



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** Handout

**24th January 2026**



**CONTEXT:** A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of the Delimitation Commission.

## Context & Constitutional Background

- **Delimitation:** Redrawing of electoral boundaries
- **Basis:** Population change
- **Constitutional mandate:** After every Census
- **Lok Sabha seat freeze:**
  - Since **1976**
  - **Census base:** 1971
  - **Rationale:** No penalty to population-stabilising States
- **84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001:**
  - Extended freeze till **first Census after 2026**
- **Census 2027: Seat redistribution freeze ends**

**Significance: Largest political power reallocation since Independence.**

- **Who performs Delimitation?**
- **Delimitation Commission**

- **Act of the Parliament**
- **4 times – 1952, 1962, 1972, 2002**

71. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023 ?
- (a) One
  - (b) Two
  - (c) Three
  - (d) Four

### Constitutional Provisions:

#### Article 82:

It provides for the readjustment of seats in the House of the people to the states and the division of each State into territorial constituencies after every census.

#### Article 170:

It provides for the composition of Legislative Assemblies.

## Related Amendments:

Population-based seat allocation favors high population growth states, so amendments were made to prevent imbalances and reward population control efforts.

### 42nd Amendment Act, 1976



It froze Lok Sabha seat allocation and constituency division at the 1971 level until 2000.

### 84th Amendment Act, 2001



The freeze on readjustment was extended for another 25 years until 2026.

### 87th Amendment Act, 2003



It allowed delimitation based on the 2001 census without changing the number of seats or constituencies.

### 31st Amendment Act, 1973



States with populations under six million were excluded from the population-based delimitation exercise.

### Judicial Review

In the **Kishorchandra Chhanganlal Rathod Case, 2024**, the Supreme Court held that an order by the Delimitation Commission can be reviewed if it is clearly arbitrary and violates constitutional values.

**Note:** Article 329 bars courts from questioning laws on delimitation or seat allotment.

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**CONTEXT:** A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of the Delimitation Commission.

54. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements :

1. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in a Court of Law.
2. When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they cannot effect any modifications in the orders.

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

## Delimitation – Current Scenario & Implications

- **Representation mismatch:**
  - Present basis: **1971 population (≈548 million)**.
  - Current population: **≈1.47 billion**
- **Next Delimitation Commission – Likely actions:**
  - **Inter-State seat reallocation** (first since 1976).
  - **Complete redrawing** of parliamentary constituencies.
  - **Reservation mapping** for **33% women** seats.
- **Past timeline:**
  - Previous commissions: **3–5.5 years**
- **Projected timeline:**
  - Census data by **2028** (earliest)
  - Delimitation completion: **post-2031–32**
- **Implication:**
  - **Women's reservation** unlikely **before 2034 Lok Sabha elections**.

## Demographic Divergence Among States

**Table 1:** If the number of seats is retained at 543 and reapportioned among States based on the projected population in 2026

State	Number of seats at present	Number of seats projected	Net gain/loss
U.P.	80	91	11
Bihar	40	50	10
Rajasthan	25	31	6
M.P.	29	33	4
Tamil Nadu	39	31	-8
Andhra + Telangana	42	34	-8
Kerala	20	12	-8
Karnataka	28	26	-2
Punjab	13	12	-1
Himachal	4	3	-1
Uttarakhand	5	4	-1

**Table 2:** If the number of seats is increased to 848 based on the projected population in 2026

State	Number of seats at present	Number of seats projected	Net gain
U.P.	80	143	63
Bihar	40	79	39
Rajasthan	25	50	25
M.P.	29	52	23
Tamil Nadu	39	49	10
Andhra + Telangana	42	54	12
Kerala	20	20	-
Karnataka	28	41	13
Punjab	13	18	5
Himachal	4	4	-
Uttarakhand	5	7	2

Based on projected 2025 population, current seat ratios not equitable

States	Current Seats	2025 Projected Population	Seats at the same ratio as last time #	Seats at 15 lakh ratio	Seats at 20 lakh ratio
UP*	85	25,23,42,000	250	168	126
Bihar*	54	17,08,90,000	169	114	85
Rajasthan	25	8,27,70,000	82	55	41
Tamil Nadu	39	7,73,17,000	76	52	39
Kerala	20	3,60,63,000	36	24	18
India	543	141,33,24,000	1,397	942	707

## Options Available for Managing Delimitation

### Option 1: Extend the Freeze

- **Approach:** Continue suspension till **fertility convergence**
- **Pros:**
  - Federal balance
  - Rewards population control
- **Cons:**
  - Under-representation of fast-growing States
  - **Article 14 risk** (equal suffrage)



**CONTEXT:** A write-up has appeared covering various aspects of the Delimitation Commission.

### Option 2: Expand Lok Sabha

- **Approach:** Increase seats (~750–888)
- **Logic:** No State loses seat
- **Limitation:**
  - Large States still gain **disproportionately**

### Option 3: Weighted Formula

- **Approach:** Population + development (80:20 / 70:30)
- **Indicators:**
  - Literacy
  - Health
  - Fertility control
- **Model:** Finance Commission–style devolution

### Option 4: Strengthen Rajya Sabha

- **Measures:**
  - Restore **domicile requirement**
  - Dilute population dominance
- **Alternatives:**
  - Equal representation model
  - **Three-tier States:** Large / Medium / Small

### Option 5: Reorganisation of Large States

- **Approach:** Bifurcation / trifurcation (e.g., UP)
- **Impact:**
  - Prevents single-State dominance
  - **Federal correction**, not administrative tweak

### Option 6: Phased Delimitation

- **Method:** Gradual redistribution
  - **Partial:** 2034
  - **Complete:** 2039
- **Benefit:**
  - Political shock absorption
  - Smoother adjustment

### The Path Ahead

- **Delimitation Commission composition:**
  - Demographers
  - Constitutional law experts
  - Federal studies specialists
  - Adequate State representation
- **Process principles:**
  - Transparency
  - Public hearings
  - Strong oversight
- **Constituency redrawing must balance:**
  - Geography
  - Administrative convenience
  - SC/ST representation
- **Delimitation with decentralization**
- **Risk to avoid:**
  - Political manipulation of boundaries

### Mains Practice Question

**Why is delimitation after 2027 described as a “moral and federal dilemma”? Suggest ways to address it effectively. (10 Marks, 150 words)**



**CONTEXT:** ASHA workers have been protesting to raise their demands and concerns.



## ASHA Workers (Accredited Social Health Activists)

**Community health volunteers** launched under the **National Rural Health Mission (2005)** for rural healthcare delivery.

In 2013, NRHM and NUHM merged to form the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.

Work with **Anganwadi Workers** under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**.

### Eligibility

- Local woman (25–45 years)**, preferably married/widowed/divorced; **minimum Class 10 education**.
- Classified as **volunteers under NHM** → **paid via task-based incentives**.

### Coverage


~1 ASHA per 1,000 population;  
9.2 lakh (rural) + 79,900 (urban) in 2022-23

### Key Responsibilities

- Antenatal and postnatal care; counselling on breastfeeding and infant nutrition
- Support immunisation, TB treatment, malaria screening, and disease prevention
- Provide basic healthcare, essential medicines, first aid; report births and deaths

### Accolade Recognition

For exemplary frontline work during COVID-19, ASHA workers received the **World Health Leaders Award (2022)** from the **World Health Organization**, recognising their role in surveillance, vaccination support, and last-mile health delivery.



**Launched: 2013** (by merging NRHM + NUHM)

**Ministry:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

**Coverage:** Rural and Urban India (pan-India)

### Objectives

- Universal access to equitable, affordable, and quality healthcare
- Reduce IMR, MMR, TFR and disease burden
- Strengthen public health systems & decentralised planning

### Key Components

- NRHM:** Rural healthcare strengthening
- NUHM:** Urban poor & vulnerable populations

### Major Focus Areas

- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)
- Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases
- Population Stabilisation
- Nutrition, Mental Health & Elderly Care

### Institutional Framework

- ASHA as community health interface
- Strengthening Sub-Centres, PHCs, CHCs, District Hospitals
- Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs)
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Centre-State sharing (60:40; 90:10 for NE & Himalayan states)





**CONTEXT:** ASHA workers have been protesting to raise their demands and concerns.



## The Foot Soldiers

**2005:** Government of India's National Rural Health Mission launched an Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) programme



**1 million-plus:**  
Number of ASHA  
workers in India

**1 ASHA worker**  
for **1,000 people**  
(ratio)



**₹4,000-4,500**  
Approximate salary  
per month

### Responsibilities

Health educator, implementing government schemes on ground, promoting family planning, facilitating services like antenatal check-ups, post-natal check-ups, immunisation, sanitisation, promoting hygiene, conducting surveys, monitoring Covid-19 patients, taking patients to hospitals and convincing villagers for Covid-19 vaccination, among others

### Challenges

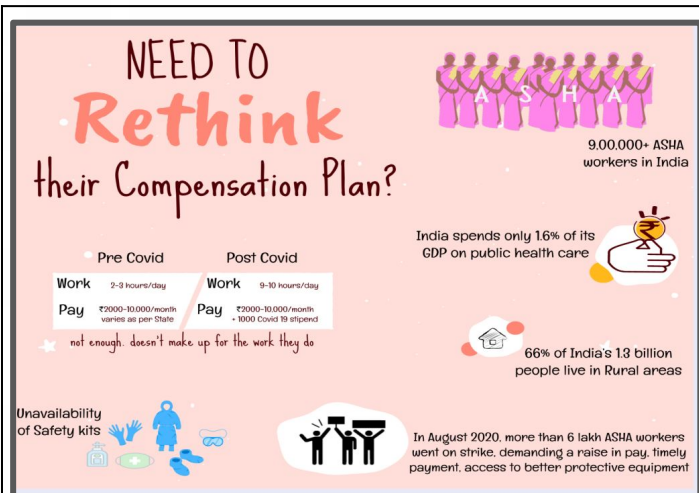
Walking on foot, at least for 15 km every day; greater responsibilities and low salaries, delayed incentives; lack of PPE kits/gloves, and other difficulties

## Concerns of ASHA Workers

- Low remuneration:** Nominal fixed honorarium + task-based incentives; wide inter-state variation; average monthly earnings **₹5,000-₹15,000**
- Irregular payments:** Incentive delays; NHM fund-flow issues; Centre-State financial coordination gaps
- Informal employment status:** Classified as "volunteers"; non-government employee status; exclusion from minimum wages framework
- Absence of social security:** No pension, EPF, gratuity, paid maternity leave, medical insurance; old-age income insecurity
- High workload expansion:** Maternal & child health; immunisation tracking; TB, NCD screening; COVID-19 surveillance; disaster response
- Recognition without protection:** WHO Global Health Leaders Award (2022); symbolic recognition; no systemic pay reform
- Gendered workforce vulnerabilities:** Predominantly women; care-work undervaluation; patriarchal norms; social discrimination, Violence
- Unimplemented reform recommendations:** Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour (2020); regularisation; social security — pending.



**CONTEXT:** ASHA workers have been protesting to raise their demands and concerns.



## The Path Ahead

- **Assured remuneration & payment certainty:** Fixed minimum monthly pay; reduced incentive dependence; DBT-based timely disbursement; inflation indexation
- **Formalisation with social security:** Recognised service status; pension/gratuity; EPF; life & health insurance; maternity benefits  
Example : 2018: Health Ministry: Insurance coverage for Accidents, Deaths & Disability
- **Uniform national framework:** Central norms on pay, benefits, and workload; state-level top-ups; reduced inter-state disparity
- **Workload rationalisation:** Role clarity; task capping; periodic revision of incentive structure; focus on core primary healthcare
- **Career progression pathways:** ASHA → ASHA Facilitator → ANM bridge; merit-based promotions; skill-linked advancement

- **Capacity, safety & dignity:** Regular training; digital tools; PPE; harassment redressal; safe working conditions
- **Governance & accountability:** Implementation of Parliamentary Standing Committee (2020) recommendations; grievance redressal systems; outcome monitoring

### International Best Practices (Community Health Workers)

#### Brazil —

##### Formal employment model:

- Salaried community health agents
- Municipal government contracts
- Pension & social security
- Integration with Family Health Strategy

#### State Best Practices

#### Andhra Pradesh —

##### Social security expansion:

- Gratuity (₹1.5 lakh for long service)
- Maternity leave
- Enhanced retirement age
- Partial formalisation

## Mains Practice Question

**What are the major challenges faced by ASHA workers in India? Suggest some measures to address the issues comprehensively. (10 Marks, 150 words)**





**Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, Executive, Fundamental Rights, Judiciary**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 16**

Vineet Bhalla  
New Delhi, January 23

THE RAJASTHAN government has decided to introduce a Bill designating certain zones as "disturbed areas" to curb what it terms "demographic imbalance" and "improper clustering". While the Bill is not yet in the public domain, it is drawing comparisons with the Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, 1991. Legal experts and civil rights activists have long raised concerns about the constitutional validity of the Gujarat legislation. Also, over the years, the Gujarat High Court has narrowed the scope of the state's power to interfere in private property transactions under the law.

## Gujarat Disturbed Areas Act

Enacted in 1991 following a series of communal riots, the Act was originally conceived to prevent "distress sales", which occur when an individual is forced to sell their property at a value lower than the market rate due to fear of violence or intimidation.

Under the Act, the state government can declare a specific area as "disturbed" due to a history of communal violence or mob unrest. Once an area is notified, the transfer of immovable property – houses, shops or land – in that zone requires the prior sanction of the district collector. Without their approval, any sale or transfer is considered void. The collector must hold a formal inquiry to ensure the sale is consensual and not driven by coercion.

However, legal experts say the Act effectively allows the state to police the demographic composition of neighbourhoods. By regulating who can buy property where, the state can prevent the organic mixing of communities. This raises questions regarding Article 19(1)(e) of the Constitution, which guarantees every citizen the right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India, and Article 15, which prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

## Pending legal challenges

The constitutional validity of the Act is currently under challenge before the Gujarat HC. Two major petitions — one filed in

## Key concerns

- Over the years, legal experts have raised concerns about the constitutional validity of the Gujarat law.
- Experts say the law allows the state to police the demographic composition of neighbourhoods.

January 2021 and another in August 2022 — are pending adjudication before Benches led by the Chief Justice of the HC.

In January 2021, a significant legal victory came for the petitioners after the Gujarat HC stayed the operations of the 2020 amendments to the Act. The amendments had expanded the law's scope by introducing vague terms like "proper clustering" of persons of one community, and empowering the collector to check if a property's transfer would disturb the "demographic equilibrium" or lead to "polarization".

The court had restrained the state government from issuing notifications based on these new, broader powers. The interim stay has continued to date.

The Rajasthan government's stated rationale of checking "improper clustering" mirrors the language of this stayed Gujarat amendment.

## Free consent, fair market value

Gujarat's Disturbed Areas Act says the decision of the collector — and the state government in appeal — shall be final and conclusive and "shall not be questioned in any Court." However, since HCs are empowered

under Article 226 of the Constitution to review administrative actions that violate fundamental rights or principles of natural justice, the Gujarat HC has repeatedly been petitioned to scrutinise orders passed by collectors that went beyond the scope of the law.

Through a series of judgments, the HC has established a clear doctrine: the collector's power is limited strictly to verifying free consent and fair market value to validate a sale. They cannot block a transaction based on "law and order" fears or neighbours' objections if the sale is genuine.

For instance, in a case decided by the court in March 2020, Hindu sellers had sold a shop to Muslim purchasers in Vadodara. The district collector denied permission, relying on a police report that cited potential law and order problems. Quashing the order, the HC ruled that the police inquiry was "completely out of context with the provisions of the Disturbed Areas Act".

The court noted: "It is undisputed that the property in question was sold on a fair value and with free consent... When the scope of inquiry is that of free consent and fair value, the role of neighbours in the context of such sale becomes irrelevant."

Dimension	Article 32	Article 226
<b>Constitutional Basis</b>	Article 32 of the Indian Constitution	Article 226 of the Indian Constitution
<b>Nature</b>	<b>Fundamental Right</b>	<b>Constitutional / discretionary power</b>
<b>Court Involved</b>	Supreme Court	High Courts
<b>Purpose</b>	Enforcement of <b>Fundamental Rights only</b>	Enforcement of <b>Fundamental Rights and other legal rights</b>
<b>Scope</b>	Narrower	Wider
<b>Discretion of Court</b>	<b>Not discretionary</b> ; SC is bound to entertain	<b>Discretionary</b> ; HC may refuse relief
<b>Types of Writs</b>	Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, Quo Warranto	Same five writs
<b>Relationship Between the Two</b>	Primary guardian of Fundamental Rights	Power is supplementary and not in derogation of Article 32





**Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Growth and Development**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 16**

ACCORDING TO the official forecast — technically called the First Advance Estimates — in this financial year that ends March, India's economic output (measured by Gross Domestic Product, or GDP) will grow by 8% in nominal terms and 7.4% in real terms.

The difference between real and nominal growth is the level of inflation in the economy. Nominal GDP is the actual observed value of the GDP that includes inflation. The real GDP growth rate is derived by removing the effect of inflation. The curious thing about these numbers is that, when compared to past standards, an 8% nominal GDP growth is fairly weak — more often than not India's nominal GDP has been closer to 12% — and a 7.4% real GDP growth is fairly strong.

This rather confusing situation has been compounded by persistent arguments by critics, including the former Chief Economic Advisor to the incumbent government, that India's official data for economic growth doesn't tally with many other sets of data in the economy.

For instance, if the whole economy is growing at 8% on an average, which is a fairly low growth rate by itself, then it would stand to reason that the biggest companies in corporate India would be growing their sales at a much faster rate. India's GDP is the average and many parts of the economy, such as agriculture, often grow at a slower rate.

The question is this: While India's GDP growth has been surprising observers on the upside every quarter this financial year, what has happened to the growth rate of net sales in corporate India?

The table below shows the growth rates for the past five quarters, going back all the way to the quarter ending December 2024. Since net sales data is in nominal terms, India's GDP growth rate is also in nominal terms for a fair comparison. As can be seen, corporate India's net sales growth has lagged the overall GDP growth rate.

The December 2025 data for net sales growth rate has been sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's Economic Outlook database. It is based on the financial statements of 319 "early birds" — or companies that have released their results for the December quarter sooner than others. The data for the rest of quarters is based on the results of almost 5,000 companies.

CMIE's analysis finds that sales growth has remained consistently in the single digits for the past ten quarters. It notes that results of the early birds indicate that growth in net sales may have lost a little more steam in the December 2025 quarter. "The average year-on-year growth in corporate sector sales in the first three quarters of 2025-26 works out to about 5.8%, in nominal terms.

This, at least to an extent, belies the story of the non-farm Indian economy growing at about 8% in real terms in the same year," says Mahesh Vyas, the MD and CEO of CMIE.

#### • Corporate sales growth lags GDP rate

QUARTER ENDING	NOMINAL GROWTH RATE OF GDP	NOMINAL GROWTH RATE OF NET SALES OF CORPORATE INDIA
December 2024	10.30%	6.20%
March 2025	10.80%	6.10%
June 2025	8.80%	5.10%
September 2025	8.70%	7.20%
December 2025	7.5-8%*	4.90%

\*ESTIMATE; SOURCE: CMIE, INDIAN EXPRESS RESEARCH

## Nominal GDP vs Real GDP

Feature	Nominal GDP	Real GDP
Definition	Total value of goods and services produced at current market prices	Total value of goods and services produced at constant prices (adjusted for inflation)
Impact of inflation	Includes inflation	Adjusts for inflation
Usefulness	Short-term analysis, comparing economies	Long-term analysis, measuring economic growth
Calculation	Based on current market prices	Based on base year prices





**Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Growth and Development**  
**Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 17**

Christina Titus  
Mumbai, January 23

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced another set of liquidity measures that will infuse Rs 1.25 lakh crore into the financial system. They include a 90-day variable rate repo (VRR) operation amounting Rs 25,000 crore on January 30 and a three-year dollar-rupee buy/sell swap auction of \$10 billion on February 4.

It will also purchase government securities worth Rs 1 lakh crore through open market operations (OMOs), across two tranches of Rs 50,000 crore each on February 5 and February 12. The announcement comes as the liquidity in the banking system has been shrinking. According to Bloomberg data, the average liquidity stood at Rs 1.78 lakh crore in November, and fell to Rs 72,550 crore in December

*According to Bloomberg data, the average liquidity stood at Rs 1.78 lakh cr in Nov, and fell to Rs 72,550 cr in Dec and Rs 57,121 cr in Jan*

and Rs 57,121 crore in January.

Market participants had also approached the RBI to provide relief as there was a sharp spike in certificate of deposit rates, sources said. The continuous intervention in the forex market on account of a weaker rupee has been draining out liquidity from the system. The increased demand for credit amid sluggish deposit growth has created pressure on the banking system's liquidity.

"This is a much-needed action from the RBI in the current scenario of elevated credit-deposit ratio and dollar sales to stabilise the currency," said Madhavankutty G, chief economist, Canara Bank. He added that in

March, there will be more pressure on the liquidity, as there will be advance tax outflows. Moreover, short-term rates will spike further in the absence of sufficient liquidity which could be an impediment to monetary policy transmission. He said longer-tenure forex swap signals durable liquidity and aligns with the RBI's MPC stand that it will endeavour to provide liquidity when needed.

The RBI has been consistently infusing liquidity since December. It has injected Rs 4.5 lakh crore into the system in December and January through OMOs and forex swaps. It purchased bonds worth Rs 5.2 lakh crore in the current financial year. FE

## WHAT IS VARIABLE RATE REPO (VRR)?

**Mechanism:** Banks borrow funds from the RBI at a variable interest rate.

The interest rate is determined through an **auction process** rather than being fixed.

VRR is a **short-term borrowing** tool used by the RBI to manage liquidity.

**Purpose:** To address the liquidity deficit by injecting funds into the banking system.

Instrument	Definition
<b>Treasury Bills (T-Bills)</b>	Short-term government securities issued at a <b>discount</b> to meet temporary cash needs (91, 182, 364 days)
<b>Call Money</b>	<b>Overnight unsecured lending</b> between banks and financial institutions
<b>Notice Money</b>	Unsecured interbank funds for <b>2-14 days</b>
<b>Term Money</b>	Interbank lending for <b>more than 14 days up to 1 year</b>
<b>Commercial Paper (CP)</b>	Unsecured <b>short-term debt</b> issued by corporates to meet working capital needs
<b>Certificates of Deposit (CDs)</b>	Time deposits issued by banks/financial institutions, <b>tradable</b> in secondary market
<b>Repurchase Agreement (Repo)</b>	Short-term borrowing by selling securities with an agreement to <b>repurchase later</b>
<b>Reverse Repo</b>	Short-term lending to RBI in exchange for securities
<b>Commercial Bill</b>	Bill of exchange arising from genuine <b>trade transactions</b> , discounted by banks





**Syllabus: GS Paper 3: Capital Market**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 11**

India's securities regulator has accused current and former executives at the local units of PwC and EY, among others, of breaching insider trading rules involving a 2022 share sale by Yes Bank, according to a regulatory notice.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also accused executives at U.S. private equity firms Carlyle Group and Advent International of sharing unpublished price sensitive information related to the deal, in violation of insider trading rules, according to the notice, which was reviewed by Reuters.

Advent, Carlyle, EY, PwC, Yes Bank and SEBI did not respond to requests for comment.

Issued in November, the notice, which has not been reported previously and is not public, alleges two executives at PwC and EY



**Action reply:** The accused individuals and their firms are said to be in the process of drafting their responses to SEBI's notice. REUTERS

and five other family members and friends made unlawful gains by trading in shares of Yes Bank ahead of its 2022 share offering.

Most of the accused individuals are still serving at their respective firms.

SEBI's notice showed India executives of Carlyle, Advent, PwC, and EY shared unpublished price sensitive information, enabling others to trade on the information. It also accused a former Yes Bank board member of sharing price sensitive information enabling others to trade.

The notice from the reg-

ulator followed an investigation into movements in Yes Bank's shares ahead of a July 2022, share offering, in which Carlyle and Advent bought a combined 10% stake for \$1.1 billion.

The shares of the bank opened 6% higher a day after the deal was announced on July 29, 2022. The accused individuals, along with their companies, are in the process of drafting their responses to SEBI's notice, according to two people familiar with the investigation, who declined to be named due to sensitivity of the matter.



Illegal Activity	Meaning
<b>Dabba Trading</b>	Off-market trading where transactions are <b>not routed through recognised stock exchanges</b> ; no settlement via clearing corporations; illegal under <b>SEBI Act</b> and <b>SCRA, 1956</b>
<b>Front Running</b>	Trading ahead of large client or institutional orders using non-public information
<b>Circular Trading</b>	Artificial trading among related entities to <b>inflate volume or price</b> without real ownership change
<b>Pump and Dump</b>	Artificially inflating stock price through false hype and then selling at peak
<b>Wash Trades</b>	Buying and selling the same security simultaneously to create fake volume
<b>Mis-selling of Securities</b>	Selling financial products by suppressing risks or misleading investors



**Syllabus:** GS Paper 2: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

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

## UK Navy tracks Russian vessels sailing through English Channel

Reuters

London, January 23

BRITAIN'S ROYAL Navy shadowed Russian vessels sailing through the English Channel in a two-day operation coordinated with NATO allies, the navy said on Friday.

The navy said two patrol ships, supported by a Wildcat helicopter, were dispatched to intercept the Russian warship Boikiy and accompanying oil tanker MT General Skobelev as they headed north, before handing the monitoring over to a NATO ally. The operation comes a day after Britain said it provided support to a French operation to board a sanctioned Russian oil tanker as it passed through the Straits of Gibraltar.

## English Channel

Arm of the Atlantic Ocean separating southern England and northern France

- Connected to the North Sea via the Strait of Dover (NE end)
- Length: ~560 km
- Width: 240 km (max) to 34 km at the Strait of Dover
- World's busiest shipping lane
- Strategic natural barrier aiding Britain's naval dominance; deterred invasions (Napoleonic Wars, WWII-Hitler)
- Cultural divide: English (north shore) and French (south shore)
- Hosts the Channel Tunnel
  - Length: 50.46 km (undersea rail tunnel)
  - Opened: 1994
  - Connects Folkestone (England) and Coquelles (France) beneath the Strait of Dover





**Q1. With reference to the Delimitation of Constituencies in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Delimitation is carried out by an independent Delimitation Commission whose orders have the force of law and cannot be challenged in a court of law.
2. The present freeze on delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies is based on the population figures of the 1971 Census.
3. The next delimitation exercise will be undertaken on the basis of the first Census conducted after the year 2026.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Q2. With reference to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. ASHA workers are community-based women volunteers instituted under the National Health Mission.
2. They are appointed and paid salaries by the State Governments.
3. ASHA workers are entitled to performance-based incentives for promoting institutional deliveries and immunisation.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Regarding Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 32 is a Fundamental Right, whereas Article 226 is not.
2. Under Article 226, High Courts can issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights as well as for "any other purpose".
3. The Supreme Court can refuse to entertain a petition under Article 32 on the ground that an alternative remedy is available.
4. The territorial jurisdiction of High Courts under Article 226 is wider than that of the Supreme Court under Article 32.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

1. Nominal GDP measures the value of final goods and services produced in an economy at current market prices.
2. Real GDP measures economic output after adjusting for changes in the general price level.
3. Real GDP is always higher than Nominal GDP during periods of inflation.
4. Real GDP is a better indicator of actual economic growth than Nominal GDP.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q5. With reference to illegal and unethical practices in the Indian securities market, consider the following statements:**

1. Dabba trading involves off-market transactions that are not routed through recognised stock exchanges and do not involve clearing corporations.
2. Front running refers to executing trades after a large institutional order has been publicly disclosed.
3. Circular trading is undertaken to artificially inflate trading volume or prices without any real change in ownership.
4. Wash trades involve the simultaneous buying and selling of the same security to create artificial market activity.

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

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

**Answer: a**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

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9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,  
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,  
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : [www.vajiramandravi.com](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)