**Syllabus subtopic**: Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

**Prelims and Mains focus**: about the Bill: aim and significance; about surrogacy in India

**News**: The Union Cabinet has approved the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020. Only Indian couples can opt for surrogacy in India.

**Details of the Bill**

- **Aim**: The Bill is aimed at banning commercial surrogacy and allowing altruistic surrogacy.

- The Bill proposes to **regulate surrogacy** by establishing a **National Surrogacy Board** and **State Surrogacy Boards** and appropriate authorities in the States and Union Territories respectively.

- The proposed **insurance cover for a surrogate mother** has now been increased to **36 months** from 16 months earlier.

- The Bill **allows a “willing” woman to be a surrogate mother** and it will benefit widows and divorced women besides infertile Indian couples.

- The Cabinet approved the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill after incorporating the recommendations of a **Rajya Sabha Select Committee**.

- The 15 major changes suggested by the 23-member committee to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, also included deleting the definition of “infertility” as the inability to conceive after five years of unprotected intercourse on the ground that it was too long a period for a couple to wait for a child.