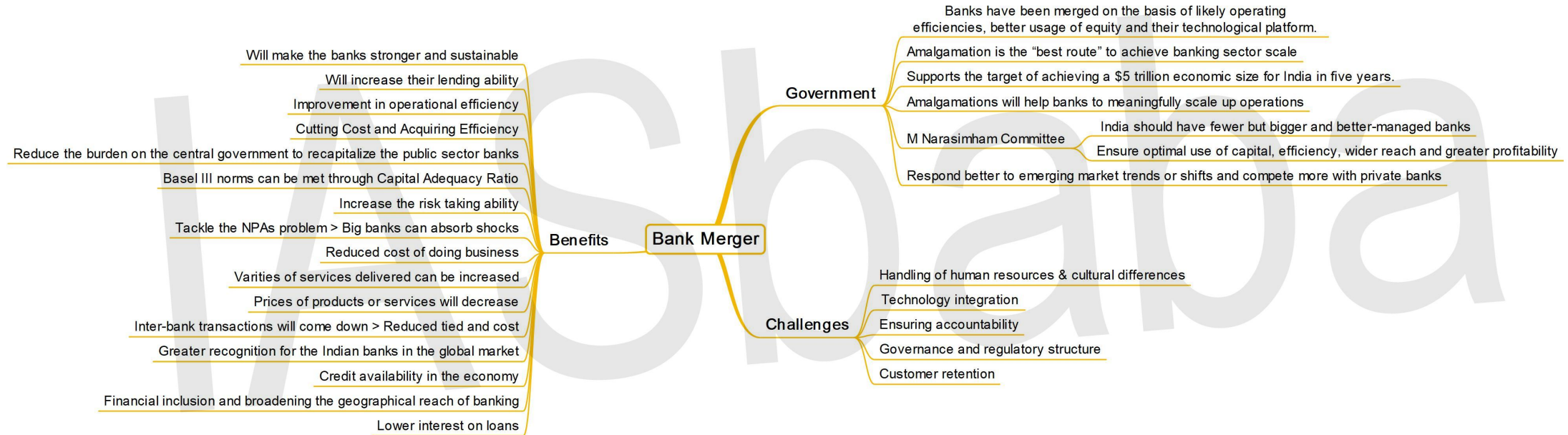
- Governor's position being abused at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre.
- The issues relates to the discretionary powers of the Governor in forming the government

### Politicisation of the Office

- Appointment process of Governors has made the office vulnerable to the influence of the Centre
- Occupants of the office have continued to look towards Centre for guidance.
- State's autonomy comes to nothing if its people's mandate can be defied or ignored by a central appointee.
- Eg. The swearing-in ceremony which happened with little or no public notice in Maharashtra
- Since he is appointed and removed by Central government, he will act according to the central government's satisfaction.
- Since governor has discretionary powers, he might use it to curtail the functions of elected government.
- At times, to delay implementation of certain programs or schemes which might affect the return of his party to power in state.
- Politicians and former bureaucrats identifying with a particular political ideology have been appointed as the Governor
- Imposition of President's rule in case of breakdown of constitutional machinery in a State has been frequently misused by the central government.

### Recommendations by SC & other Commissions

- Exercise of Governor's discretion Article 163 is limited and his choice of action should not be arbitrary or fanciful
- The office of the Governor must encounter post-poll claims to form the government by staying immune to political bias.
- Report of the governor regarding the president's rule has to be objective and also the governor should exercise his own judgment in this regard
- Governor of the state should not consider himself as an agent of the centre but play his role as the constitutional head of the State
- Punchhi commission recommended that Articles 355 & 356 be amended > to protect the interests of the States by trying to curb their misuse by the Centre.



## Globalisation & Agriculture

### Pros

WTO and increasing emphasis on market based economy

Agro-technologies

Hybrid seeds & pesticides

Genetically modified crops

Advanced Irrigation

Increased production

Introduction of HYV seeds

Pesticides and herbicides - green revolution

Export oriented farming results in better price realization for the farmers.

Food processing and other agro allied industries have generated employment

Feminization of agriculture > Male moving out because of increased urban employment

Water management through dry and precision farming

The gains from globalization increase net income in many places and facilitate decreases in levels of poverty and may thereby increase levels of food security.

Access to various methods across Globe

### Conclusion

Globalization can greatly enhance the role of agriculture as an engine of growth in low-income countries by making it possible for agriculture to grow considerably faster than domestic consumption.

It also increases the potential for agriculture to increase food security through enlarged multipliers to the massive, employment-intensive, non-tradable rural non-farm sector.

The impacts can be more positive with a focused approach like Special Safeguard Mechanism in WTO and use of tools like glocalisation where regional considerations are given due importance while adopting global practices.

### Cons

Lower prices in one part of the world adversely impact the local food prices

Commercial agriculture requires increased inputs > increase the debt burden

Increased urban migration > lack of labour for agriculture

Trade agreements forbid most subsidies excepted for agricultural goods

This depresses incomes of those farmers in the developing countries who do not get subsidies

Growing rice in dry areas of Punjab

Sugarcane in dry regions of Maharashtra

Shift from traditional cropping to market oriented farming that is unsustainable

### Competing in the current globalization context

Cost reductions in one place have immediate impacts in other places

Cost reduction largely derives from technological advance

WTO rules constrain the extent to which countries can protect themselves

Created to facilitate the processes of globalization, the WTO works to reduce trade barriers and to enforce agreed rules

Protectionist measures of the past are being allowed to continue in high-income countries, whilst many low-income countries are opening their borders to, often subsidized, imports.

