

FINDER

FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER



Click here
for daily
MCQs

THE HINDU

Flawed by design, exclusionary in impact

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 2

Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

Why in Focus?

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** to verify electoral rolls.
- However, **concerns have emerged over large-scale voter deletions, procedural irregularities and the possible exclusion of eligible voters**, raising questions about universal adult suffrage and electoral integrity.

Key Highlights

- The **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** is a **comprehensive exercise undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI)** to verify and update electoral rolls.
- **Around 13.37 crore names were removed at the draft stage across 30 States and Union Territories** during three phases.
- **The voter deletion rate increased from 8.3% in Bihar to 12.9% in Phase 2 and 17% in Phase 3**, raising concerns about the exclusion of eligible voters.

- **The SIR process shifts the burden of proving eligibility onto voters**, requiring them to establish links with older electoral rolls or produce supporting documents.
- **Procedural concerns include the use of Form 6** for re-enrolment, software-based discrepancy checks, centralised changes through ERONet and the absence of recent Census data to verify electoral rolls against population estimates.

Form 6: It is the application form used to register as a new voter in India. Deleted voters must also use it to re-enter the electoral roll.

ERONet: The Electoral Roll Officers' Network (ERONet) enables centralised management of electoral rolls, but concerns have emerged that local electoral officials cannot adequately track centrally made changes.

Implications

- **Errors in verification** may result in eligible citizens losing their voting rights.
- **Migrants, women, poor citizens and people with limited literacy** may face difficulties proving their eligibility.
- **Software-based discrepancies and outdated records** may lead to the deletion of genuine voters.
- **Centralised changes and inadequate audits** can weaken public trust in the **electoral process**.



- **Delayed appeals and complex re-enrolment procedures** may prevent eligible voters from participating in elections.

Way Forward

- **Restore door-to-door verification** by Booth Level Officers (BLOs).
- **Ensure notice, a fair hearing and an opportunity to appeal** before deleting disputed names.
- **Conduct independent audits of electoral rolls** and publish transparent deletion and restoration data.
- **Simplify re-enrolment for eligible voters whose names** have been wrongly deleted.
- **Strengthen coordination between the ECI, State election officials** and the judiciary while safeguarding voter inclusion.

Mains Question

The integrity of electoral rolls is essential for free and fair elections, but revision exercises must not undermine universal adult suffrage. Discuss the concerns surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in India and suggest measures to ensure inclusive electoral participation. (15 marks, 250 words)

Calibrating India's inbound investment framework

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 3

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Why in Focus?

- India recorded a **record \$94.8 billion in gross inward FDI in FY 2025–26, ranking 11th among the world's leading FDI destinations**, according to the article.

FDI (Foreign Direct Investment): Investment made by an individual or company from one country into a business or enterprise in another country to establish a lasting interest and significant influence over its operations.

- However, **regulatory fragmentation, compliance costs and delays in project approvals continue to hinder the timely deployment** of committed investments.

Key Highlights

- **India attracted approximately \$7 billion in greenfield data centre investments** during the first three quarters of 2025.
- The **four labour codes, consolidating 29 central labour laws**, require State-level rule notifications for effective implementation.

The Four Labour Codes: It consolidated 29 central labour laws into the Code on Wages, 2019; Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

- The **expansion of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) increased certification costs and delayed access to imported components**, affecting domestic MSMEs.

Quality Control Orders (QCOs): Government orders that make compliance with specified quality standards and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification mandatory for certain products to ensure safety, quality and reliability.

- India **had nearly 48 million pending court cases as of April**, highlighting the need for faster commercial dispute resolution.
- The **India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) includes a historic \$100-billion investment target**.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) **introduced a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with a 12-week deadline for investment approvals**, but compliance remains uneven.
- **India's mobile-phone production increased 33-fold since FY 2014–15**, demonstrating the benefits of coordinated policy support.

Implications

- **Regulatory fragmentation between the Centre and States** can delay investment implementation.
- **High compliance costs and inconsistent rules**

can discourage foreign investors and burden domestic MSMEs.

- **Judicial delays and lengthy dispute-resolution processes** can increase business uncertainty.
- **Uneven implementation of labour codes and investment-approval deadlines** can affect ease of doing business.
- **Weak investor-protection mechanisms may reduce confidence** in long-term investment commitments.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Centre–State coordination to ensure uniform and timely implementation** of reforms.
- **Rationalise QCOs and simplify certification procedures without compromising** product quality.
- **Strengthen commercial courts, mediation centres and institutional arbitration** to reduce dispute-resolution delays.
- **Establish transparent, time-bound investment approvals with clear accountability** for implementing agencies.
- **Develop predictable investor-protection frameworks** through bilateral investment treaties and trade agreements.

Mains Question

Despite rising foreign direct investment inflows, India continues to face challenges in translating investment commitments into actual capital deployment. Examine the major regulatory and institutional bottlenecks and suggest measures to address them. (15 marks, 250 words)

Closing the gaps in early childhood eye care

Prelims: General Paper 1

Economic and Social Development- Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Mains: General studies 2

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in Focus?

- **The World Health Organization (WHO)** estimates that around **19 million children worldwide have visual impairment**, including 1.4 million who are blind. In India, nearly half of childhood blindness cases are preventable or treatable through early detection and timely treatment.

Key Highlights

- **Early detection is crucial** because a child's vision develops through the interaction between the eyes and the brain. Delayed treatment of conditions such as cataracts can cause **amblyopia (lazy eye)**, leading to permanent vision loss.
- Many children regularly visit health facilities for **immunisation and routine check-ups**, but their vision problems remain unnoticed due to inadequate screening.
- Karnataka screened **62.45 lakh children aged 6-16 years in 2023-24**, but only around **1.2 lakh received spectacles**. This indicates a significant gap between screening and treatment.
- The **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)** aims to identify and manage health conditions in children **from birth to 18 years**. However, a study found that only **47.4% of children** identified with health problems received further care, highlighting weaknesses in follow-up.
- Frontline workers, including **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)**, may **lack adequate training** to identify eye diseases in infants and young children who cannot read or respond to conventional eye tests.
- The **red reflex test** uses light to identify abnormalities such as **cataracts and retinoblastoma** (eye cancer). It takes **less than 30 seconds** and does not require verbal cooperation from the child.
- **Tele-ophthalmology** (providing eye-care services remotely through digital technology) and **digital referral systems** can connect frontline workers with specialists and help children receive timely treatment.

Implications

- **Delayed diagnosis** can cause permanent vision loss because some eye conditions must



be treated during early childhood.

- **Poor coordination** between immunisation services, routine health check-ups and vision screening allows treatable eye diseases to go unnoticed.
- **Weak referral and follow-up systems** prevent many children from receiving treatment even after their problems are identified.
- **Inadequate training of frontline workers** limits early detection, particularly among infants and children who cannot communicate their visual difficulties.
- **Financial and logistical barriers**, including travel costs, parental concerns and delays in receiving spectacles, can prevent families from completing treatment.
- Childhood visual impairment can affect **education, independence and future opportunities**, particularly among children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Way Forward

- Integrate basic vision screening into **immunisation schedules, newborn care and routine paediatric check-ups** so that every healthcare visit becomes an opportunity for early detection.
- **Train ASHA workers, nurses, paediatricians and RBSK teams** to identify warning signs and conduct simple visual assessments.
- Establish clear **referral pathways and use digital tracking systems** to ensure that every child identified with an eye problem receives appropriate treatment.
- Ensure **affordable and timely access** to spectacles, medicines, surgery and specialist consultations through public health facilities and school health programmes.
- Focus on **treatment outcomes rather than screening numbers alone**. Strengthen parental awareness and monitor how many children are diagnosed, treated and followed up.

Mains Question

“Preventable childhood blindness in India reflects not only gaps in healthcare access but also weaknesses in early screening and referral mechanisms.” Discuss the challenges in preventing

childhood visual impairment and suggest measures to strengthen India’s child eye-care system. (15 marks, 250 words)

Why stubble fires keep coming back

Prelims: General Paper 1

General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change.

Mains: General studies 3

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Why in Focus?

- Stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh contributes to **air pollution in North India**, especially during October and November. The issue highlights the need to balance **environmental protection, groundwater conservation and farmers’ livelihoods**.

Key Highlights

- **Stubble burning** is the practice of setting fire to crop residues left after harvesting. It releases **particulate matter, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds** (VOCs-carbon containing chemicals that easily evaporate into the air), contributing to smog and respiratory problems.
- Stubble burning also reduces **soil fertility** by destroying nutrients and organic matter. The **heat can reduce soil moisture**, increasing dependence on chemical fertilisers.
- The **Punjab Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Act, 2009** delayed paddy sowing and transplantation to conserve groundwater.
- **Combine harvesters** leave substantial crop residue in the fields. The short time available, high labour costs and expensive machinery make residue removal difficult, encouraging farmers to burn stubble.
- The **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** and government procurement system favour paddy and wheat. Between 2012 and 2024, procurement accounted for **87% of paddy production and 70% of wheat production in Punjab**, discouraging crop diversification.



- Solutions include **in-situ management**, which uses machines such as **Happy Seeders and Super Seeders** to manage residue within fields, and **ex-situ management**, which uses residue to produce **bioethanol and compressed biogas** (CBG).
- Punjab and Haryana have adopted machinery support, financial incentives and enforcement measures. However, **high costs, machinery shortages and limited industrial demand** remain major barriers.

Implications

- **Economic dependence on paddy and wheat** discourages farmers from shifting to alternative crops because government procurement provides relatively assured income.
- **Groundwater depletion** is aggravated by water-intensive paddy cultivation. Free or heavily subsidised electricity further encourages groundwater extraction.
- **High machinery costs and limited availability** prevent many farmers from managing crop residue effectively during the short sowing window.
- **Weak markets for crop residues** limit ex-situ solutions. Without assured buyers and remunerative prices, transporting and processing paddy straw may not be economically viable.
- **Inaccurate measurement of stubble burning** can lead to misleading estimates. Polar-orbiting satellites may miss fires occurring outside their observation times, particularly in the evening.
- **Excessive dependence on penalties** may burden farmers without addressing the economic causes of burning.

Way Forward

- Promote **crop diversification** by providing assured procurement, remunerative prices and market support for pulses, oilseeds and millets.
- Expand access to **affordable crop-residue management machinery** through subsidies and Custom Hiring Centres, especially for small and marginal farmers.
- Develop **industries using paddy straw**, including bioethanol and compressed

biogas plants, and ensure farmers receive remunerative prices for crop residues.

- Improve **satellite-based monitoring** by combining polar and geostationary satellite observations with ground-level verification.
- Adopt a **balanced approach combining incentives, awareness and enforcement**. Strengthen coordination between governments, agricultural universities, farmer organisations and industries.

Mains Question

“Stubble burning in North India is not merely an environmental problem but also a consequence of agricultural policies and economic incentives.” Examine its causes and consequences and suggest sustainable measures to address the issue. (15 marks, 250 words)

KEYWORDS

Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)

- The Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is an **industry- and academia-led platform facilitated by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications**, to develop India's 6G ecosystem.
- As of 15 July 2026, **B6GA had expanded to 90 member organisations, including telecom companies, startups, research institutions and academic bodies**.
- Its **primary objective is to promote indigenous 6G research and development and position India as a global leader in next-generation telecommunications**.
- B6GA **supports India's participation in international 6G standardisation through organisations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
- The alliance **promotes industry-academia collaboration, intellectual property creation, advanced research and domestic manufacturing to strengthen India's self-reliance in telecom technology**.



Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a **constitutional body established under Article 279A of the Indian Constitution through the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016.**
- The **Union Finance Minister is the Chairperson of the GST Council, and the Union Minister of State in charge of Finance or Revenue and the State Finance Ministers are its members.**
- The **GST Council recommends GST rates, exemptions, model GST laws, principles of levy and other matters** relating to the implementation of GST.
- **Decisions of the GST Council require a three-fourths weighted majority of the members present and voting, with the Centre having one-third of the total weighted votes and the States collectively having two-thirds.**
- The **Supreme Court, in Union of India v. Mohit Minerals Pvt. Ltd. (2022), held that the recommendations of the GST Council have persuasive value and are not binding on Parliament and State Legislatures.**

Places in News

Chile

- India's public sector enterprise, **Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)**, is pursuing the acquisition of **four copper blocks in Chile** and plans to form a joint venture to diversify operational risks.
- **Chile is the world's largest copper producer**, making it important to the global supply chains for **electric vehicles and renewable energy.**



- Chile is part of South America's **Lithium Triangle**, along with **Argentina and Bolivia**. The region contains some of the world's largest lithium reserves, much of it found in salt flats.
- **Geographical location** – Chile is a long, narrow country along the western coast of South America, bordered by the **Andes Mountains to the east** and the **Pacific Ocean to the west.**
- **Atacama Desert** – Located in northern Chile, it is widely regarded as the world's driest **non-polar desert**. Its extreme dryness is influenced by the **cold Humboldt Current** and the **rain shadow effect of the Andes Mountains**

Personality in news

Anne Carson

- Canadian poet, essayist, and translator **Anne Carson** is in the news for winning the **2026 Nobel Prize in Literature** at the age of **76.**



- She was awarded the prestigious prize by the **Swedish Academy** for her **bold and inventive literary works** that create new forms for contemporary literature through a playful dialogue with **classical traditions.**
- With a strong academic background as a **classicist** (a scholar of ancient Greek and Roman culture), Carson is highly regarded for drawing upon ancient Greek and Roman texts, such as the works of **Sappho and Homer**, and reinterpreting them for modern readers.
- Her writing style is known for **blending literary genres**, frequently blurring the boundaries between **poetry, prose, fiction, essays, and critical analysis** within a single literary project.
- Some of her most critically acclaimed books include **Eros the Bittersweet, Autobiography of Red, Men in the Off Hours, and The Beauty of the Husband.**