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# **VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY** & **STUDY CENTRE**

## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION**

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## **Table of Contents**

1. India's First Comprehensive AI Governance Guidelines .....	2
2. Individual Climate Action – Key Summary .....	3
3. Public Perceptions on Climate Change and COP30.....	4
4. RBI's Proposed Current Account Framework .....	5
5. India–Russia Migration and Mobility Agreement .....	7
6. India's Rising Solar Power Curtailment – Summary .....	8
7. India Turns Net Exporter of Finished Steel – Summary .....	9
8. Women as the “Largest Minority” – Supreme Court Observation .....	10
9. Delhi Pollution Crisis and Data Reporting Issues – Summary .....	11
10. South Asia and COP30 Climate Priorities – Summary .....	12
11. India–Bhutan Relations and Legacy of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck (K4).....	13
12. 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) – Summary .....	15



## 1. India's First Comprehensive AI Governance Guidelines

### Key Highlights (5–6 Points)

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released India's first national framework to govern AI, structured around six pillars: infrastructure, capacity building, policy & regulation, risk mitigation, accountability, and institutional mechanisms.
- Three new bodies are proposed: **AI Safety Institute** (for safety testing & oversight), **Technology & Policy Expert Committee** (for advisory inputs), and **AI Governance Group** (for coordination & monitoring).
- The plan unfolds in phases: **Short-term** (setting governance bodies, training, risk frameworks), **Medium-term** (regulatory sandboxes, standards, law amendments), and **Long-term** (AI safety testing and global cooperation).
- Existing laws will be strengthened to regulate AI applications: **DPDP Act, 2023** (data privacy), **IT Act, 2000** (accountability/cybersecurity), **Copyright Act, 1957** (ownership of AI-generated content), and consumer/competition/criminal laws for harm or fraud.
- The guidelines emphasize an **innovation-friendly approach**, preferring **voluntary ethical practices** over heavy compliance, aiming to boost startups, research, and investments.
- However, clarity on **enforcement mechanisms** is still evolving, potentially causing interpretation gaps across sectors.

### Key Concepts / Definitions

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as reasoning, learning, and decision-making.
- **AI Governance:** Framework of rules, norms, and institutions created to ensure safe, fair, transparent, and accountable development and use of AI.
- **Regulatory Sandbox:** A controlled environment where new technologies are tested with relaxed regulations before full-scale implementation.



### Constitutional & Legal Linkages

- **Article 21 (Right to Privacy):** AI systems must comply with privacy safeguards as affirmed in the Puttaswamy judgment.
- **DPDP Act, 2023:** Regulates collection, processing, storage, and transfer of personal data.
- **IT Act, 2000 & IT Rules:** Provide legal backing for cybersecurity, platform accountability, and content regulation.

### Global Context

- EU AI Act (2024) uses a **risk-based approach** to classify AI systems.
- China regulates **generative AI services** for safety and information control.
- Singapore's updated **Model AI Governance Framework (2024)** guides ethical deployment.



- Canada's **AIDA Bill** targets high-impact AI systems.

### Conclusion

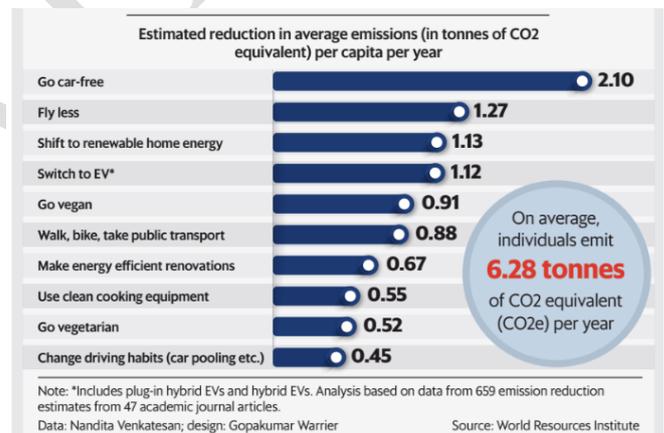
India's first AI governance guidelines represent a balanced approach that seeks to promote innovation while ensuring ethical, transparent, and safe use of AI. By leveraging existing laws and creating dedicated oversight institutions, India aims to build a responsible AI ecosystem that aligns domestic development with global standards. Yet, operational clarity and enforcement mechanisms will determine real-world effectiveness.

### UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS Paper 2 (Governance, e-Governance, Policy, Rights)** and **GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech – AI, Digital Infrastructure, Cybersecurity)**.
- Useful for **Essay** topics on technology ethics, innovation vs regulation, and digital society.
- Relevant for **Science & Tech Current Affairs** and **Mains + Interview** discussions on emerging tech governance.

## 2. Individual Climate Action – Key Summary

- The World Resources Institute study identifies **going car-free** as the **most impactful individual action** to reduce annual carbon emissions, followed by **flying less** and **shifting households to renewable energy** sources.
- **Transport choices** have the highest emissions reduction potential: using **public transport, cycling, walking, carpooling, and switching to electric vehicles** significantly lowers carbon footprints.
- **Dietary shifts** such as **vegan or vegetarian diets** help reduce emissions linked to livestock production and land-use change, though their impact varies across regions.
- **Household-level interventions** like **energy-efficient appliances, clean cooking technology, and home energy retrofits** reduce energy demand and promote sustainable living.
- The effectiveness of these actions **increases when adopted collectively** and when supported by **public policy**, such as promoting renewable energy, improving public transport, and discouraging fossil fuel subsidies.
- Individual actions alone are not a substitute for systemic change, but they **complement national commitments** to climate targets under global agreements such as the **Paris Agreement (2015)**.



### Key Terms / Concepts

- **Carbon Footprint:** Total greenhouse gases emitted directly or indirectly by an individual, product, or activity.
- **CO2e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent):** Standard measure to compare emissions from different greenhouse gases based on their warming impact.



- **Sustainable Mobility:** Transport modes that minimize environmental harm (public transit, cycling, EVs).
- **Clean Cooking:** Transition from biomass fuels to LPG, biogas, or electric induction systems to reduce indoor pollution and emissions.

### Constitutional & Policy Linkages (India)

- **Article 48A:** State must protect and improve environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- **Article 51A(g):** Fundamental duty of citizens to protect and improve the natural environment.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** Focus on renewable energy, sustainable habitat, water conservation, and efficiency.
- **Panchamrit Commitments at COP26:** India's pledge toward net-zero emissions by 2070.

### Conclusion

Individual behavioral choices play an essential role in climate mitigation, especially in sectors like transportation, energy use, and food consumption. While systemic reforms and technological shifts are necessary at the national and global scale, widespread public adoption of low-carbon lifestyles strengthens climate resilience and accelerates progress toward sustainability goals.

### UPSC Relevance

- Useful for **GS Paper 3 (Environment & Climate Change, Sustainable Development)**.
- Supports **Essay topics** on climate responsibility, lifestyle for environment (LiFE), and energy transition.
- Helpful in **Mains and Interview** for discussions on climate policy, individual responsibility, and India's climate commitments.

## 3. Public Perceptions on Climate Change and COP30

- Recent surveys across middle-income countries show **younger adults (18–34 years)** are significantly more willing to make lifestyle changes to mitigate climate change compared to older age groups, particularly in nations like Indonesia and Turkey.
- Despite experiencing heatwaves, floods and pollution, **concern about climate change has decreased** since 2015 in countries such as India, Brazil, and Nigeria. In India, those “very concerned” reduced from 69% (2015) to 48% (2025).
- **Impact on communities is widely acknowledged:** Nearly three-fourths of respondents across surveyed nations, including 75% in India, reported climate change already affecting their daily lives and surroundings.
- Perceptions of **COP30's effectiveness vary geographically:** Developed nations tend to view the conference as symbolic, while developing nations (India, Indonesia, South Africa) are more optimistic about meaningful global action.
- **Key barriers to climate action in India** include weak enforcement against pollution and deforestation, lack of technology and funding, limited political will, and short-term economic interests overshadowing environmental priorities.
- Youth-driven awareness and readiness for behavioral change highlight a **critical generational shift** that could influence future climate policy, civic engagement, and sustainability transitions.



## Key Terms / Definitions

- **Climate Governance:** Institutional and policy frameworks through which governments and stakeholders address climate risks.
- **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE):** An Indian initiative promoting mindful consumption and sustainable behaviors at individual and community levels.
- **COP (Conference of the Parties):** Annual UN climate summit to negotiate global climate commitments under the UNFCCC framework.

## Constitutional & Policy Linkages (India)

- **Article 48A:** Mandates the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- **Article 51A(g):** Makes it a fundamental duty of citizens to protect the natural environment and show compassion for living creatures.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** Integrates eight missions including solar energy, sustainable habitat, and green India.
- **Panchamrit Commitments (COP26):** India's pledge for net-zero by 2070 and increased renewable capacity.

## Conclusion

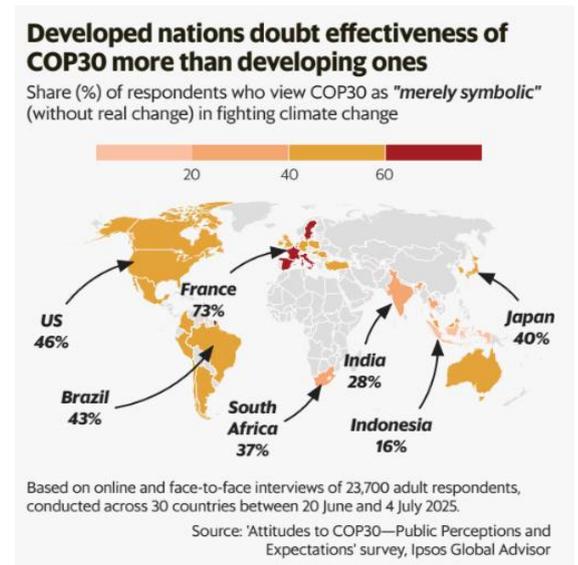
Public perception data highlights a clear **generational divide**, with youth displaying stronger climate concern and readiness for lifestyle changes. While developing nations show hope in multilateral climate platforms like COP, systemic challenges such as funding, enforcement, and technology gaps remain. Effective climate action must integrate governance reform, global cooperation, community participation, and youth engagement.

## UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS Paper 3 (Environment, Climate Change, Sustainable Development)**.
- Useful for **GS Paper 2 (Governance, International Agreements – UNFCCC, Paris Agreement)**.
- High relevance for **Essay** topics on intergenerational justice, climate responsibility, and global environmental governance.
- Can be directly used in **Mains and Interview** responses on climate adaptation, policy challenges, and public attitudes.

## 4. RBI's Proposed Current Account Framework

- The Reserve Bank of India has proposed that **borrowers with outstanding credit of ₹10 crore or more** can maintain **current accounts only with a maximum of two banks**, and these must be banks that **hold at least 10% of the total exposure** to that borrower.





- The move is aimed at **preventing fund diversion** and ensuring **cash flow transparency**, especially when borrowers take loans from multiple banks under a consortium or multiple banking arrangements.
- **Private sector banks are opposing** the proposal because public sector banks (PSBs) often have the **largest share in corporate lending**, meaning PSBs will become the **primary holders of current accounts**, giving them an edge in **float funds** and **transaction-based fee income**.
- **Current accounts** are important for banks as they **carry zero interest** and provide a **stable source of low-cost funds**, helping banks improve liquidity and margins. Private banks fear losing access to this **cheap deposit base**, which currently stands at **₹22.8 trillion** across the system.
- The proposal has caused **differences within the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**, with **PSBs supporting** the move and **private banks seeking exemptions** or flexibility. Private banks may now directly **appeal to RBI** for modifications.
- The measure aligns with RBI's broader efforts to **enhance credit discipline**, improve **supervisory oversight**, and **reduce financial frauds** in corporate lending.

### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Current Account:** A bank account primarily used for business transactions, offering no interest but high liquidity.
- **Fund Diversion:** Misuse or rerouting of borrowed funds to unrelated activities, harming lender interests.
- **Float Funds:** Deposits available with banks that remain idle temporarily, helping liquidity at low cost.

### Constitutional & Legal Context

- **RBI's authority** comes from the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, empowering it to regulate banks and ensure financial stability.
- The move also aligns with **Section 35A** of the Act, allowing RBI to issue guidelines in public and depositor interest.
- Strengthens **financial governance standards**, consistent with India's obligations to maintain **macro-financial stability** under G20 and Basel norms.

### Conclusion

The proposed framework aims to **increase transparency and prevent fund diversion in corporate lending**, thereby improving **banking sector health**. However, concerns of **market imbalance** are valid, as the regulation could **favor public sector banks** and limit **competition** in current account operations. A balanced approach, possibly with **graded implementation or carve-outs**, may be needed.

### UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS Paper 3 (Indian Economy – Banking Sector Reforms, NPAs, Governance)**.
- Useful in **Essay** on financial discipline, public vs private banking ecosystem, and RBI's regulatory role.
- Relevant for **Mains and Interview** discussions on RBI autonomy, consortium lending, and fund diversion controls.



## 5. India–Russia Migration and Mobility Agreement

- India and Russia are set to sign a **bilateral mobility agreement** during President Vladimir Putin’s visit to New Delhi, aimed at **facilitating legal migration and safeguarding Indian workers’ rights** in Russia.
- Russia is currently facing a **shortage of skilled labour** in sectors such as **construction, engineering, textiles, and electronics**, and seeks to expand the intake of skilled manpower from India.
- The agreement will **formalize existing employment channels**, ensure **legal protection and grievance redressal** for Indian workers, and create **new work opportunities** for professionals and skilled labourers.
- By the end of the year, an estimated **70,000+ Indians** are expected to be legally employed in Russia under **quotas regulated by the Russian Ministry of Labour**, addressing both **labour market gaps** and **India’s employment needs**.
- The Moscow-based Indian Business Alliance has termed the agreement a “**strategic milestone**”, arguing it strengthens bilateral relations, enhances people-to-people ties, and expands India’s economic footprint in Eurasia.
- The agreement aligns with India’s broader strategy to **diversify overseas employment markets**, reduce dependency on Gulf economies, and ensure **safe, regulated migration pathways**.



### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Mobility Agreement:** A bilateral framework that governs the legal movement of workers or professionals between countries, ensuring documentation, rights, and labour standards.
- **Skilled Migration:** Movement of workers with technical qualifications or specialized skills to fill labour shortages abroad.
- **Safe Migration Framework:** Policy ensuring migrants are protected against exploitation, trafficking, and unfair labour practices.

### Legal and Policy Linkages (India)

- **Emigration Act, 1983:** Regulates overseas employment of Indian workers and recruitment practices.
- **Draft Emigration Bill (2021):** Aims to modernize migration governance, protect workers, and streamline emigration clearance.
- **Article 51(c):** Encourages India to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- **MEA’s eMigrate System:** Provides digital oversight for recruitment, contracts, and worker safety.

### Conclusion

The India–Russia Mobility Agreement represents a **strategic, economic, and diplomatic opportunity**. It supports India’s skilled workforce with legal overseas employment avenues while addressing Russia’s labour shortages. Effective implementation, worker protection mechanisms, and transparent recruitment will determine the success of this initiative.



## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** India's Bilateral Relations, International Agreements, Diaspora Policy.
- **GS Paper 3:** Economic Growth, Labour Markets, Human Resource Development.
- Useful for **Essay** on migration governance, globalization of labour, and India's demographic dividend.
- Likely to feature in **Mains and Interview** discussions on foreign policy continuity and workforce diplomacy.

## 6. India's Rising Solar Power Curtailment – Summary

- India is experiencing **increasing curtailment of solar power**, with the curtailment rate reaching **about 12% in October**, the highest since Grid Controller of India began reporting such data.
- The curtailment indicates a **mismatch between daytime solar supply and real-time demand**, as the grid struggles to absorb large volumes of solar electricity generated during peak sunlight hours.
- This trend **threatens the pace of renewable capacity expansion**, as power producers face reduced revenues and uncertainty in grid offtake, potentially discouraging future investment.
- The core issue is the **lack of adequate energy storage infrastructure** and limited flexibility in conventional power systems, which prevents smooth integration of intermittent renewable energy.
- Strengthening **battery storage systems**, flexible load management, pumped hydro storage, and smart grid mechanisms are essential to absorb excess renewable generation and stabilize real-time grid operations.
- The issue also reflects the broader challenge of **transitioning to a high-renewable energy grid**, where planning must shift from generation expansion to **grid modernization and balancing technology integration**.



## Key Terms / Definitions

- **Curtailment:** The deliberate reduction in renewable power output despite availability of resources, due to grid constraints or demand-supply imbalance.
- **Intermittent Renewable Energy:** Sources such as solar and wind that generate power variably depending on natural conditions.
- **Grid Stability:** The ability of the electricity grid to maintain steady frequency and voltage while balancing supply and demand.

## Constitutional & Policy Linkages (India)

- **Article 48A:** State shall protect the environment and promote sustainable development, supporting renewable expansion.
- **National Electricity Policy & Tariff Policy:** Emphasize renewable integration and grid reliability.
- **National Solar Mission (2010):** Targeting large-scale solar deployment.



- **India's COP Commitments (Panchamrit):** Install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and reduce carbon intensity.

### Conclusion

Curtailed solar power highlights a **structural challenge** in India's renewable energy transition: **generation is growing faster than grid modernization and storage deployment**. Without urgent expansion of storage capacity and flexible grid solutions, renewable integration and emission reduction goals may slow.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3:** Energy security, renewable energy policy, climate change mitigation.
- **GS Paper 2:** Government policies and infrastructure governance.
- Useful in **Essay** on energy transition and sustainable development.
- Important for **Interview discussions** on India's climate commitments and clean energy strategy.

## 7. India Turns Net Exporter of Finished Steel – Summary

- India became a **net exporter of finished steel in October**, exporting **0.6 million metric tonnes (mmt)**, which marks a **44.7% year-on-year increase**, while imports fell to **0.5 mmt**, down by **55.6%**.
- India, as the **world's second-largest crude steel producer**, recorded **14.02 mmt of crude steel output in October**, reflecting a **9.4% rise** in production capacity and operational efficiency.
- Higher exports were supported by **global demand recovery and competitive pricing**, while lower imports indicate **stronger domestic supply** and reduced dependency on foreign producers.
- The shift strengthens India's **trade balance** in the steel sector and complements the government's **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing.
- However, sustaining export competitiveness will require addressing challenges such as **raw material cost volatility, logistics constraints, and global trade protection measures**.
- Strategic focus on **green steel production**, improved energy efficiency, and expansion of high-grade steel capacity will be crucial to maintain long-term growth and environmental compliance.



### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Finished Steel:** Steel products ready for direct use in construction, infrastructure, and manufacturing sectors.
- **Crude Steel:** Basic steel produced in steelmaking furnaces before further processing into finished products.
- **Net Exporter:** When the value/quantity of exports exceeds imports in a specific commodity.

### Constitutional & Policy Linkages

- **Article 39(b):** Calls for equitable distribution of material resources of the community.



- **National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017:** Targets increasing domestic capacity, value addition, and global competitiveness.
- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel (2021):** Aims to boost manufacturing of value-added steel products and reduce import dependence.
- Supports India's **infrastructure push**, including **Gati Shakti**, Smart Cities Mission, and housing schemes.

### Conclusion

India's shift to a **net exporter of finished steel** indicates a strengthening domestic steel ecosystem, rising global competitiveness, and reduced import reliance. To sustain this momentum, India must focus on **technological upgradation, clean energy use, and export diversification** amidst a volatile global trade environment.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy, Industrial Growth, Infrastructure Sector.
- Useful for **Essay** on manufacturing competitiveness and self-reliance.
- Relevant in **Interview** and **Mains** discussions on Make in India, trade balance, and resource-based industries.

## 8. Women as the “Largest Minority” – Supreme Court Observation

- The Supreme Court observed that **women constitute 48.44% of India's population** and are therefore the “**largest minority**” in terms of representation, despite being nearly half of the population, their **presence in Parliament and State Assemblies remains inadequate**.
- The Court questioned the **delay in implementing the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Constitution 106th Amendment Act, 2023)**, which provides **33% reservation for women** in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, calling it an issue of **political justice**.
- The law is yet to take effect because its implementation is **contingent upon completion of the next Census** and a subsequent **delimitation exercise**, which will decide which constituencies will be reserved.
- Petitioners argued that the law **cannot be indefinitely postponed**, as women have faced **systemic underrepresentation** for over seven decades since independence, making the reform a **long-pending democratic necessity**.
- The Court highlighted **Article 15(3)**, which empowers the **State to make special provisions for women**, asserting that enhancing women's representation aligns with the **Constitutional promise of equality and justice**.
- The reservation, once implemented, will be applicable for **15 years**, with the **possibility of extension** through Parliamentary approval.



### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Political Justice:** Ensuring fair and equal participation in political processes and elected bodies.



- **Delimitation:** Redrawing boundaries of electoral constituencies based on updated population data.
- **Substantive Equality:** Equality in outcomes and participation, not just formal legal equality.

### Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 14:** Equality before law and equal protection of law.
- **Article 15(3):** Allows special provisions for women and children.
- **Article 243D & 243T:** Provide reservation for women in Panchayats and Municipalities (leading to 40%+ representation at local levels).
- **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023):** Provides one-third reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

### Conclusion

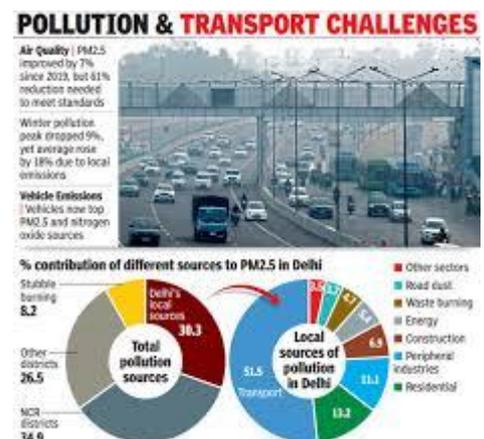
The Supreme Court's remarks underscore that **women's political underrepresentation is not merely a social gap but a constitutional imbalance**. Implementing the women's reservation without undue delay is essential to **strengthen participatory democracy, deepen representation, and advance gender justice**.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** Governance, Constitution, Women Empowerment, Political Representation.
- Useful for **Essay** on gender equality, democratic inclusiveness, and social reform.
- Important for **Mains and Interview** discussions on women in politics, structural gender disadvantages, and electoral reforms.

## 9. Delhi Pollution Crisis and Data Reporting Issues – Summary

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** failed to release its daily **Air Quality Bulletin**, and hourly AQI data was unavailable for several hours, despite Delhi's air quality remaining in the “**very poor**” category (AQI 345 to 391).
- Such **data gaps** have occurred multiple times in the past month, raising concerns regarding **transparency, monitoring efficiency, and accountability** in air quality management.
- **Delhi's pollution levels spike every winter** due to **meteorological factors** such as reduced wind speed, temperature drop, and inversion layers, which prevent the dispersion of pollutants.
- **Anthropogenic contributors** including **stubble burning** in Punjab and Haryana (Oct–Nov), **firecracker usage**, vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and dust from construction significantly worsen air pollution in the region.
- The **Air Quality Early Warning System** predicts that the air quality will continue to remain “**very poor**”, highlighting the need for **coordinated response measures** across states and agencies.
- The incident underscores the importance of **reliable real-time data**, as policy response, public advisories, and emergency measures depend on accurate AQI monitoring.





## Key Terms / Definitions

- **AQI (Air Quality Index):** A composite index used to indicate air pollution levels and associated health impacts.
- **Very Poor AQI (301–400):** Can cause respiratory illness on prolonged exposure, especially among vulnerable groups.
- **Stubble Burning:** Burning of agricultural residue after harvest, a major seasonal contributor to North India's air pollution.

## Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 21:** Right to life includes right to clean air (recognized through judicial interpretation).
- **Article 48A:** Directive for the State to protect and improve the environment.
- **Article 51A(g):** Fundamental duty of citizens to protect the natural environment.
- **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:** Empowers CPCB and state boards to monitor and control air pollution.
- **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), 2021:** Coordinates air quality mitigation in Delhi-NCR.

## Conclusion

The Delhi pollution episode, compounded by CPCB's **data reporting lapses**, reflects the **systemic challenges** in environmental governance. While seasonal and anthropogenic factors drive pollution spikes, **effective mitigation requires transparent monitoring, coordinated inter-state action, and strong enforcement of emission norms.**

## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3:** Environment, Pollution Control, Environmental Governance.
- Useful for **Essay** on urban environmental challenges and public health.
- Can be applied in **Mains and Interview** discussions on climate adaptation, governance gaps, and sustainable urban planning.

## 10. South Asia and COP30 Climate Priorities – Summary

- A decade after the Paris Agreement, the **climate crisis has intensified**, with South Asia experiencing severe monsoon floods, heatwaves, droughts, glacial melt and coastal vulnerabilities. South Asian countries are emerging as proactive climate actors, driven by necessity rather than choice.
- **Implementation gaps** are the biggest challenge. Many countries have submitted climate pledges (NDCs), yet **only around 5% of climate initiatives launched since 2015 have achieved stated goals**, highlighting the need for stronger governance, timelines, transparency and regional collaboration.
- **Climate adaptation must be prioritized equally with mitigation**, as South Asia faces a future with nearly **200 days above 35°C by 2100**. Region-specific vulnerabilities include Nepal's glacial lake flooding, Maldives' coastal threats, India's heat stress, and Sri Lanka's water scarcity.
- **Climate finance remains inadequate, unpredictable, and difficult to access**, especially for Least Developed Countries. South Asia calls for finance that is **adequate, concessional, transparent, and**



**non-debt creating**, along with **dedicated regional funds** such as a proposed *South Asian Resilience Finance Facility*.

- **Non-state actors** (local governments, private sector, youth groups, civil society, academia) must play a significant role in scaling climate solutions, enabling innovation, knowledge exchange, community-based adaptation and accountability.
- **Technology access is limited**, with South Asia still largely excluded from international technology flows. Solutions require **blended finance**, **debt-for-nature swaps**, digital innovation (AI, DPI, remote sensing), and cooperative regional platforms to share climate solutions.

### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Climate Adaptation:** Adjusting practices, systems and infrastructure to minimize harm from climate impacts.
- **NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions):** Climate commitments made by countries under the Paris Agreement.
- **Blended Finance:** Using public or concessional funds to mobilize private investment for climate action.

### Constitutional & Policy Linkages (India)

- **Article 21:** Right to life includes right to a clean and healthy environment (Judicial interpretation).
- **Article 48A & 51A(g):** Direct the State and citizens to protect the environment.
- **NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change):** Framework for renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable habitat, and climate resilience.
- **India's "Panchamrit" Commitments (COP26):** Net zero by 2070, expanded non-fossil capacity, emissions reduction trajectory.

### Conclusion

South Asia seeks **mutual clarity, mutual cooperation and mutual implementation** at COP30, emphasizing urgent climate delivery rather than new promises. The region's leadership will depend on **trust-building, climate justice, equitable finance**, and **technology access** to protect nearly two billion lives exposed to climate risks.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3:** Climate Change, Adaptation, Mitigation, Disaster Management.
- **GS Paper 2:** International Relations, Global Governance, Multilateralism.
- Useful in **Essay** on climate justice, global cooperation, and development challenges.
- Relevant for **Interview** discussions on India's climate diplomacy and South-South cooperation.

## 11. India–Bhutan Relations and Legacy of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck (K4)

- Former Bhutanese King **Jigme Singye Wangchuck (K4)**, who ruled from 1972 to 2006, is celebrated as the **architect of modern Bhutan**, known for introducing **Gross National Happiness (GNH)** as a development philosophy and initiating **Bhutan's peaceful democratic transition**.
- K4 significantly **strengthened India–Bhutan relations**, recognizing India as Bhutan's closest strategic and economic partner. He enabled India's **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** to develop



Bhutan's early road network and deepened **hydropower cooperation**, creating a **long-term revenue model** for Bhutan through power exports to India.

- India and Bhutan continue to share a **high-trust partnership**, reinforced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits and participation in Bhutan's national celebrations, symbolizing strong **people-to-people and state-to-state ties**.
- **Hydropower diplomacy** remains the core of bilateral cooperation: projects such as **Punatsangchu-II (1020 MW)** have strengthened Bhutan's economy. Future hydropower projects will increasingly involve **Indian private sector participation** (e.g., Tata Power, Adani Power) alongside Bhutanese companies.
- K4 also played a crucial role in **regional security**, particularly during **Operation All Clear (2003)**, where the Royal Bhutan Army eliminated Indian insurgent bases operating inside Bhutanese territory, demonstrating **strategic alignment and trust** between the two nations.
- Development cooperation today spans **infrastructure, institutions, community development, cultural preservation**, and continued support for Bhutan's long-term economic stability.

### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Gross National Happiness (GNH):** Bhutan's holistic development model prioritizing well-being, cultural values, environmental conservation, and good governance over purely economic growth.
- **Hydropower Diplomacy:** Use of shared hydropower development as a tool of economic integration and mutual strategic trust.



### Constitutional & Strategic Linkages (India)

- **Neighbourhood First Policy:** Places Bhutan among India's highest diplomatic priorities.
- **Act East Policy:** Bhutan's location strengthens India's connectivity to the eastern Himalayan region.
- **Security Cooperation:** Shared interests in maintaining stability in the India–Bhutan–China border areas.

### Conclusion

India–Bhutan ties are **built on trust, shared cultural values, strategic understanding, and mutually beneficial cooperation**. K4's leadership helped shape Bhutan's modern identity while ensuring a stable and cooperative partnership with India. The relationship continues to evolve through **economic collaboration, hydropower cooperation, and regional security alignment**.

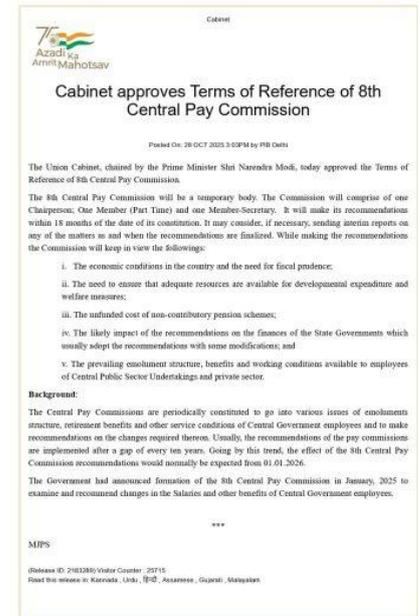
### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** India's Bilateral Relations, Neighbourhood Policy, Strategic Partnerships.
- **GS Paper 1:** Himalayan geopolitics & cultural ties.
- Useful for **Essay** on diplomacy based on trust and mutual respect.
- Important for **Interview** topics related to India's foreign policy, Bhutan relations, and regional stability.



## 12. 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) – Summary

- The Central government has constituted the **8th Central Pay Commission**, chaired by **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**, with a mandate to **review salary structures, pensions, and service conditions** of Central government employees, including defense personnel. The Commission is expected to submit its report within **18 months**.
- **Pay Commissions** are created through **executive order based on Cabinet approval**. The **first CPC was set up in 1946**, and since then, each CPC has influenced government pay, allowances, and pension structures.
- The **Terms of Reference (TOR)** require the 8th CPC to consider: **economic conditions, fiscal prudence, impact on State finances, cost of non-contributory pensions, need to balance development expenditure and comparisons with private sector and PSU compensation structures**.
- Globally, public sector pay evolution moved from **equity-based (till 1970s) to efficiency-based (1980s) and performance-and-incentive-based systems (1990s onwards)**. Today, compensation systems aim to be **competitive, attract skilled talent, and contain fiscal burden**.
- In India, **entry-level government salaries are relatively higher** than private sector equivalents, but **top and specialized posts lag behind** in pay competitiveness. Non-monetary benefits like **job security, pensions, and status** compensate for lower pay at higher levels.
- The rising **pension burden** is a major concern: **₹2.76 lakh crore estimated in 2025-26**, creating pressure on public finances. The CPC is expected to evaluate **pension reforms**, including the **debate over the Old vs. New Pension Scheme**, along with work environment improvements (training, flexibility, wellbeing).



### Key Terms / Definitions

- **Compression Ratio:** Ratio of lowest to highest salary in government structure (currently ~1:12.5).
- **Non-Contributory Pension Scheme:** Pension fully funded by the government (Old Pension Scheme), unlike contributory National Pension System (NPS).
- **Fiscal Prudence:** Managing government expenditure to avoid excessive debt and ensure sustainable public finances.

### Constitutional & Administrative Context

- **Article 309:** Empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to regulate recruitment and conditions of public service.
- **Finance Commission & Pay Commission** both influence fiscal distribution but are structurally distinct.
- Balanced compensation affects **administrative efficiency, quality of governance, and public service motivation**.



### Conclusion

The 8th CPC is crucial for **balancing employee welfare with fiscal sustainability**, ensuring that the government remains a **competitive employer** while maintaining space for **development expenditure**. Addressing pay disparities, pension liabilities, and talent retention will determine the CPC's long-term impact on public administration.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2:** Governance, Role of Civil Services, HR Management in Government.
- **GS Paper 3:** Fiscal policy, revenue expenditure, pensions and public finance.
- **Essay / Interview:** Civil service reforms, efficiency vs welfare debate, attraction and retention of talent in government.