



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**4th May 2026**



**CONTEXT:** A recent fire in Delhi led to the death of 9 people, highlighting poor fire preparedness, violations of safety norms and delayed emergency response.

## Urban Fire

- It refers to fires occurring in urban areas, such as cities and towns, which are:
  - Densely populated
  - Have a high concentration of buildings, infrastructure, and human activity.
- India has witnessed **many tragic urban fire** incidents in the recent past:
  - Coaching Centre, Surat (2019) - 22 students killed
  - Gaming zone, Rajkot (2024) - 32 killed
  - Baby Care Hospital, Delhi (2024) - 7 newborn killed
  - Palam, Delhi (2026) - 9 of a family

## Data

- According to the "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2023", report by the **NCRB**, as many as **7,458 people were killed** in over 7,500 fire accidents in **2023**.



## Causes of Urban Fire Accidents

- **Structural** Causes
  - Congested urban areas
  - Informal settlements/slums
  - Illegal constructions
- **Regulatory** Failures
  - Non-compliance with fire norms
  - Weak inspections
  - Corruption
- **Electrical & Industrial** Hazards
  - Short circuits
  - Flammable materials storage
- **Emergency Response Gaps**
  - Narrow roads → fire trucks cannot access
  - Lack of equipment
- **Infrastructure Gaps**
  - Inadequate fire stations
  - Outdated equipment

## What is Urban Fire Safety?

- Measures to:
  - Prevent fire incidents
  - Ensure quick response
  - Minimise loss of life and property
- Includes:
  - Building safety
  - Fire services
  - Public awareness



**CONTEXT:** A recent fire in Delhi led to the death of 9 people, highlighting poor fire preparedness, violations of safety norms and delayed emergency response.

## Fire Safety Legal Framework in India

- Constitutional Basis:
  - Fire services fall under the **State List** and the **12th Schedule**
- **Disaster Management Act, 2005**
  - NDMA guidelines
- **National Building Code of India 2016:**
  - Serves as a central guideline covering fire prevention, building design, safe egress, and firefighting systems for buildings.
- **State-level Fire Laws:** NBC is recommendatory; states and urban local bodies must adopt it through local bye-laws.
- **Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016:**
  - By the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- **Scheme for Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services (2023–26):** To strengthen State fire services through modern equipment, infra upgrades, training, and digital systems.

## Impacts of Urban Fire Incidents

- **Human Loss**
  - Deaths, injuries
- **Economic Loss**
  - Property damage
  - Business disruption
- **Social Impact**
  - Displacement
  - Trauma
- **Governance Impact**
  - Erosion of public trust

### Do's

Install Smoke Alarms

Ensure all electrical wiring is checked periodically

Keep Fire Extinguishers Handy

Practice an Escape Plan

Regularly inspect LPG cylinders, tubes, and regulators

### Don'ts

Overload Sockets: Avoid plugging too many high-power appliances into a single socket

Leave Cooking Unattended

Store Flammables Near Heat

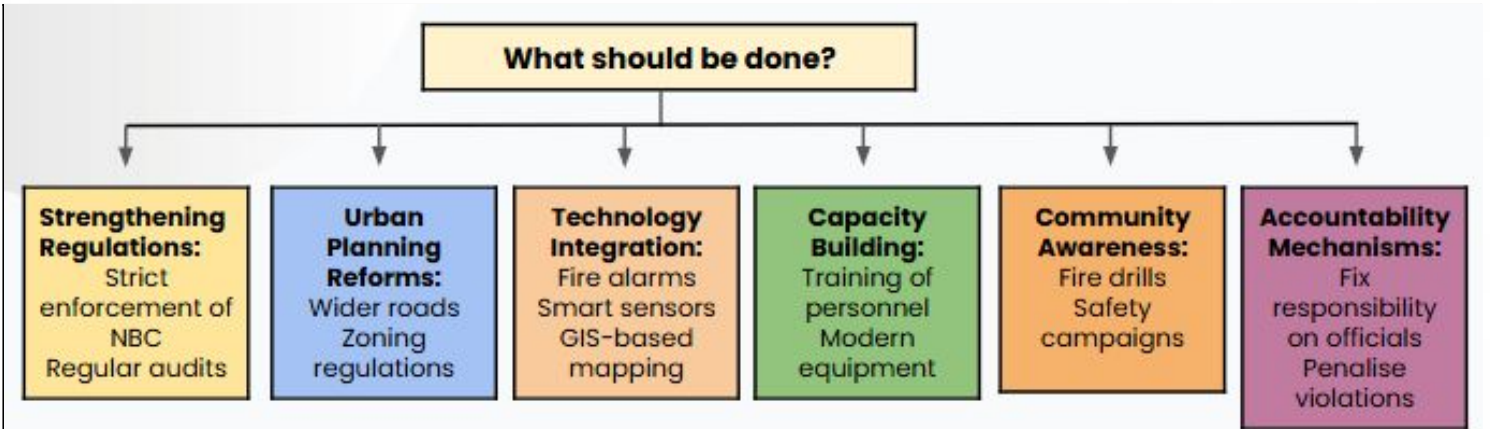
Avoid smoking inside the house, particularly in bed

Ignore Gas Smells: If you smell gas, do not turn on any electrical switches



# Urban Fire Safety

**CONTEXT:** A recent fire in Delhi led to the death of 9 people, highlighting poor fire preparedness, violations of safety norms and delayed emergency response.



## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

**Ques.** Urban fire incidents in India reflect systemic governance failures. Discuss.

(10 marks, 150 words)



**CONTEXT:** The Jabalpur tragedy underscores that for India to scale its tourism sector globally, it must bridge the gap between ambitious promotion and the actual enforcement of safety norms and infrastructure standards.

## Significance of Tourism in India

- **Economic Contribution**
  - According to the Ministry of Tourism, it contributes 5.22% to India's GDP (total impact), with 2.72% direct contribution.
  - Foreign Exchange Earnings
- **Multiplier effect on:**
  - Transport
  - Hospitality
  - Handicrafts
- **Employment Generation**
  - Labour-intensive sector
  - Supports 13.34% of total employment, including 5.82% direct employment
  - Skilled + unskilled workforce
- **Cultural Promotion**
  - Heritage
  - Traditions
  - Diversity
- **Regional Development**
  - Boosts remote areas
  - Improves connectivity and clean mobility
  - Hill states
  - Coastal regions
  - Boosts biodiversity conservation
- **Soft Power & Diplomacy**
  - Enhances India's global image

## Types of Tourism in India



## Data Bank

### Status of Tourism Sector in India

- **39th** India's rank in Travel and **Tourism Development Index** 2024 published by **World Economic Forum**.
- **24** India's rank in International Tourist Arrivals in 2023. (**UN World Tourism Barometer**)
- **18.89 million International Tourist Arrivals** in India during 2023.
- **9.52 Million Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs)** in India during 2023.



**CONTEXT:** The Jabalpur tragedy underscores that for India to scale its tourism sector globally, it must bridge the gap between ambitious promotion and the actual enforcement of safety norms and infrastructure standards.

## Initiatives in Union Budget 2026-27

- **Destination-led Development:** Focus on ecosystem-based, sustainable tourism.
- **Buddhist Circuit (North-East):** Develop pilgrimage tourism with better connectivity.
- **Eco-Tourism Expansion**
- **Global Big Cat Leadership:** Host Global Big Cat Summit 2026
- **Institutional & Skill Reforms:** Upgrade hospitality education and train tourist guides.
- **Digital & Heritage Infrastructure:** Create digital tourism grid and develop archaeological sites into experiential destinations.
- **Medical & Wellness Tourism:** Establish regional medical hubs integrating healthcare, AYUSH, and tourism.
- **Purvodaya Regional Push:** Develop tourism in eastern states with improved connectivity.

## Challenges in Tourism Sector in India

- **Infrastructure Gaps**
  - Poor connectivity
  - lack of global-standard amenities
- **Safety & Security Issues**
  - Concerns for tourists

## Major Schemes for Tourism Sector



**PRASHAD** (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive)  
Develops pilgrimage site to provide world-class amenities and infrastructure.



**Swadesh Darshan**  
Creates themed tourist circuits for integrated, heritage-rich experiences



**Incredible India 2.0**  
Promotes India as a unique cultural and heritage destination to domestic and international tourists.



**Dekho Apna Desh**  
Encourages domestic tourism through initiatives and awareness campaigns.



**MICE Tourism** (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions)  
Boosts business travel by providing support for hosting events and conferences.



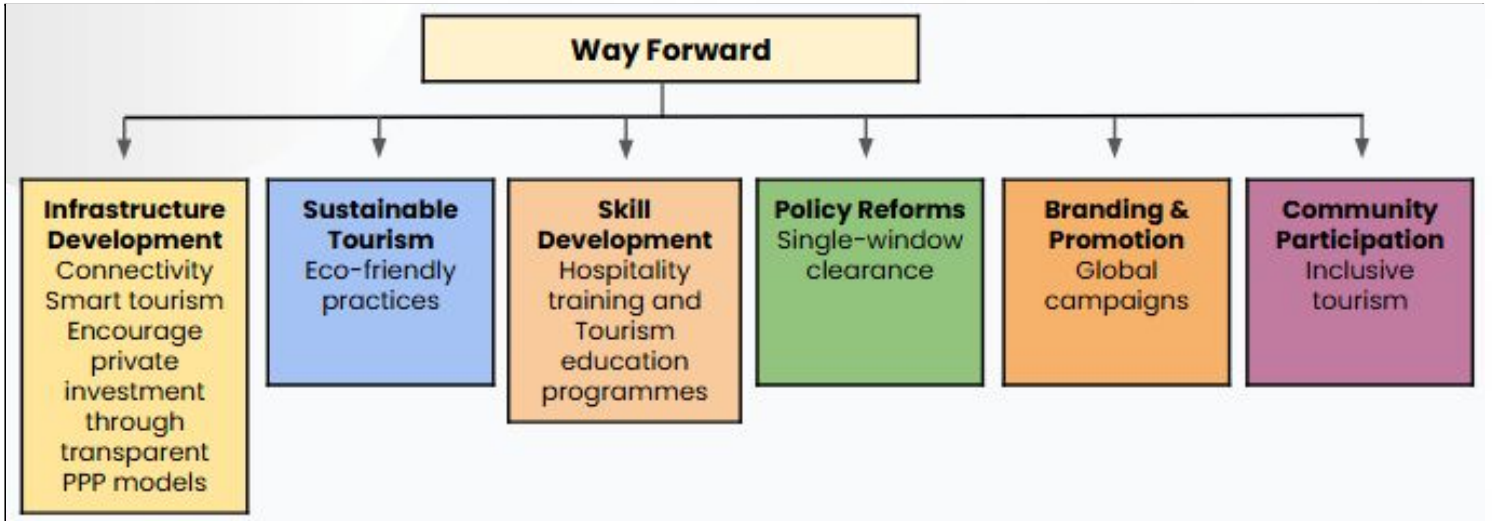
**NIDHI** (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry)  
Collects data on tourism infrastructure to aid in policies and planning.

- **Environmental Degradation**
  - Over-tourism
  - Pollution
- **Skill Deficit**
  - Lack of trained workforce
- **Policy & Coordination Issues**
  - Fragmented governance
- **Seasonality**
  - Uneven tourist flow
- **Crowd Management Challenges**
  - Large events like the Maha Kumbh Mela, attracting up to 40 cr visitors
- **Exchange Rate Volatility**
  - A weak rupee impacts foreign tourists' spending power, with the currency weakening by 3% in 2023.



# Tourism Sector in India

**CONTEXT:** The Jabalpur tragedy underscores that for India to scale its tourism sector globally, it must bridge the gap between ambitious promotion and the actual enforcement of safety norms and infrastructure standards.



## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

**Ques.** Discuss the role of tourism in India's economic development. What challenges does it face?

(10 Marks, 150 words)



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Geography – Places in News

**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number:** 1

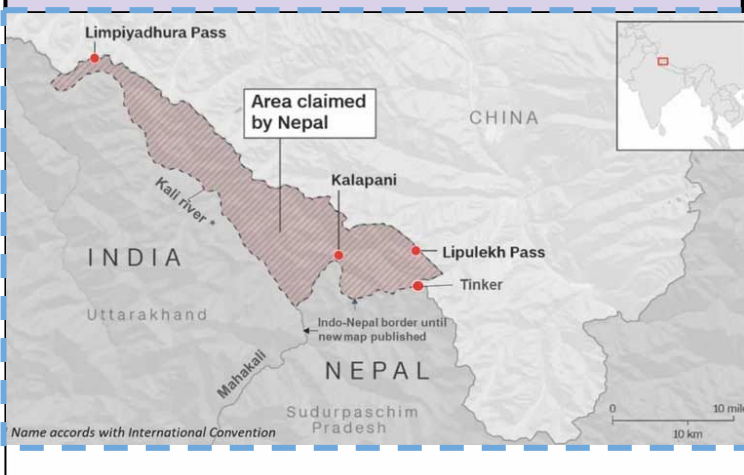
## Lipulekh Pass

- Location: High mountain pass in **Uttarakhand** (Pithoragarh district)
- At the tri-junction of **India–Nepal–China** (Tibet)
- Altitude: ~5,000 m (approx.)
- Mountain Range:
  - Himalayas (**Kumaon** region)
- Strategic Importance:
  - Key route for India–China trade
  - Important for defence logistics
- **Dispute Aspect:**
  - Claimed by Nepal
  - The **1816 Sugauli Treaty** established the **Kali River** as the border.
  - In 2020, Nepal passed a constitutional amendment and issued a new map, asserting claims over Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani.

- **Religious Significance:**
  - Route for **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**
  - Since 1962, Kalapani has been manned by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police** (ITBP).
- **Trade Aspect:**
  - It is the first Indian border post opened for trade with China in 1992
  - Ancient Trade Route

## Exam Traps

- Located in Himachal Pradesh → WRONG
- Lies on India–Bhutan border → WRONG
- Not connected to Kailash Mansarovar → WRONG
- Located in eastern sector → WRONG
- No border dispute involved → WRONG



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity – Regulatory Body**

**Newspaper: The Indian Express; Page Number: 13**

## Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)

- Type: Executive department of Govt
- Established: **1954**
- HQ: **Mumbai**
- Directly under the **PMO**
- Head: Prime Minister (Minister in charge)
- **Objective:**
  - Development of nuclear energy & atomic research
  - Use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes
- **Key Functions:**
  - Nuclear power generation
  - Research in nuclear science & technology
  - Production of nuclear fuel
  - Radiation technologies (medicine, agriculture)

## Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)

- It is the **apex governing body** of the DAE
- With a government resolution dated March 1, 1958, the AEC was established.
  - The AEC is responsible for **formulating the policy** of the DAE.
  - The secretary to the government of India in the DAE is ex-officio chairman of the AEC.

- **Major Organizations under DAE:**
  - Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
  - Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)
  - Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)
- **Legal Framework:**
  - Guided by **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**
  - Recent updates designated DAE as the nodal agency under the **SHANTI Act** (Strategic Harnessing of Atomic energy for National Transformation and Innovation)
- India's Nuclear Programme:
  - Oversees **3-stage nuclear** programme
  - **Small Modular** Reactor programme

## Exam Traps

- Works under Ministry of Power → **WRONG**
- Headed by President → **WRONG**
- Established after 1990 → **WRONG**
- Deals only with electricity generation → **WRONG**
- No role in research → **WRONG**

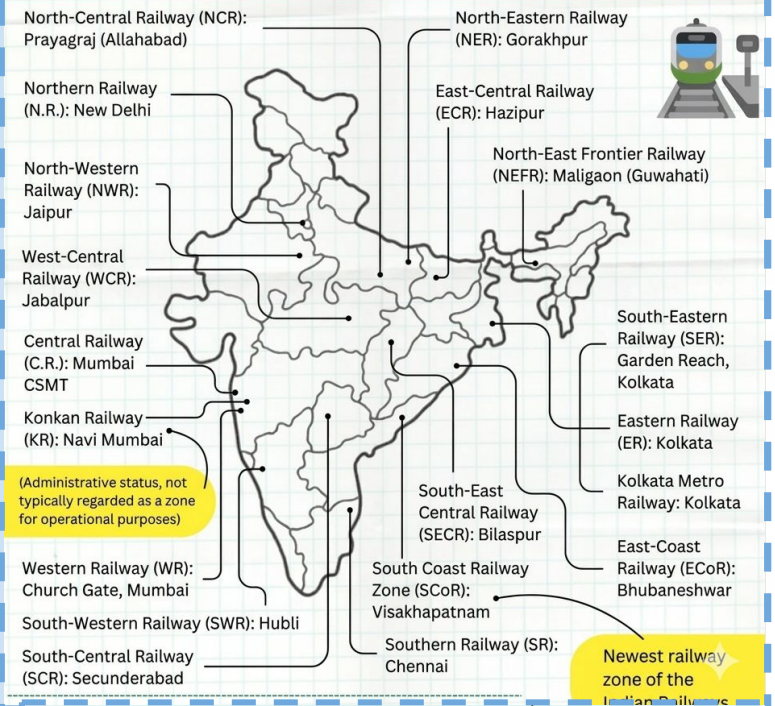


**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Railway Infrastructure**

**Newspaper: The Indian Express; Page Number: 13**

## South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)

- New zone of Indian Railways (18th)
- Announced: 2019
- HQ: **Visakhapatnam**
- Purpose:
  - Improve railway administration & connectivity in Andhra Pradesh
- Formed By Reorganizing:
  - Parts of South Central Railway (SCR)
  - Parts of East Coast Railway (ECoR)
- Jurisdiction (Proposed):
  - Includes **Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal** and **Visakhapatnam** divisions.
- Key Feature:
  - Created to fulfil commitments under **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**
- Current Status:
  - **Yet to begin** operations (ongoing process)



## VIZAG SET TO BE HEADQUARTERS

**₹43 lakh** announced in railways pink book

► The South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone was announced on February 27, 2019

► No announced in budget regarding project in 2021

► Visakhapatnam has nearly 200 acres of vacant railway land to be used for the project

**₹3cr** announced for project in Budget 2020



## Exam Traps

- Headquarters in Hyderabad → WRONG
- Fully operational since 2019 → WRONG
- Created from Northern Railway → WRONG
- Covers entire South India → WRONG
- Includes only new divisions, no reorganization → WRONG



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Geography

**Newspaper:** The Indian Express; **Page Number:** 12

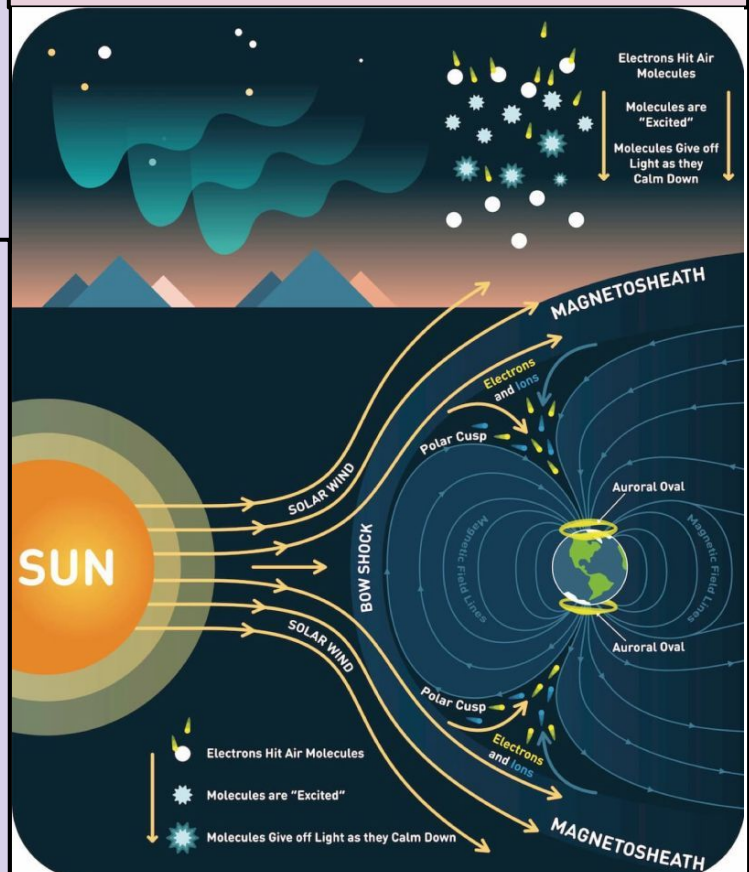
## Norway's Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)

- **Vibrant natural light** display in the sky.
- Scientific Basis:
  - Occurs when **charged particles** (electrons/protons) from the sun interact with **Earth's magnetic field** and **ionizing gases** (oxygen, nitrogen) in the upper atmosphere (thermosphere)
- Location:
  - Seen in **high-latitude** regions like **Norway**, Sweden, Finland, Iceland
  - Located in the Arctic "Northern Lights Belt" (**65–72°N**)

- **Colours (Important):**
  - When charged solar particles collide with atoms in Earth's atmosphere, they transfer energy, "exciting" the gases which then release light as they return to their normal state.
  - Green (oxygen – most common)
  - Red, purple (nitrogen, oxygen variations)
- **Altitude:**
  - Occurs at ~80–300 km above Earth
- Related Phenomenon:
  - Southern Hemisphere → **Aurora Australis**
- Best Time:
  - **Winter months** (dark nights)
- Magnetic Link:
  - Occurs near Earth's magnetic poles

## Exam Traps

- Caused by reflection of sunlight → **WRONG**
- Occurs near equator → **WRONG**
- Seen only in Norway → **WRONG**
- Happens in lower atmosphere (troposphere) → **WRONG**
- Only one colour (green) → **WRONG**



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Biology**

**Newspaper: The Indian Express; Page Number: 14**

Across India, where summer temperatures are now routinely touching 44-47 degrees Celsius, hospitals are seeing a rise in heat-related electrolyte disturbances.

**Drinking too little water is as dangerous as drinking large amounts without electrolytes**

Sweating is the body's primary cooling mechanism. As sweat evaporates from the skin, it dissipates heat and helps regulate body temperature. Yet sweat is not merely water. It carries with it sodium, chloride, potassium and other essential

electrolytes — charged minerals that regulate nerve impulses, muscle contractions, fluid balance and heart rhythm. Under normal conditions, these losses are modest and easily replenished through regular food and drink. But under prolonged exposure to extreme heat, particularly when coupled with physical exertion, the losses can be significant.

In India, the common advice during summer is to “drink a lot of water.” But water alone cannot replace the electrolytes lost. In fact, when consumed excessively without adequate salt intake, it can dilute sodium levels in the bloodstream, creating precisely the kind of dangerous imbalance seen in the young executive's case. You need electrolyte-infused water. Sodium regulates the movement of water into and out of cells, particularly in the brain. When sodium levels drop too low, water shifts into cells, causing them to swell. In the brain, where the skull leaves no room for expansion, this swelling can rapidly become life-threatening. The earliest symptoms are often deceptively mild — headache, fatigue, dizziness, nausea and confusion. As sodium levels continue to fall, drowsiness deepens into altered consciousness. Seizures may occur. In severe cases, patients can slip into coma. What makes hyponatremia especially dangerous during Indian summers is that it often affects the young. Outdoor workers, delivery personnel, field executives, traffic police officers and construction workers are particularly vulnerable.

Then there is hypernatremia, which develops when water loss exceeds replacement. This typically occurs when someone exposed to intense heat sweats profusely but fails to drink enough fluids. As body water content drops, sodium becomes increasingly concentrated in the blood. It causes cells to shrink as water is drawn out of them. Intense thirst and dryness of the mouth progress to irritability, restlessness, muscle twitching, confusion and seizures. In severe cases, hypernatremia can

## Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)

- Mixture of **glucose + electrolytes** used to treat dehydration due to diarrhoea
- Recommended by: **WHO & UNICEF**
- **Composition:**
  - Glucose
  - Sodium chloride (NaCl)
  - Potassium chloride (KCl)
  - Trisodium citrate / bicarbonate
- Working Principle:
  - Based on **co-transport of sodium & glucose in intestine** → enhances water absorption
- Use:
  - Diarrhoea, cholera, dehydration
  - Especially for **children under 5**
  - Used under National Health Mission (NHM)
  - Simple, low-cost, life-saving intervention

## Exam Traps

- Contains antibiotics → **WRONG**
- Used only for adults → **WRONG**
- Works by killing bacteria → **WRONG**
- Pure salt solution → **WRONG**
- Only used in hospitals → **WRONG**



**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical location of the Lipulekh Pass:**

1. It is situated in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It forms a strategic tri-junction between the international borders of India, Nepal, and China(Tibet).
3. It serves as the most crucial transit route for the annual Amarnath Yatra.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) does not fall under the administrative control of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. The DAE is designed as a specialised executive department that operates directly under the Prime Minister.

**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**

**Q3. With reference to the South Coast Railway Zone, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the 18th railway zone of India, with its headquarters situated in Visakhapatnam.
2. It has been fully operational since 2019 and currently handles all passenger and freight traffic for the eastern seaboard.
3. The zone was created to fulfil the statutory commitments made under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

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

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None

**Answer: c**

**Q4. Consider the following pairs of Atmospheric Gases and the corresponding Aurora Color produced upon their excitation:**

Gas	Primary Aurora Colour
1. High-altitude Oxygen	Pure Red
2. Molecular Nitrogen	Blue or Purplish-red
3. Carbon Dioxide	Bright Orange

**How many pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS):**

1. Drinking large quantities of plain water is highly recommended as a direct substitute for ORS to treat severe dehydration caused by cholera.
2. Trisodium citrate or sodium bicarbonate is added to the ORS formula to correct metabolic acidosis caused by severe fluid loss.
3. The World Health Organisation recently removed Potassium Chloride from the standard ORS formula to prevent hyperkalemia in infants.

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

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

**Answer: a**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

---

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)