



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**1st February 2026**



# Rethinking India's Fiscal Sustainability



**CONTEXT:** Union Budget 2026 is expected to present a roadmap for transitioning to a debt-GDP ratio-based fiscal anchor from FY 2026–27.

## Rethinking India's Fiscal Sustainability

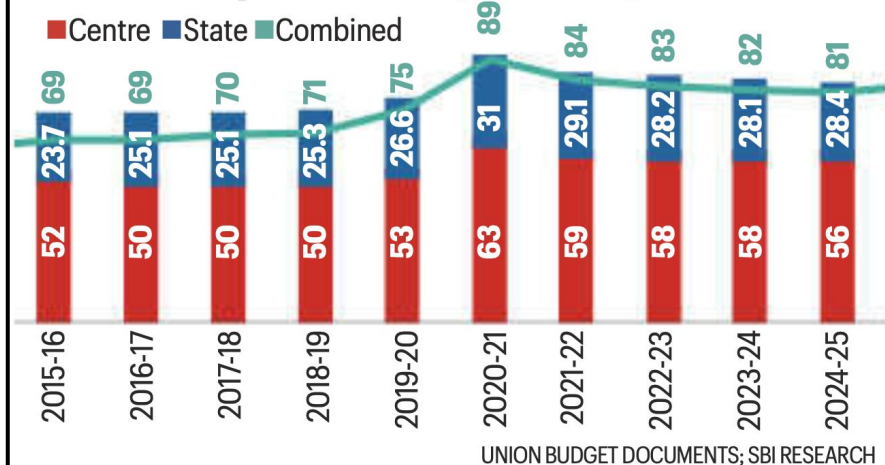
### What is Debt-to-GDP Ratio:

- debt-to-GDP ratio will be contingent upon **nominal GDP growth**, which forms the basis of the ratio, along with the **government's borrowing and repayment obligations**.
- **Goal of achieving 50±1% debt-to-GDP ratio by March 2031.**
- **NK Singh committee recommendation**
  - suggested *using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy*.
  - A debt to GDP ratio of **60% should be targeted** with a **40% limit for the center** and **20% limit for the states** by FY23.
- **Economic Survey for 2025-26:** India has reduced its general government debt-to-GDP ratio by **approximately 7.1 percentage points since 2020**, while sustaining high public investment.

### Rationale Behind the Shift:

- **Alignment with Global Best Practices:**
  - provides governments with flexibility to respond to economic shocks, while maintaining long-term sustainability.
- **Metric observed by global rating agencies:**
  - To assess the fiscal health of the country they assess **general government debt**, which refers to the debt of both states and the Centre.
- **More reliable measure of fiscal performance:**
  - captures the cumulative effects of past and current fiscal decisions
- **Promote fiscal transparency:** through proper disclosure of off-Budget borrowing.
- Expected to put central government debt on a **“sustainable trajectory in a transparent manner”**:
  - **mild, moderate and high** — linked to varying nominal growth rates of **10 %, 10.5 % and 11 %**.

### Combined public debt (% of GDP)



Global Finance Magazine

### India: Credit Rating Gets An Upgrade

S&P Global Ratings raised India's sovereign credit rating in mid-August from BBB- to BBB, one notch above its lowest investment-grade rating...

8 Sept 2025



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## Rethinking India's Fiscal Sustainability

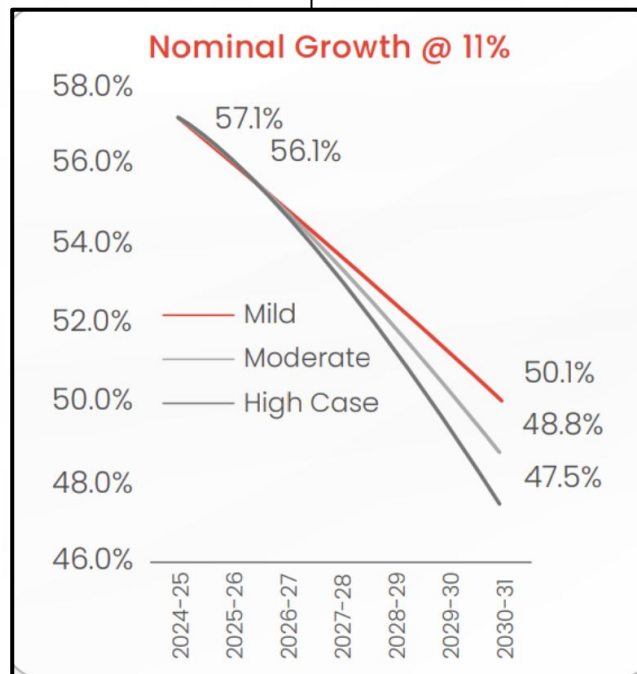
### Issues:

#### ❖ Ignore Debt Composition:

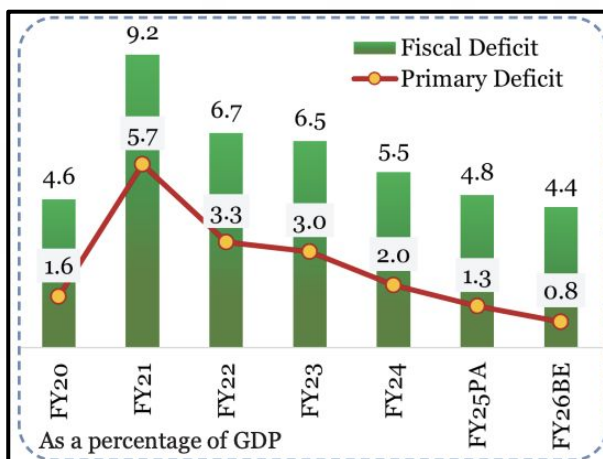
- how much is domestic vs external debt
- short-term vs long-term debt
- fixed vs floating interest debt

❖ **Longer Transition Period** - FRBM Act debt-GDP target of 40 per cent

❖ **Crowding out:** leaves little room for borrowing by the private corporate sector and the non-government public sector. This would force them to borrow more from abroad.



## India's Fiscal Developments

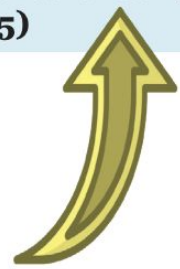


**Prudent fiscal management as the key driver behind sovereign credit rating upgrades (2025)**

Morningstar DBRS

S&P Global ratings

R&I, Japan

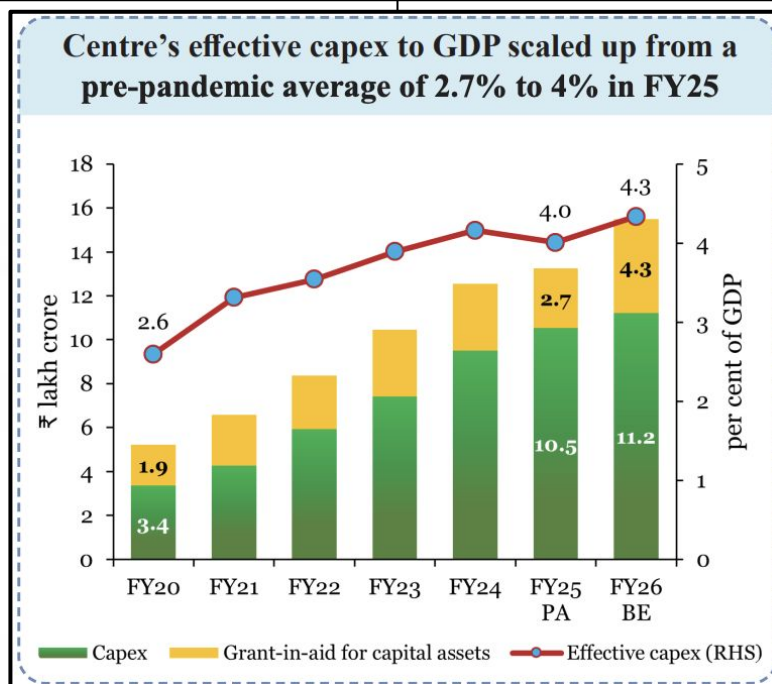
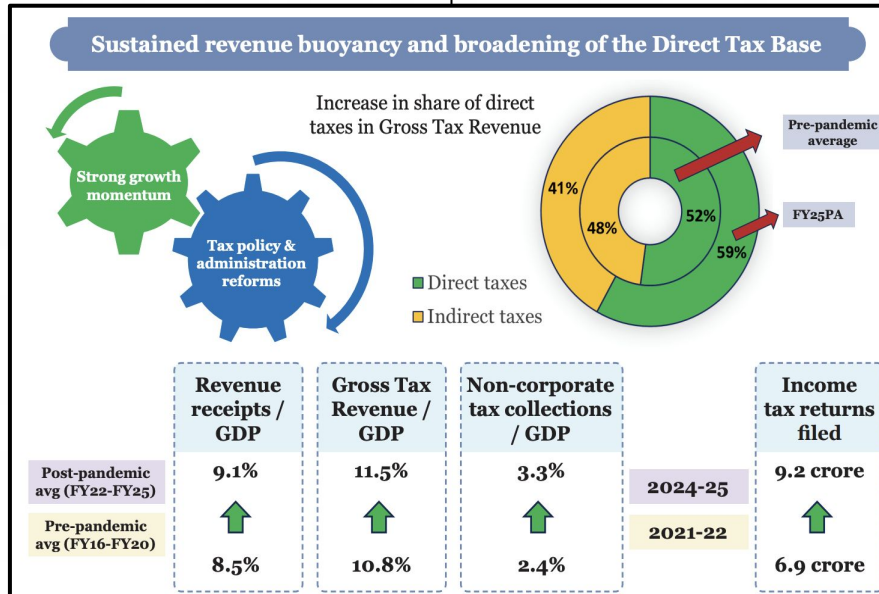




# Rethinking India's Fiscal Sustainability

**CONTEXT:** Union Budget 2026 is expected to present a roadmap for transitioning to a debt-GDP ratio-based fiscal anchor from FY 2026–27.

## India's Fiscal Developments



# Rethinking India's Fiscal Sustainability



**CONTEXT:** Union Budget 2026 is expected to present a roadmap for transitioning to a debt-GDP ratio-based fiscal anchor from FY 2026–27.

## Issues with the Fiscal Consolidation:

- **Low Tax Base**
  - Tax-to-GDP ratio: 18%
  - Informal economy
- **Poor collection efficiency**
- **Rigid 'Committed Expenditure' Trap:**
  - 8th Pay Commission recommendations
  - Punjab, Rajasthan shifted to OPS from NPS: Punjab - 46% of GSDP
- **Fiscal Federalism:** Finance Commission mandates 41% devolution, the effective share to states often hovers ~33% due to cesses & surcharges
- **'Capex-Consumption' Trade-off:** risks of dampening rural consumption.
- **Poor adoption of Outcome Budgeting**

## Rethinking India's Fiscal Sustainability

### Way ahead:

- **Institutionalizing 'Sunset Clauses' in Subsidies**
- **Performance-Linked Fiscal Devolution:**
  - incentivize fiscal performance efficiency - where a portion of central transfers is strictly tied to states adhering to debt ceilings and eliminating off-budget borrowings.
- **Establishing an independent Fiscal Council** to monitor the quality of spending ensures accountability.
- **Implement "Outcome Budgeting"**
- **Ensure adherence to "Golden Fiscal rule"**

## Mains Practise Question

*A shift from fiscal deficit targeting to debt-to-GDP ratio as the fiscal anchor signals a more holistic approach to fiscal discipline. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your arguments.*

(10 Marks, 250 words)



# India – Arab League Relations

**CONTEXT:** Recently, New Delhi will hosted the 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, bringing together all 22 Arab League members in a major diplomatic outreach amid regional conflicts and global shifts.

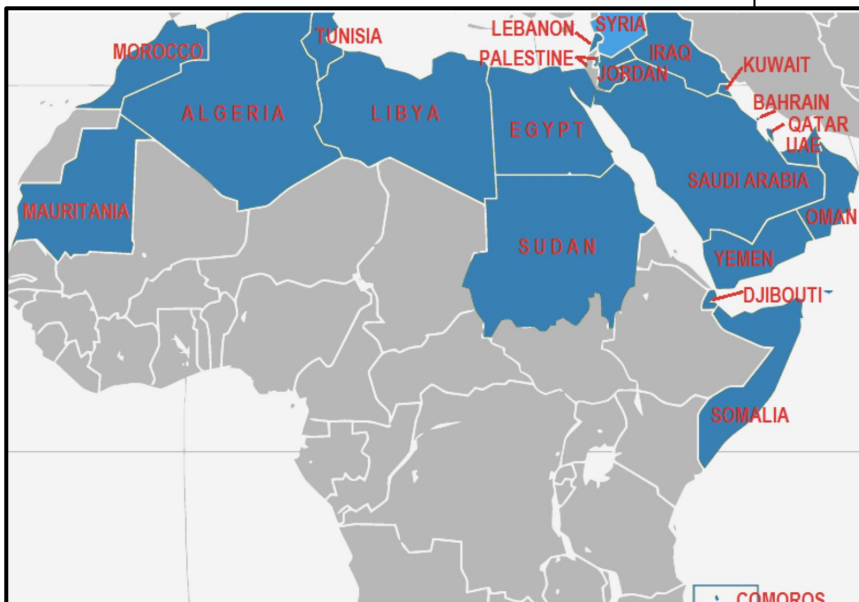
## India - Arab League Relations

### About Arab League:

- It is a **regional intergovernmental organisation** comprising **22 member states** in the **Middle East and North Africa**.
- **7 founding members:** Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen.
- **Other Members:** Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen.
- It is officially known as the “**League of Arab States**”.
- **Established:** Cairo, Egypt in **1945**.
- **Goal:** To foster political, economic, and cultural cooperation while safeguarding the sovereignty of its members.
- **Headquarters – Cairo, Egypt.**
- **Observers:** Several nations hold observer status, including **India**, Brazil, Eritrea, Venezuela, Armenia, Chad, and Greece.

### Key Pillars of India–Arab League Partnership:

- **Strategic Coordination:** India has signed strategic partnership agreements with **Oman, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar** over the past two decades.
- **Economic Cooperation:**
  - Bilateral trade between India and Arab League countries **exceeds 240 billion dollars**, making the region one of India's largest trading partners.
  - India has signed **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements** with the **UAE and Oman** to deepen economic integration.
  - **Investment Commitments:** Major investments in India include:
    - \$75 billion from the **UAE**, \$100 billion from **Saudi Arabia**, and \$10 billion from **Qatar**, primarily in **infrastructure**.
- **Connectivity Initiatives:** The **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**, launched at the **G20 Summit in 2023**, is a significant development in regional connectivity.



# India – Arab League Relations



**CONTEXT:** Recently, New Delhi will hosted the 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, bringing together all 22 Arab League members in a major diplomatic outreach amid regional conflicts and global shifts.

- **Energy Security:** Arab League countries *supply nearly 60 percent of India's crude oil imports* and around *70 percent of its natural gas imports*.
  - India signed a **long-term LNG agreement with Qatar in 2024** to ensure energy security for the next two decades.
  - The **UAE's participation in India's strategic petroleum reserves** strengthens India's energy resilience.
- **Emerging Areas of Cooperation: Digital public infrastructure and fintech cooperation:**
  - The **RuPay card** was launched in the **UAE in August 2019**.
  - **rupee** is being accepted as **legal currency at Dubai airports** since 2023.
  - **India and the UAE** have operationalised the **rupee-dirham settlement system**.
  - **India's UPI** is already accepted for financial transactions in **Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE** and is likely to grow further in the LAS countries soon.
- **Defence and Security Engagement:** Defence partnerships with **Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar** underline the importance of maritime security and counter-terrorism efforts.
  - India's access to the **Duqm Port in Oman** enhances its naval presence

## Mains Practise Question

*India's engagement with the Arab League rests on multiple strategic pillars. Examine these pillars and their role in advancing India's regional objectives.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**





**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Government Schemes  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 09

## Honorarium above fixed Rs 1,000 vary

Under the PM-POSHAN or midday meal scheme, cooks are paid an honorarium of Rs 1,000 per month for 10 months of the year. This amount is shared between the Centre and states, and the latter can supplement it by paying out of their own pockets. The monthly honorarium paid to cooks remains at minimal across eight states. The honorarium is Rs 2,000 in Chhattisgarh.

A TOTAL of 22 states and Union Territories that responded to the Education Ministry's call for suggestions on the PM-POSHAN scheme last year had one unanimous request for the Centre — to enhance the honorarium to cooks and helpers under the scheme.

Among other suggestions that the states/UTs made were a request for an enhancement in the material cost for meals, extension of the scheme to students up to Class 12, and provision of breakfast under the scheme.

## Prelim Booster

### PM POSHAN Scheme:

- A **centrally sponsored scheme** under which **one hot cooked meal is served** to 11.20 crore students **studying in Balvatika and classes I to VIII**, in Government and Government-aided schools **on all school-days, from 2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- Formerly known as the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**, is implemented by the **Ministry of Education**.
- **Twin objectives:**
  - *Enhancing nutritional status of school-going children.*
  - *Improving enrollment, retention, and attendance in schools, especially among disadvantaged children.*
- **Funding Pattern:**
  - 60:40 between Centre and States/UTs with legislature.
  - 90:10 for the Northeastern and Himalayan States.
  - 100% central funding for UTs without legislature.





**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Government Schemes  
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## PM POSHAN Scheme:

2024 - Government has also approved following additional features under PM POSHAN Scheme:

- Provides for instructions to schools to **procure Agmark quality** and branded items for preparation of meals, **training to Cook-cum-Helpers, tasting of meals by 2-3 members of School Management Committee** including at least one teacher before serving to children.

- **Inclusion of Balvatika:** The provision of hot cooked meal to children of pre-schools or Balvatika (before class I) and children studying in classes I to VIII in Government and Government-aided schools.
- **Tithi Bhojan:** Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals in addition to regular meal.
- **School Nutrition Gardens:** Under the Scheme, development of School Nutrition Gardens in schools is being promoted, to give children first hand experience with nature and gardening.
- **Social Audit:** Social Audit in all districts is made mandatory under the Scheme. Social Audit is collective monitoring of a scheme by people's active involvement covering issues of equity, equality and expenditure management.
- **Vocal for local:** Under 'Vocal for local', the States and Union Territories are encouraged to decide menu suitable to the local conditions within the prescribed nutrition and food norms and to procure locally grown food items like millets, vegetables, condiments etc. from Farmers' Producers Organizations, Federation of Women's Self-Help Groups etc. so as to promote local employment and economic development and improving the nutrition standards.
- **Special Focus:** Adequate provision for supplementary nutrition in aspirational districts / tribal districts / districts with identified high cases of malnutrition etc.
- **Disaster Management:** Provision of hot cooked meal or Food Security Allowance to children when schools are closed due to disaster impacting the State/Union Territory, part of State/Union Territory, in a State/Union Territory or whole country as may be declared by the State/Central Government under its powers as Disaster Management Authority.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Environment

**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 09

**Nikhil Ghanekar**

New Delhi, January 31

AHEAD OF World Wetlands Day on February 2, Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch district of Gujarat have been included as wetlands of international importance in Ramsar sites list, under the global Ramsar convention.

India became a signatory to the convention in 1982.

This takes India's Ramsar network to 98 sites. "The international recognition reflects India's strong commitment to protecting the environment and conserving its wetlands," Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on X.

The areas are also home to wildlife such as chinkara, wolves, caracal, desert cats and desert foxes, besides endan-



Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal saline wetland in Kutch.

gered birds, the minister said.

Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal saline wetland located between the famous Banni grasslands and salt flats of Kutch, as per a note issued by the Ramsar Convention secretariat. It is an important wintering site for waterfowl, supporting species such as critically endangered sociable lapwing, the vulnerable common pochard, and, notably, approximately 30,000 common cranes (*Grus grus*) annually, the

note added.

The Patna bird sanctuary wetland consists of freshwater marshes, woodlands and grasslands, and is surrounded by agricultural landscapes, as per the note. Together, these different landscapes create a wide range of habitats and support a high level of biodiversity, reflected in the 178 bird species and 252 plant species recorded at the site.

"Patna Bird Sanctuary is particularly important in supporting waterbird populations and has been designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International," the secretariat note added.

Under the international Ramsar Convention treaty of 1971 signed in Iran, wetlands that meet a certain criterion on ecological and biodiversity grounds are chosen for special conservation measures.

## Ramsar Convention

- It is an international treaty for "**conservation and sustainable use of wetlands**". It is also known as the **Convention on Wetlands**.
- The convention is named after the **city of Ramsar in Iran** where it was signed on **2nd of February 1971**.
- Since then, the 2nd of February each year is celebrated as the World Wetlands Day.
- The treaty came into **force on December 21, 1975**.
- The **number of parties** to the Ramsar Convention is **172**.

- At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the "**wise use**" of wetlands.
  - **Wise use:** maintenance of ecological character within the context of sustainable development.
  - The **world's first Site** was the **Cobourg Peninsula in Australia**, designated in 1974.
  - The countries with the most Ramsar Sites are the **United Kingdom** with 176 and **Mexico** with 144.
  - **Bolivia** has the largest area under Ramsar protection.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Environment

**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 09

## About Patna Bird Sanctuary

- It is the ***smallest bird sanctuary*** ( only 1 sq. km ) located in **Etah district of Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Founded in: 1991**
- **Flora:**
  - It includes trees such as date palm, Prosopis, peepal, fig, babul, ber, jungle jalebi, mulberry, shisham, and neem.
  - The lake also has many water plants like Hydrilla, Salvinia, Azolla, Potamogeton, and water hyacinth.
- **Fauna:** Golden Jackal, Jungle Cat, Fishing Cat, Indian Fox, Common Palm Civet, Indian Bush Rat, Rufous-tailed Hare, and young Nilgai are found here.
- **Important aquatic birds** inhabiting lake are Lesser Whistling-Duck, Graylag Goose, Comb Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Indian Spot-billed Duck, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail.

## About Chhari-Dhand Wetland

- It is the **first Conservation Reserve of Gujarat.**
- **Location:** on the edge of the ***arid Banni grasslands*** and the marshy salt flats of the **Rann of Kutch.**
- **Area:** It covers an area of **80 sq. km.**
- In the local Kutchi language, ***Chhari*** means “salty” and ***Dhand*** means “shallow wetlands”.
- **Fauna:**
  - **Home to endangered species** such as Dalmatian Pelican, Oriental Darter, Black-necked Stork, and Indian Skimmer and other bird species such as flamingos, Common cranes, Painted storks, Raptors, and Spoonbills.
  - Chinkara, wolves, caracal, desert cats, and desert foxes are also found here.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Statutory Bodies  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

## NGT pulls up stadiums for use of groundwater

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has pulled up cricket stadiums across the India for using groundwater to irrigate their grounds, instead of treated wastewater, as per a recent order.

It also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each on Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi and 11 other stadiums for not submitting the required details about their water usage to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), as ordered by the court.

### About NGT

- **Statutory body:** Established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- **Purpose:** Fast and effective disposal of cases related to **environmental protection**, forests, and natural resources.

- **Global significance:** India is the **3rd country** to create a specialised environmental tribunal (after Australia & New Zealand) and the **first developing country** to do so.
- **Time-bound mandate:** Cases should be disposed of **within 6 months** of filing.
- **Benches:** Principal bench in **New Delhi**; other benches in **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai**.

**Composition:** NGT consists of a **Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members**.

- **Tenure:** Members serve **3 years** or until **65 years of age**; **no reappointment allowed**.
- **Appointment of Chairperson:** Appointed by the **Central Government** in consultation with the **Chief Justice of India**.
- **Appointment of Members:** Judicial and Expert Members are selected through a **Selection Committee** formed by the Central Government.
- **Strength:** Tribunal has **minimum 10** and **maximum 20** full-time Judicial and Expert Members.





**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Statutory Bodies  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

## Powers & Jurisdiction:

- Recognised by the **Supreme Court (2021)** as a unique body with **suo motu powers** to take up environmental issues.
- Guided by **principles of natural justice**.
- **Applies core environmental principles:**  
Sustainable development  
Precautionary principle & Polluter pays principle
- **Can order:** Compensation to pollution victims, Restoration of damaged property, Environmental restoration & its orders are enforceable like a civil court decree.
- **Appeals against NGT decisions** lie to the **Supreme Court** within **90 days**.
- Handles cases under **7 major environmental laws**, including:
  - Water Act (1974)
  - Water Cess Act (1977)
  - Forest Conservation Act (1980)
  - Air Act (1981)
  - Environment Protection Act (1986)
  - Public Liability Insurance Act (1991)
  - Biological Diversity Act (2002)

## Prelims PYQ 2018

**Q.** How is the **National Green Tribunal** (NGT) different from the **Central Pollution Control Board** (CPCB)?

1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

**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



**SYLLABUS:** Health **GS : 2**

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number : 14**

**I**t is known that the Indian population, particularly vegetarians, is deficient in vitamin B12. The vitamin essential for the formation of blood cells and the functioning of nerve cells is mainly found in animal-derived food. B12 deficiency during pregnancy has been associated with neural tube defects and poor foetal growth, affecting long-term health.

## ‘Regulator of regulators’

Interventions targeting adolescent nutrition aim to prevent ‘diabetes’

■ Vitamin B12 deficiency is common in India and negatively affects foetal growth and long-term health

■ The Pune Maternal Nutrition Study previously linked low maternal B12 to increased obesity risks in offspring

■ In the PRIYA trial, researchers supplemented adolescents with B12 to see if doing so improved health outcomes for future children

■ Supplementation improved neonatal weight proportions and significantly altered gene expression in cord blood cells



**Vital vitamins:** Vitamin B12 and multi-micronutrient supplements in adolescents (plus standard care) improved the ponderal index in their neonates. RAGHAVENDRA V. KONKATHI

■ Higher B12 levels surprisingly regulated the expression of genes that control DNA methylation processes

■ Experts suggested adding vitamin B12 to national policies to boost population health and human capital development

## About Vitamin B12

- It is a **water-soluble vitamin** also called **cobalamin**.
- **Essential Role:** It acts as a **cofactor in DNA synthesis**, the formation of **Red Blood Cells** (erythropoiesis), and the maintenance of the **myelin sheath** (the protective covering of nerves).
- **Your body cannot produce B12 on its own**, so it must be obtained through foods high in vitamin B12 or supplements.
- It is **naturally found in animal foods** such as fish, meat, poultry, eggs, milk, and milk products.
- It is **not present in plant foods** unless fortified.

- The body **stores vitamin B12 in the liver for 3 to 5 years**, and it can get rid of any excess or unwanted vitamin B12 in the urine.
- **Vitamin B12 Deficiency:**
  - People who follow a **vegetarian diet**.
  - **Older adults** and people who have **had stomach surgery** also are at risk because they **may not absorb the vitamin** as well.
  - People with **digestive conditions** such as celiac disease and Crohn’s disease.



# Vitamin B12



**SYLLABUS :** Health **GS : 2**

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 14

## Health Effects:

- **Megaloblastic anaemia:** Red blood cells become large and weak, leading to tiredness and low energy.
- **Nerve damage:** Poor formation of the nerve covering (myelin) can cause numbness, tingling, and difficulty in walking.
- **Mental health problems:** Severe deficiency may cause depression, memory loss, confusion, and dementia, especially in older adults.
- **Heart risk:** Low B12 increases homocysteine levels, which can damage blood vessels and raise the risk of heart attack and stroke.
- **Pregnancy complications:** In pregnant women, deficiency raises the risk of birth defects, miscarriages, and low birth weight babies.
- **Child development issues:** In children, it can slow brain development and reduce attention and muscle strength.

## Steps Taken:

- **Food Fortification:** supplying fortified rice with iron, folic acid, and B12 through PDS, PM-POSHAN, and ICDS schemes.
- **Anaemia Mukht Bharat:** A “6x6x6” strategy that focuses on six age groups; while traditionally iron-focused, it now emphasises B12 and Folate to tackle “nutritional anaemia” holistically.
- **FSSAI Standards:** The +F logo on food products helps consumers identify staples like milk or oil fortified with B12 and other micronutrients.



**SYLLABUS:** Security

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

## Indian Coast Guard marks 50 years of maritime service

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), established on February 1, 1977 with just seven surface platforms, has evolved into a “formidable maritime force” comprising 155 ships and 80 aircraft, officials said on Saturday. The ICG will observe its 50th Raising Day with an event here on Sunday, marking five decades of dedicated service to the nation, they said. The ICG was envisioned to address maritime challenges and safeguard India’s expanding marine interests. By 2030, the ICG is “poised to achieve its target force levels of 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft, establishing itself among the world’s premier coast guard services,” it said. PTI

### About Indian Coast Guard

- Established in 1977 under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Conceived after the **1971 war** on the recommendation of the **Rustamji Committee**.
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**.
- India has the **4th largest Coast Guard** in the world.
- **Maritime zones** are divided into 5 **regions**: North-West, West, East, North-East, Andaman & Nicobar.

### Functions:

- Mitigate the effect of maritime accidents, and help in ensuring safety and **security from natural or man-made disasters**.
- Assisting the Customs and other authorities in **anti-smuggling operations**.

- **Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution:** has developed the capability to be the **“first-responder” for oil-spills** in Indian waters.
- Preservation and Protection of Marine Environment
- **Protection of Fishermen:**
  - conduct regular **Community Interaction Programmes** to apprise the fisher-folk about safety measures to be adopted at sea.
  - Information regarding **upkeep and maintenance of boats and fishing gear** is also imparted.
- **Enforcement of Maritime Laws in Force**
  - Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft undertake regular patrols to enforce maritime laws, and other regulations and international treaties to which India is a signatory.
- **Collection of Scientific Data**
  - Whilst on patrol, ICG ships collect relevant information regarding **meteorological and oceanographic data** for analysis and use by the scientific fraternity.





**Q1. With reference to the Arab League, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a regional intergovernmental organisation comprising members from the Middle East and North Africa.
2. India is one of the observer states of the Arab League.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q2. With reference to the PM POSHAN Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme providing one hot cooked meal to students from Balvatika to Class VIII
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development
3. Its key objective includes Improving enrolment and retention in schools, especially among disadvantaged children.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q3. With reference to the Ramsar Sites, consider the following statements:**

1. India along with South Africa have the most number of Ramsar sites.
2. Patna bird sanctuary is located in the Etah district of Uttar Pradesh.
3. Chhari-Dhand Wetland is a Ramsar site located at the edges of the sambhar lake in Rajasthan.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q4. With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:**

1. India is the first developing country to establish a specialised environmental tribunal
2. The tribunal is mandated to have minimum 20 full-time Judicial and Expert Members.
3. The National Green Tribunal can adjudicate matters under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q 5. With reference to Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a water-soluble vitamin essential for DNA synthesis and maintenance of the myelin sheath.
2. It is naturally present in plant foods, and excess amounts are mainly excreted through bile.
3. Deficiency of Vitamin B12 can lead to megaloblastic anaemia, neurological impairment, and elevated cardiovascular risk

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

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

**Answer: a**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

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