



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**10th September 2026**



**CONTEXT:** Defence cooperation gets a fresh push

## Context

- Rajnath Singh's Sri Lanka visit — September 2026
- First Indian Defence Ministerial visit in nearly four decades
- **Three defence-sector MoUs**
  - L70 gun upgradation
  - National Cadet Corps cooperation
  - National Defence Colleges cooperation
- Sri Lanka's security assurance to India
- Maritime security — central focus
- "Neighbourhood First" + MAHASAGAR
- From crisis assistance → strategic partnership

## Why Sri Lanka matters to India?

1. Geostrategic location
  - Located at the centre of Indian Ocean shipping routes
  - Proximity to India's southern coastline
  - Sea lanes connecting West Asia-Africa ↔ South/East Asia
  - Critical for India's maritime security
2. Security
  - Maritime surveillance
  - Counter-terrorism
  - Drug trafficking
  - Illegal fishing
  - Piracy
  - Search & rescue
3. Strategic competition
  - Growing extra-regional presence in the Indian Ocean
  - Sri Lankan ports and infrastructure have wider strategic significance
  - Need to prevent strategic encirclement / security vulnerabilities
4. Economic & connectivity interests
  - Trade
  - Ports
  - Energy connectivity
  - Digital connectivity
  - Tourism
  - Investment



# India- Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation



**CONTEXT:** Defence cooperation gets a fresh push

## India-Sri Lanka Relations: Major Pillars

| Dimension          | Key areas                                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Political          | High-level visits, Neighbourhood First     |
| Defence & Security | Exercises, training, maritime security     |
| Economic           | Trade, investment, development assistance  |
| Connectivity       | Ports, ferry, air, digital connectivity    |
| Energy             | Power-grid connectivity, renewable energy  |
| Humanitarian       | Crisis assistance, disaster relief         |
| Cultural           | Buddhism, Tamil links, civilisational ties |
| People-to-people   | Tourism, education, diaspora               |

### Defence & Maritime Security: The most important emerging dimension

#### A. Defence cooperation

- Annual Defence Dialogue
- SLINEX — naval exercise
- MITRA SHAKTI — army exercise
- Regular military exchanges
- ~1,200 training vacancies annually for Sri Lankan Armed Forces
- Indian Navy/Coast Guard cooperation

#### B. Maritime security

- Maritime domain awareness
- Coastal surveillance
- Search & rescue

- Counter-narcotics
- Anti-piracy
- Disaster response
- Protection of sea lanes

#### C. Important examples

- Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre — Sri Lanka
- Indian Navy Dornier aircraft operated by Sri Lankan Air Force
- Indian assistance during maritime disasters.



**CONTEXT:** Defence cooperation gets a fresh push

## The persistent irritants: Where relations remain complicated

### 1. Fisheries dispute

- Indian fishermen ↔ Sri Lankan waters
- Palk Strait
- Bottom trawling
- Arrests/detention of fishermen
- Livelihood concerns

### 2. Tamil issue

- Political reconciliation
- Devolution
- 13th Amendment
- Rights and rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils

### 3. Asymmetry

- Huge difference in economic size and capabilities
- Fear of excessive Indian influence in some sections of Sri Lankan society

### 4. Strategic autonomy

- Sri Lanka seeks relations with India + China + other external powers
- India has to balance security concerns with respect for Sri Lankan sovereignty

### 5. Economic concerns

- Need to ensure Indian projects are viewed as mutually beneficial, not as instruments of dependence.

## Way Forward: From “Neighbourhood First” to a genuine strategic partnership

### 1. Maritime partnership

- Joint maritime surveillance
- Information sharing
- HADR
- Counter-narcotics
- Search & rescue

### 2. Connectivity

- Ferry links
- Air connectivity
- Digital connectivity
- Energy-grid connectivity

### 3. Economic integration

- Investment
- Tourism
- Supply chains
- MSMEs
- Renewable energy

### 4. Resolve fisheries issue

- Sustainable fishing
- Joint mechanisms
- Alternative livelihoods
- Technology-based monitoring

### 5. Respect Sri Lankan agency

- Avoid a purely security-centric approach
- Support Sri Lanka's strategic autonomy

### 6. People-centric diplomacy

- Tamil reconciliation
- Buddhist links
- Education
- Youth exchanges
- Cultural diplomacy

### 7. Institutionalise maritime cooperation

- Strengthen existing regional mechanisms
- Colombo Security Conclave
- IOR-oriented cooperation



# India– Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation



**CONTEXT:** Defence cooperation gets a fresh push

## **Mains Practice Question**

“Sri Lanka occupies a pivotal position in India’s neighbourhood and maritime security architecture.” In the light of recent developments, examine the strategic significance of India–Sri Lanka relations, with particular reference to defence cooperation, maritime security and emerging geopolitical challenges.

(15 marks, 250 words)



10th September 2026

**CONTEXT:** ICMR strengthens One Health surveillance

## One Health Approach

One Health

**Human + Animal + Environment = Integrated Health**

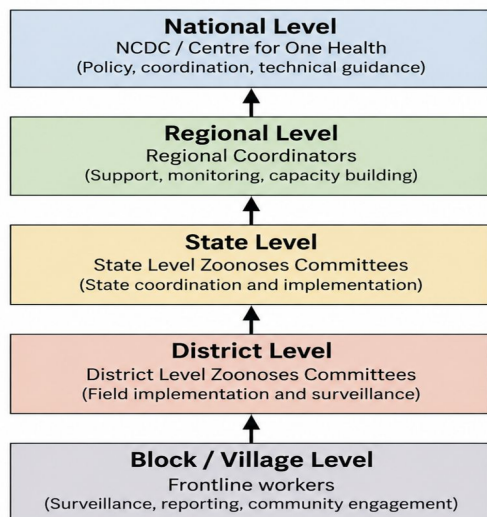
### What is India doing?

**Moving towards Early Detection → Prevention**

- Syndromic surveillance
- Zoonotic surveillance
- Wastewater surveillance
- Genomic + metagenomic surveillance
- 5 genomic/metagenomic hubs
- 13 priority pathogens
- Surveillance expansion: **47 → 75 cities by 2027**

### **Institutional mechanism**

(National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses)



## Why is One Health important NOW?

### **1. Zoonotic diseases**

- Diseases transmitted between animals and humans can create epidemics/pandemics.
- Examples:
  - COVID-19 | Rabies | Nipah | Avian Influenza | Leptospirosis

### **2. Antimicrobial Resistance**

- Excessive antimicrobial use in:
  - Humans + Livestock + Agriculture → AMR

### **3. Climate change**

- Changing temperature and rainfall patterns can alter:
  - Vector distribution → Disease transmission → Human vulnerability

### **4. Biodiversity & habitat loss**

Deforestation + habitat fragmentation → greater human-wildlife interaction → potential spillover.

### **5. Food safety**

Animal diseases, contaminated food chains and antimicrobial residues can directly affect human health.

## India's One Health Architecture

### **Two key initiatives**

#### **1. National One Health Programme for Prevention & Control of Zoonoses (NOHP-PCZ)**

- Nodal: NCDC, MoHFW
- Focus: Zoonotic disease surveillance & control
- Human + animal + wildlife surveillance
- State & district-level One Health committees

#### **2. National One Health Mission**

- Broader, cross-sectoral framework
- Integrates health + animal husbandry + environment + other sectors
- Focus: pandemic preparedness & early warning



**CONTEXT:** ICMR strengthens One Health surveillance

## International dimension

- **One Health is now a global governance framework.**
- **The Quadripartite comprises: WHO + FAO + WOA + UNEP**
- Their **One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026)** promotes coordinated action across human, animal, plant and ecosystem health. India's G20 presidency also highlighted One Health and pandemic preparedness.

## Challenges: Why is One Health difficult to implement?

- **Institutional silos**  
Human health | Animal husbandry | Environment
- **Data fragmentation**  
Separate surveillance & databases
- **Weak last-mile surveillance**  
Limited district/community-level capacity
- **Capacity gaps**  
Doctors + veterinarians + epidemiologists + ecologists need to work together
- **Centre–State coordination**  
Implementation largely depends on state/local institutions
- **Limited veterinary & wildlife integration**
  - One Health cannot become merely a **human-health programme**.
- **Community participation**
  - Frontline workers, farmers, livestock owners and local communities are crucial for early detection.

## Way Forward

### **1. Integrated surveillance**

Create interoperable surveillance systems across:

**Human + Animal + Wildlife + Environment**

### **2. Early-warning systems**

Move from **response** → **prediction & prevention**.

### **3. Strengthen district-level One Health structures**

Because outbreaks are detected **locally**, not in Delhi.

### **4. Build One Health workforce**

Doctors + veterinarians + epidemiologists + ecologists + data scientists.

### **5. AMR stewardship**

Reduce inappropriate antimicrobial use across **human and animal sectors**.

### **6. Community-based surveillance**

Use:

**ASHA + veterinarians + livestock workers + forest staff + Panchayats**

### **7. One Health in policy planning**

Health impact assessment should increasingly consider:

**Climate + biodiversity + agriculture + urbanisation + land-use change**



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**CONTEXT:** ICMR strengthens One Health surveillance

## **Mains Practice Question**

“One Health represents a shift from fragmented disease control to integrated health security. Discuss its significance and challenges for India.”

(10 marks, 150 words)



Newspaper : Indian Express Page Number : 14

• ECONOMY

## Egg, chicken, milk prices: Why they remain high

- **Livestock's economic importance:** GVA relative to crops rose from **34% (2013-14)** to **57% (2023-24)**.
- **Feed-cost vulnerability:** Feed constitutes ~**65-70% of poultry production cost**.
- **Broiler feed composition:** **55-65% maize + 25-30% soybean meal**.
- **Layer feed composition:** **50-60% maize + 18-20% soybean meal**.
- **Cattle feed:** Oilseed cakes/meals constitute ~**40-50%** of compound feed.
- **Competing demand for maize:** Rising **ethanol demand** is diverting maize from livestock feed, creating food-fuel competition.
- **Climate sensitivity:** **El Niño, heatwaves and water shortages** can simultaneously affect feed-crop yields and livestock productivity.
- **Soybean vulnerability:** Dependence on soybean meal exposes livestock to **domestic crop failures + global commodity-price volatility**.
- **Import dependence:** Poultry/feed companies have increasingly relied on **soybean imports** to address domestic shortages.
- **Livestock inflation is cost-push in nature:** Higher **maize, soybean meal and other feed-input costs** transmit directly into milk, egg and meat prices.
- **Structural policy dilemma:** Maize faces competing demands from **livestock feed, food consumption and ethanol**, highlighting the need to balance **nutrition security with energy security**.
- **Diversification imperative:** Greater use of **alternative feed ingredients, domestic oilseed production and efficient feed formulations** can reduce input-price vulnerability.



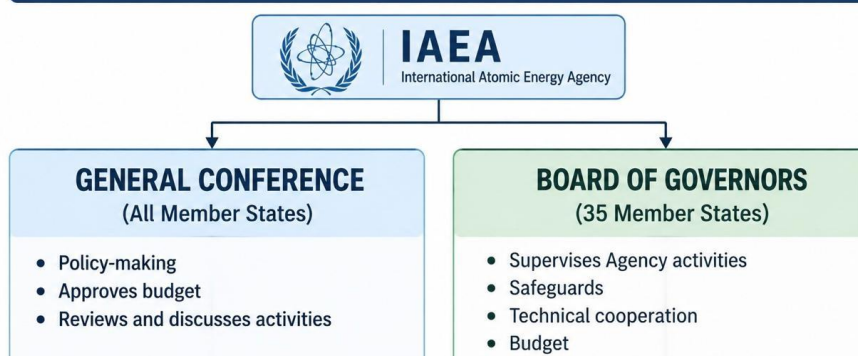
**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS :** Current Events of National and International Importance  
**Newspaper :** Indian Express **Page Number : 1**

- ❖ **Iran:** IAEA Board of Governors → **23/35 votes** → resolution to report Iran's non-compliance to the **UN Security Council** over failure to cooperate with safeguards investigations.
- ❖ **Safeguards issue:** IAEA → verification of **non-diversion of nuclear material** → Iran's cooperation/access to inspectors remains a major concern.
- **Headquarters: Vienna, Austria**
- **Nature: Autonomous intergovernmental organisation** within the UN system → not a UN specialised agency.
- **Membership: 180+ Member States** → India joined on **16 July 1957**.
- **Core mandate: Peaceful uses of nuclear energy + nuclear safety/security + safeguards/non-proliferation.**
- **Guiding principle: "Atoms for Peace and Development"**
- **IAEA & UN:** Reports to **UN General Assembly annually**; also reports to **UN Security Council** when matters relating to international peace and security arise.

**IAEA Safeguards:** Verification system → ensures nuclear material is **not diverted from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.**

- ❑ **Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA):** State accepts IAEA safeguards over **all nuclear material in all peaceful nuclear activities** → standard arrangement for NPT non-nuclear-weapon states.
- ❑ **Additional Protocol (AP):** Provides **expanded access and information** to IAEA → strengthens ability to detect undeclared nuclear material/activities.
- ❑ **India's safeguards:** India is **not an NPT signatory**, but has an **India-specific safeguards agreement** with IAEA covering designated civilian nuclear facilities.
- ❑ **India's Additional Protocol:** India's **Additional Protocol entered into force in 2014**.
- ❑ **India-IAEA distinction:** India's safeguards arrangement is **not the same as the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement applicable to NPT non-nuclear-weapon states**; India's safeguards are based on its India-specific agreements.

### IAEA — INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



# Changes in new GDP Series



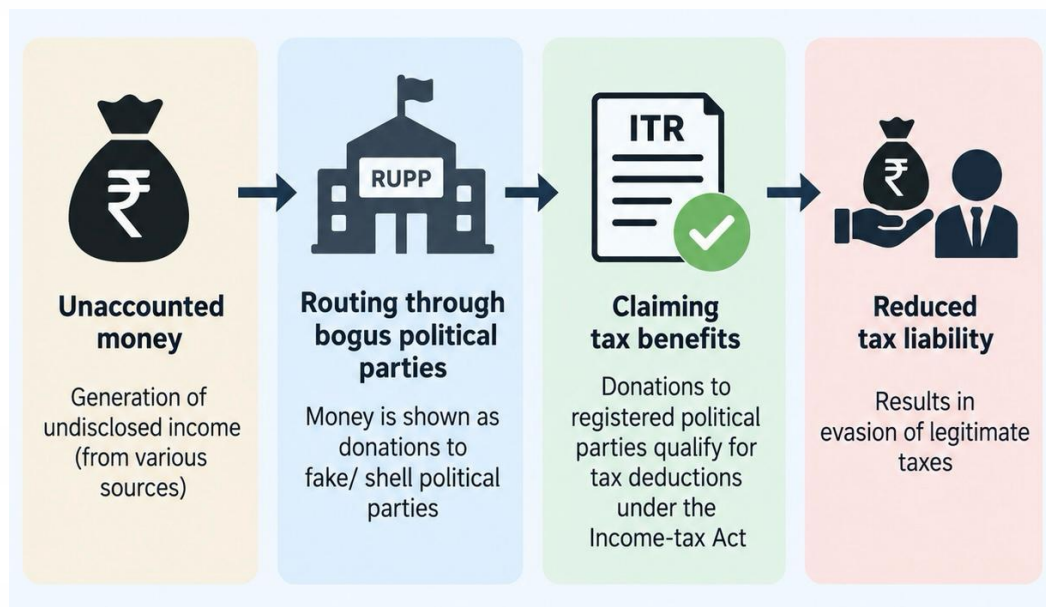
**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS :** Indian Economy  
**Newspaper :** Indian Express **Page Number : 13**

- **New GDP Series:** MoSPI has overhauled the methodology for converting **nominal GDP/GVA into real terms**, with greater use of **producer prices** and **double deflation**.
- **GDP Deflator:** A price index used to remove the effect of **price changes** from nominal GDP/GVA to derive real growth; unlike CPI/WPI, it reflects prices of **domestically produced output**.
- **Deflation:** The process of adjusting nominal values for **changes in prices** to measure actual/volume growth.
- **Single Deflation:** Uses a price index to deflate the value of **inputs and/or outputs**; the earlier approach could distort real GVA when input and output prices moved differently.
- **Double Deflation: Inputs and outputs are deflated separately** using appropriate price indices, before calculating real GVA.
- **Why Double Deflation?** If input prices and output prices change at different rates, single deflation can give a **misleading estimate of real growth**; double deflation addresses this.
- **Producer Price Index (PPI):** Measures prices **received by producers**, generally closer to the factory-gate price; therefore considered more appropriate for deflating producers' output/input values.
- **WPI vs PPI:** WPI primarily captures **wholesale prices of goods**, while PPI better captures the **prices received by producers** and excludes taxes/margins that can distort producer-level measurement.
- **Negative Deflator:** Arises when **nominal GVA growth is lower than real GVA growth**, implying a decline in the relevant price level.
- **Manufacturing & Negative Deflator:** The new GDP series has shown **negative implied deflators for manufacturing** in several quarters, partly because input prices and output prices have moved differently.
- **Oil Prices & Manufacturing Deflator:** The article highlights an **inverse movement**—rising crude oil prices can coincide with a falling manufacturing deflator when input costs rise faster than output prices.
- **Services Deflator:** The revised approach also changes how services are deflated; using inappropriate goods-based indices such as WPI can **understate the actual cost of services**.



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS :** Indian Economy  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu **Page Number : 11**

- **Tax evasion** is the **illegal deliberate concealment or misrepresentation of income/assets** to reduce tax liability.
- It involves **violation of tax laws**, unlike **tax avoidance**, which exploits legal provisions to reduce taxes.
- Common methods: **under-reporting income, over-reporting expenses, concealing transactions, maintaining false accounts and using bogus entities.**
- **Bogus political parties** can potentially be misused to **route unaccounted money and claim tax benefits** on purported political donations.
- Tax evasion can attract **tax recovery, penalties and prosecution**, depending on the nature and severity of the offence.
- Under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**, certain cases of under-reporting/misreporting can attract **penalties up to 200% of the tax payable.**



**SYLLABUS : PRELIMS :** Places in News

**Newspaper :** Indian Express **Page Number : 11**

- **Location:** Zimbabwe is a **landlocked country in Southern Africa**, located between the **Zambezi River in the north and Limpopo River in the south**.
- **Neighbouring countries:**  
**North/Northwest – Zambia | East/Northeast – Mozambique | Southwest/West – Botswana | South – South Africa.**
- **Capital: Harare; Bulawayo** is the major city of southwestern Zimbabwe.
- **Matabeleland South:** One of Zimbabwe's provinces, located in the **southwestern part of the country**; its capital is **Gwanda**. It borders **Botswana to the west and South Africa to the south**.
- **Why in news:** Indian critical-minerals company **LOHUM has secured 10 spodumene-bearing lithium mining blocks in Matabeleland South**, covering about **1,100 hectares**, and has dispatched its first lithium-ore shipment from Zimbabwe.



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**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**

1. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
2. Its Board of Governors comprises all member states, while the General Conference has 35 members.
3. It can report a member state's non-compliance with safeguards obligations to the UN Security Council.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: b**

**Q2. With reference to India and the IAEA safeguards regime, consider the following statements:**

1. India is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
2. India has an India-specific safeguards agreement with the IAEA covering designated civilian nuclear facilities.
3. India's Additional Protocol with the IAEA entered into force in 2014.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: b**

**Q3. In the context of India's new GDP series, "double deflation" refers to:**

- a) Applying the same price index to both inputs and outputs to calculate real GVA.
- b) Deflating inputs and outputs separately using appropriate price indices before calculating real GVA.
- c) Applying the GDP deflator twice in successive years to smooth volatility.
- d) Adjusting only wholesale prices twice a year for revised estimates.

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures prices received by producers, generally closer to the factory-gate price.
2. A negative GDP deflator implies that real GVA growth is higher than nominal GVA growth.
3. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is now considered a more accurate deflator for the services sector than CPI.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 only

**Answer: a**

**Q5. "Matabeleland South," recently in the news in the context of an Indian critical minerals company securing lithium mining blocks, is located in:**

- a) Zambia
- b) Mozambique
- c) Zimbabwe
- d) Botswana

**Answer: c**





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## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

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9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,  
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,  
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : [www.vajiramandravi.com](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)