

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 Governance – Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors.**

**On Truck Drivers' Protests – Striking fear**

Truck drivers are concerned about Section 106 of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** due to its impact on hit-and-run accident cases:

**Increased Penalties:** Section 106 proposes stricter penalties compared to the existing Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). It suggests up to 5 years of imprisonment, along with fines, for causing death due to rash or negligent acts, doubling the current 2-year jail term.

**Escaping the Scene:** The provision introduces severe penalties of up to 10 years in prison for accidents where the driver flees without reporting to authorities promptly. This raises concerns as drivers often fear potential violence or retaliation at the accident scene, leading them to leave before reporting to the police.

**Issues raised with these provisions:**

**Heightened Criminal Liability:** The increased severity of punishments adds to the burden of criminal liability on drivers involved in accidents, potentially exacerbating their fears and concerns.

**Fear of Lynching:** Drivers commonly flee accident scenes out of fear of mob violence or lynching. However, under the new provision, leaving the scene would categorize the incident as a hit-and-run, falling under 'causing death by rashness or negligence.'

**Neglect of Root Issues:** Critics highlight the lack of focus on broader issues contributing to accidents, such as poor road conditions. Questions arise about the absence of a comprehensive policy addressing accident prevention, encompassing not just imprisonment but also compensation and safety measures.

The contention revolves around the belief that solely increasing prison terms might not effectively address the multifaceted challenges related to road accidents. Instead, there's a call for a more holistic approach that considers various factors contributing to accidents, ensuring a more comprehensive solution beyond strict legal penalties.

**UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- Polity- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.**

**SCs verdict on the Adani-Hindenburg case-The Adan episode gave investors lessons on risk**

The Supreme Court's verdict on the Adani-Hindenburg case centered on several key points:

**Rejection of Additional Probe:** The court dismissed calls for a new investigation by entities like a Special Investigation Team or the Central Bureau of Investigation, relying instead on the ongoing investigation conducted by SEBI.

**Confidence in SEBI:** There was no indication found by the court to doubt SEBI's ongoing investigation. The court directed SEBI to conclude the remaining aspects within a three-month period.

**Regulatory Amendments:** The court did not find sufficient grounds to instruct SEBI to revoke changes made to the Foreign Portfolio Investors and Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement Regulations.

**The implications of this verdict are significant:**

**Market Confidence Boost:** Following the SC's decision, there was a notable positive market response, reflected in Adani's market value rising to ₹15 trillion. This surge indicates restored investor confidence.

**Continued SEBI Investigation:** The verdict reinforces SEBI's pivotal role in the ongoing probe, emphasizing the importance of regulatory bodies in upholding market integrity.

**Transparency Needs:** The case underscores the necessity for increased transparency and stronger oversight in capital markets, particularly concerning offshore entities and shareholding regulations.

**Moving forward, the focus lies on:**

**Enhanced Transparency:** Addressing regulatory gaps, especially in offshore entities and shareholding rules, to ensure market integrity.

**Strengthening Oversight:** Bolstering oversight mechanisms is crucial to prevent potential manipulation and sustain investor trust, particularly in light of recent fluctuations in the Adani Group's market value.