



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** Handout

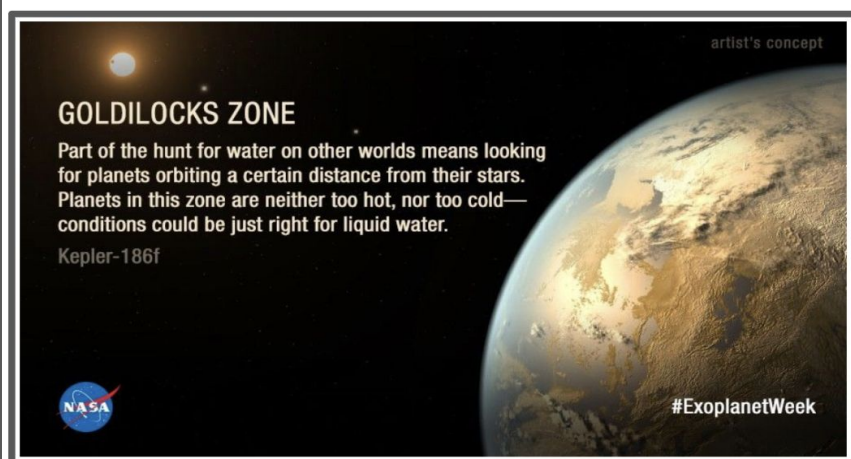
**6th December 2025**



**CONTEXT:** Recent Repo Rate reduction by MPC, highlights possibility of a rare optimism India's growth trajectory.

## Reflections in Past PYQ : CSE Mains 2019

Q.2 Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low **inflation** have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments. (150 words, 10 Marks)



The decision comes against the backdrop of data showing that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth accelerated to 8.2% in the second quarter and average headline inflation reduced to 1.7%.

### About Monetary Policy Committee

- In May 2016, the RBI Act, 1934, was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.
- The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.
- Function: The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.
- The MPC replaced the previous arrangement of the **Technical Advisory Committee**.

### Composition:

- MPC will have six members: the RBI Governor (Chairperson), the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board, and the remaining three members would represent the Government of India.
- The external members hold office for a period of four years.
- Meet at least 4 times a year

### What is Repo Rate =

- LAF - Liquidity adjustment facility  $\frac{1}{3}$
- Repurchase Option Rate





**CONTEXT:** Recent Repo Rate reduction by MPC, highlights possibility of a rare optimalism India's growth trajectory.

## Repo rate cut 25 basis points

has been firing ahead of expectations, prompting the RBI to sharply lift its GDP projection for FY26 by 50 bps to 7.3 per cent from 6.8 per cent earlier. At the same time, headline inflation has continued to ease, allowing the central bank to trim its Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecast to 2 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

With inflation now well anchored and growth proving resilient, the central bank noted that a modest rate cut would help reinforce the positive momentum in investment and consumption without jeopardising price stability. This repo rate cut, the first since June 2025, when the key policy rate was reduced by 50 bps, is likely to ease borrowing costs and boost consumption and investment. Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, vehicle, personal corporate and small business loans are set to decline with the latest cut.

With this, the repo rate has been trimmed by 100 bps in 2025-26, from 6.25 per cent to 5.25 per cent.

While announcing the monetary policy, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that inflation at a benign 2.2 per cent and growth at 8 per cent during the first half of FY2026 present a "rare Goldilocks period".

"The growth-inflation balance, especially the benign inflation outlook on both headline

and core, continues to provide the policy space to support the growth momentum. Accordingly, the MPC unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25 per cent," Malhotra said.

The six-member rate-setting panel, by a 5:1 majority, also decided to maintain the neutral stance, with external MPC member Ram Singh voting for a shift to an accommodative stance.

While the RBI raised its FY26 growth projection, it revised upward the GDP forecast for October–December to 7 per cent from 6.4 per cent and for January–March 2026 to 6.5 per cent from 6.4 per cent. However, growth in Q3 and Q4 FY26 remain below the 8.2 per cent seen in July–September 2025. "Growth, while remaining resilient, is expected to soften somewhat," Malhotra said.

RBI's Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta attributed the anticipated moderation in the growth to the high base effect. "When one is talking about softening, it is from these very high levels. Sectorally, I think the outlook is very resilient for each of the sectors," Gupta stated.

The RBI has revised down its inflation projection for Q3 FY26 to 0.6 per cent from 1.8 per cent, and for Q4 FY26 to 2.9 per cent from 4 per cent. The inflation estimate for Q1 FY27 has also been

### E. EXPLAINED

#### Sticking to mandate

Inflation has been well below the lower tolerance band of 2 per cent. So RBI stuck to its core mandate and did not get distracted by any other temptations such as targeting the rupee, deposit rates, or economic growth.

reduced to 3.9 per cent from 4.5 per cent earlier.

At the post policy press conference, when asked whether easing inflation would provide the MPC additional space to support growth, Malhotra declined to comment, saying that would amount to speculation.

"We are at a neutral (stance) today. The important thing is that inflation has been benign. If you exclude food, which has been volatile, inflation has been at 3-3.5 per cent. Going forward, if you exclude gold and silver, our expectation is that it is going to be very benign. Now, whether it opens up policy for further rate cuts... that would be getting into speculation, and I don't want to get into that," he told reporters.

When sought comments on the rupee, which breached the

psychological 90-mark on Wednesday, Malhotra said the RBI does not target any specific levels for the currency.

"We allow the markets to determine the prices. We believe that the markets, in the long run especially, are very efficient. It's a very deep market. We saw this earlier in February. The rupee to dollar had climbed to almost 88 and within a period of three months, it came back to below 84 so these fluctuations, this volatility does happen, can happen," the RBI Governor said.

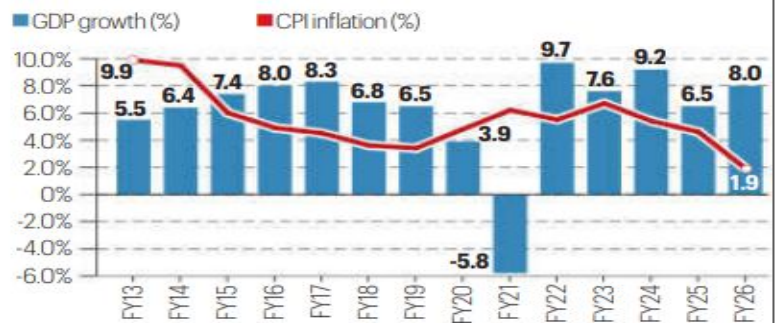
The RBI's effort has always been to reduce any abnormal or excessive volatility, he said. The rupee closed at 89.95 against the dollar on Friday, compared to the previous close of 89.89.

Responding to a question on whether the RBI's threshold for forex market intervention had changed, the Governor said, "We don't think there has been any conscious attempt to change our tolerance to volatility."

The rupee closed at 89.95 against the dollar on Friday, compared to the previous close of 89.89.

To inject durable liquidity into the market, the central bank also announced open market operations (OMO) purchases of government securities worth Rs 1 lakh crore. It will also conduct a three-year USD/INR Buy Sell swap amounting to USD 5 billion during the current month.

## • The 'goldilocks' scenario: Falling inflation, robust growth



Note: FY26 GDP data for Apr-Sept, CPI data for Apr-Oct. Source: RBI, MoSPI

## Related Concept : What is Policy stance of MPC

| Policy Stance | Repo Rate Bias            | RBI's Focus                    | Impact on Economy                  |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Accommodative | Tends to lower repo rates | Boosting growth and credit     | Encourages borrowing, lowers EMIs  |
| Neutral       | No strong direction       | Balancing growth and inflation | Keeps options open                 |
| Tightening    | Tends to raise repo rates | Managing inflation             | Makes loans costlier, slows demand |



**CONTEXT:** Recent Repo Rate reduction by MPC, highlights possibility of a rare optimism India's growth trajectory.

## Goldilocks Economy? Understanding the 5.25% Repo Decision

### Impact on Economy

- Boosting Consumption and investment
- Boost Market sentiment
- Managing Creeping Inflation
- Fiscal and monetary balance
- Meeting Expectations : 10.1 % VS 8.8%
- Managing External Risks

### Retail inflation hits record low of 0.25%

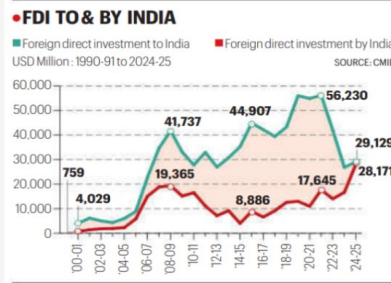
Apart from food, inflation in nearly every category was higher this year than last year

Updated - November 13, 2025 02:16 am IST - New Delhi

### Exports clock fall in 14 months: CRISIL

The decline in exports was broad-based across petroleum products, gems and jewellery and core sectors

Published - November 22, 2025 01:37 pm IST - Kolkata



### Concerns Going Forward

#### Currency Risks : Rupee Slide

#### Ensuring Monetary policy transmission

- Data Sanctity
- Asset Bubble

### Explainer: Why India gets a 'C' Grade in IMF's data adequacy assessment

IMF report raises concern over India's use of outdated base year, 'flawed' deflator and unexplained discrepancies in calculating GDP numbers

### Way Forward

- Manage Inflation Expectations Proactively
- Address Supply-Side Bottlenecks
- Monitor External Vulnerabilities
- Enhance Monetary Transmission Efficiency
  - Improve benchmark-linked lending, deepen corporate bond markets
- Protect Financial Stability
- Targeted Credit Support Over Broad Liquidity

### Mains Practice Question

The recent repo rate cut marks a shift toward monetary easing, aimed at supporting growth and reviving credit demand. Analyse the potential positive impacts of this decision on the Indian economy. Also discuss the major risks and policy concerns associated with easing interest rates at this stage.  
(15 Marks, 250 words)





# India–Russia Reset: Key Takeaways from Putin's Visit

**CONTEXT:** Recent visit of President Putin highlights a major shift in India– Russian Relation

## The Past

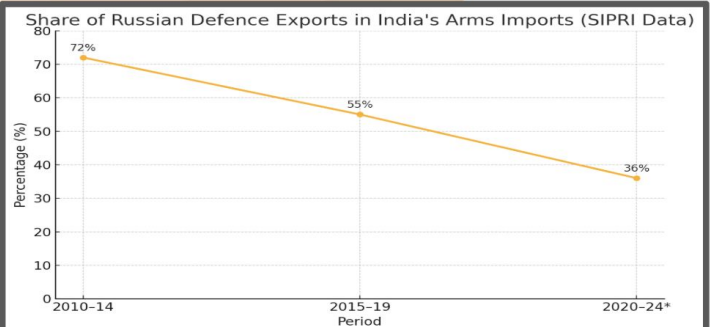
- 1971 → 2000 → 2010 → 2025
- Plank of Relation : Defense – ( S – 400 Anti Missile Defence System joint production of BRAHMOS Missile, Supply of Su-30 MKI & MiG-29 Jets Kamov Helicopters)
- Support at International level
- Developmental cooperation – Bhilai 1955

### What changed ?

- Defense decline – External & Indian Factors
- No new progress
- Russia – China closeness – Trade, defense, SCO
- Trilateral Axis

## Pakistan–Russia exercise Druzhba-VII kicks off to boost counter-terrorism expertise

The two-week-long exercise commenced on 13 October 2024 at the National Counter Terrorism Centre



### No defence deal, both agree to boost manufacture of parts

Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, December 5

INDIA AND Russia on Friday agreed to promote joint manufacturing in India of spare parts, components and aggregates for the upkeep of Russian-origin arms and defence equipment.

The move, under the Make-in-India programme, will involve technology transfer and the setting up of joint ventures to meet the needs of the Indian Armed Forces and enable exports to mutually friendly third countries.

The announcement was part of a joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin. Despite defence ties being a key focus, no new defence deal was announced in the joint statement.

The Modi-Putin talks followed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov on Thursday, where the two discussed ways to expand defence co-operation, including India's plans to procure additional S-400 missile system batches and other replenishments for Soviet-era platforms still in service.

The statement said both leaders welcomed the outcomes of the 22nd session of the India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation. "Responding to India's quest for self-reliance, the partnership is reorienting towards joint R&D, co-development and co-production of advanced defence technologies and systems," it noted.

### What changed ?

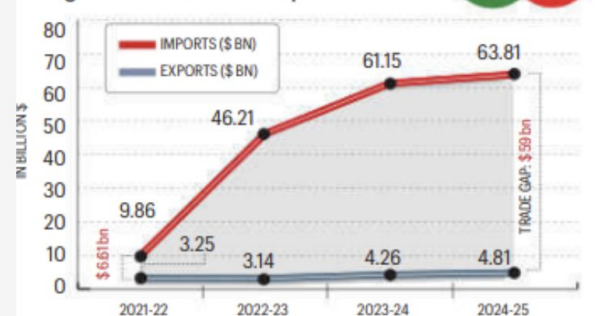
- Economy is the new lynchpin of ties
  - New goal – 100 Bn \$ by 2030

#### Key Economic Drivers

- Energy (Crude oil, LNG, coal).
- Fertilizers, nuclear fuel, machinery, metals.
- Exploration of local currency trade mechanisms (Rupee–Ruble/UAE Dirham mediation).
- Investment storehouse – Far East
- FTA on cards – Eurasian Economic Union

### • WIDENING TRADE GAP

The India–Russia trade gap has widened owing to an increase in oil imports



SOURCE: COMMERCE MINISTRY

# India–Russia Reset: Key Takeaways from Putin’s Visit

**CONTEXT:** Recent visit of President Putin highlights a major shift in India– Russian Relation

## Eurasian Economic Union

- It is the successor to the **Eurasian Economic Community (EvrAsEs)** and was established by the signing of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union on 29 May 2014.
- It consists of five member states: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia.
- Objective:** to upgrade the competitiveness of the member states economies, increase cooperation among member states, and promote stable development to raise the standard of living in all member states



|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Working language | Russian   |
| Type             | Economic union  |
| Member states    | <b>Member states:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Armenia</li><li>Belarus</li><li>Kazakhstan</li><li>Kyrgyzstan</li><li>Russia</li></ul> <b>Observers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cuba</li><li>Iran</li><li>Moldova</li><li>Uzbekistan</li></ul> |

## What changed ?

### Broad Basing of ties

- People to people ties – 2 agreements
  - Cooperation on combating illegal migration
  - Temporary movement of citizen
  - Skilled worker for Russia
- Tourism Push – 2.5 lakh to 1.6 lakh– 30 days Free visa
- Technological cooperation – Kudankulam , outer Space.
- Cultural diplomacy – Russia Today India

RUSSIA MAY GET 70,000 INDIAN WORKERS OVER 3 YEARS

## Pacts pave way for labour movement to Russia, curb illegal migration

### Broader nuclear cooperation

INDIA AND Russia have confirmed their intention to broaden cooperation in nuclear energy, including fuel cycle, life cycle support for operating Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and non-power applications, as well as to elaborate a new agenda of interaction in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy and related high technologies. ENS

# India–Russia Reset: Key Takeaways from Putin’s Visit

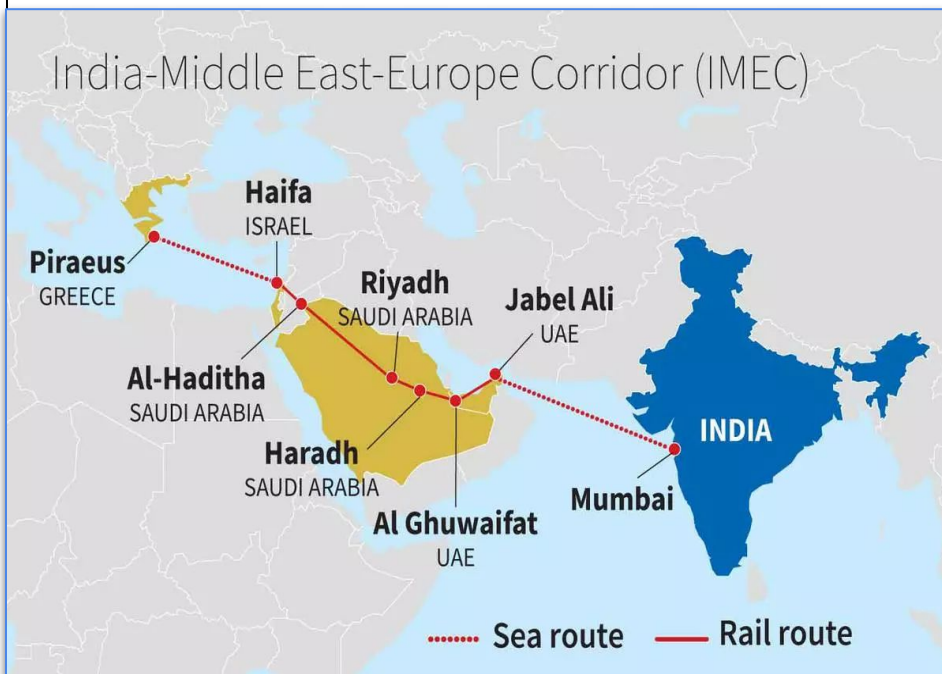


**CONTEXT:** Recent visit of President Putin highlights a major shift in India– Russian Relation

## What Future Holds :

- Diversity of cooperation
- Strengthen and innovate energy partnership.
- Operationalise connectivity corridor – Infrastructure development plank
- Balance trade asymmetry

Strategic convergence for shared benefits – Fairer world order.



## Mains Practice Question

**India–Russia relations are transitioning from a traditional defence-driven partnership to a broader, economy-centred engagement.” Discuss the factors driving this shift and examine its implications for India’s strategic interests. (15 Marks, 250 words)**





# Private member bill on right to disconnect

**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Parliament**

**Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 6**

## No after-hour work calls: Sule introduces Bill on employees' right to disconnect

Lalmani Verma  
Lucknow, December 5

"EIGHT HOURS for work, eight hours for rest, and eight hours for what you will."

The slogan popularised by the 19th-century labour movement encapsulated the struggle to shape the modern idea of the eight-hour workday, a standard that continues to influence notions of work and leisure across much of the world.

However, with work culture undergoing a big shift in a hyper-connected and globalised world, and amid employers increasingly encroaching on employees' leisure time, countries such as France, Portugal, and Australia have enacted their right to disconnect. In India, one of its biggest advocates is NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule who on Friday introduced a Private Members' Bill in the Lok Sabha that proposes

employees should be allowed not to entertain work-related calls and emails outside work hours. Sule had introduced a similar Private Members' Bill in 2019, too.

Sule was joined by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor who introduced the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to limit work hours, secure the right to disconnect, and establish grievance redress and mental-health support systems. Sule's Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025, seeks to recognise the right to disconnect as a way to reduce stress and ease tension between an employee's personal and professional lives.

Referring to a World Economic Forum report, the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill introduced by the Baramati MP says, "Studies have found that if an employee is expected to be

available round the clock, they tend to exhibit risks of overwork like sleep deprivation, developing stress, and being emotionally exhausted...According to a study, the constant monitoring of work-related messages and e-mails may overtax employees' brains, leading to a condition called 'info-obesity'."

Among other things, the Bill proposes that:

■ While the employer may contact the worker after work hours, the employee is not obliged to reply and shall have the right to refuse to answer such calls. For doing so, an employee cannot be subject to any action.

■ An Employees' Welfare Authority must be set up to confer every employee with the right to disconnect from work-related calls and emails beyond work hours and on holidays.

■ The Authority must conduct a baseline study to collect comprehensive data about

workers' usage of digital and communication tools outside work hours.

■ The Authority shall direct every company with more than 10 workers to negotiate with them, unions, or their representatives to decide the terms and conditions for working outside the work hours and they should be entitled to overtime.

■ The government, in consultation with companies, must provide counselling services to employees to help them maintain work-life balance and should also set up digital detox centres.

■ Penalty — 1% of employees' total remuneration — to be paid by companies for non-compliance.

Private Members' Bills, which are taken up on Fridays when Parliament is in session, are notoriously difficult to pass, with only 14 having become law to date.



### Provisions of the Bill

The Bill mandates that employers must:

- Clearly define official working hours.
- Respect employees' right to disconnect outside these hours.
- Provide mechanisms for employees to report violations.

The proposed legislation applies to both the public and private sectors.

The Bill suggests creating a **"Employee Welfare Authority"** to:

- Mediate conflicts between employers and employees.
- Conduct awareness drives.
- Ensure compliance and monitoring.
- Conduct study

The core idea is to promote mental health, well-being, and productivity, while preventing toxic employer expectations of 24×7 availability.

### About Private Member's Bill (PMB)

- A Private Member's Bill (PMB) is a legislative proposal introduced by any Member of Parliament (MP) who is not a Minister, whether elected or nominated.
- The drafting responsibility of a PMB lies entirely with the MP concerned, not with any Ministry.
- For introducing a PMB in Parliament, a notice period of one month is required under parliamentary rules.
- PMBs often reflect the ideological stance, personal convictions, or public interest concerns of the MP, especially those in the Opposition.





# Private member bill on right to disconnect

**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Parliament**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 6**

## Time Allocation for PMBs in Parliament

- In the Lok Sabha, the last two-and-a-half hours of business on every Friday are earmarked for the introduction and discussion of PMBs.
- In the Rajya Sabha, PMBs are taken up every alternate Friday for two-and-a-half hours.

## Historical Record and Trends

- Since Independence, only 14 PMBs have ever been passed and received Presidential assent, with the last one becoming law in 1970.
- In the 17th Lok Sabha (2019–2024), 729 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha and 705 in the Rajya Sabha. Yet, only 2 PMBs were discussed in Lok Sabha, and 14 in the Rajya Sabha.
- In the 18th Lok Sabha, as of the 2024 Budget Session, only 20 MPs introduced PMBs, and not a single one was discussed due to disruptions and prioritisation of other business.

## UPSC PRELIMS PYQ 2017

consider the following statements :

1. A private member's bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India.
2. Recently, a private member's bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.

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

4.



**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: IR**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 8**

36. Consider the following pairs :

| Region often<br>in news | Country              |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Chechnya             | : Russian Federation |
| 2. <b>Darfur</b>        | : Mali               |
| 3. Swat Valley          | : Iraq               |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

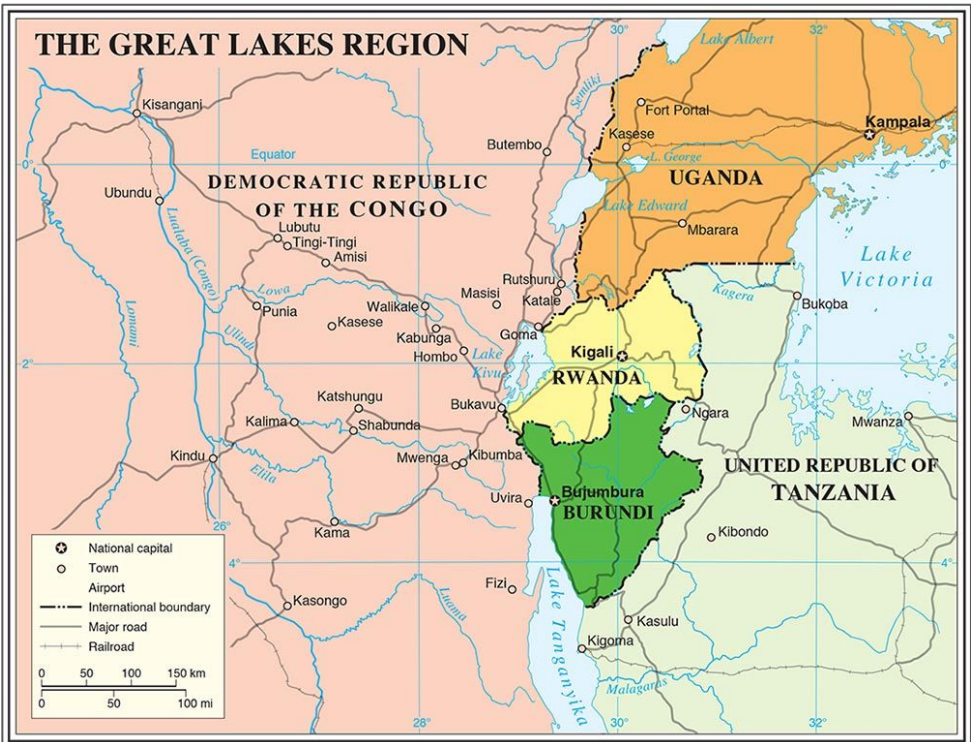
19. Consider the following pairs :

| Community sometimes<br>mentioned in the news | In the affairs of |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Kurd                                      | : Bangladesh      |
| 2. Madhesi                                   | : Nepal           |
| 3. <b>Rohingya</b>                           | : Myanmar         |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

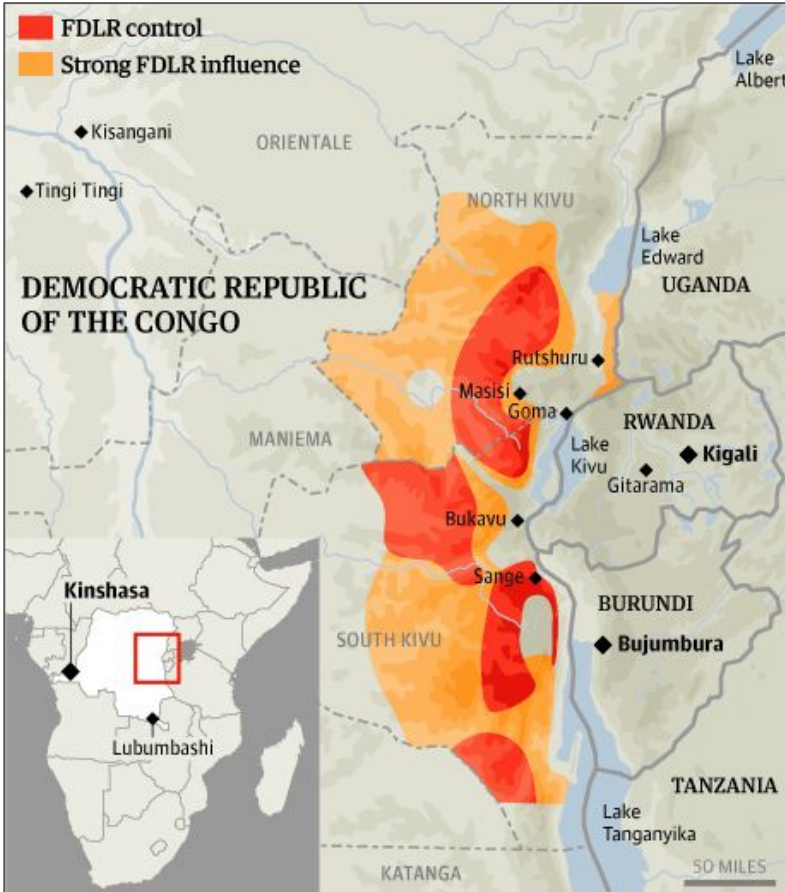
The crisis in Congo can be traced back to the 1994 Rwandan genocide in which about 8,00,000 people, mostly Tutsis, were massacred by ethnic Hutu militias. After the genocidal regime in Kigali fell, thousands of Hutus fled to Congo in the mid-1990s. Rwanda now claims that some of the militias that took part in the genocide continue to operate from Congolese territory. M23, which takes its name from a failed peace agreement signed between a Tutsi-led rebel group and the Congolese government on March 23, 2009, says it is fighting to protect the rights of Congo's Tutsi ethnic minority. The Congo and UN experts say neighbouring Rwanda, ruled by a Tutsi-led government, is backing M23. In 2012, shortly after its formation, M23 seized much of Goma in eastern Congo, but withdrew when Rwanda came under international pressure. It started another rebellion in 2021, capturing Goma again and expanding its reach. Alongside the U.S.-brokered talks between the Congo and Rwanda, a parallel dialogue between M23 and Kinshasa, facilitated by Qatar, is also under way. Congo wants M23 to withdraw from the eastern regions it controls, but the rebels have shown little interest in doing so. Mr. Trump's declaration that he brought the war to an end appears premature, given the complexity of the crisis. For peace, the wounds of the genocide must be healed, inter-racial relations between Hutus and Tutsis improved, non-state militias disarmed and ties between Rwanda and the Congo stabilised.





**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: IR**

**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 8**



## Places in News

- North Kivu and South Kivu are provinces located in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, within the Great Rift Valley.
- They share borders with **Rwanda** and **Uganda**, and parts of the region are separated from Rwanda by **Lake Kivu**
- The area is characterised by rich volcanic soil, active volcanoes, and ongoing conflict dynamics.
- The administrative centres are **Goma** for North Kivu and **Bukavu** for South Kivu.

## Community/Places

### What is M23 –

- Armed rebel group active in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- Also known as the Congolese Revolutionary Army.
- Widely reported to receive support from Rwanda.
- Operates mainly in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.
- Area of activity borders Rwanda and Uganda, giving it strategic mobility.
- Currently the leading faction in the Congo River Alliance, a coalition of multiple rebel groups in eastern DRC.
- Part of the ongoing conflict landscape in the Great Lakes region of Africa.





**Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Environment**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 8**

## Chile's lesson for India's coal conundrum

**D**espite dramatic gains in renewable energy, India dropped 13 places to 23rd in the Climate Change Performance Index released during COP30 in Brazil in November 2025. The main reason is the lack of progress to phase out coal. Coal presents a conundrum of the worst kind because its phaseout presents a loss of jobs and the supply of low-cost electricity in some States, while the current trajectory means the loss of lives and livelihoods from runaway global warming and air pollution. This trade-off draws attention to Chile's experience in tackling it.

### A comparison

The big Indian picture is that coal, as a source of the use of all energy, makes up over half while renewables (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear) are still a minority share. At the same time, the good news is that India doubled clean energy capacity during 2021-25. Now, the share of renewables in total installed power capacity is one half, although only one-fifth of electricity was actually generated using them in 2024, with coal contributing 75% of electricity generation. What is more, India is increasing domestic production of coal.

In comparison, coal's share of Chile's electricity generation fell from 43.6% to 17.5% during 2016-24. Today, renewables (especially wind and solar) make up over 60% of the country's power mix. This shift was driven by decisive government actions, first by a 2014 tax of \$5 a tonne of carbon emissions. The government imposed stringent emission standards on coal plants, raising construction and compliance costs by 30%. Competitive auctions for wind and solar power helped push renewables. Chile has also aggressively built out energy storage systems to stabilise the grid, and committed to phase out all coal by 2040. All this makes the case that even



**Mansi Dhingra**  
is former Consultant,  
Asian Development  
Bank



**Vinod Thomas**  
is Distinguished  
Fellow, Asian Institute  
of Management

India needs to draw up a plan to exit the use of coal and in this, Chile's experience can help

economies with coal dependence can accelerate a transition. That said, coal occupies a smaller share of Chile's energy when compared to India, giving it fewer plants to shut down and a smaller dependent workforce. The transition was also enabled by a political environment that allowed swift, market reforms following privatisation of key sectors.

Crucially, Chile had already begun developing alternative industries, particularly in renewables, creating pathways to absorb displaced workers and capital. In contrast, India's far deeper coal dependence and limited economic alternatives in coal regions make its transition more complex. Many districts in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal could face social risks from abrupt closures.

But it is worth remembering that coal phaseout constitutes a "no regrets" policy. That is to say it is part of averting the damage from climate change. One estimate is that by 2100, climate change would sap 3%-10% of India's GDP through heat stress and declining labour productivity. It is also part of stopping massive health damage: by one estimate, a one GW increase in coal-fired capacity corresponds to a 14% increase in infant mortality rates in districts near the plant site.

### Focus on decarbonisation

Considering this socio-ecological calculus, the eye needs to be squarely on decarbonisation which calls for a systematic removal of the oldest and most polluting plants, cancellation of new coal approvals, and replacement of coal output with firm renewable power backed by storage. It is important to have timelines for plant retirements and closures. TERI has suggested that India could phase out coal power entirely by 2050 to meet its net zero goals. In the transition

to this target, there could be an incremental scaling down of coal, improved efficiency and decommissioning. Three sets of action aid this central thrust of a coal phaseout.

First, the more the limitations of renewables are tackled, the better for the moving out of coal. The effort would also be aided by a drive to electrify transport, industry and households.

Second, underpinning this physical transition would be the reform of markets and regulation to disincentivise coal, for example through carbon pricing, removal of coal subsidies, clean dispatch rules and power procurement contracts that favour renewables.

Third, Chile's experience also speaks to providing robust support for workers through reskilling and alternative livelihoods. A dedicated transition fund is essential, such as the "Green Energy Transition India Fund" proposed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

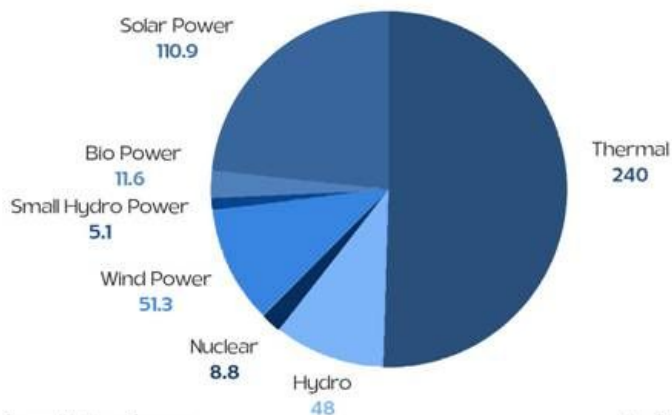
### The issue of finance

Financing the transition will benefit from a blended model of public and private capital, where government support is directed toward community welfare and workforce reskilling, while private investors lead the expansion of clean energy infrastructure. The District Mineral Foundation corpus can be strategically used to foster entrepreneurship and economic diversification in coal-dependent regions.

Considering the high stakes, a phaseout of coal needs to become a top political priority. Renewable energy gains show tremendous promise, but without an actionable plan to replace coal, climate ambitions would remain hollow. The time has come for a coal exit road map, one that enshrines delivery timelines, financing of social protection, market reform, and learning from peers such as Chile.

## India's Installed Power Capacity Mix

(Numbers in Gigawatt)



Source: Ministry of power

As of June, 2025

- Coal dependency
  - India has doubled down on its coal production.
    - It spiked from 778 million tons in 2021-22 to 893 million tons in 2022-23, a 14% growth, according to the coal ministry.
  - India has also set a target of 1.31 billion tonnes of coal production for 2024-25 and aims to increase it to 1.5 billion tons by 2030.



# India's Coal Conundrum



**Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Environment**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 8**

## **About Climate Change Performance Index**

- It is published by think tanks **German watch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.**
- It tracks the progress of the world's largest emitters in terms of emissions, renewables, and climate policy.
- The performance of countries is assessed in four categories — **GHG emission, renewable energy, energy use and climate policy.**

- It was first published in **2005.**
- Denmark, the UK and Morocco took the lead in this year's CCPI .
- China (54th), Russia (64th), the US (65th) and Saudi Arabia (67th) are the G20's worst-performing countries, receiving an overall very low score.





# New Police Unit in Bihar to Focus on Safety of Women

**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Vulnerable Section**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 2**

## New police units in Bihar to focus on safety of women

Himanshu Harsh  
Patna, December 5

THE BIHAR Police on Friday announced that an "Abhaya Brigade" will be set up at every police station across the state to enhance the safety of women and girl students, particularly around schools, colleges and coaching centres. The order lays out a uniform structure for patrol units tasked with identifying harassment hotspots and taking prompt legal action against offenders.

Preventing crimes against women remains "one of the highest priorities" of the force, police said. Each Abhaya Brigade unit will be led by a woman sub-inspector (SI) and supported by three constables, one woman and two men. A senior official said the mobility of the unit would be ensured through scooters or other vehicles, and that a proposal for the procurement of two-wheelers has been sent to the Home Department.

The notification has also instructed the brigades to assess the local geography to identify hotspots, such as isolated routes used by students, areas around educational institutions, public spaces like markets and parks, and busy transit points, including railway stations.

Members will patrol selected spots in uniform as well as in plain clothes, identify harassers, detain them and initiate "effective and lawful action", police headquarters said. Offenders found involved in two or more cases will be recommended for entry into the "Eve Teaser" category of the Gunda Register, a senior official said.

If a minor is detained for harassment, counselling will be arranged, officials said, adding that in cases of repeated misconduct by the same minor, a report will be logged, a Social Investigation Report will be prepared, and the child will be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board.

The brigades will maintain regular contact with principals, teachers, hostel wardens and coaching operators to gather information on student concerns and sensitive locations. Teams will also visit educational institutions to interact directly with women students and spread awareness about Dial-112 emergency services. Additional vehicles or force support will be sought when needed, officials said.

Daily briefings will also be conducted at the police station by senior officers. "Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPO) will carry out continuous reviews of each team's activities, while Senior Superintendents (SSP) and Superintendents of Police (SP) will monitor implementation. Any laxity at any level will make the respective Station House Officer (SHO) or SDPO accountable," an official said.

A monthly action taken report on the brigades' performance must be submitted to the SP of Weaker Sections and Crime Investigation Department by the 15th of every month, the notification said.

## CRIME GRAPH ON THE RISE

WHAT POLICE RECORDS SAY

**TOTAL CASES**

In 2023: 4,48,211

In 2022: 4,45,256

In 2021: 4,28,278

Rate: 66.2 incidents per lakh woman population

CHARGE SHEET FILED IN 77.6 PERCENT OF CASES IN 2023

(Telangana led in crime rate at 124.9 per lakh female population)

UTTAR PRADESH

66,381

MAHARASHTRA

47,101

RAJASTHAN

45,450

WEST BENGAL

34,691

MADHYA PRADESH

32,342

TOP FIVE STATES' CRIME FIGURES



Legal

Other steps taken

Economic - Mudra, drone Didi,

Technology - Safe City project, 112, Hawk eye (Telangana)

Institutional - Mission Shakti and Sambal

Social - "Parivartan" initiative by DPI Police; BBB (Bell Bajao) campaign, Jagori.



**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Role of Civil Services**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 1**

## Govt. to streamline its public communications framework

**Devesh K. Pandey**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government has begun a sweeping revamp of its information network, through measures ranging from reorganising human resources to strengthening technological infrastructure.

The aim is to ensure real-time media response mechanisms and data-driven campaign planning for a more streamlined public communications framework, according to government officials.

In the near future, the intake of Indian Information Service (IIS) officials is likely to see a significant rise, given the increasing

### Unified outreach plan

The government is likely to execute the following moves in the near future, according to sources.

- More intake of Indian Information Service officials to cater to rising number of departments and functions
- Restructuring of IIS cadre
- A Board on media communications, which could also oversee decisions on transfers and postings
- Creation of posts at more than 40 Embassies to strengthen communications mechanism overseas

number of departments and functions that need to be covered under a unified communications system.

Officials say that the proposal for an IIS cadre restructuring is also in an advanced stage of consideration.

Cadre restructuring involves changing the number of posts, creating new

ones or abolishing old ones, modifying roles and responsibilities, and improving promotion avenues and so on.

The last cadre restructuring was undertaken in August 2016.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10

## Centre to streamline public communications

In August 2016, two posts were added at apex grade, five at higher administrative grade, and 19 at senior administrative grade with matching reduction at other levels.

In another move, the government may establish a Board on media communications, which could also be entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing decisions related to transfers and postings. "A series of measures have been taken over the past few weeks with a strong emphasis on ensuring a coherent and unified approach to communications, a requirement that was felt in the government acutely during Operation Sindoor," said an official.

Previously, IIS officials have been posted abroad as correspondents for the public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati. Officials say there are now plans to create posts at more than 40 Embassies to further strengthen the government's communications mechanism overseas, as part of outreach programmes for key initiatives or events, including those with international implications.

**F.No. 1/3/2023-E.I(B)** : Preliminary Examination of the Civil Services Examination for recruitment to the Services and Posts mentioned below will be held by the Union Public Service Commission on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 in accordance with the Rules published by the Department of Personnel & Training in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. All candidates must carefully read the Civil Services Examination-2024 Rules together with all the Appendices along with the Annexures thereof and this Examination Notice derived from the CSE Rules-2024 in entirety for gaining awareness of the current Rules and Regulations as changes may have been incorporated since the previous Examination Rules.

- Indian Administrative Service
- Indian Foreign Service
- Indian Police Service
- Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Civil Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Corporate Law Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Defence Estates Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Information Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Postal Service, Group 'A'
- Indian P&T Accounts and Finance Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Railway Protection Force Service, Group 'A'
- Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) Group 'A'
- Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) Group 'A'
- Indian Trade Service, Group 'A' (Grade III)
- Indian Railway Management Service, Group 'A'
- Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service, Group 'B' (Section Officer's Grade)
- Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Civil Service (DANICS), Group 'B'
- Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Police Service (DANIPS), Group 'B'
- Pondicherry Civil Service (PONDICS), Group 'B'
- Pondicherry Police Service (PONDIPS), Group 'B'



# Govt. to streamline public communications framework



**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Role of Civil Services**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 1**

## Indian Information Service (IIS) – Overview

- Part of **Group 'A' & Group 'B' Central Civil Service** under the Government of India.
- Acts as the **official communication link** between the Government and the public.
- Responsible for **media management, public information dissemination, and feedback collection** for policy formulation.
- Officers work across multiple media platforms — **print, electronic, digital, and social media**.
- Posted in key organisations such as: **PIB (Press Information Bureau, DD News, All India Radio, Prasar Bharati,**
- Serve as **spokespersons** for Ministries and help ensure effective **public messaging and transparency**.



**Q1. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The MPC was established by amending the RBI Act, 1934, to operationalise the flexible inflation-targeting framework.
2. The MPC consists of six members, of whom the majority are from the Reserve Bank of India.
3. The external members of the MPC are appointed for a tenure of three years.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q2. How many of the following statements regarding the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is/are correct?**

1. It was created by a treaty signed in 2014 as the successor to the Eurasian Economic Community.
2. All its member states share a common currency similar to the Eurozone.
3. Its membership includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

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

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Private Members' Bills in the Indian Parliament framework:**

1. A Private Member's Bill can be introduced only by an MP belonging to the Opposition.
2. The responsibility of drafting a Private Member's Bill lies solely with the Ministry concerned.
3. A notice period of at least one month is required before introducing a Private Member's Bill.
4. Nominated members of Parliament are also eligible to introduce Private Members Bills.

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

- a) 3 and 4 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: a**

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the M23 group recently seen in the news:**

1. It is an armed rebel group active mainly in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
2. It is also referred to as the Congolese Revolutionary Army.
3. It is the leading faction in the Congo River Alliance, a coalition of rebel groups in eastern DRC.
4. It is headquartered in Rwanda and operates under the African Union peacekeeping mandate.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: d**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):**

1. It is published jointly by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.
2. It assesses countries only on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and renewable energy adoption.
3. It was first released in 2005.
4. In the latest CCPI, Denmark, the UK and Morocco are among the top performers, while the US and China are among the low-performing G20 countries.

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All four

**Answer: c**







# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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