



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**25th March 2026**

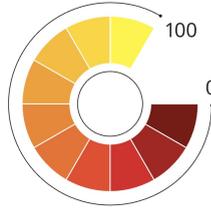


# India's Corruption Paradox: Growth Without Trust?

**CONTEXT:** Transparency must become a national priority.

## What is CORRUPTION?

- Abuse - Entrusted Power/Public Office
- Corruption Perception Index, 2025



THE CPI USES A SCALE FROM 0 TO 100

100 is very clean and 0 is highly corrupt

- Democracies score higher (71 average) than Authoritarian Regimes (32) - Institutional Strength controls Corruption.

89	↓	Denmark	1
88	=	Finland	2
84	=	Singapore	3
81	↓	New Zealand	4
81	=	Norway	4

13	=	Libya	177
13	=	Yemen	177
10	=	Venezuela	180
9	=	Somalia	181
9	↑	South Sudan	181

The CPI ranks 182 countries and territories worldwide by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

While 31 countries have significantly reduced their corruption levels since 2012, the rest are failing to tackle the problem - they have stayed stagnant or got worse during the same period. The global average has fallen to a new low of 42, while more than two-thirds of countries score below 50. And people are paying the price, as corruption leads to under-funded hospitals, unbuilt flood defences and blights the hopes and dreams of young people.

## The anti-corruption leadership gap

We're seeing a concerning picture of long-term decline in leadership to tackle corruption. Even established democracies, like the US, UK and New Zealand, are experiencing a drop in performance. The absence of bold leadership is leading to weaker standards and enforcement, lowering ambition on anti-corruption efforts around the world.

ASIA PACIFIC

### INDIA

Score  
**39/100** [What does the CPI score mean?](#)

Rank  
**91/182**

Score change  
↑ +1 since 2024

Share how your country is doing



# India's Corruption Paradox: Growth Without Trust?



**CONTEXT:** Transparency must become a national priority.

## India's Performance: Stagnation Amid Growth?

- Score - Stagnant - **38 ~ 41 over the last decade**
- Despite becoming a **major global economy**,  
**India's governance perception?**

## India performs:

- Better than **Bangladesh and Pakistan**
- Similar to **Sri Lanka**
- Slightly below **China (42)**

## Economic Impact of Corruption

- Global cost: **~5% of GDP**
- India-specific estimates:
  - Direct loss: **~0.5% of GDP**
  - Total impact: **1-1.5% of GDP**

## Structural Challenge? - Complex Compliance System

Example: A pharma startup must comply with **998 regulations**

## Positive Developments? - Digital Governance Gains - DPI

- Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)
- Digital Payments - **RBI Digital Payments Index**
- GST Network
- E-procurement systems

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**Corruption as an Economic and Strategic Challenge**

Corruption is not just a legal issue—it is a:

<b>Economic Constraint</b> Reduces Efficiency	<b>Governance Issue</b> Weakens Institutions	<b>Strategic Risk</b> Affects Investor Confidence
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➡ **For India's goal of becoming a \$10 Trillion Economy, Governance Reforms are Essential!**

## Causes of Corruption

### Identified in the Report?

- **Weak Justice and Rule of Law** - Judicial Appointments, Oversight Bodies
- **Undue Influence on Political Decision-Making** - Funding? - Crony Capitalism
- **Shrinking Civic Space and Media Freedom** - Surveillance, Violence
- **Failures in Public Financial Management** - 'NEXUS'
- **Complex Regulatory Structures** -
- **Social & Cultural Factors** -



# India's Corruption Paradox: Growth Without Trust?



**CONTEXT:** Transparency must become a national priority.

## CONSEQUENCES of CORRUPTION

The Costs of Corruption on Society

**Erosion of  
Justice & Human Rights**



Undermines the  
rule of law

**Democratic Decline  
& State Capture**



Power concentrated  
in the hands of the elite

**Suppression of  
Civic Space & Media**



Stifles free speech  
& dissent

**Deterioration of  
Public Services &  
Inequality**



Poor services &  
widening wealth gap

**Broader Societal &  
Economic Impacts**



Slows development  
& fuels instability

**Corruption Weakens Society, Hurts the Vulnerable, and Undermines Progress.**

### Recommended Pathways to Curb Corruption?

- Independent, and Transparent Justice Institutions
- Tackle Undue Influence on Political Decision-Making
- Foster Civic Space and Anti-Corruption Reporting
- Transparency and Oversight in Financial Management - Parliament, CAG, etc.
- Expand Digital Governance
- Strengthen Whistleblower Protection
- Citizen Participation & Social Accountability

### Mains Practise Question :

*The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025 highlights a persistent governance deficit in many emerging economies, including India. In this context, examine the causes and consequences of corruption in India. Also suggest a comprehensive way forward to address this issue.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**



# Judicial Push for Environmental CSR



**CONTEXT:** The right to conduct business is inseparably linked to the responsibility to restore our planet

## Background: CSR Framework and Environmental Neglect

- CSR - Companies Act, 2013
- Environmental Concerns - Underfunded
- India's **Net Zero target: 2070**
- Rising ecological challenges -

## Skewed CSR Spending Pattern - Sector-wise

### CSR Allocation (Last 7 years) -

- **Education:** ~38%
- **Healthcare:** ~22%
- **Rural Development:** ~10%
- **Environment:** only **7-9%**

## Positive Corporate Initiatives (Best Practices)

- Mahindra - Project Hariyali:
- ITC - Forestry
- TATA Group
- Coca-Cola & HUL
- JSW

## The Restoration Gap: A Major Concern

- Bonn Challenge Commitment - 26mn Hectares
- Corporate Contribution?
- Damage vs Restoration
- Rising ecological challenges -

## Why Environmental CSR is Neglected?

- **Preference for "Quick Wins"** - Short-Term Initiatives
- **Complexity of Restoration Projects** - Expertise?
- **Flawed Practices** - Miyawaki!
- **Institutional Issues** - Poor Support Systems

## Key Reforms Suggested

- **Redefine Success Metrics** - New Environmental Parameters -
- **Institutional Collaboration** - Depts, Universities, SAUs, NGOs, etc.
- **Long-Term Financing Mechanisms** -
- **Reimagining Corporate Governance** - Ecosystem-centric governance

### Section 135. Corporate Social Responsibility

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

Show Related Subordinates

(1) Every company having net worth of rupees five hundred crore or more, or turnover of rupees one thousand crore or more or a net profit of rupees five crore or more during <sup>1</sup>[the immediately preceding financial year] shall constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board consisting of three or more directors, out of which at least one director shall be an independent director:

<sup>2</sup>[Provided that where a company is not required to appoint an independent director under sub-section (4) of section 149, it shall have in its Corporate Social Responsibility Committee two or more directors.]

(2) The Board's report under sub-section (3) of section 134 shall disclose the composition of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

(3) The Corporate Social Responsibility Committee shall,—

(a) formulate and recommend to the Board, a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy which shall indicate the activities to be undertaken by the company <sup>3</sup>[in areas or subject, specified in Schedule VII];

(b) recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the activities referred to in clause (a); and

(c) monitor the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the company from time to time.

**Mains Practise Question : Examine the reasons for the skewed allocation of CSR funds and discuss how corporate participation can be strengthened for ecosystem restoration in the country. (10 Marks, 150 words)**



# Central Bureau Of Investigation



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Institutions/Organisations**

**Newspaper: The Hindu**

**Page Number: 4**

## Central Bureau of Investigation

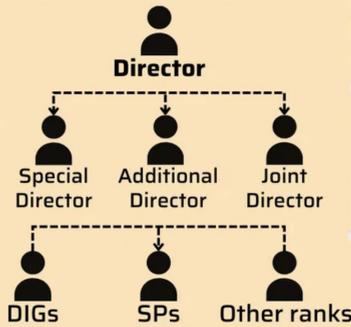
It is a **non-constitutional, non-statutory** body.

Derives power to investigate from **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.**

The CBI is India's nodal agency for Interpol investigations.

Functions under the **Ministry of Personnel, Pension, and Public Grievance.**

### COMPOSITION



### TENURE



The CBI Director has a **two-year tenure** secured by the **CVC Act, 2003.**

### APPOINTMENT OF CBI DIRECTOR

**Lokpal Act** governs the appointment of the CBI director.

The **Centre** appoints the director based on **recommendation of a search committee** comprising:

- **Prime Minister** (Chairperson)
- **CJI** (or SC Judge)
- **Leader of the Opposition**

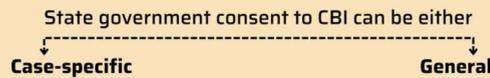
### POWERS / FUNCTIONS

- The **Central Government** can **authorize CBI** to investigate state crimes **with the consent of State Government.**
- CBI can **suo-moto** investigate offenses in the **Union Territories** (including Delhi).



### TYPES OF CONSENT TO CBI

Under **SECTION 6** of The **DSPE Act**, the CBI must obtain **state government consent** before investigating crimes.



**General consent** enables the CBI to investigate corruption cases **against central government employees** in a state seamlessly.

Otherwise, it would require consent in every case.

Withdrawal of consent means CBI needs **case-specific consent** to register any fresh case against a **Central Government official** or a **private person.**



**Punjab, Jharkhand, Kerala, West Bengal, Telangana, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka** have **withdrawn the general consent.**

### EXCEPTIONS TO GENERAL CONSENT

- ◆ CBI can investigate cases registered **before consent withdrawal.**
- ◆ Can investigate cases **involving other states** or residents of states that withdrew consent.
- ◆ **SC** and **HCs** can order CBI investigations nationwide **without state consent.**
- ◆ **Local court** approval allows CBI to investigate within the state.



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Organisations**

**Newspaper:**

*The Hindu*

**Page Number: 13**

- ❑ **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)** is an Indian **non-governmental trade association and advocacy group** that primarily serves the Indian technology industry.
- ❑ Founded in 1988, NASSCOM operates as a **non-profit organization** and serves as a key entity within the **Indian technology sector**.

Nasscom represents the voice of India's \$283 billion technology industry, focused on making India the global hub for innovation and IT services. At its core is the promise of making technology humancentric, enabling and enriching lives. With 3000+ member companies, from startups to multinationals, products to services, GCCs to engineering firms, our network spans the entire spectrum of the industry.

Nasscom is a purpose-driven association that works with industry, government, and academia to position India as a trusted hub for products, talent, and impact.



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Science & Tech**

**Newspaper: The Hindu**

**Page Number: SCIENCE**

## Biologics: Medications from Living Organisms

Biologics include medicines that generally come from living organisms, which can include animal cells and microorganisms, such as yeast and bacteria. That makes biologics different from conventional medications, which are commonly made from chemicals.

Biologics (including insulin) generally come from living organisms, so their nature varies, and their structures are generally more complex. Manufacturing biologics can be a more complicated process than making conventional drugs.

A biosimilar is a biologic that is highly similar to another biologic that is already FDA-approved (known as the original biologic). It is both normal and expected for both biosimilars and original biologics to have minor differences between batches of the same medication. This means that biologics cannot be copied exactly, and that is why biosimilars are not identical to their original biologic.

Biosimilars must have no clinically meaningful differences from their original biologic. On top of that, biosimilars must be:

- Given the same way (same route of administration).
- Have the same strength and dosage form.
- Have the same potential side effects.

This means that biosimilars provide the same treatment benefits and have the same risks as the original biologic.

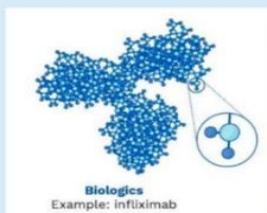
## "Biologics VS Biosimilars"

### "Biologics"

**ORIGIN :** Made from living cells

**Structure:** Large, complex

**Trials:** Full clinical trial

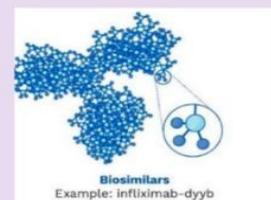


### "Biosimilar"

**Origin:** Copies made after patent expiry

**Structure:** Similar, not identical

**Trial:** Approved via comparability



## What is MCC and its Evolution?

### ■ About:

- The MCC is a **consensus document**. The political parties have themselves agreed to keep their conduct during elections in check and to work within the Code.
- It helps the EC in keeping with the mandate it has been given under Article 324 of the Constitution.
- **The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement.**
- The government cannot announce any financial grants, promise construction of roads or other facilities, and make any ad hoc appointments in government or public undertaking during the time the Code is in force.

### ■ Enforceability of MCC:

- Though the MCC **does not have any statutory backing**, it has come to acquire strength in the past decade because of its strict enforcement by the EC.
  - Certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the IPC 1860, CrPC 1973, and RPA 1951.

### ■ Evolution of MCC:

- **Kerala** was the first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections. In 1960, before the Assembly elections in the state, the administration prepared a draft code covering important aspects of electioneering such as processions, political rallies, and speeches.
- In 1974, the ECI released a formal MCC. It also set up bureaucratic bodies at the district level to oversee its implementation. Before 1977, MCC guided only political parties and candidates.
- In 1979, the Election Commission learned of ruling parties misusing power like monopolising public spaces and using public money for advertisement. The Election Commission revised MCC to include ruling political parties.
- The revised MCC had seven parts, with one for the ruling parties' behaviour after the election announcement.
  - Part I: General good behaviour for candidates and parties.
  - Parts II and III: Rules for public meetings and processions.
  - Parts IV and V: Guidelines for behaviour on polling day and at polling booths.
- The MCC has been revised on several occasions since 1979, with the last time being in the year 2014.



## Key Provisions of MCC:

### ■ General Conduct:

- No party or candidate shall include in any activity that may aggravate existing differences or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.
- Similarly, Section 123(3) of the RPA, 1951, disallows the usage of religion, race, caste, community, or language to promote enmity or hatred among the people and use of it as a political tool.
- Criticisms directed towards other political parties should be restricted to an evaluation of their policies, historical performance, and initiatives, refraining from personal attacks.

### ■ Meetings and Processions:

- Parties must inform the local police authorities of the venue and time of any meeting to enable the police to make adequate security arrangements.
- If two or more candidates plan processions along the same route, the political parties must establish contact in advance to ensure that the processions do not clash.
- Carrying and burning effigies representing members of other political parties is not allowed.

### ■ Polling Day:

- Only voters and those with a valid pass from the EC are allowed to enter polling booths.
- All authorised party workers at polling booths should be given suitable badges or identity cards.
  - Identity slips supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white) paper and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party.
  - The EC will appoint observers to whom any candidates may report problems regarding the conduct of the election.

### ■ Party in Power:

- The MCC incorporated certain restrictions in 1979, regulating the conduct of the party in power. Ministers must not combine official visits with election work or use official machinery for the same.



# Litani River



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS: Mapping**

**Newspaper: The Hindu**

**Page Number: 14**



**Q1. Regarding the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:**

1. The MCC comes into force on the date of the Election Commission's announcement of elections.
2. The MCC has statutory backing under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
3. The MCC applies to political parties, candidates, and the government in power.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following statements:**

1. It derives its investigative powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
2. The Director of CBI is appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Speaker, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
3. As per the DSPE (Amendment) Act, 2021, the Director's tenure can be extended for up to two years, in increments of one year at a time.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Consider the following statements :**

1. Biologics include medicines that generally come from living organisms, which can include animal cells & microorganisms.
2. A biosimilar is a biologic that contains similar versions of already approved biological drugs.
3. Both Biologics & Biosimilar are used to treat complex diseases such as Cancer & Autoimmune diseases.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: d**

**Q4. Which of the following statements regarding the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is NOT correct?**

- a) It is an Indian non-governmental trade association.
- b) It primarily serves the Indian technology industry.
- c) It was founded in the year of 1988.
- d) It operates as a statutory body.

**Answer: d**

**Q5. "Litani River" recently seen in the news flows through which of the following country/countries?**

1. Israel
2. Lebanon
3. Jordan
4. Iran

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

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

**Answer: b**





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