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Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019

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Why in News

Recently, the Parliament has **passed the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019**. The SPG Bill will amend the **SPG Act of 1988**.

- The proposed amendments in the **Special Protection Group (SPG) Bill** aims to **reduce the financial burden of VIP security on the state exchequer**.
- The reduction of SPG coverage will also help to **eliminate the notion of a status symbol** attached to it.

Special Protection Group

- The SPG was raised in **1985** to provide security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members.
- The SPG comprises of the personnel from the CRPF, Border Security Force and other Central and State forces.

Amendments

- **Reduced SPG Coverage:**
 - The protection to be offered **only to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family** members that will reside with him at **his official residence**.
 - Currently, the security cover is provided to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members.
- **Time period:**
 - The security will be provided **only for a period of five years to the former Prime Ministers** and their immediate family **after they leave the office**.
 - However, the immediate family members need to be residing with the former Prime Minister at the allotted residence.

- **Withdrawal:**

When the proximate security is withdrawn from a former Prime Minister such proximate security will also stand withdrawn from members of his immediate family.

Source: TH