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Institute Of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 7th June 2025



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7<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Mains Manthan

- Water Management in India needs a new course (Page No – 8)
- Maintaining India's progress in food safety standards (Page No – 8)
- RBI cuts by 50 bps, interest burden to ease (Page No – 1)

## Prelims Saarthi

- G7 Nations
- Starlink Project

# Water management in India needs a new course

## Why in News?

- Water Management Challenges & Strategies

## Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice
- GS Paper 3 – Environment & Ecology

## Water management in India needs a new course

The theme of World Water Day 2025, a day observed every year on March 22, was 'Glacier Preservation'. The year 2025 has also been declared the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation by the United Nations (March 21 is World Day for Glaciers, observed for the first time this year), which also marks the beginning of a 'Decade of Action on Cryospheric Science' (2025-34).

There have been a series of global events on various issues that have included the theme of 'water and glaciers - from science to policy' and the need for regional and local actions. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2025, which was on the theme 'Mountain and Glaciers - Water Towers', has drawn global attention to the importance of mountain waters including alpine glaciers in the sustainable development of mountain regions and downstream societies. This focus is relevant especially in the context of a rapidly changing mountain cryosphere, which will have a profound impact on downstream water resources. The cryosphere concerns the frozen portions of the earth.

The year 2025 is also the midway point in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), which proposes the vision of 'Science we need for the ocean we want'. Rising coastal and marine pollution, coastal hazards, rising sea surface temperature and sea level rise and the loss of marine biodiversity are the subjects of concern that have been highlighted in this ocean decade.

### A link that is overlooked

Water connects both these geographical entities as there is a clear upstream-downstream linkage. Human activities upstream impact the downstream environment. Although the hydrological cycle operates independently as a natural process, at the sub-system level, it is modified due to human activities. These include damming and the diversion of water from rivers for agriculture and other purposes, the drawing of water from surface water bodies and groundwater aquifers, and the pollution of water bodies. All these changes result in the alteration of freshwater flow to coastal areas and the open ocean, thereby affecting the marine environment.

Current water management practices often overlook this linkage, which is now emerging as a major global concern. In recognition of the need for integrated land, freshwater and coastal and ocean resource management, the concept of a Source to Sea (S2S) approach was proposed as a part of the Manila Declaration, in January 2012.

This declaration focuses on 'Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities'.

Adopted by 65 countries, it proposed "to improve



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cooperation and coordination at all levels to deal with issues related to oceans, coasts, islands and their associated watersheds, by applying integrated management such as 'ridge to reef' approaches, including by involving stakeholders and developing innovative solutions to improve or resolve identified problems". The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) also launched the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management initiatives on September 1, 2014.

The aim was to help decision-makers, stakeholders, and freshwater, coastal and marine experts to connect, cooperate and promote better practices, and also facilitate and enhance international cooperation. Since January 2025, the International Union for Conservation of Nature hosts this platform.

The basic premise of the S2S approach is the understanding that 'Earth is a unique system' and that fresh and marine water systems are part of a single continuum. This approach takes a critical view of current water management and governance arrangements which use different strategies for different segments of the same water body. In 2012, the analysis report of the Land-based Pollution Sources Working Group (United Nations University) suggested two major adjustments for the approach to project management. The first was to overcome the traditional divide of water or, rather, the isolated consideration of rivers, aquifers, lakes, large marine ecosystems and open oceans. The second was to apply a socio-ecological system scale in design and scientific analysis including transboundary diagnostic analysis and causal chain analysis to arrive at solutions. Both these suggestions deserve the attention of all countries. The working group was executing a project of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)-International Water (IW) Science to enhance the use of science in international water projects in order to improve project results.

### Problems with India's water management

India faces several challenges in the matter of water management. These include spatial heterogeneity in the availability of water, unequal access, increasing pollution, climate change, and conflicts. A NTI Aayog study (2018) reported that water stress might affect 600 million people with a likely loss of 6% of GDP due to water stress. The Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas of the World Resources Institute observes that India is one of the countries which could face extreme water stress, impacting agricultural production and disrupting the economy. In 2022, the Central Pollution Control Board identified 31 polluted river stretches (of varying severity) along 279 rivers in 30 States and Union Territories. India produces an average of 1.7 lakh tonnes of solid waste a day of which around 53% is treated. A significant amount of untreated waste finds its

way into waterbodies. India uses an average of 60.5% of extractable ground water resources, with States such as Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan reporting more than 100% use. Around 25% of groundwater assessment units are under various categories of risk. Over 60% of irrigated farming and 85% of drinking water are derived from groundwater reserves. Groundwater quality is also declining. Water security faces a growing threat.

India's water management problems are a result of a fragmented and sectoral approach. Another reason is because rivers and other waterbodies are often inter-State and multiple political jurisdictions are involved in administering the same waterbody. There are four different governance systems to address natural commons such as rivers and water bodies. Private property owners operate on the local/panchayat/village governance commons; local government operates on the State governance commons; the State government operates on the national governance commons, and the national government operates on the global governance commons. The challenge is to coordinate activities under different tiers, have them as a part of the nested governance systems and devise an appropriate water policy for the country.

### An approach on the fringes

The first national water policy was introduced in 1987. Subsequently, there have been attempts to modify and include other features. In 2015, a committee was constituted to restructure the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board to form the National Water Commission. In 2019, the Ministry of Jal Shakti set up a committee of independent experts to draft a national water policy. It has suggested policy recommendations to address challenges. States have also prepared water policies.

Despite these initiatives, the S2S approach has yet to gain the attention of policy planners. There are two case study initiatives being contemplated following the S2S approach. The first addresses the nutrient management of Delhi waterbodies under the S2S platform and the second is a proposed project under the S2S Future programme to examine relationships between human settlement and the S2S landscape in the Indo-Gangetic basin.

It is important to have a shift in favour of the S2S approach adopting a social ecological system framework for coordinated implementation of the freshwater and marine Sustainable Development Goals (6 and 14). The focus must be on linking targets 6.5 (integrated water resource management) and 14.1 (land-based activities) by involving all stakeholders, reducing the gap between science, policy and execution and facilitating innovative interventions.

The scientific community and policymakers need to focus on the Source to Sea (S2S) approach





## Key Takeaways from the Article

### • Global Context & International Frameworks

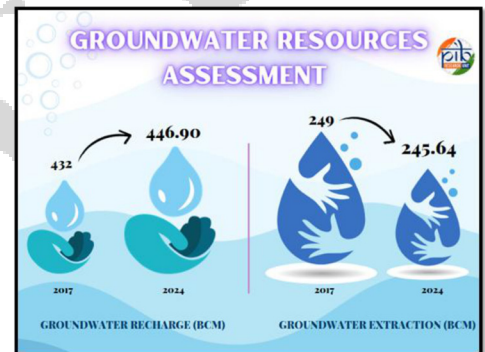
- ♦ **World Water Day 2025 Theme:** “Glacier Preservation”.
- ♦ **UN Designations:**
  - ♦ **2025:** International Year of Glacier Preservation.
  - ♦ **March 21:** World Day for Glaciers (inaugurated in 2025).
  - ♦ **2025–2034:** UN Decade of Action on Cryospheric Science.



- ♦ **World Water Development Report 2025:** Highlights the role of mountains and glaciers as water towers, crucial for downstream ecosystems.
- ♦ **UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030):** Focus on pollution, biodiversity loss, and rising sea levels.

### • Source-to-Sea (S2S) Approach

- ♦ An **integrated framework** connecting freshwater, estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystems as part of a single water continuum.
- ♦ **Origin:** Conceptualised in the **Manila Declaration (2012)**.
- ♦ **Global Adoption:**
- ♦ Promoted by **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** via the Action Platform for S2S Management (2014).
- ♦ IUCN became host in January 2025.



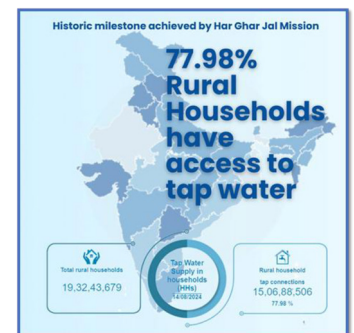
### • India's Water Management Crisis

- ♦ **Overexploitation:**
- ♦ India uses 60.5% of its extractable groundwater.
- ♦ Over 100% exploitation in **Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan**.
- ♦ 25% of groundwater assessment units are at risk.



### • Pollution Statistics:

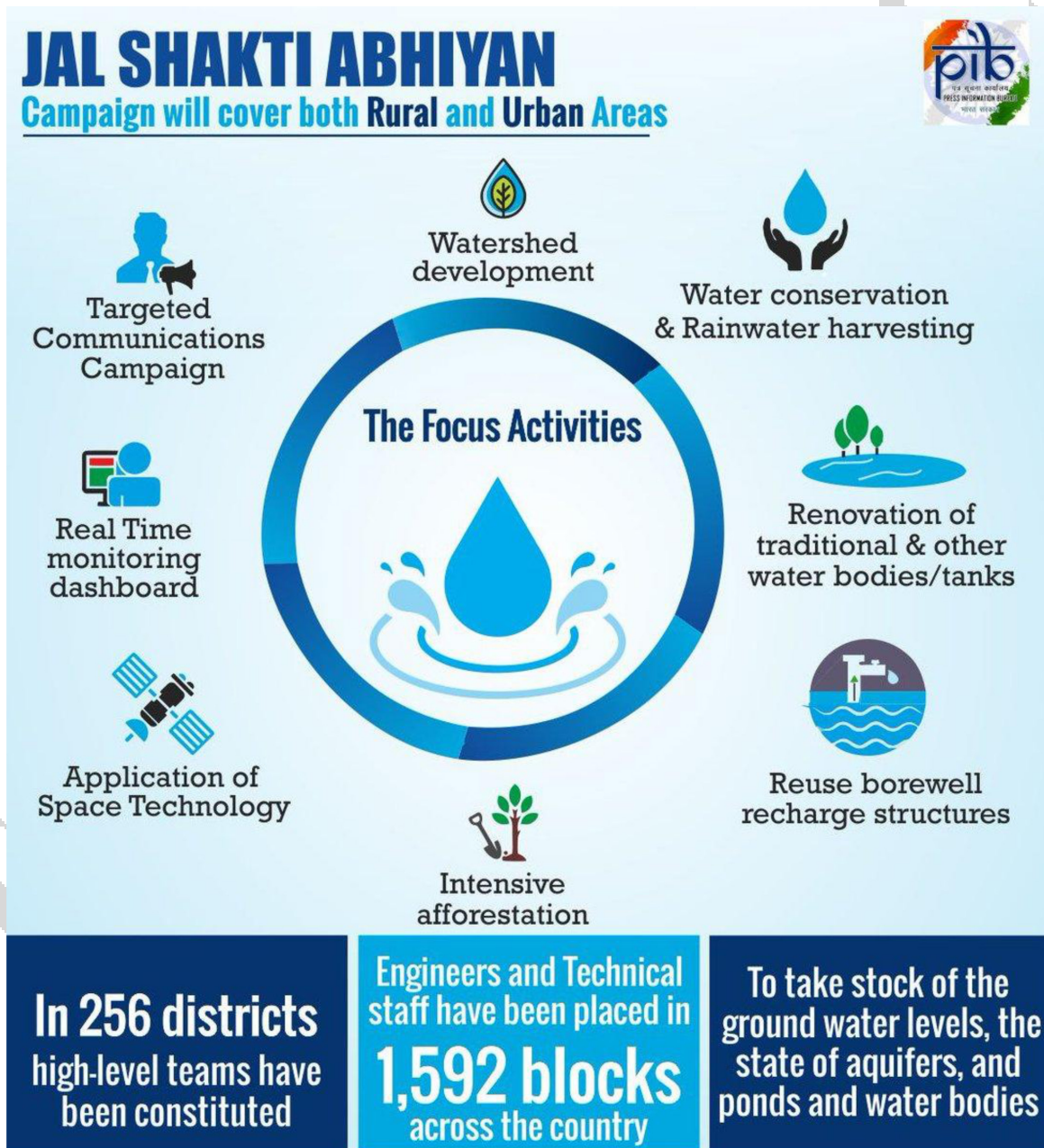
- ♦ **311 polluted river stretches** identified by CPCB (2022).
- ♦ Only **53% of 1.7 lakh tonnes/day solid waste** treated; rest enters water bodies.
- ♦ **NITI Aayog Report (2018):** Water stress impacts 600 million people; GDP loss of 6% anticipated.
- ♦ **WRI Aqueduct Atlas:** India among top nations at risk of extreme water stress.
- ♦ **Fragmented Governance:**
- ♦ Four overlapping layers of water commons: local, state, national, global.







- ♦ **Inter-state river disputes**, disjointed planning, and unclear jurisdiction hinder effective policy implementation.
- **Policy Framework and Gaps**
  - ♦ **National Water Policy:** First adopted in 1987; revised over time.
  - ♦ **Institutional Reforms:**
    - ♦ **2015:** Proposal to restructure CWC & CGWB into **National Water Commission**.
    - ♦ **2019:** Expert committee by **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to revise national water policy.
    - ♦ **Gap:** Despite reforms, the **S2S approach is not mainstreamed** in national or state policies.





- **Case Study Initiatives (S2S India)**
  - ♦ **Delhi Waterbodies** – Nutrient management under S2S framework.
  - ♦ **Indo-Gangetic Basin** – Human settlement patterns and their influence on S2S landscape (under S2S Future initiative).



————— **WORLD WATER DAY 2022** —————

# **WATER GOVERNANCE WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- > Five '**River Linking Projects**' including Ken-Betwa to help in irrigation, electricity generation
- > '**Catch The Rain**' campaign for rainwater conservation
- > Awareness towards water conservation through '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan**' in 256 districts facing water crisis
- > '**Atal Bhujal Yojana**' for management of groundwater resources
- > '**PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana**' to use groundwater for irrigation





## Maintaining India's progress in food safety standards

### Why in News?

- World Food Safety Day

### Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy

## Maintaining India's progress in food safety standards

**T**his year, the theme of World Food Safety Day, which is observed on June 7, is "Food Safety: Science in Action". It is an opportune moment to reflect on India's journey, evolving from a narrow focus on preventing food adulteration to embracing a more comprehensive, science-based approach to food safety. But despite the progress, there are gaps and challenges.

India's journey on food safety began with the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act of 1954, which viewed food safety as a simple, binary issue – food being adulterated or not. This approach treated all contaminants alike, whether they were intentionally added adulterants, food additives, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, or even naturally occurring toxins. The quantity consumed was not considered.

The turning point was the enactment of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which established the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Drawing on international best practices, particularly those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FSSAI adopted a risk-based approach to food safety. This included setting maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides, defining safe levels for food additives, and adopting standards for contaminants and veterinary drug residues.

By 2020, the FSSAI managed to develop and align India's food safety standards so that they were almost on a par with those in advanced countries. However, this rapid progress also exposed certain weaknesses.

#### The gaps and challenges in risk assessment

A fundamental issue is the lack of India-specific toxicological studies. Most safety standards, including MRLs for pesticides and acceptable daily intake (ADI) values for food additives, are based on international data, which may not accurately reflect Indian dietary habits, agricultural practices or environmental conditions. The absence of total diet study (TDS)



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Transparency, public education and the application of science-based evidence are essential

further complicates risk assessment. Such studies are essential to assess the cumulative exposure of consumers to various contaminants through their entire diet. Without TDS, India relies on fragmented data, which weakens the scientific basis of its safety standards.

Another challenge is effective risk communication. Technical terms such as MRLs and ADIs are expressed in minute quantities (parts per million, or ppm, or parts per billion, or ppb) – that are difficult for consumers to understand. These can lead to confusion, especially when safety limits are revised. For instance, the decision to revise the MRL for pesticides from a highly restrictive 0.01 mg/kg to a more practical 0.1 mg/kg led to public concern, with many interpreting it as a reduction in safety.

#### An example of legacy issues

A persistent legacy issue is the regulation of monosodium glutamate (MSG), a flavour enhancer that has been extensively studied and consistently found to be safe. Since 1971, the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has declared MSG safe for consumption. In 1987, the JECFA allocated an "ADI not specified" status to MSG. All countries follow this global consensus now.

In India, MSG regulations have evolved significantly. Initially, MSG was only allowed in meat products, but its use has gradually been permitted in all foods, but with a mandatory warning label that it is unsafe for infants. This is in sharp contrast to other countries, where MSG is recognised as a safe food additive, and outdated warning labels have been removed.

The warning label in India is misleading because glutamates (naturally occurring compounds chemically identical to MSG) are abundant in everyday foods such as tomato, mushroom and garlic, as well as breast milk. As a result, consumers are often left with the mistaken belief that MSG is inherently harmful, leading to unnecessary fear and confusion. As a result,

consumers are often left with the mistaken belief that MSG is inherently harmful, leading to unnecessary fear and confusion.

Such a legacy approach contradicts global scientific consensus and exposes the challenge of balancing consumer concerns with scientific evidence. It also reflects a broader problem, which is India's tendency to allow some outdated regulations to persist, even when they conflict with current scientific understanding.

#### A path to greater scientific rigor

India has made significant strides in food safety, but sustaining this progress requires targeted efforts. Investing in India-specific research, including localised toxicological studies and a comprehensive TDS, is vital to understand cumulative exposure to contaminants. Risk communication should be improved by simplifying scientific messages and replacing confusing labels, such as those for MSG, with clear, evidence-based information. Strengthening the capacity of risk assessors through continuous training ensures that they stay updated with the latest science for sound decision-making. Regular reviews and updating standards in line with new research, while maintaining transparency, are essential. Finally, building public trust through open and consistent engagement with stakeholders including industry, consumers, and the public is key. These steps will help India uphold and advance its commitment to safe, science-based food systems that protect public health and promote informed choices.

The FSSAI has laid a strong foundation for food safety in India, but sustaining this progress requires a commitment to science, transparency, and public education. Regulatory decisions must be driven by evidence rather than public fears or out-dated perceptions. As we look ahead, India must continue to balance scientific rigour with effective risk communication, ensuring that consumers are informed, confident, and protected without harbouring unnecessary fear.

### Key Takeaways from the Article

- **India's Regulatory Evolution**
  - ♦ **1954:** Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act focused narrowly on binary adulteration.
  - ♦ Treated all contaminants uniformly, without considering dose, exposure, or context.
  - ♦ **2006:** The Food Safety and Standards Act established FSSAI.
  - ♦ Inspired by Codex Alimentarius Commission guidelines.
  - ♦ Introduced **risk-based framework:** Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI), contaminant limits, and additive safety.





## STATE RANKINGS

Large States Small States Union Territories

### FIVE PARAMETERS

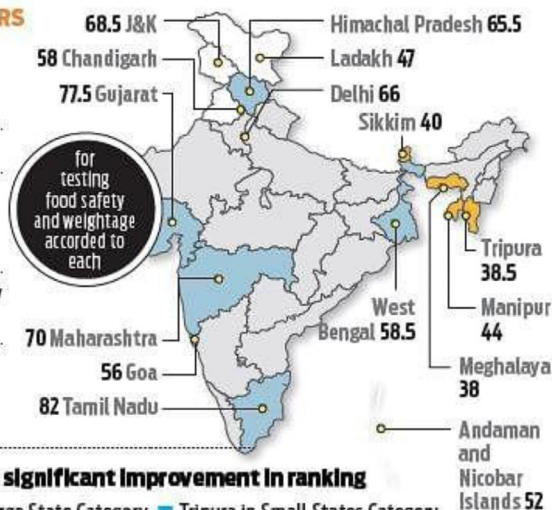
Human Resources and Institutional Data: **20%**

Compliance: **30%**

Food Testing-Infrastructure and Surveillance: **20%**

Training and Capacity Building: **10%**

Consumer Empowerment: **20%**



### States/UTs with significant improvement in ranking

- Uttarakhand in Large State Category
- Tripura in Small States Category
- Ladakh in the category of UTs

### Progress Achieved by FSSAI

- By 2020, India's food safety standards reached near-parity with developed countries.
- Adoption of scientific, internationally benchmarked food safety standards.
- Recognition of pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, and natural toxins.

## STATES WITH STEEPEST INDEX FALL

State	2019	2023
Maharashtra	74	45
Bihar	46	20.5
Gujarat	73	48.5
Andhra Pradesh	47	24
Chhattisgarh	46	27

Source: SFSI reports; all scores out of 100

## SAFETY MEASURE

Parameter	Weight
Compliance	28
Consumer Empowerment	19
Human Resources and Institutional Data	18
Food Testing Infrastructure	17
Improvement in SFSI Rank (added in 2023)	10
Training and Capacity Building	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>





- **Key Challenges and Gaps**

- ♦ **Lack of India-specific Research**

- ♦ Dietary patterns, food habits, agro-climatic zones in India vary significantly.
- ♦ Absence of a **Total Diet Study (TDS)**, which is vital for assessing **cumulative exposure** to food contaminants from an average Indian diet.

- ♦ **Poor Risk Communication**

- ♦ Terms like **MRL** and **ADI** are highly technical (ppm/ppb), hard for the general public to grasp.

"Adulteration of Food" comes under the Concurrent List of Schedule 7

Regulator  
**fssai**  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

**Food Safety BASIC FACTS**  
The Regulator, Loopholes & Interesting Trivia!

Established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 as a statutory body.  
The Act consolidates eight laws governing the food sector.  
Mandatory to obtain a license/Registration for all food business operators (including small businesses and street vendors).  
Aided by several scientific panels and a central advisory committee to lay down standards for food safety.

**Loopholes**

- 1 Responsibility for using quality potable water on food vendor, rather than local authorities.
- 2 The Act excludes - plants prior to harvesting and animal feed. Thus, it does not control the entry of pesticides and antibiotics into the food at its source.
- 3 The power to suspend the license of any food operator is given to a local level officer. This offers scope for harassment and corruption.

**KEYS TO SAFER FOOD**

- KEEP CLEAN
- SEPARATE RAW AND COOKED FOOD
- COOK FOOD THOROUGHLY
- KEEP FOOD AT SAFE TEMPERATURES
- USE SAFE WATER AND RAW MATERIALS

**World Health Day 2015: Safe Food for a Healthy Life**

What is in your meal and where did the ingredients come from?

From Farm to Plate, Make Food Safe.

**7th April**







- **Case of MSG (Monosodium Glutamate):**
  - ♦ India still mandates a warning label: “Unsafe for infants,” despite glutamates being naturally present in **tomatoes, mushrooms, garlic, and even breast milk.**
  - ♦ This **misinforms consumers**, perpetuates **myths**, and contradicts science.
- **Infrequent Updating of Standards**
  - ♦ Some food regulations are **outdated**, not aligned with the **latest scientific evidence.**
- **Capacity Gaps**
  - ♦ Need for **trained risk assessors**, updated technical expertise.
  - ♦ Limited institutional **capacity to handle data analytics, toxicological evaluations, and multi-disciplinary research.**

## RBI cuts rate by 50 bps, interest burden to ease

### Why in News?

- RBI cuts rate by 50 bps

### Syllabus

- **GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy**

# RBI cuts rate by 50 bps, interest burden to ease

Central bank to reduce cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points; cuts to release ₹2.5 lakh crore of primary liquidity to banks by year-end; RBI maintains GDP growth forecast at 6.5% for 2025-26

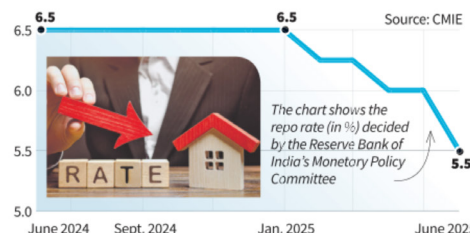
**Lalatendu Mishra**  
MUMBAI

In a bid to spur growth at a time when inflation has come under control, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday voted 5:1 to slash the policy repo rate by a bigger-than-expected 50 basis points to 5.50% with immediate effect. This is the RBI's third repo rate cut since February, and will further reduce the interest burden for borrowers, but will also cut the interest earned on savings by depositors.

Separately, the RBI also decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points (bps) over the course of this year, in an effort to provide sufficient and durable liquidity to the banking system. This

### A policy pivot

With the latest reduction, the RBI has cut rates by a total of 100 basis points in 2025, starting with a quarter-point reduction in February and another similar-sized cut in April



means that the percentage of deposits that banks must keep in reserve with the central bank has been cut, leaving more money available for lending.

“The cut in CRR would release primary liquidity of about ₹2.5 lakh crore to the banking system by Decem-

ber 2025. Besides providing durable liquidity, it will reduce the cost of funding of the banks, thereby helping in monetary policy transmission to the credit market,” RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his statement.

The CRR will be reduced

to 3% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in a staggered manner, with four cuts of 25 bps, each taking effect from the fortnights beginning September 6, October 4, November 1, and November 29. One basis point is equal to 0.01%.

“This decision is in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth,” the RBI said in the monetary policy statement (MPC).

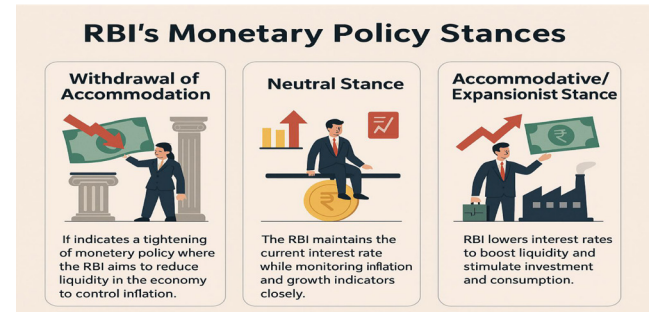
Taking various factors into account, real GDP growth for 2025-26 has been maintained and projected at 6.5%.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10



## Key Takeaways from the Article

- **Policy Decisions by RBI**
  - ♦ **Repo rate cut by 50 basis points to 5.5%**, following earlier cuts in February and April.
  - ♦ **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) cut by 100 basis points**, enabling **₹2.5 lakh crore liquidity infusion**.
  - ♦ These steps are aimed at making **borrowing cheaper** for businesses and households.
- **Shift in Monetary Policy Stance**
  - ♦ In April 2025: RBI moved to **accommodative stance** (inclined to cut rates).
  - ♦ In June 2025: Back to **neutral stance**, reflecting **cautious optimism**.
  - ♦ Neutral stance gives **flexibility** — rate hikes possible if inflation returns.



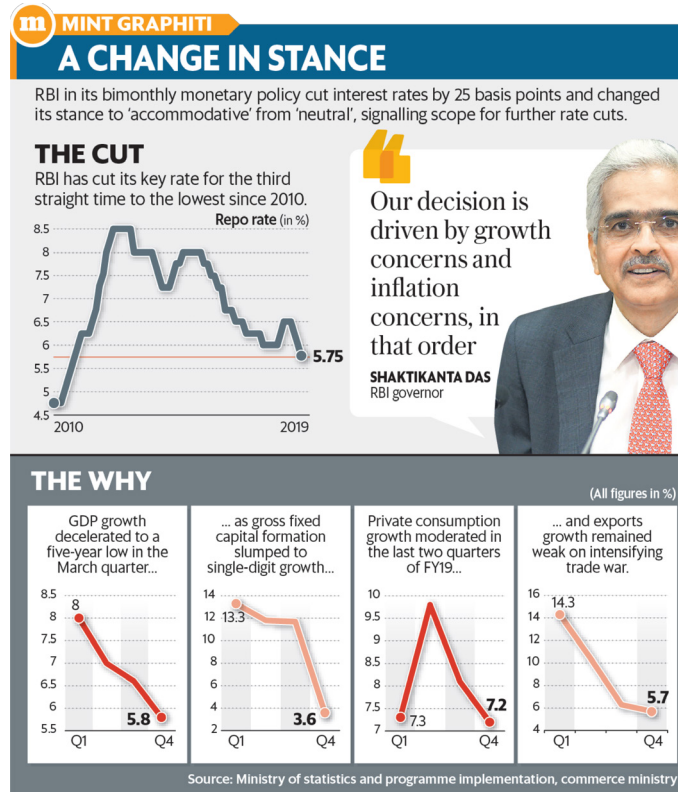
**“Monetary Policy stance”** refers to the standpoint or outlook or the guidance of the central bank towards the direction of monetary policy.

### ■ Stances Of Monetary Policy

- 1 Accommodative Stance
- 2 Hawkish Stance
- 3 Neutral Stance
- 4 Caliberated Tightening
- 5 Dovish Stance

- **Projected Growth and Coordination**

- ♦ **RBI's GDP growth forecast for FY 2025–26: 6.5%** similar to last year's performance.
- ♦ Fiscal policy is **tapering off**, while monetary policy is **now actively supporting growth**.
- ♦ Indicates a **rare convergence between RBI and government objectives**.



## Starlink got approval

### Elon Musk's Starlink gets licence to start services in India

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country.

Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide satellite internet services in the country.

A fourth applicant, Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for approvals.

DoT sources confirmed on Friday that Starlink has indeed received the licence and said the company will be granted trial spectrum in 15-20 days of applying for it.



Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat and Jio to get a licence from the govt.

Starlink will now have to comply with the security norms such as providing access for lawful interception, before starting services.

Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX, a firm founded by Mr. Musk. It provides high-speed broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology and is described as broadband beamed from the skies.





## Modi invite to G-7

# Modi accepts Canadian PM Carney's invite to G-7

PM's visit to Canada comes after a decade marred by tensions over Khalistan issue and expulsion of diplomats; Modi thanks Carney for the invite, says their meeting will give ties a 'renewed vigour'

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi will represent India at the G-7 summit in Canada next week after he was invited by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney during a telephone call. Mr. Modi confirmed the development on Friday.

The visit to Canada, Mr. Modi's first since 2015, could mark a reset in ties after years of tensions over Khalistani separatists targeting Indian diplomats and the killing of Canadian and Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, for which the previous Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, had blamed Indian government agents.

The invitation for India as a guest invitee for the G-7 summit to be held in Kananaskis, Alberta province of Canada, could also herald the restoration of India and Canada's diplomatic presence in each other's capitals, where both sides expelled High Commissioners, stopped visas temporarily, and cut staff strength drastically in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Italy last year. PTI

2023 and 2024. In October 2024, India and Canada also expelled each other's Deputy High Commissioners, over further charges in the Nijjar case, and spying, respectively. This month also marks two anniversaries – 40 years since the bombing of the Air India "Kanishka" flight on June 23, 1985 by Khalistani separatists in Canada, and two years since the killing of Nijjar on June 18, 2023 near Toronto, and both governments would have to work around each other's sensitivities during the visit.

In a statement, Mr. Car-

ney said he and Mr. Modi had discussed the bilateral relationship, including people-to-people and commercial ties, making an oblique reference to the Nijjar case and Khalistan issue. "Importantly, there was agreement to continued law enforcement dialogue and discussions addressing security concern," he said.

Announcing the visit, Mr. Modi said his meeting with Mr. Carney would give ties "renewed vigour".

"As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Ca-

nada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the Summit," said Mr. Modi in a social media post, adding that he had thanked Mr. Carney for the invitation to the G-7 and congratulated him on his recent victory in Canadian elections.

Mr. Modi's attendance at the G-7 summit, where he has been to every year as a special invitee since 2019, will also give him the opportunity to meet leaders from France, U.S., U.K., Italy, Japan, and Germany, for the first time since Operation Sindoor. In particular, Mr. Modi will meet U.S. President Donald Trump, after a strain in ties over Mr. Trump's assertions that he mediated to end the four-day conflict between India and Pakistan.

The invitation comes after some speculation that Canada would not invite the Indian leader given the relationship at present, and the very short notice, with just over a week to go for the summit, added to the surprise of the announcement.

