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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 04.12.2025

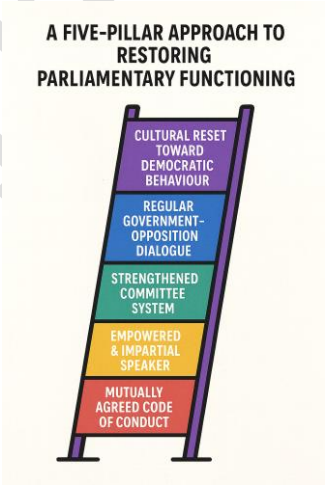
GS Paper II: Polity

1. Parliamentary Disruptions in India: Causes, Trends and the Imperative for Reform

a. Introduction

Parliament is the central forum for national law-making, debate and executive oversight. Its strength lies not only in constitutional authority but also in the democratic culture of reasoned discussion. However, India has witnessed a rising pattern of disruptions, adjournments and walkouts, which has steadily weakened legislative scrutiny and reduced the House's ability to hold the government accountable. These trends reflect deeper political and procedural issues that require careful examination before meaningful reform can be proposed.

b. Why Do Disruptions Occur?



i. Hostility between Government and Opposition

- The shift from healthy political rivalry to sustained antagonism has eroded trust between the two sides.
- When dialogue breaks down, confrontation replaces cooperation.
- This environment encourages disruptive behaviour as a substitute for debate.

ii. A Politics of Retaliation

- Parties increasingly justify today's disruptions by citing past actions of their opponents.
- This tit-for-tat logic creates a cycle where obstruction is seen as legitimate.
- Over time, such behaviour becomes routine rather than exceptional.

iii. Perceived Marginalisation of the Opposition

- The opposition often feels it lacks sufficient avenues to raise urgent matters.
- Denial of discussion on pressing issues fuels frustration.
- As formal channels shrink, protest becomes the only available tool within the House.

iv. Limited Consultation before Major Decisions

- Important bills are sometimes introduced or passed with minimal prior consultation.
- Rapid passage leaves little space for scrutiny or consensus-building.
- Disruption is then used to compel the government to engage.

v. Weak Enforcement of Parliamentary Rules

- While procedure books contain clear norms on discipline, they are unevenly enforced.
- Presiding officers often prefer accommodation over strict action.
- Inconsistent penalties lower the deterrent value of rules and embolden repeat violations.

c. How Disruptions Undermine Parliamentary Democracy

i. Loss of Legislative Time

- Frequent adjournments sharply reduce the hours available for debate.
- Key issues remain undiscussed, and major bills or budgets may be passed hastily.

- This diminishes the quality of law-making.

ii. Declining Executive Accountability

- Question Hour and Zero Hour are crucial tools for oversight.
- When disruptions dominate, ministers face fewer questions.
- Government accountability weakens.

iii. Weakening of the Law-Making Process

- Bills passed amid disorder often lack rigorous scrutiny.
- Fewer bills are referred to committees, reducing expert and bipartisan examination.
- This increases the likelihood of legislative gaps or legal challenges.

iv. Erosion of Public Confidence

- Repeated scenes of chaos reduce citizens' trust in Parliament.
- The House appears more like a site of protest than deliberation.
- This undermines faith in representative democracy.

v. Silencing of Smaller Parties

- Smaller parties rely on structured debate time to voice constituency interests.
- Disruptions crowd out their limited speaking opportunities.
- This narrows the diversity of parliamentary debate.

d. A Deeper Behavioural Challenge

The parliamentary culture has gradually shifted from consensus-seeking dialogue to confrontational politics. Earlier expectations of reciprocity, civility and mutual accommodation have given way to a belief that adversarial tactics are justified because "the other side once did the same." This mindset sustains a cycle where disruptions become detached from issues and instead reflect a broader erosion of democratic norms. Structural reforms alone cannot succeed unless accompanied by behavioural and political change.

e. Comparative Insights from Other Democracies

i. Guaranteed Opposition Space

- The United Kingdom reserves dedicated Opposition Days each week.
- This institutional assurance allows minority parties to raise issues without resorting to obstruction.

ii. Clear Codes of Conduct

- Several parliamentary democracies enforce strict behavioural norms.
- Penalties for disorder are applied consistently.
- Predictable enforcement helps maintain decorum.

iii. Regular Government–Opposition Consultations

- Many legislatures hold scheduled dialogue sessions before major decisions.
- Such consultations reduce surprises and build trust.
- As a result, confrontation on the floor is minimised.

f. Way Forward

i. A Mutually Agreed Code of Conduct

- Political parties should adopt a shared code defining acceptable behaviour.
- Violations must attract credible and uniform consequences.
- This can rebuild a culture of responsibility.

ii. Assured Space for the Opposition

- Scheduled time—similar to Opposition Days—should be guaranteed.
- This creates formal space for dissent.
- Predictable debate opportunities reduce incentives for disruption.

iii. Strengthening the Authority of the Speaker

- Presiding officers must be seen as impartial.
- They should have the autonomy to enforce rules consistently.
- A stronger Speaker can help restore decorum.

iv. Revitalising the Committee System

- More bills should be referred to standing and departmental committees.
- Committees allow detailed, non-partisan scrutiny.
- This eases pressure on the floor of the House.

v. Regular Government–Opposition Dialogue

- Structured consultation before major decisions can build trust.
- Early engagement reduces last-minute confrontation.
- This strengthens the institution as a whole.

vi. A Cultural Reset

- All parties must recognise that disruption harms Parliament itself.
- A functioning Parliament enhances the legitimacy of both government and opposition.
- Restoring decorum requires a collective shift toward democratic behaviour.

Conclusion

Parliament is the cornerstone of India's democratic system, but its effectiveness depends on sustained debate, meaningful oversight and cooperative behaviour among political actors. When disruptions become routine, the institution's deliberative character erodes and its constitutional purpose is weakened. Reviving parliamentary functioning therefore requires both structural reforms—such as stronger rules, effective committees and assured opposition space—and a transformation in political culture. Only through this combined effort can Parliament reclaim its role as a forum of ideas, accountability and collective decision-making.

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

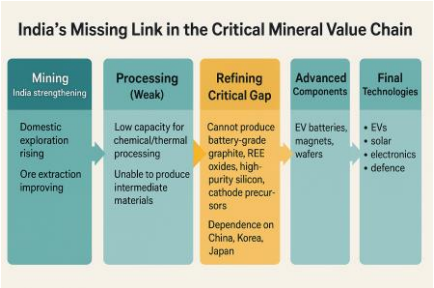
2. India's Critical Mineral Mission: Why Processing and Refining Form the Missing Link

a. Introduction

Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, silicon, graphite and titanium are central to the technologies that power the twenty-first century. They form the backbone of renewable energy systems, digital infrastructure, electric mobility, electronics, aerospace and defence manufacturing. India has begun to expand domestic exploration and mining, yet the country continues to rely heavily on imports for the high-purity materials required by industry. The core reason is that the real value addition lies not in mining but in processing and refining, where India's

capabilities remain limited. Unless this missing link is strengthened, India cannot progress from being a supplier of raw materials to becoming a producer of advanced technologies.

b. Why Processing Remains the Weakest Link



i. Limited Capacity to Produce High-Purity Materials

- Even when domestic mines extract valuable ore, India rarely processes it into battery-grade graphite, magnet-ready rare earth elements or ultra-pure polysilicon.
- The domestic industrial ecosystem therefore depends on imports from countries with advanced refining technology.
- As a result, mining alone does not provide strategic autonomy; it simply shifts raw material to foreign processing hubs, from which India repurchases refined minerals at much higher prices.

ii. Loss of Value Addition within India

- Countries that control refining also control pricing, downstream industries and technological development.
- India's absence in this stage means it remains locked into the lower end of the value chain.
- This dependence affects high-technology sectors such as electronics, aerospace and defence.

iii. Continued Strategic Vulnerability

- For minerals essential to clean energy and national security, foreign dependence creates supply risks.
- Without domestic refining, India's broader economic and industrial goals remain exposed to geopolitical shocks.

c. Why This Dependence Has Become Risky

i. China's Dominance in Global Refining

- China controls between seventy and ninety percent of global refining capacity for several key minerals, including processed graphite, rare earths and battery precursors.
- Recent export controls imposed for national security reasons highlight how vulnerable dependent economies can become.
- This concentration of refining power gives China disproportionate influence over global clean-energy supply chains.

ii. Global Realignment of Critical Mineral Supply Chains

- Major economies are restructuring supply chains to prioritise secure and politically reliable partners.
- India must demonstrate strong refining capability if it is to be included in these emerging networks.
- Mining alone will not meet the expectations of global partners seeking end-to-end supply assurance.

iii. India's Clean Energy and Industrial Ambitions

- Renewable energy expansion, electric mobility, semiconductor fabrication and defence manufacturing all require predictable access to refined minerals.
- Shortages or price volatility in imported refined materials can slow India's strategic programmes.
- Strengthening processing capability is therefore essential for meeting climate and industrial goals.

d. Five Measures India Must Adopt

i. Building Innovation and Processing Capability

- Centres of Excellence in critical minerals must evolve from research platforms into engines of industrial deployment.
- Their mandate should include developing commercially viable refining technologies that can operate at scale.
- Strong collaboration between national laboratories, engineering institutes and industry is necessary to bridge the gap between pilot research and large-scale production.

ii. Recovering Minerals from Secondary Resources

- India produces significant industrial waste streams that contain critical minerals—coal fly ash with rare earths, red mud with gallium, zinc residues with cobalt and steel slag with vanadium.
- Pilot projects have shown the feasibility of recovery.
- Establishing extraction units within dedicated Critical Mineral Parks can convert secondary resources into meaningful supply.

iii. Training a Skilled Workforce for Refining Industries

- High-quality refining demands specialised metallurgical and chemical expertise.
- India must design new diploma and degree programmes and create robust training-of-trainers systems.
- A skilled workforce will support domestic industries and reduce dependence on foreign expertise.

iv. Reducing Investment Risk and Providing Demand Stability

- Refining projects face volatility due to fluctuating mineral prices and shifting global demand.
- Strategic stockpiles can help stabilise markets by purchasing domestic refined minerals during downturns and releasing stocks during shortages.
- Major sectors such as defence and electronics can further stabilise demand by committing to source part of their inputs domestically.

v. Linking Mineral Diplomacy with Domestic Processing Strength

- India's international partnerships must evolve from focusing solely on mining rights to incorporating processing and refining collaboration.
- Joint ventures, co-investments and shared facilities in Critical Mineral Parks can anchor co-production models.
- As India builds refining capability, global partners will treat it as a central actor in the critical mineral ecosystem rather than a peripheral buyer.

e. Why This Matters for India's Future

Critical minerals underpin the technologies that will define India's economic growth and national security over the next several decades. Renewable energy systems, semiconductor fabs, telecommunications, aerospace platforms, medical imaging and defence systems all require refined minerals of high purity. Without strong domestic refining capabilities, each of these sectors remains vulnerable to external shocks and geopolitical pressures. Building a complete refining ecosystem therefore becomes a foundation for India's strategic autonomy, industrial competitiveness and long-term technological advancement.

Conclusion

India has made meaningful progress in exploration and mining, but the absence of domestic refining capacity remains the critical weakness in its mineral value chain. To transition from a supplier of raw ore to a technology-driven economy, India must invest in refining technologies, recover minerals from secondary sources, cultivate a skilled workforce, stabilise industrial demand and build partnerships

centred on processing rather than extraction alone. Strengthening this missing link will allow India to develop resilient supply chains, reduce external dependence and safeguard its strategic and economic interests in an uncertain global environment.

GS Paper III: Economics

3. Rupee Breaches the Ninety Mark: Causes, Implications and the Role of the Reserve Bank of India

a. Introduction

The depreciation of the Indian rupee beyond ninety per United States dollar has generated both public debate and policy concern. Currency movements are natural for any open economy, yet the speed, timing, and structural pressures behind this decline require careful analysis. A weaker rupee affects trade balances, foreign investment flows, inflation, and the broader macroeconomic environment. Understanding why the currency is weakening and how the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is responding provides insight into India's economic fundamentals and policy direction.

b. Why is the Rupee Depreciating?

Impacts of a Weaker Rupee: Gains and Risks

Potential Gains	Potential Risks
Export competitiveness rises	Imported inflation (oil, electronics)
Domestic manufacturing gets a push	Higher costs for firms dependent on foreign inputs
Tourism & IT services gain advantage	Higher cost of foreign travel, education

i. Foreign Portfolio Outflows

Foreign portfolio investors have withdrawn more than one and a half lakh crore rupees from Indian markets this year.

- Such outflows occur when investors expect better returns or lower risks abroad, especially if interest rates in developed economies remain high.
- When investors exit, they convert rupees into dollars, increasing dollar demand and pushing the rupee down.
- In financial markets, even a perception of better opportunities elsewhere can trigger large movements of capital.

ii. A Widening Trade Deficit

India's imports have grown faster than its exports.

- High import demand for gold, electronics, fertilisers, crude oil, and machinery increases India's need for dollars.
- When the trade deficit expands persistently, the rupee weakens because more foreign currency is required to pay for imports.
- This structural imbalance acts as a continuous downward pressure on the rupee.

iii. The Surge in Gold Imports

Gold imports have risen sharply due to festive demand and record global prices.

- India has a strong cultural and investment preference for gold.
- Higher global prices mean the same quantity of gold requires more dollars, worsening the current account position.
- As a result, the rupee loses value.

iv. Weakness in Export Performance

Exports have slowed across key sectors—engineering goods, textiles, chemicals, garments, gems and jewellery.

- Lower global demand and logistical challenges have reduced export orders.

- Fewer exports mean fewer dollar inflows, reducing natural support for the rupee.
- Even India's shipments to the United States, its largest export destination, have softened.

v. Uncertainty over the India–United States Trade Arrangement

Trade negotiations influence investor sentiment.

- Expectations of a bilateral trade deal had supported optimism.
- Delays create uncertainty about future market access and export competitiveness.
- Negative sentiment can convert into reduced foreign investment, weakening the rupee.

vi. Muted Performance of Indian Equity Markets

When domestic equity markets underperform compared to global peers:

- Foreign investors tend to shift capital elsewhere.
- Reduced inflows lower dollar supply.
- This again contributes to rupee depreciation.

c. How is the Reserve Bank of India Responding?

i. Allowing an Orderly and Gradual Adjustment

The RBI does not defend any fixed exchange rate.

- It allows the rupee to adjust in line with market fundamentals.
- This avoids sudden instability and preserves policy credibility.
- A flexible exchange rate helps absorb external shocks.

ii. Preserving Export Competitiveness

A mildly weaker rupee can support exporters.

- Indian goods become cheaper abroad, improving competitiveness.
- As long as movement is smooth, a slightly undervalued rupee helps correct trade imbalances.
- This calculation guides the RBI's cautious approach to intervention.

iii. Protecting Foreign Exchange Reserves

India's forex reserves have dipped by around twelve billion dollars recently.

- Aggressive intervention to artificially strengthen the rupee would drain reserves.
- Large interventions also disrupt domestic liquidity.
- Hence, the RBI intervenes only to prevent sharp, disorderly fluctuations, not to fix a particular value.

d. Implications of Rupee Depreciation

i. Potential Gains

- Exports may rise as Indian goods become relatively inexpensive internationally.
- Costlier imports may encourage domestic production, supporting local industry.
- Tourism and services paid for in rupees (e.g., IT, business services) may become more globally competitive.

ii. Potential Risks

- Depreciation raises the cost of imports, potentially creating imported inflation, especially in crude oil, electronics, fertilisers, and machinery.
- Firms dependent on imported inputs face higher production costs.

- Households experience higher expenses on foreign travel, overseas education, and imported goods.
- If inflation persists, it weakens purchasing power and complicates monetary policy.

e. What Will Shape the Rupee's Trajectory?

i. United States Monetary Policy

- If the US Federal Reserve cuts rates, the dollar may weaken.
- A weaker dollar eases pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee.

ii. Progress in the India–United States Trade Dialogue

- A favourable trade agreement can boost exports.
- Improved investor sentiment would support dollar inflows.

iii. Movements in Gold Demand and Prices

- Persistently high gold prices enlarge India's import bill.
- Lower gold demand would reduce pressure on the rupee.

iv. Global Oil Prices

- Crude oil is a major component of India's imports.
- Lower prices ease the current account deficit and support currency stability.

v. Performance of Domestic Financial Markets

- Stronger equity markets attract foreign investments.
- Higher inflows improve dollar availability and strengthen the rupee.

Conclusion

The rupee's breach of the ninety mark reflects both global headwinds and domestic structural pressures. While depreciation is not inherently harmful, the balance between export competitiveness, import costs, and inflation control remains crucial. The Reserve Bank of India's approach—allowing gradual adjustment while curbing volatility—aims to protect stability without undermining growth. Going forward, the rupee will be shaped by global monetary trends, India's trade performance, commodity prices, and the confidence that investors place in the country's economic direction. The episode underscores the importance of strengthening India's external sector fundamentals for long-term resilience.

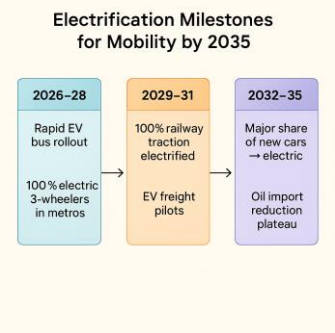
GS Paper III: Environment

4. India's Climate Transition Strategy: A Seven-Point Framework for the 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions

a. Introduction

India is preparing its next set of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement for the period up to 2035. These commitments must reconcile India's long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 with the equally important objective of sustaining rapid economic growth. Rising energy demand makes this balancing act even more complex. A structured transition framework is therefore essential to guide reforms, prioritise investments and ensure that economic expansion gradually separates itself from rising emissions. The seven-point strategy outlined below serves as a coherent blueprint for this transformation, signalling India's readiness for deeper climate action.

b. The Seven-Point Transition Plan



i. Reducing the Emissions Intensity of Growth

India has made steady progress in lowering emissions intensity relative to 2005 levels.

- The proposed target for 2035 is a reduction of about sixty-five percent.
- This does not immediately lower total emissions because the economy will continue to grow.
- However, it ensures that emissions increase at a much slower pace than national income, strengthening India's international credibility and reinforcing its commitment to cleaner development.

ii. Raising the Share of Non-Fossil Electricity to Eighty Percent

- India has already aimed for half of its installed power capacity to come from non-fossil sources by 2030.
- The next objective is to raise this share to eighty percent by 2035.
- Achieving such a large shift will require substantial investment in solar, wind, hydroelectric and nuclear power.
- Equally important are transmission corridors, upgraded grid systems and large-scale storage solutions so that renewable electricity can be supplied reliably across regions.

iii. Initiating a Responsible Phase-Down of Unabated Coal

- Coal will continue to play a role in India's energy supply, but its use must decline gradually to meet long-term climate goals.
- One proposal involves avoiding new coal plants without carbon-capture technology after 2030.
- Existing capacity would peak around the same time and slowly reduce thereafter.
- This transition must protect the livelihoods of workers and communities in coal-dependent states such as Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh through skill development, social protection and the creation of new industries.

iv. Electrifying Transport and Other Hard-to-Abate Sectors

- Electricity is expected to become the backbone of a low-carbon economy.
- Transport offers quick gains because electrification reduces both emissions and urban air pollution.
- Proposed steps include complete electrification of railway traction by 2035, widespread adoption of electric buses, full transition to electric three-wheelers and sector-specific targets for electric cars and freight vehicles.
- These changes also reduce dependence on imported oil and promote domestic technological innovation.

v. Integrating Carbon Market Mechanisms into National Policy

- India will begin its Carbon Credit Trading Scheme in 2026.
- Over time, the scheme should evolve into a major policy instrument under the new NDC.
- A review after two years can help determine whether sectors such as power generation and medium-sized manufacturing should be added.
- Tighter performance standards can encourage industries to adopt cleaner technologies and reward those who innovate by assigning market value to emission reductions.

vi. Designing a Grid Capable of Handling Renewable Variability

- Solar and wind energy fluctuate throughout the day and across seasons.
- India therefore requires major expansion of battery storage and pumped-storage hydropower.
- Pricing reforms such as real-time markets and time-of-day tariffs allow both producers and consumers to respond more efficiently to changing supply.

- A flexible, modern grid is essential for supporting the eighty-percent non-fossil electricity target.

vii. Mobilising Finance for the Transition

- India will require an estimated sixty-two billion dollars annually between 2026 and 2035 for the transition.
- Most investment must come from domestic savings and private capital.
- International climate finance, equity flows and funding from multilateral development banks will complement domestic resources.
- India's stable growth outlook enhances its ability to attract these funds and align them with national development goals.

c. Governance Architecture for Coordinated Action

Climate action spans multiple ministries, state governments and economic sectors. This complexity demands an institutional anchor that can ensure coordination and predictability. A revitalised Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change could play this integrative role.

- It can approve the national transition framework.
- It can assign responsibilities across ministries and states.
- It can monitor implementation and update policies as technology and economic conditions evolve.

Such a central body ensures that India's climate strategy proceeds in a coherent, sequenced and accountable manner.

d. Why This Seven-Point Plan Matters

The plan enhances India's credibility in international climate negotiations by offering a transparent and long-term vision for decarbonisation.

- It supports economic growth while steadily reducing emissions.
- It promotes a just transition for coal-dependent communities.
- It strengthens India's position in attracting global climate finance.
- It aligns climate commitments with the national vision of becoming a prosperous, resilient and technologically advanced society.

Conclusion

India stands at an important inflection point. Meeting rising energy demand while reducing emissions requires clarity of purpose and carefully sequenced reforms. The seven-point transition plan provides such a roadmap. By expanding renewable energy, managing the gradual decline of coal, electrifying transport, modernising electricity markets, strengthening carbon-pricing tools, mobilising large-scale finance and building strong governance structures, India can craft a credible and forward-looking NDC for 2035. This approach positions the country to assume a leadership role in global climate action while advancing its long-term aspiration of becoming a developed, climate-resilient nation.

GS Paper III: Disaster Management

5. Climate Extremes and the Failure of Urban Metrics

a. Introduction

Urban development today is often judged by indicators such as transport connectivity, airport capacity, business climate, cultural infrastructure, and overall liveability scores. These markers

shaped global perceptions in the twentieth century when climate variability was far lower. However, climate change has altered rainfall patterns, intensified storms, and increased the frequency of floods and landslides.

Cities that appear efficient according to conventional metrics are repeatedly exposed as fragile during extreme weather events. The mismatch between what we measure and what actually determines safety has become a major challenge for urban planning.

b. Why This Challenge Has Become Urgent

Across South and Southeast Asia, intense rainfall events now routinely exceed the design capacity of urban systems. Recent disasters in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines show a common trend: once daily rainfall crosses around 300 mm, drains overflow, slopes collapse, and vulnerable settlements face severe damage.

Indian cities—both metropolitan and mid-sized—experience similar patterns every monsoon. Infrastructure built for older rainfall norms is unable to cope with today's extremes. This growing gap between historical design values and current climatic realities makes urban vulnerability a critical concern.

c. Urban Rankings and the Climate Blind Spot

Global indices like the Global Liveability Index, UN-Habitat Prosperity Index, and the City Resilience Index traditionally rate cities on parameters such as transport, culture, business environment, and quality of life.

Although useful, these frameworks rarely evaluate a city's resilience to climate extremes. They usually do not assess:

- performance of drains during cloudburst-level rainfall
- slope stability
- encroachment on floodplains
- vulnerability of informal settlements
- health of natural water channels
- effectiveness of early warning and evacuation systems

Thus, a city may rank highly internationally yet remain extremely unsafe during high-intensity rainfall.

d. How Existing Metrics Misjudge Risk

i. Overreliance on City-Wide Averages

Urban indices rely heavily on aggregated statistics. These averages hide sharp inequalities:

- Affluent areas usually have better drainage and stronger housing.
- Informal settlements on slopes or riverbanks face quick flooding and slow recovery.

When such contrasting realities are merged into a single score, high-risk areas become invisible.

ii. Neglect of Secondary and Peri-Urban Cities

Most global rankings focus on capital cities and mega-metropolises. Yet the fastest-growing zones—small and medium cities—often face the highest risks:

- weaker infrastructure
- poor regulation
- rapid, unplanned expansion

Despite this, they remain largely absent from global evaluations, creating a false sense of national resilience.

iii. Preference for Visible Infrastructure Over Safety Systems

Cities receive higher rankings for metro systems, flyovers, airports, and commercial districts. But the true determinants of climate resilience—desilting drains, maintaining culverts, enforcing building codes, relocating households from unsafe areas—rarely appear in formal indices.

These unglamorous systems determine whether a city survives or collapses during a storm.

e. How Flood Events Reveal the Limits of Current Metrics

During extreme rainfall:

- drainage designed for older rainfall data fails quickly
- warnings often reach richer areas earlier
- low-income residents face the greatest exposure
- recovery is slowest where infrastructure is weakest

Even cities celebrated for liveability experience widespread disruption and displacement. This shows that older planning assumptions no longer hold in a warming world.

f. An Outdated Definition of the Modern City

Traditionally, modernity has been associated with expressways, skyscrapers, cultural districts, and economic vibrancy. But in today's climate context, a city cannot claim to be modern unless it:

- protects residents from intense storms
- manages floodplains responsibly
- stabilises vulnerable slopes
- maintains safe and affordable housing
- ensures quick recovery after disasters

Thus, resilience—not aesthetics—must become the core of urban modernity.

g. Policy Implications

i. Redesign Urban Indices to Include Climate Resilience

Metrics should explicitly assess:

- drainage capacity
- vulnerability of settlements
- slope and floodplain management
- emergency systems and response capability

Without these indicators, investment will continue to ignore critical risks.

ii. Invest in Secondary and Peri-Urban Centres

These are the fastest-growing and most risk-prone urban areas. Early investment in safe housing, better drainage, green buffers, and strict zoning is essential for long-term resilience.

iii. Align Infrastructure with Updated Climate Projections

Cities can no longer design drains or roads using historical averages. Planning must incorporate:

- projected rainfall patterns
- higher peak intensities
- more frequent extreme events

This requires new design standards for roads, bridges, drains, and building codes.

iv. Ensure Equitable Climate Adaptation

Resilience must benefit the entire city, not only its wealthier neighbourhoods. Policies should focus on:

- safe relocation where required
- strengthening informal housing
- targeted welfare support for recovery

Adaptation that excludes vulnerable groups will not protect the city as a whole.

Conclusion

Climate change has exposed a deep flaw in how cities are judged and imagined. Traditional urban metrics highlight outward modernity but ignore the systems that actually protect lives. To build genuinely liveable cities, India must shift from aesthetic modernity to resilient modernity—one grounded in safety, equity, and climate preparedness.

Only when planning, investment, and evaluation incorporate climate realities will cities be capable of handling extreme weather and ensuring rapid, fair recovery for all residents.

Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

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This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

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  Collaborative micro-notes, doubt resolutions, PYQ-linked discussions, and peer-reviewed clarity.

- **Community Sessions**
  Weekly "Open Mic" sharing sessions where learners discuss strategies, mistakes, breakthroughs, and lessons from their UPSC journey.

- **An Evolving Learning Culture**
  A serious, supportive, and intelligent peer environment — no noise, no clutter. Learning grows here through interaction, reflection, and structured peer collaboration.

"From Isolation to Interaction — Learn the UPSC Way, the Smart Way."

6. Suggest Topics for Coverage

If you feel any important theme is missing or under-covered, simply post it in the "Suggestions" channel on our Discord server.

Our content team regularly reviews inputs and includes relevant suggestions in upcoming Monthly Current Affairs Modules.

Beyond daily updates, the PrepAlpine Discord functions as a complete UPSC learning ecosystem — offering free peer mentorship, structured discussions, practice threads, AI-powered micro-learning tools, and a community of serious aspirants working together.

Together, these resources embody the PrepAlpine vision:

Better Content. Smarter Mentorship. Intelligent Preparation.