

- **Compulsion of Aadhar:** SC judgement on Aadhar said to ensure greater privacy of individual's Aadhaar data and restricts governments access, while compulsion under amendment seems contravene the judgement.
- **Not well scrutinised:** The draft of the Bill for above amendments was not in the public domain till it was introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- **Hamper delivery of social welfare schemes:** It will have far-reaching consequences on the fields of education, health, people's livelihoods because NGO's provide last-mile connectivity for the delivery of government schemes in these fields.

### Way forward

As civil society organisations seek accountability from others, it is a moral obligation for them to themselves be accountable and transparent in substantive ways and maintain the highest standards. However, regulation should balance with their freedom of functioning. Some suggestions are:

- **Recommendations of Vijay Kumar Committee:**
  - Modernising registration process for seamless operation of the applicable provisions of the IT (Income Tax) Act and FCRA with respect to NGOs.
  - Details of NGOs should be made available as searchable database information.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> ARC report recommendations:**
  - FCRA should be decentralised and delegated to State Governments/District Administration.
  - Fine balance between the purpose of the legislation and functioning of the voluntary sector to avoid subjective interpretation of law and its possible misuse.

## 1.7. GLOBAL PROTESTS

### Why in News?

Recently, there are protests in different countries against government policies on a wide range of issues, ranging from inequality to hunger and unemployment despite the Covid-19 lockdowns.

### More in News

- Global Protest Tracker reveals that, despite the seemingly unfavorable conditions for protests, mass demonstrations have begun to return at a notable rate and scale in the past months.
  - **In the United States**, hundreds of thousands of people in over 2,000 localities across the country have protested the killing of Black Americans like George Floyd and Breonna Taylor by police officers.
  - **In Colombia**, Protests have been ongoing since November 2019 against a range of proposed economic and political reforms.
  - **In Pakistan**, opposition parties come together to channelise public discontent at rising prices, power cuts, closure of businesses and other economic misery.
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has tracked anti-government protests worldwide since 2017. In that time, more than 100 significant anti-government protests have been erupted worldwide, leading to fall of 30 government or leaders.

### Reasons for rise in global protests

- **Socioeconomic issue:** These include tax hikes in Greece, austerity policies in the United Kingdom, indigenous rights in Chile, subsidy cuts in Nigeria, wage issues in South Africa, the cost of living and housing prices in Israel, and gender-based violence in India.
- **Corruption:** corruption trigger is often set off by a specific revelation about the actions of particular politicians but then quickly cascades into a much broader wave of revulsion toward the whole governing system.
- **Political factor:** In a number of cases, specific political issues served as triggers bringing out protesters angry about the broader climate of repression and corruption. Example, protest in Hongkong.
- **New communication technologies and media platforms:** They enables movements in different countries to learn from and engage with each other.
  - The leaderless pro-democracy protest movement in Thailand is connected to groups guiding similar efforts in Hong Kong.
- **Growth of civil society organizations** around the globe in the past two to three decades, especially in those parts of the developing and former Communist worlds where civil society was previously so weak.