



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**5th November 2024**



# US Elections & India

**CONTEXT:** "Contrary to popular belief, American power is not diminishing"

## How does Presidential Elections takes place in US?

### US Constitution's Requirements for a Presidential Candidate



## STEP 1 PRIMARIES & CAUCUSES

There are many people who want to be President, each with their own ideas about how Government should work

People with similar ideas belong to the same political party, this is where Primaries and Caucuses come in

Candidates from each political party campaign throughout the country to win the favor of their party members

**IN A CAUCUS**  
Party members select the best candidate through a series of discussions and votes

**IN A PRIMARY**  
Party members vote for the best candidate that will represent them in the general election

## STEP 2 NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Each party holds a national convention to select a final Presidential nominee

At each convention, the Presidential candidate chooses a running mate (Vice Presidential Candidate)

The Presidential candidates campaign throughout the country to win the support of the general population

## STEP 3 GENERAL ELECTION

- People in every state across the country vote for one President and Vice President
- When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people known as Electors.

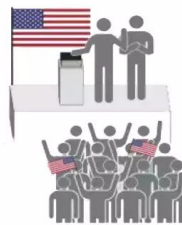


## STEP 4 ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- In the electoral college system, each state gets a certain number of electors based on its representation in Congress



- Each elector casts one vote following the general election, and the candidate who gets more than half (270) wins.



The newly elected President and Vice President are inaugurated in January



# US Elections & India

**CONTEXT:** "Contrary to popular belief, American power is not diminishing"

## Elections Mechanics in the USA:

- Americans **do not directly vote** for their President
- "Winner-takes-all system"**
  - exception of **Maine and Nebraska**
- 7 swing states**

**HOW ELECTORS VOTE**

In 48 states, there is a "winner takes all" system in which the presidential and vice presidential candidates who get the most popular votes win every elector's vote in that state



Nebraska and Maine use a different method in which the overall popular-vote winner gets two electoral votes with the rest allocated to the winner of each congressional district

Source: Statista | October 28, 2024

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## WHY ARE SWING STATES CRUCIAL?

Known as battleground states or purple states, a swing state is where the competition peaks between Democrat and Republican presidential candidates. These states do not vote along party lines, which means they can swing either way. This also means that the battlegrounds change in election cycles, based on demographics and population movement, ideology of candidates and moderate voters

## What at Stake?

### ECONOMY

- Post pandemic
- Cost of living
- Trump's blanket import tariffs policy
- Harris's liberal welfarism

### ABORTION

- Harris's trump card
- Roe v Wade verdict in 2022

### IMMIGRATION

- Trump's legacy
- Harris acting tough

### FOREIGN POLICY

- US in West Asia and Ukraine
- Trump has long advocated **disentangling the US** from conflicts worldwide

## CLIMATE

- Trump has been open about not caring much for climate change
- Harris' **mixed** actions

A more challenging global economic outlook expected under Trump  
Relative impact of US election result on regional economic growth

	Trump	Harris
Africa	Same	Same
Asia	Lower	Higher
China	Lower	Higher
Europe	Lower	Higher
Latin America	Lower	Higher
Middle East	Same	Same

Source: EIU. Copyright © The Economist Intelligence Unit 2024. All rights reserved.

## ANNUAL CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) EMISSIONS BY THE U.S.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels and industry. Land-use change is not included

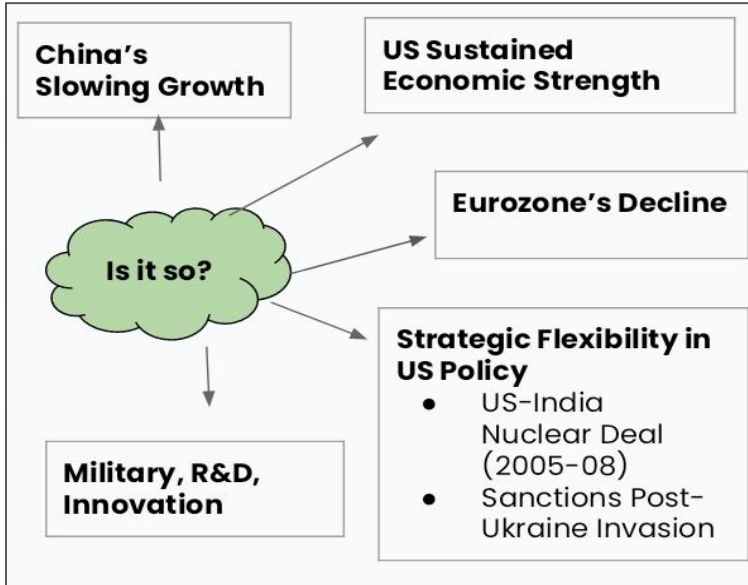


Source: Global Carbon Budget (2023) and Our World In Data

## Historical Roots of the 'American Decline' Narrative



**CONTEXT:** "Contrary to popular belief, American power is not diminishing"



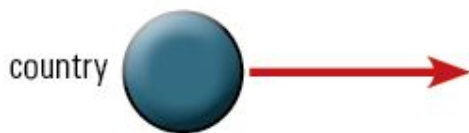
## Shift Toward Unilateralism:

- **Both Trump and Biden** administrations have displayed tendencies toward unilateral actions in pursuit of national interests

### Biden's Economic Policies

- **Inflation Reduction Act**
  - drawn European investments to the US
- **Weaponization of Finance**
  - **\$ status** as a reserve currency
  - **Impose secondary sanctions**

## unilateralism



acting by oneself

uni- = one

lateral = side or part

-ism = a belief system

## Implications for India:

- India must **avoid complacency** in this relationship
- **Closely monitor** and **analyze shifts** within the US polity
- **Diplomatic Engagement** with **US Constituencies**
- **Avoid Over-Reliance** on **Countervailing Alliances**
- **Realistic** Foreign Policy

## Mains Practise Question:

**The discourse on American decline, while historically pervasive, does not align with current realities. Present your arguments.**

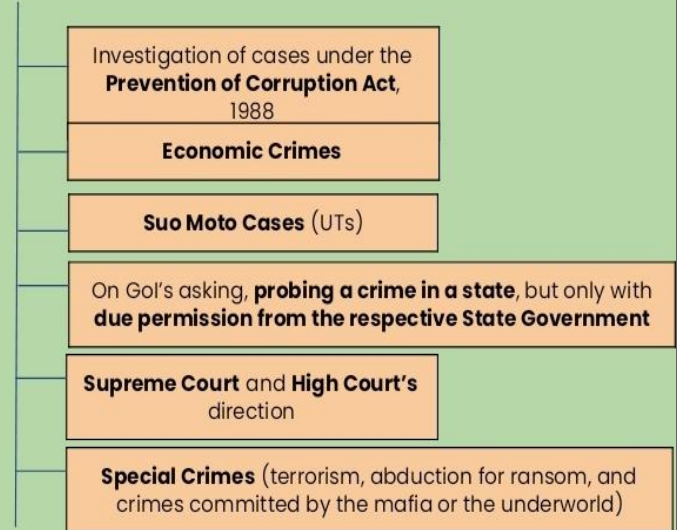


**CONTEXT:** SC adjourns plea against withdrawal of CBI consent for probe against Karnataka Deputy CM.

## What is CBI?

- **Premier investigative agency** in India
  - Investigate grievous cases
  - Fighting corruption
  - Investigations on behalf of Interpol
- **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964)**
- **Resolution (1963) of Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions
- **Powers: Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**
- **Superintendence with CVC, u/ PoC Act, 1988**
- **Appointment of Director (PM, LoOp, CJI)**
  - 2 year tenure (CVC Act, 2003)

## Types of cases that CBI deals with



## General Consent and State Autonomy:

- **Section 6 of the DSPE Act:** CBI needs consent from the concerned state government before initiating an investigation within its jurisdiction
  - "police" and "public order" are state subjects
  - "corruption charges" wrt Central government employees in States
- **States Withdrawing Consent**
  - Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Meghalaya, and West Bengal
- **West Bengal's Case Against the Union Government**
  - **Allegations** of Constitutional Overreach
  - **Union Government's Argument**

## THE CBI'S STRUCTURE



**CONTEXT:** SC adjourns plea against withdrawal of CBI consent for probe against Karnataka Deputy CM.

## Way Forward: Supreme Court's Interpretation:

### Key takeaways

In rejecting the Centre's claim that it did not control the CBI, the court clarified the hierarchy of operations



CBI officials in Nadia, West Bengal. PTI

- The CBI is an organ or a body which is established by and which is under the superintendence of the Government of India

- The powers of superintendence of the Centre will not relate to the superintendence of investigation of a particular case

- The CBI will be entitled to investigate the offences independently. However, that will not water down the administrative control and superintendence of the DSPE that vests with the Centre

## States withdrawing General

### Consent not absolute:

- **National interest**
- **Article 131** as a remedy
  - *State Of Karnataka v. Union Of India* (1977)
  - *State Of Rajasthan & Ors. v. Union Of India* (1977)



**Syllabus: Prelims:** Indian Polity & Governance

**GS 2:** Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies



## National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

- **Constitutional Body**
  - 89th Amendment Act, 2003
- **Composition**
  - Chairperson, V-C, 3 Members
- **Functions**
  - Monitor the **safeguards**
  - **Investigate** and **inquire** into specific complaints
  - Make **recommendations**
  - **Advise** the **Central** and **State** governments
  - **Review the progress** of development programs for STs.
  - **Visit** ST areas and interact with ST communities to understand their problems and aspirations

### Powers

- Similar to a **civil court**
- Can **summon** and **enforce attendance** of any person, require the **discovery and production** of any document, **receive evidence** on affidavits, requisition any public record or document, or **issue commissions** for examination of witnesses

THE NATIONAL Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has taken cognisance of representations sent to it against a June advisory of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), asking state forest departments to submit action plans on the relocation of villages from tiger reserves.

Further, the commission also decided to seek an action-taken report from the Union Environment Ministry and NTCA on its 2018 recommendations to revise the compensation package offered to villagers voluntarily opting to move out of tiger reserves. The NCST had said in October 2018 that the compensation package should be provided based on the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. It added

## National Tiger Conservation Authority:

- **Statutory body:** Established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (as amended in 2006).
- **Members** (Chairperson, Minister of State, 3 MPs, Secy MoEFCC, others)
- **Purpose:** To strengthen tiger conservation and manage Project Tiger and India's Tiger Reserves.
- **Key Functions:**
  - Tiger **population monitoring** and **assessment**
  - **Habitat conservation** and restoration
  - **Reducing human-tiger conflict**
  - Ensuring **sustainable development** around Tiger Reserves
  - **Advising** the central government on tiger conservation policies



# NCST seeks report from NTCA



**Syllabus: Prelims:** Indian Polity & Governance

**GS 2:** Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies

should include the monetary package along with the full range of entitlements as provided under the 2013 Act.

The NTCA had revised the compensation in 2021 from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh per family.

The commission, sources said, wants to know the action taken by NTCA on its 2018 recommendations and the relocations carried out thereon.

The Indian Express had reported in June that NTCA had written to state forest departments asking them to take up village relocation on a priority basis and frame a timeline for the smooth relocation of villages from core areas of tiger reserves. As per NTCA's letter, 591 villages

comprising 64,801 families live inside critical tiger habitats, also known as core areas, in 54 tiger reserves across 19 states. So far, 251 villages with 25,007 families have been relocated outside tiger reserves. Later, in September, a collective of over 150 tribal rights groups and individuals wrote to the NCST, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change seeking a rollback of NTCA's letter.

The representation stated that the NTCA's letter was in violation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006, as it sought time-bound village relocation plans for a

process that is voluntary, as per law.

Under the Wildlife Protection Act, areas free of human settlements can be created in the core of tiger reserves. However, this is to be done after recognising the rights of tribal communities under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and with the informed consent of the Gram Sabha concerned.

Additionally, the state government has to conclude that activities of the tribal communities or forest dwellers or their presence are sufficient to cause irreversible damage to tigers and their habitat. They have to also conclude that there is no other reasonable option for the community to co-exist with tigers.





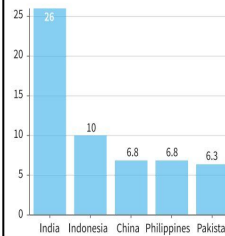
**Syllabus: Prelims:** General Science

**GS 2:** Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

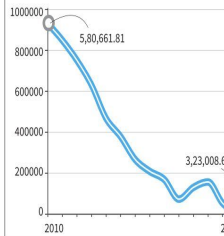
## What is Tuberculosis?

- **Infectious disease** caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria
- **Prevention:**
  - **BCG vaccine** (limited effectiveness)
  - **Early diagnosis and treatment**
  - Adequate **ventilation** in crowded spaces
  - Preventing **drug resistance**
- **India's Efforts**
  - **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme**
  - **Nikshay Poshan Yojana** – nutritional support to TB patients
  - **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan**
  - **National Nutrition Mission**

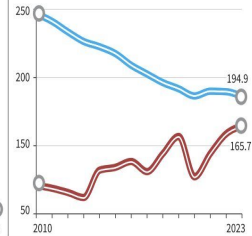
**Chart 1:** The chart shows the countries with the highest levels of TB burden (in %)



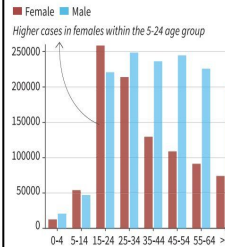
**Chart 2:** The chart shows the estimated number of deaths caused by TB in India



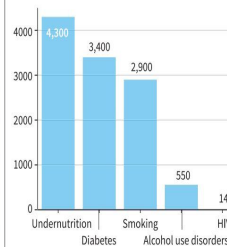
**Chart 3:** The chart shows the estimated TB incidence rate per 1,00,000 population in India



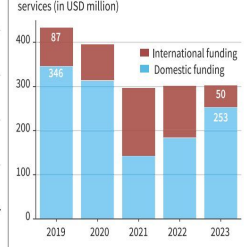
**Chart 4:** The chart shows the new and relapse TB cases notified by gender in India in 2023



**Chart 5:** The chart shows the estimated number of TB cases in India attributable to five risk factors, 2023



**Chart 6:** The chart shows the funding available in India for TB prevention, diagnostics and treatment services (in USD million)



WHO data shows that India registered an 18 per cent decline in TB incidence in the past eight years. This is more than double the pace of decline compared to the global decline of 8 per cent, the premier health agency suggests. However, at this pace, the country will find it difficult to realise its target of eradicating the disease by 2025. Despite the government's commitment, challenges such as insufficient awareness, inadequate medical facilities and under-nutrition continue to dog the TB elimination programme. Last year, a Lancet report pointed out that poor diet in adults contributes to 35 to 45 per cent of all new cases annually, while undernutrition in patients with TB is a major risk factor for mortality. The government does have a scheme for nutritional support for patients of the bacterial disease. Though the percentage of TB patients covered under the programme has increased appreciably in the past six decades, experts say that the amount is too less to adequately benefit the economically disadvantaged. Government data also shows that support continues to elude more than a fifth of the TB infected.

A study published in PLOS Global Health last year noted that the families of a significant section of the TB-affected in India faced catastrophic costs. WHO estimates this figure to be as high as 20 per cent. The global agency flags a significant fall in funding to eradicate the disease in India – from \$432.6 million in 2019 to \$302.8 million in 2023. The government has been open to course correct its TB elimination programme. Given its reach, the government's health insurance programme could be opened to TB patients, especially those with the more virulent form of the infection. That could go a long way in eradicating TB in India.

## TB CASES IN INDIA OVER THE YEARS

	India TB Report 2020	2023	2024
Estimated TB cases	26.9 lakh	27.4 lakh	27.8 lakh
Number of cases reported	24.04 lakh	24.2 lakh	25.5 lakh
Reporting from private sector	6.8 lakh	7.3 lakh	8.4 lakh
% cases from private sector	28.20%	30%	32.90%
Estimated mortality	4.36 lakh	3.2 lakh	3.2 lakh

THE WORLD HEALTH Organisation's (WHO) latest report on the global tuberculosis burden lists positives for India. The report acknowledges the progress made by the country in closing the gap between detected and undiagnosed cases in the past eight years. In 2023, India was estimated to have had 27 lakh TB cases, of which 25.1 lakh patients were receiving medication. The fact that more than 85 per cent of those suspected to have contracted the bacterial infection were under treatment is significant given the disease's virulence – more than 50 per cent of those who don't fall under the medical system's radar succumb to the infection. The report also lists successes in containing multi-drug resistant TB, signaling the efficacy of some of the recent interventions of the government – shortening the treatment period, for instance.



**Syllabus: Prelims:** General issues on Environmental ecology, Biodiversity & climate change

**GS 3:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

**Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC:**

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **1st ever COP** took place in Berlin, Germany, in 1995
- **Kyoto Protocol** adopted in Kyoto, Japan, during the **COP-3**
- Paris Agreement (COP 21)
  - Legally binding international treaty on climate change
- **COP 27** (Sharm El-Sheikh): **Loss and Damage Fund**
- **Azerbaijan** to be the host of **COP 29**
  - Address unfulfilled 2009 commitment by developed countries of **providing \$100 billion annually**
  - New annual target **above \$100 billion/year**
  - **Transitioning away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050**
  - **2-week COP truce**

Next week will be that time of the year when countries get into a huddle for the annual two-week climate conference, in Azerbaijan’s capital Baku, to fine-tune global action on human-caused global warming. To have any chance at keeping global temperatures from exceeding 1.5° C of pre-Industrial levels, multiple scientific assessments have said that greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030. However, summing up all the collective commitments by countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions would lead to only a 2.6% decrease in global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 2019 levels. Save for 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, global emissions have only increased every year, with 53 billion metric tonnes emitted in 2023.

Given that most rich countries are loathe to make compromises on their lifestyles and poorer, developing countries aspire to be rich, the only practical solution envisaged is that the developing countries grow rich while eschewing the proven fossil-fuel led trajectory. However, the costs that these entail – of shifting to cleaner but land-intensive and relatively expensive renewable sources – remain the proverbial bone of contention. In 2009, at the climate summit in Copenhagen, developed countries agreed to fund developing countries \$100 billion annually by 2020 as ‘climate finance’ to enable this transition.



Date	Schedule
11 November 2024	COP29 Opening Ceremony
12 November 2024	World Leaders Climate Action Summit
13 November 2024	World Leaders Climate Action Summit
14 November 2024	Finance, Investment and Trade
15 November 2024	Energy, Peace, Relief and Recovery
16 November 2024	Science, Technology and Innovation/Digitalisation
17 November 2024	Rest Day
18 November 2024	Human Capital/Children and Youth/Health/Education
19 November 2024	Food, Agriculture and Water
20 November 2024	Urbanisation/Transport/Tourism
21 November 2024	Nature and Biodiversity/Indigenous People/Gender Equality/Oceans and Coastal Zones
22 November 2024	Final Negotiations

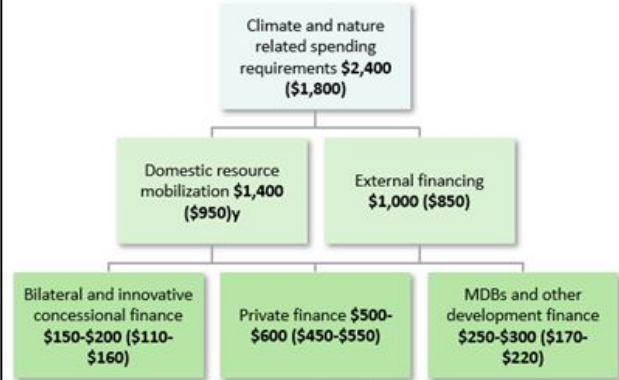


**Syllabus: Prelims:** General issues on Environmental ecology, Biodiversity & climate change

**GS 3:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Though it is the United Nations that is supposed to ratify if these finance goals have been met, a lack of clarity on the definition of 'climate finance', and delays in the financial crediting system have led to considerable angst among developing countries that these goals have been far from met. The Paris Agreement of 2016 requires that countries decide on a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) before 2025, with the \$100 billion as a base value. Then there is also a quibble, from the developed world, that major emitters such as China and India, which are large economies and major polluters, must also contribute. It is widely expected that this NCQG will be a major point of discussion at Baku. Another issue of import is carbon markets, that have for long been touted as the solution to the problem of finance. Rich countries or companies finance counterparts in the developing world for renewable energy generation and carbon-offsetting measures and gain tradeable credits. However, specifying the rules on how this is accounted for is a vexing problem. The hallmark of climate negotiations is that they are arenas of gladiatorial legalese where the stated goal of reducing emissions seems to stretch further beyond reach. It is time that concrete action takes centre stage.

What it takes to finance the green transition  
(\$ billion per year by 2030)



Source: Songwe and Stern et al. (2023)



**Syllabus: Prelims:** General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity & climate change

**GS 3:** Infrastructure; Conservation

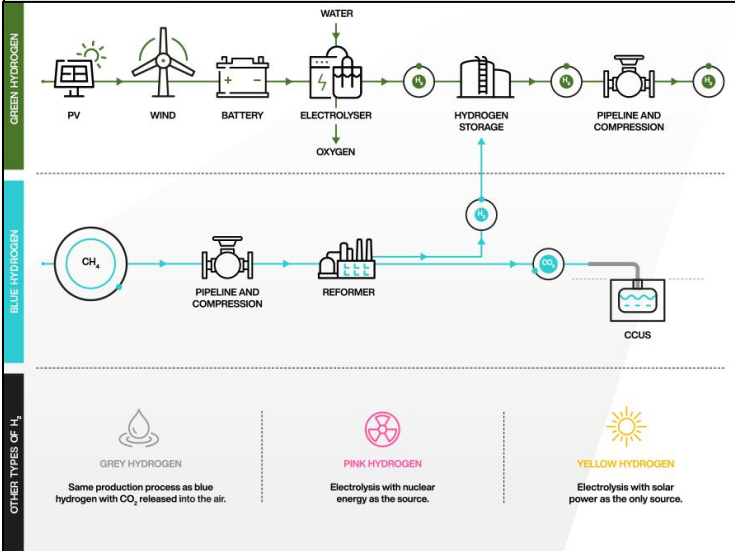
## What is Green hydrogen?

**Green hydrogen** is a type of hydrogen produced through the **electrolysis of water** using **renewable energy sources** such as **wind, solar, or hydroelectric power**. This emits **no greenhouse gases**, making it a **sustainable alternative** to hydrogen produced from fossil fuels.

- **Production Process**
  - **Electrolysis** (H<sub>2</sub> & O<sub>2</sub>)
  - **Renewable Energy**
  - **Byproduct** (O<sub>2</sub>)

## Applications of Green Hydrogen

- Energy Storage
- Transportation
- Industrial Use
- Power Generation



- **Export Hub:** Position India as a key exporter of green hydrogen to countries aiming to reduce their carbon footprint.

- **Key Sectors Involved:** Energy firms and Indian Oil Corporation
- **Policy Support:** Incentives for green hydrogen production, pilot projects, and partnerships with international stakeholders.

**STRENGTHENING INDIA'S GREEN ENERGY FUTURE**  
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES BOOSTING GREEN HYDROGEN AND AMMONIA PRODUCTION

- Approved National Green Hydrogen Mission with ₹19,744 crore outlay (January 4, 2023)
- Green Hydrogen page launched on NSWS (October 7, 2023)
- Hosted 41st IPHE Steering Committee Meeting in New Delhi (March 18-22, 2024)
- MNRE Addressed World Hydrogen Summit 2024 in Rotterdam (May 15, 2024)
- Increased Green Ammonia production to 7.5 lakh tonnes/year (June 22, 2024)

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday urged the Centre to explore the possibility of running trains on the Kalka-Shimla narrow-gauge railway, a UNESCO world heritage site, on green hydrogen – a clean energy source

Mr. Sukhu said the transition would help the hill State in achieving its goal of becoming a 'green energy State' by 2026.

chal Pradesh a green energy State by March 31, 2026, and has undertaken several initiatives to achieve this goal," he said.

The Kalka-Shimla railway is a narrow-gauge railway in Himachal Pradesh, which traverses a mostly-mountainous route from

Kalka to Shimla. On 8 July 2008, UNESCO declared the heritage railway as a World Heritage Site.

Mr. Sukhu said that the State government is working on a six-pronged strategy to transform the State into a certified green energy State, contributing sig-

## India's National Hydrogen Mission:

- **Launched:** Announced in 2021 with a focus on becoming a global leader in green hydrogen production.
- **Goals:**
  - **Production Target:** India aims to achieve the capacity of producing 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030.
  - **Domestic Use:** Focus on decarbonizing the transport and industrial sectors

**Syllabus: Prelims:** Economic & Social Development

## About Monetary Policy Committee:

- **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**  
(amended by the Finance Act, 2016)
- **Composition**
  - **Members:** 6
  - Voting Rights
  - Tenure of **External Members**
- **Meetings and Process**
  - **At least four times a year**
  - **Quorum**
  - **Decision Announcement** (14 days)

## Mandate and Functions

- Policy interest rate
- Inflation Targeting
- Monetary Policy Stance

## FRESH FACES IN POLICY PANEL

### Ram Singh




DIRECTOR OF  
THE DELHI  
SCHOOL OF  
ECONOMICS

### Saugata Bhattacharya



SENIOR FELLOW  
AT THE CENTER  
FOR POLICY  
RESEARCH

### Nagesh Kumar



DIRECTOR  
AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OF THE INSTITUTE FOR  
STUDIES IN INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT

➤ The MPC was set up for **reviewing the monetary policy** from time to time as well as **fixing the benchmark interest rate**

➤ RBI's MPC consists of **six members**, three of whom are hired from outside the central bank for four-year terms



**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):**

1. It is a statutory body that functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Section 6 of the DSPE Act 1946 exempts CBI from obtaining consent of State Governments.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: d**

**Q2: Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST):**

1. It is a Constitutional body created under the 89th Amendment Act 2003.
2. It has a similar power as a Civil court.
3. The recommendations made by NCST are binding on the Central Government.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1 and 2 Only

**Answer : d**

**Q3: Consider the following statements:**

1. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by the spread of a virus.
2. It can be prevented through BCG vaccines.
3. As per WHO, India has registered an 18% increase in TB incidence in the past 8 years.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: a**

**Q4: Which of the following statements regarding the COP of UNFCCC is NOT correct?**

- a) The first COP took place in Berlin in 1995.
- b) Kyoto Protocol was adopted during the 3rd COP.
- c) Paris Agreement was signed in the 21st COP.
- d) Loss & Damage Fund was established in the recently held COP 29.

**Answer: d**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the National Hydrogen Mission:**

1. India aims to achieve a production capacity of 5 million tonnes of Green Hydrogen by 2025.
2. The mission will help India to achieve the Panchamrit Target of becoming carbon neutral by 2070.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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