



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

7th June 2025



CONTEXT: The editorial throws light on the persistent challenges in the Upstream & Downstream Water Management and provide for way forward

Pillar 1: Analysis of Water Crisis in "Upstream Area":

Editorial's Emphasis :

March 22 : World Water Day :
Glacier Preservation

March 21 : Int Water Day for Glaciers

Decade of Action on Cryosphere Science
: 2025-34

2025 : Int Year for Glacier Preservation

World Water Development Report 2025

WMO : 1.4 Degree Celsius increase from
Pre - Industrial Level

River	Snow Melt % share	Glacier Melt %	Drop (2010-2020)
Ganga	10%	3%	17%
Brahma Putra	13%	2%	14%
Indus	40%	5%	23%

THE HIMALAYAN MELTDOWN

The Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region is warming faster than the global average.

At risk are:

10 river basins including the Ganga, Brahmaputra and the Mekong that originate from this region

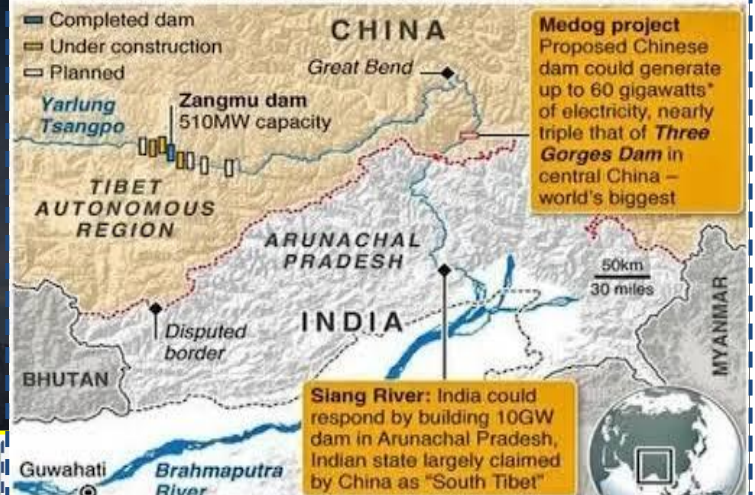
~1.5 billion people that depend on these river basins for sustenance

~240 million people living in the mountains and hills whose livelihoods depend on it

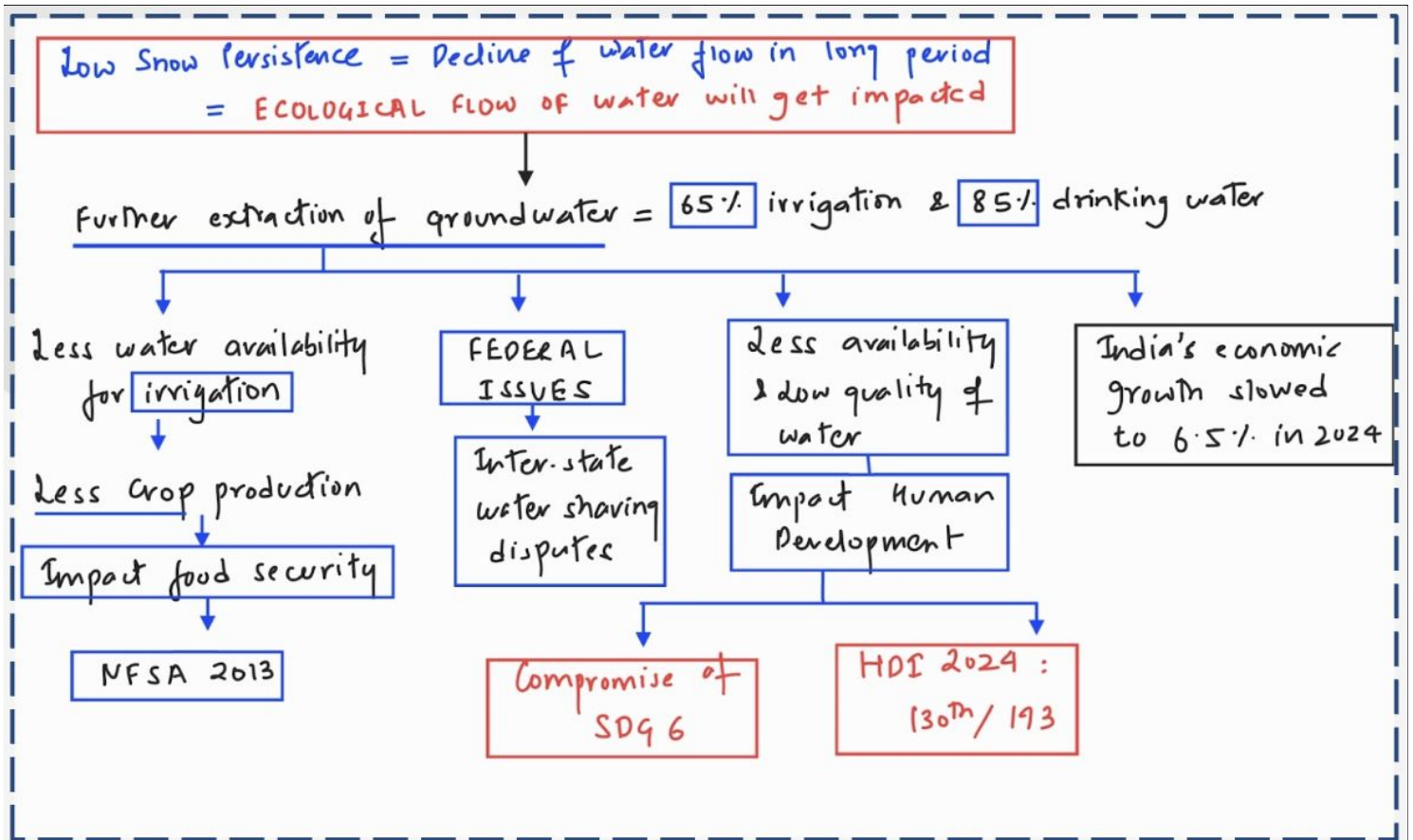


China's Brahmaputra dam project

China's government is planning to build a "super dam" on a section of the Brahmaputra River, known as the Yarlung Tsangpo, raising concerns over its potential downstream impact in India and Bangladesh



CONTEXT: The editorial throws light on the persistent challenges in the Upstream & Downstream Water Management and provide for way forward



India on brink of worst-ever water crisis

India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history with some 600 million people facing acute water shortage. The crisis will worsen as demand is projected to be twice the available supply by 2030

BASELINE WATER STRESS

- Less than 10% of available surface water used annually
- 10-20%
- 20-40%
- 40-80%
- More than 80%
- Arid & low water use

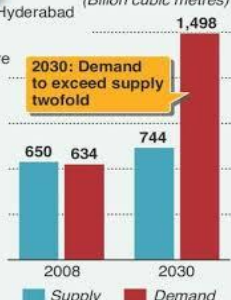
Haryana
New Delhi
Rajasthan



Uttar Pradesh
Bihar

- 21 cities, including New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad likely to run out of groundwater by 2020
- 6% of GDP likely to be lost by 2050 due to water crisis
- States ranked lowest at managing water – such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana – are home to nearly half of India's 1.3bn population and bulk of agricultural produce
- Around 200,000 Indians die every year because they have no access to clean water

WATER DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN INDIA (Billion cubic metres)



Sources: National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Wild Water, State of the World's Water 2017, India Waterfoot

Picture: Newscom © GRAPHIC NEWS

AAP blames Haryana industrial waste for Yamuna pollution, BJP fires back

India's Water Crisis: THE BIG PICTURE

India is home to **18%** of global population

but it has only **4%** of global water resources

India's per capita water availability is around **1,100 m³** per person

It is above the international threshold for water scarcity which is **1,000 m³** per person

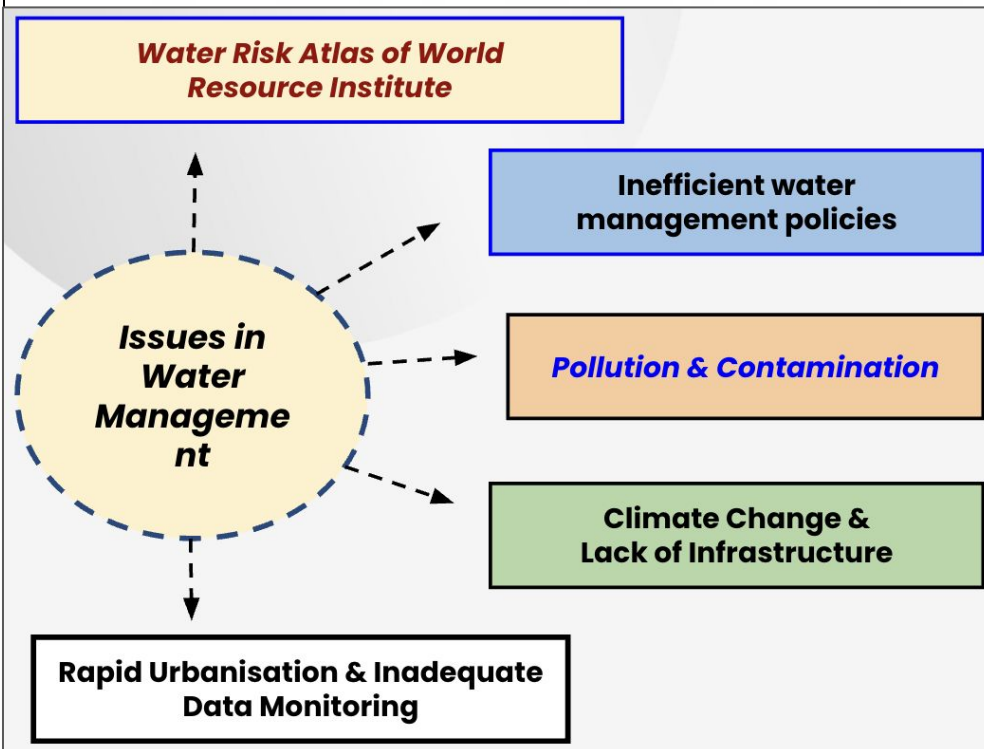


Data Source: <http://data.worldbank.org>

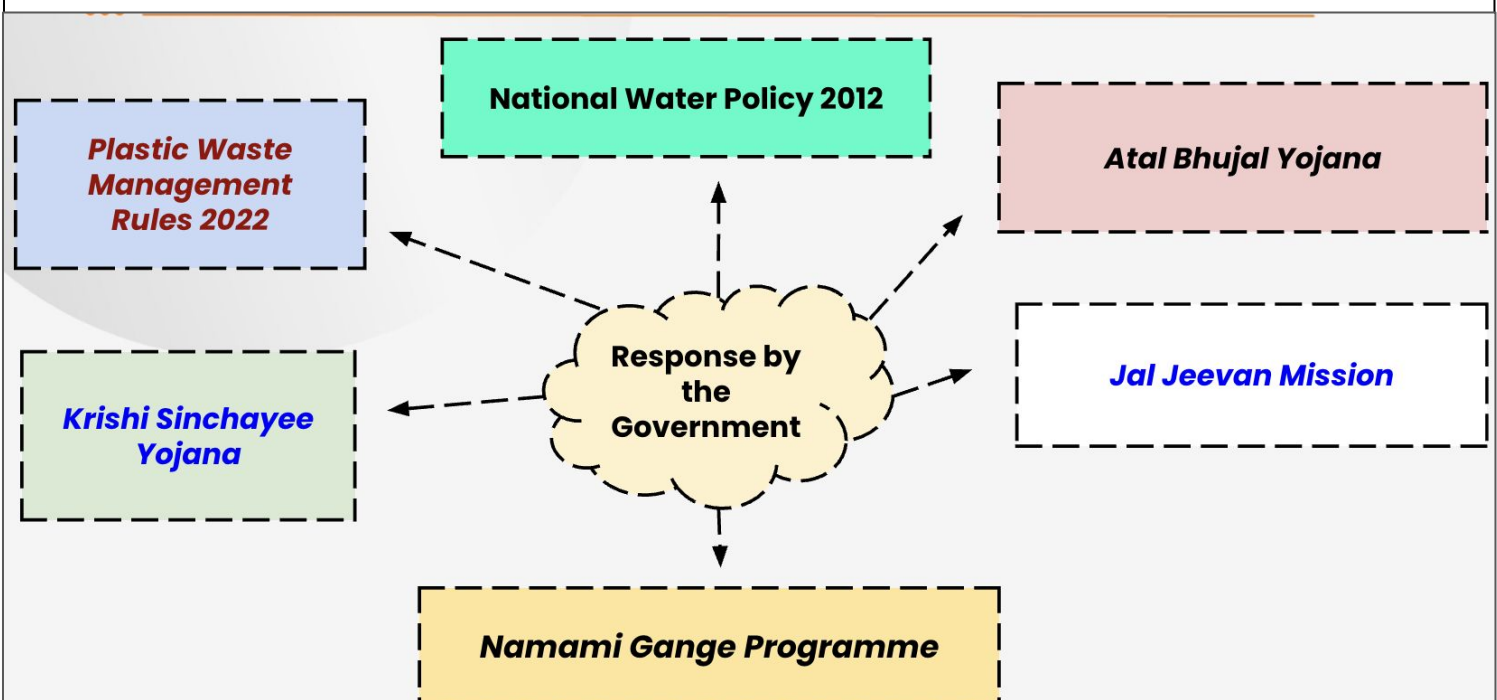


CONTEXT: The editorial throws light on the persistent challenges in the Upstream & Downstream Water Management and provide for way forward

Pillar 2: Analysis of Water Crisis in “Downstream Area”:



Pillar 3: Steps Taken by GOI:



CONTEXT: The editorial throws light on the persistent challenges in the Upstream & Downstream Water Management and provide for way forward

Pillar 3 : Suggestions by the Editorials :

Source to Sea (S2S) Approach :

Manilla Declaration 2012 :
Protection of Marine
Environment

S2S Management Initiative :
SIWI

Pollution Source
Working Group

- **"Ridge to Reef" Approach :**
Integrated management of
oceans, coasts, islands etc
- **IUCN :** Bring experts,
decision makers &
Stakeholders at one
platform
- **Scientific analysis on basis
of Socio - Ecological scale**

Mains Practice Question

What are the challenges in Water Management in India in both Upstream & Downstream Hydrological cycle? What are the steps taken by the Government?
(15 Marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: The editorial showcases the improvements achieved in the Immunisation and the impediments which still persists

Pillar 1: History of Vaccination :

Gradual Development :

1796 : Smallpox vaccine by Edward Jenner

1880s- 1890s : Rabies, Cholera & Typhoid

1897 : 1st vaccine against Plague

1951 : Nationwide rollout of BCG Vaccine

Pillar 2: Expanded Programme on Immunisation :

EPI by WHO :

Increased coverage of DPT

1980 : Smallpox eradication

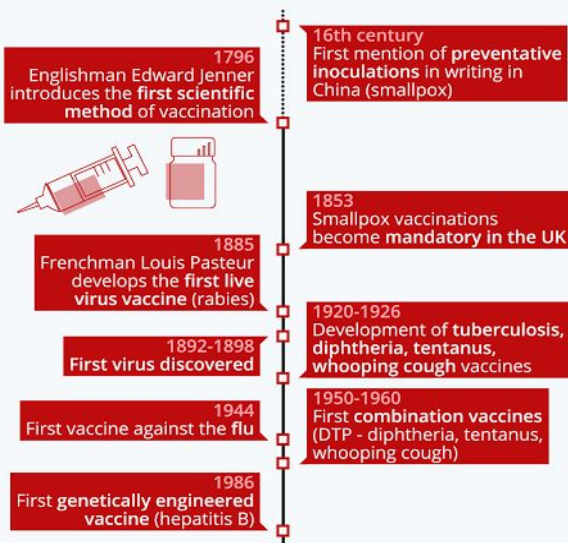
99% Polio elimination

Global Vaccination efforts for COVID 19

Immunisation Agenda 2030

The History of Vaccines

Selection of key dates in the development of vaccines



Source: Statista research



statista

by 2030, the Immunization Agenda aims to

Reduce by
50%
the number
of children
missing out
on all vaccines

Achieve
90%
coverage
for essential
vaccines given
in childhood
and adolescence

Introduce
500
new vaccines
in low and
middle-income
countries


#VaccinesWork

IMMUNIZATION AGENDA 2030



CONTEXT: The editorial showcases the improvements achieved in the Immunisation and the impediments which still persists

Pillar 3: Steps taken by GOI:



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

Discover the power of the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)!

Get vaccinated against **12** vaccine-preventable diseases at no cost.

Vaccines available **nationally** against these **11** diseases

Vaccine available **sub-nationally** against **1** disease

- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Rubella
- Rotavirus diarrhea
- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis
- Severe form of childhood Tuberculosis
- Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B and Pneumococcal Pneumonia
- Japanese Encephalitis, JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts

Mission Indradhanush

- **Ministry of Health**
- **Sub - Scheme under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**
- **Annually covers 3 crore pregnant women & 2.6 crore children**
- **Routine immunisation services to unvaccinated & partially vaccinated people**
- **Identification of Vulnerable districts : NFHS - 5**

Pillar 4: Persisting Challenges:

"Challenges in Number" :

- **USA : Resurgence of Measles : 1000+ cases in May**
- **UNICEF's State of World Children Report 2024 : Childhood immunisation : Declined for 1st time in decade**
- **India : 2 Million "Zero Dose" Children**
- **Lack of HPV Vaccination in Mission Indradhanush**

"What are the Factors?"

- **Low financial status of Country : Lack of Investment**
- **Low Private Share in Investment**
- **Poor Primary Healthcare Infrastructure**
- **Low Capacity Building at Grassroot level**

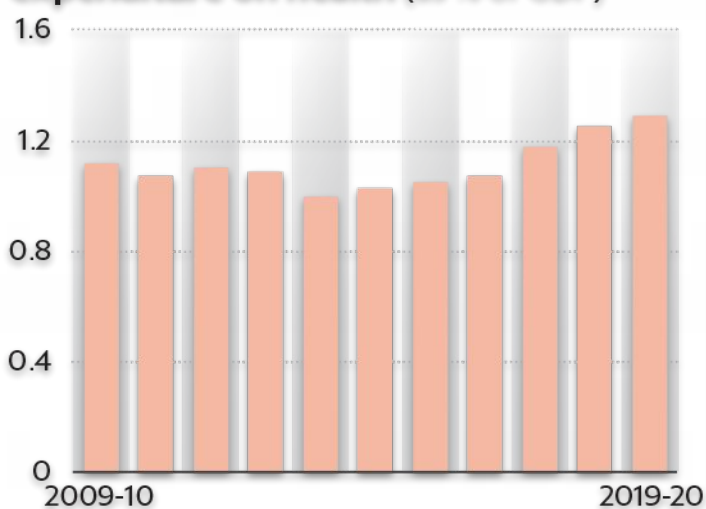


CONTEXT: The editorial showcases the improvements achieved in the Immunisation and the impediments which still persists

Health a low priority

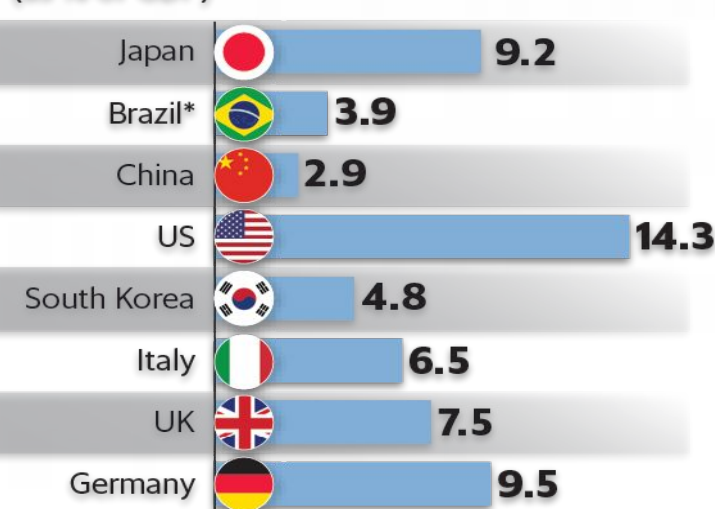
India's public health expenditure was just 1.29% of GDP in 2019-20. In 2018 too, the country lagged behind BRICs peers as well as developed nations.

India's (centre plus states) public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)



Source: National Health Profile 2019, Government of India; CARE Ratings' calculations

Public expenditure on health in 2018 (as % of GDP)



*For 2017

Source: OECD, Conta-Satélite de Saúde

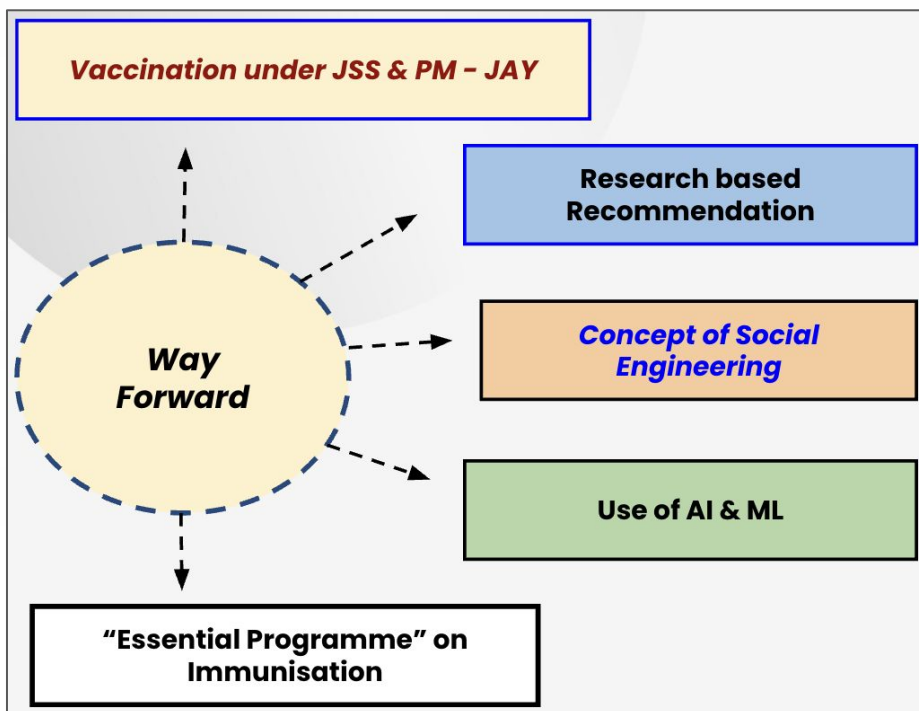
What about USA?

- **Post Truth World**
- **Post Pandemic Vaccine Hesitancy**
- **Non - Evidence base "Misinformation circulation"**
- **Complacency of Population : "Short term" memory effect**
- **Lack of Medical Education**



CONTEXT: The editorial showcases the improvements achieved in the Immunisation and the impediments which still persists

Pillar 5: Steps to Take:



Mains Practice Question

What is Expanded Programme on Immunisation? What are the key challenges in achieving "Universal Immunisation" globally? Substantiate. (15 Marks, 250 words)



Syllabus: GS 2: Health & Governance
Newspaper :The Hindu, Page No. 8

Flawed food regulations fuel the obesity crisis

Weak and subjective labelling and advertising laws have let junk food giants enjoy the freedom to make profits at the expense of public health

Issue of Adulteration

Feeding of "Empty Calories"

Corrupt practices of FMCG players

Lack of Infrastructure & "Thela Culture"

Weak Enforcement & Inspection

This year, the theme of **World Food Safety Day**, which is observed on June 7, is "**Food Safety: Science in Action**". It is an opportune moment to reflect on India's journey, evolving from a **narrow focus on preventing food adulteration** to embracing a more **comprehensive, science-based approach to food safety**. But despite the progress, there are gaps and challenges.

India's journey on food safety began with the **Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act of 1954**, which viewed food safety as a simple, binary issue – food being adulterated or not. This approach **treated all contaminants alike, whether they were intentionally added adulterants, food additives, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, or even naturally occurring toxins**. The quantity consumed was not considered.

The turning point was the enactment of the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, which **established the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**. Drawing on international best practices, particularly those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FSSAI adopted a risk-based approach to food safety. This included **setting maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides**, **defining safe levels for food additives**, and **adopting standards for contaminants and veterinary drug residues**.

By 2020, the FSSAI managed to **develop and align India's food safety standards so that they were almost on a par with those in advanced countries**. However, this rapid progress also exposed certain weaknesses.

Eat Right India Movement aligned with NHP 2017

Food Hygiene Rating System

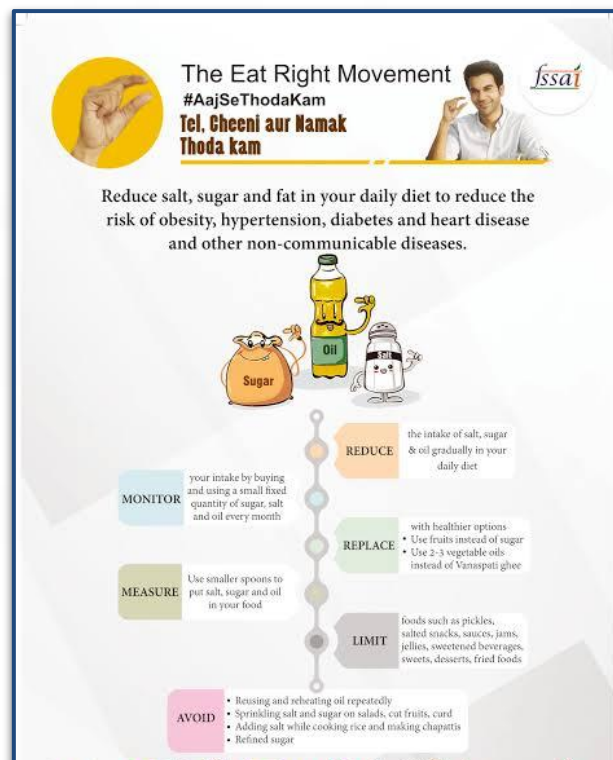
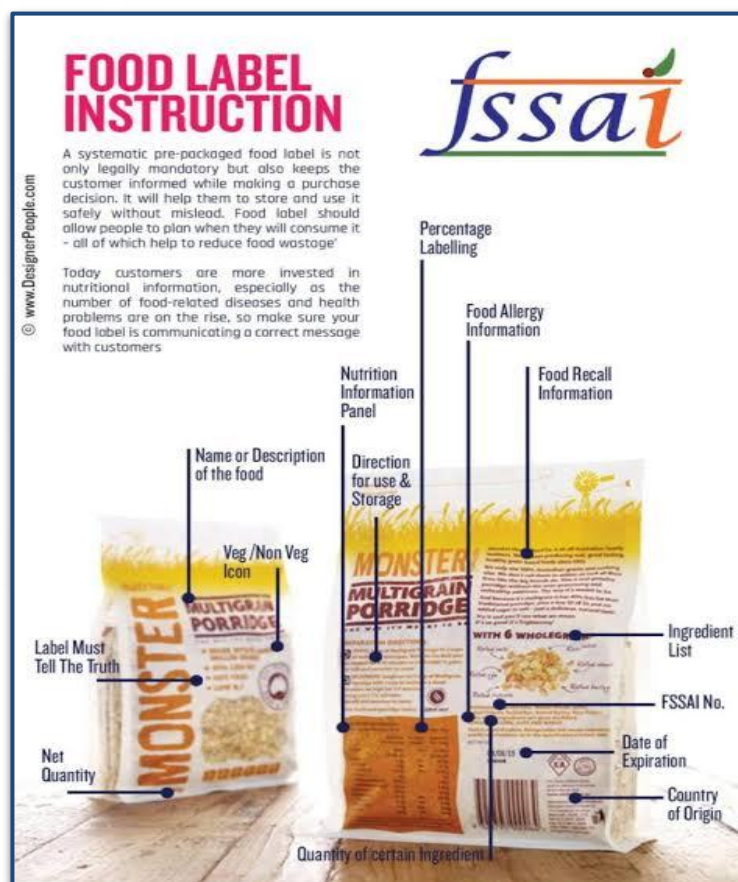
Food Safety Mitra Scheme to help FBO with licensing & training purposes

State Food Safety Index

Labelling & Display regulations 2024



Syllabus: GS 2: Health & Governance
Newspaper :The Hindu, Page No. 8



**Lack of India specific
Toxicological studies**

**MRL for Pesticides & ADI for Food
additives : International Data**

**Poor reflection of Indian
Dietary Habits**

Absence of Total Diet Study (TDS)

**Challenges
in Risk
Assessment**

Lack of Technical Knowledge

An example of legacy issues

A persistent legacy issue is the regulation of **monosodium glutamate (MSG)**, a **flavour enhancer** that has been extensively studied and consistently found to be safe. Since 1971, the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has declared MSG safe for consumption. In 1987, the JECFA allocated an "ADI not specified" status to MSG. All countries follow this global consensus now.

In India, MSG regulations have evolved significantly. Initially, **MSG was only allowed in meat products**, but its use has gradually been permitted in all foods, but with a mandatory warning label that it is unsafe for infants. This is in sharp contrast to other countries, where MSG is recognised as a safe food additive, and outdated warning labels have been removed.

The warning label in India is misleading because **glutamates (naturally occurring compounds chemically identical to MSG) are abundant in everyday foods such as tomato, mushroom and garlic, as well as breast milk**. As a result, consumers are often left with the mistaken belief that **MSG is inherently harmful, leading to unnecessary fear and confusion**. As a result,



Syllabus: GS 2: Health & Governance
Newspaper :The Hindu, Page No. 8

A path to greater scientific rigor

India has made significant strides in food safety, but sustaining this progress requires targeted efforts. Investing in India-specific research, including localised toxicological studies and a comprehensive TDS, is vital to understand cumulative exposure to contaminants. Risk communication should be improved by simplifying scientific messages and replacing confusing labels, such as those for MSG, with clear, evidence-based information. Strengthening the capacity of risk assessors through continuous training ensures that they stay updated with the latest science for sound decision-making. Regular reviews and updating standards in line with new research, while maintaining transparency, are essential. Finally, building public trust through open and consistent engagement with stakeholders including industry, consumers, and the public is key. These steps will help India uphold and advance its commitment to safe, science-based food systems that protect public health and promote informed choices.

The FSSAI has laid a strong foundation for food safety in India, but sustaining this progress requires a commitment to science, transparency, and public education. Regulatory decisions must be driven by evidence rather than public fears or out-dated perceptions. As we look ahead, India must continue to balance scientific rigour with effective risk communication, ensuring that consumers are informed, confident, and protected without harbouring unnecessary fear.



Syllabus: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions
Newspaper :The Hindu, Page No. 10

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched the **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)**, or **Indian Languages Section**, to provide an **organised platform** for all Indian languages to move towards “freeing the administration from the influence of foreign languages”.

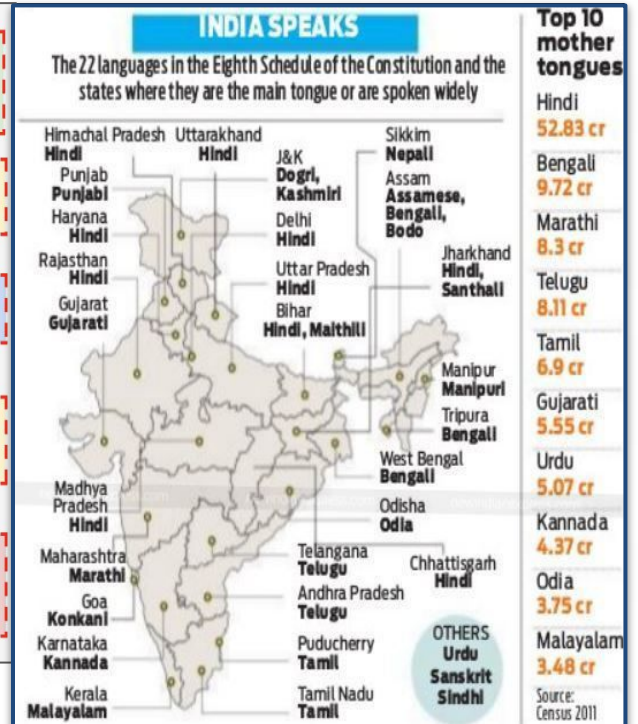
Process of analysis in
“mother tongue”

Budget 2024

Official Language Rules 1976

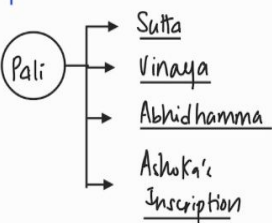
Section C states

“Language of
Correspondence”: English



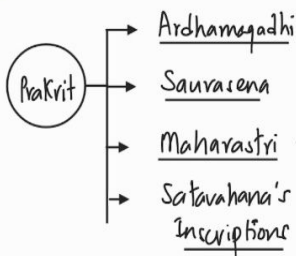
Classical language

- Ministry of Culture
- 2004
- Recorded history : 1500-2000 years
- Heritage by Generation of Speakers
- Epigraphical & Inscriptional evidence



List

- Tamil
- Sanskrit
- Telugu & Kannada
- Malayalam
- Odia



NEW

- Marathi
- Pali & Prakrit
- Assamese
- Bengali

Gatna sattasni
of Hala

72. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages?

- Konkani
- Manipuri
- Nepali
- Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- 1, 2 and 3
- 1, 2 and 4
- 1, 3 and 4
- 2, 3 and 4



Syllabus: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions

Newspaper :The Hindu, Page No. 10

**UP Sahitya Sammelan v.
State of UP 2014**

- There is **NO National Language**
- **Munshi - Ayyangar Formula :**
Article 343 : "Hindi in Devanagari script" is Official language
- 26th Nov 1949 - 1964 : **"English"** as Official language
- **Official Language Act 1963 :** Continued use of English indefinitely

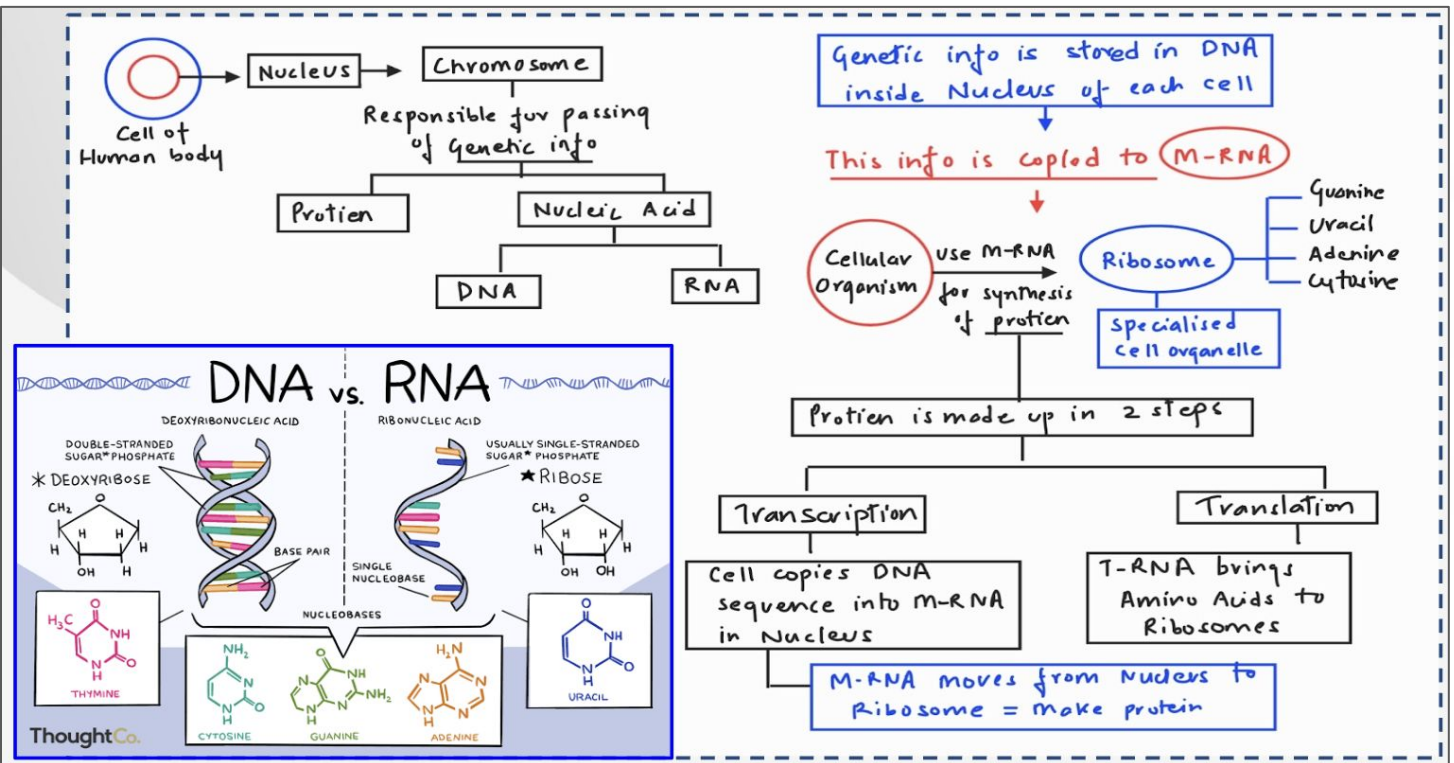
Language of Courts

- **Article 348 (1) :** "Unless parliament provide by law" : All proceedings in **Supreme & High Courts** : Conducted in **English**
- **Article 348 (2) :** "Authorisation of use of **Hindi** or any other language in High Courts" : **Governor** with previous consent of **President**
- **Official Language Act 1963 :** Authorisation of use of Hindi for purpose of **Judgement, Decree or order**

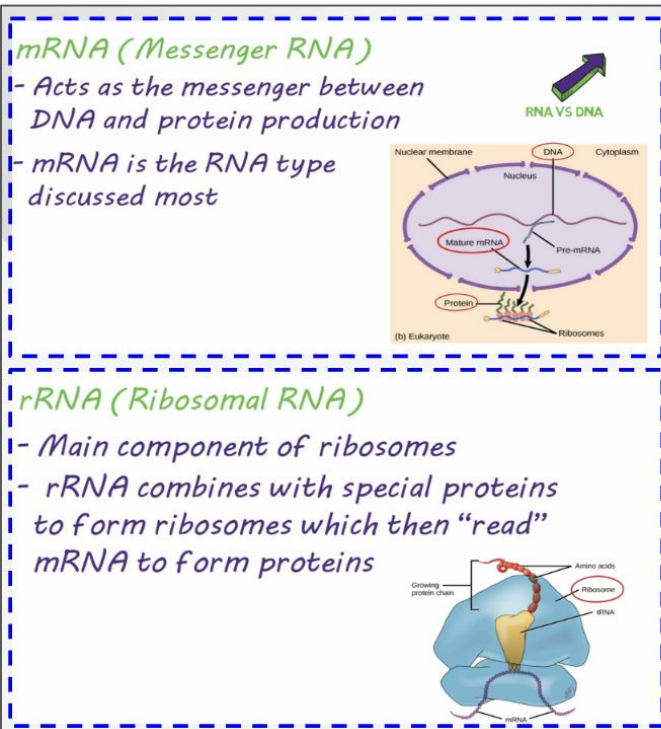


Syllabus: GS 3: Biotechnology
Newspaper :Indian Express, Explained

What is M - RNA?

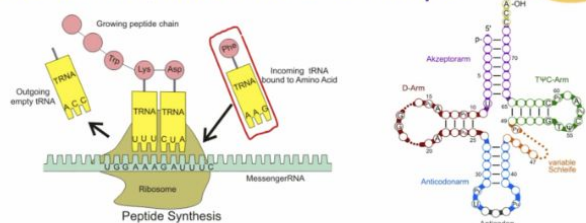


Types of RNA :



tRNA (Transfer RNA)

- RNA is generally single stranded, but tRNA folds into a "t" shape



What is Transcription?

Opening of DNA Double Helix to expose bases of each DNA strand and using one strand for synthesis of protein which creates **Messenger RNA**.



What is M- RNA?



Syllabus: GS 3: Biotechnology
Newspaper :Indian Express, Explained

<i>Transcription</i>	<i>Translation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gene's DNA Sequence is copied into M-RNA in the cell nucleus• M-RNA then enters the cell fluid & attaches itself to Ribosomes• Ribosomes acts as site of Protein synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T-RNA brings specific amino acids to Ribosomes• These amino acids are linked together in particular order as instructed by M-RNA• Creation of Protein

THE TECHNOLOGY that powered Covid vaccines may also lead scientists to a cure for HIV. Using mRNA, Australian researchers said they were able to trick the virus to come out of hiding, a crucial step in ridding the body of it entirely.

The research, published last week in the journal *Nature Communications*, is still preliminary and so far has been shown to be successful only in a lab. But it suggests that mRNA has potential far beyond its use in vaccines as a means to deliver therapies against stubborn adversaries.

Short for messenger RNA, mRNA is a set of instructions for a gene. In the case of Covid vaccines, the instructions were for a piece of the coronavirus. In the new study, they are for molecules key to targeting HIV. Dr Sharon Lewin, director of the Cumming Global Center for Pandemic Therapeutics in Melbourne, Australia, who led the study, called mRNA a "miraculous" tool "to deliver things that you want into



NEW RE



Syllabus: GS 3: Economy

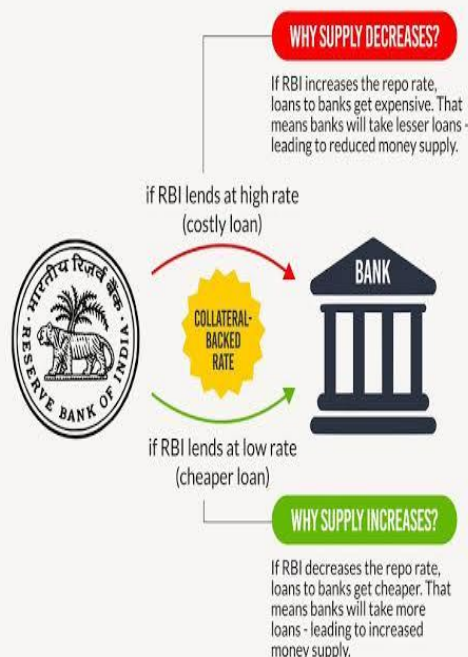
Newspaper :The Hindu, Page No. 1

In a bid to spur growth at a time when inflation has come under control, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday voted 5:1 to slash the policy repo rate by a bigger-than-expected 50 basis points to 5.50% with immediate effect. This is the RBI's third repo rate cut since February, and will further reduce the interest burden for borrowers, but will also cut the interest earned on savings by depositors.

Separately, the RBI also decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points (bps) over the course of this year, in an effort to provide sufficient and durable liquidity to the banking system. This

REPO RATE:

The rate at which collateral-backed loans are offered by the RBI to commercial banks.



#1. Meaning

Repo Rate

The rate at which the Central Bank lends money to other commercial banks of the country.

Reverse Repo Rate

The rate at which the Central Bank borrows money from the other commercial banks of the country.

#2. Rate Comparison

Repo Rate



Higher than reverse repo rate (currently 6.5% in India).

Reverse Repo Rate



Lower than repo rate (currently 6.25% in India).

#3. Impact on Banks

Repo Rate



Increased Repo Rates lead to increased costs for the commercial bank, which leads to making banking products more expensive.

Reverse Repo Rate



Increase in Reverse Repo Rate leads to more lending activity for commercial banks due to higher profitability.

#4. Impact on Liquidity

Repo Rate



Due to readily available funds from Central Bank at a particular Repo Rate, commercial banks do not face a liquidity crunch. Thus it controls liquidity crunch.

Reverse Repo Rate



Due to excess liquidity in the market, Central Bank may start borrowing funds from commercial banks at the reverse repo rate. Thus this rate controls an excess flow of funds.

#5. Impact on Inflation

Repo Rate



Increase in repo rate leads to increased cost of borrowing for commercial banks which is passed on to customers. This leads to slowing down of borrowing activity in the market, due to which economy as a whole slows down, thus controlling inflation.

Reverse Repo Rate



Increase in reverse repo rate leads to increased lending activities by banks and decreased money flow in the markets, due to which inflation gets controlled.

www.wallstreetmojo.com

CRR

Ratio of deposits banks maintain with RBI

Maintains in form of Cash

Helps controlling the flow of money

Regulates Liquidity

Don't earn any interest

SLR

Ratio of deposits banks maintain with themselves

Maintains in form of Gold, Cash or Securities issued by RBI

Helps to meet sudden demand of depositor

Regulates Credit Facility

Earns interests



What is G7?



Syllabus: GS 2: Important International Organisations
Newspaper : Indian Express, **Page No. 1**

Context of the News :

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

IN A diplomatic outreach towards mending bilateral ties after a year-and-half of acrimony and hostility, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney Friday invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 Summit on June 15-17.

The invitation, less than 10 days before the Summit, is a major breakthrough after the chill in ties. The two countries downgraded diplomatic ties after Justin Trudeau, the then Canadian Prime Minister, set off a political storm in 2023 when he alleged "potential" involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of a Canada-based Khalistan separatist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India rejected the charges as "absurd" and "motivated".

What is G7?

- **Informal Grouping : US + UK + France + Germany + Italy + Japan + Canada**
- **IMF's Advanced economies**
- **Pluralism, Democracy & Representative government**
- **G8 : Russia expelled in 2014**
- **Not based on treaty = No Permanent Office**
- **Presidency rotates annually among member states**
- **Host Country = Invites countries**
- **Importance = 10% Population + 30% World's GDP**



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding water management initiatives in India:

1. The Atal Bhujal Yojana aims to improve groundwater management through community participation.
2. Jal Jeevan Mission primarily focuses on providing a piped water supply to every rural household.
3. The Namami Gange Programme is primarily concerned with managing groundwater resources in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. Regarding Mission Indradhanush, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to achieve full immunization coverage for children and pregnant women.
2. The mission aims to cover all children up to 2 years of age and pregnant women who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.
3. The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched to focus on districts with low immunization coverage.

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

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

Answer: c

Q3. Regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. It is an autonomous statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. It is responsible for laying down standards

for articles of food and regulating their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d

Q4. The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution is associated with which of the following?

- a) Administration of tribal areas
- b) Recognition of languages
- c) Special provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- d) Directive Principles of State Policy

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) in India:

1. CRR is the minimum percentage of a bank's total deposits that must be maintained as reserves with the RBI.
2. SLR is the minimum percentage of a bank's net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) that must be maintained in the form of liquid assets like cash, gold, or government securities.
3. Banks earn interest on the CRR balance maintained with the RBI, but not on the SLR investments.
4. RBI uses changes in CRR and SLR as tools of monetary policy to control liquidity in the economy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c





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