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CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – R

El-Nino and La-Nina

Why in News?

It is noted that the above than the normal temperatures in the next three months are expected in western, central and eastern Asia and over the southern half of North America, and that there is a moderate likelihood (65 per cent) that the La Niña event will continue into April. Above than the Normal temperatures are also likely over most northern high latitudes - except north western North America - southern, central and eastern parts of South America, and equatorial and northern Africa. Below-normal temperatures are more likely for northern South America.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Paper I: Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the issue of Climate Change and the adaptation strategies.

GS I:

- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

GS III:

- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.

Articles Link

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ninonina.html>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084222>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/wmo-el-ni-ola-ni-update-january-2021>

<https://www.treehugger.com/el-nino-vs-la-nina-5096919>

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/213175/solar-geoengineering-sensible-rescue-plan-scientists/>

<https://phys.org/news/2021-02-la-nina-climate-peaked.html>

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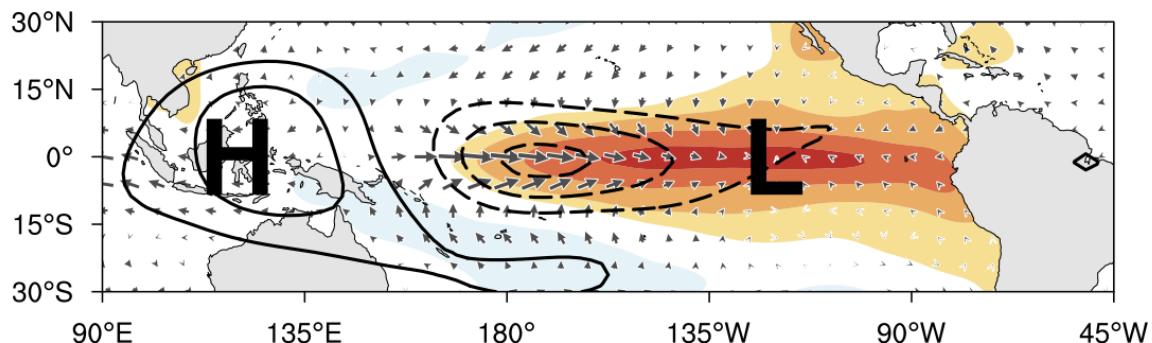
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<https://www.americangeosciences.org/critical-issues/faq/what-are-el-nino-and-la-nina>

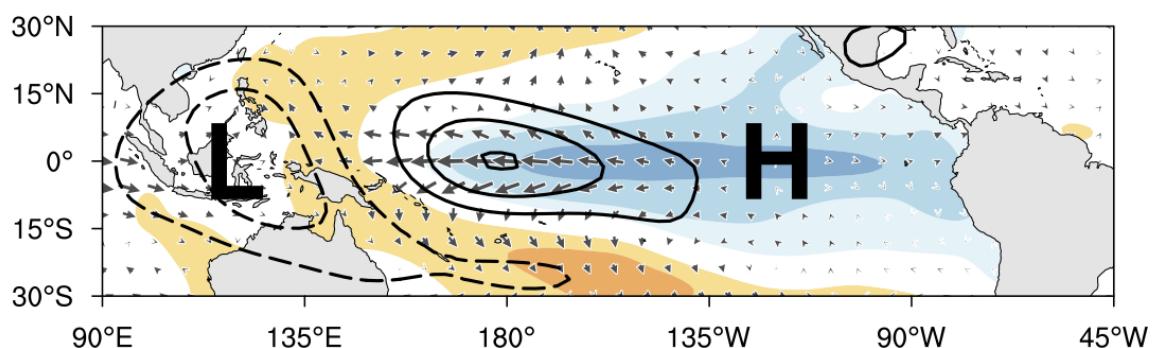
<https://www.climate.gov/enso>

Maps and Images:

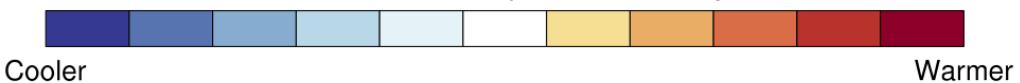
(a) El Niño



(b) La Niña



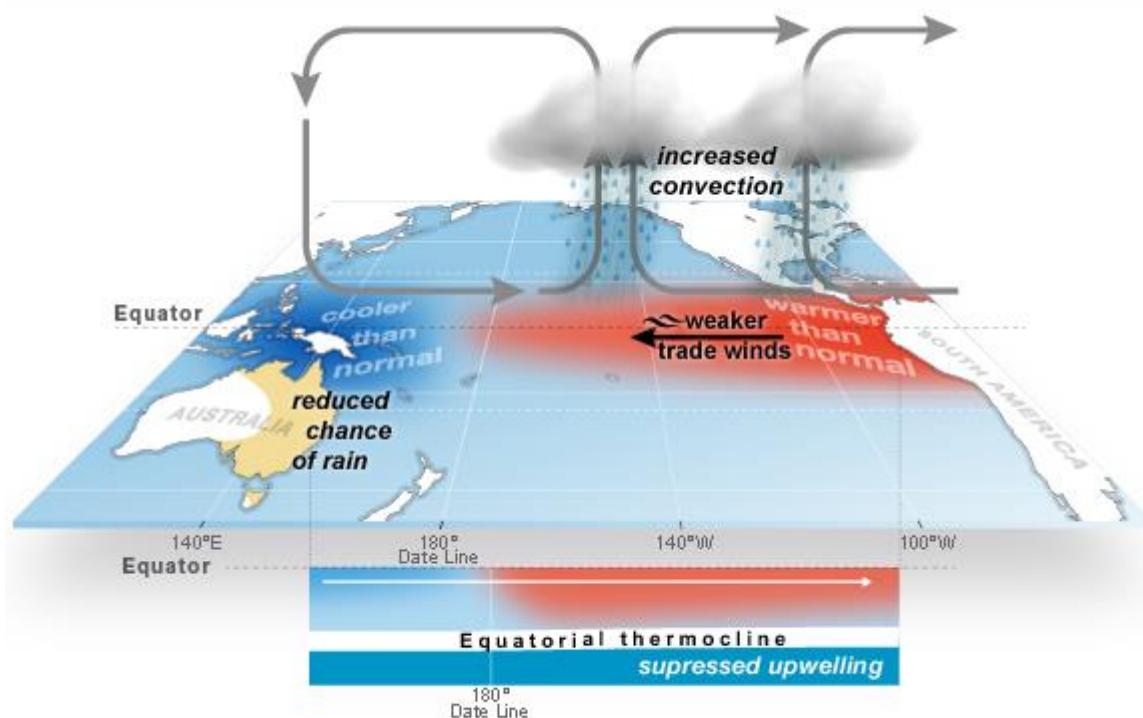
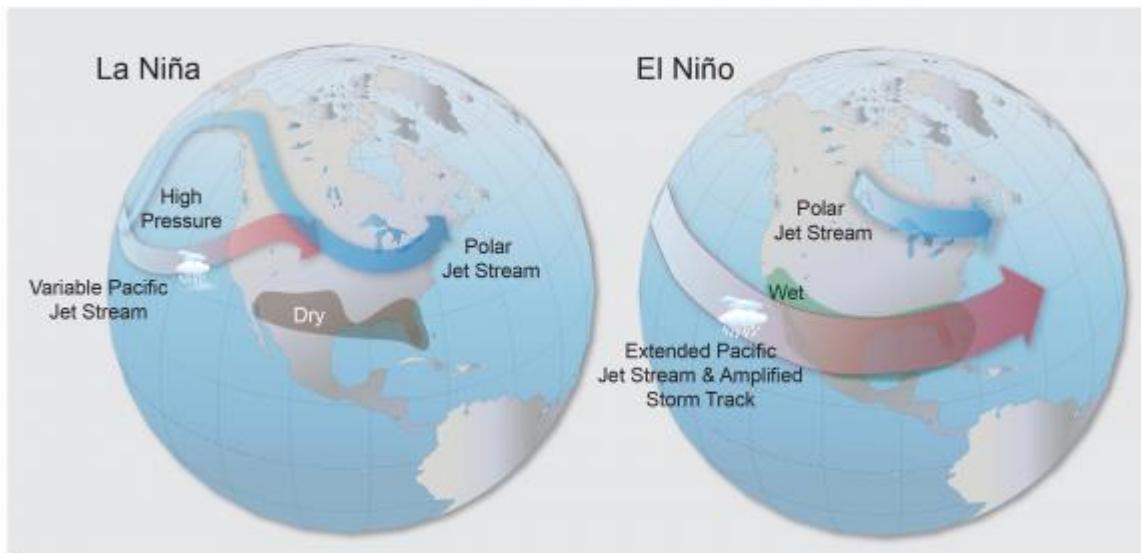
Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly



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La Niña and El Niño Patterns



El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO): **El Niño**

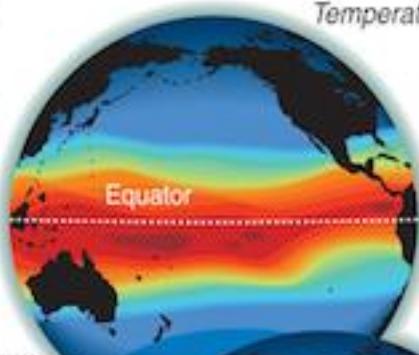
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EL NIÑO AND LA NIÑA

Forecasters say a El Niño weather pattern may develop later this year

EL NIÑO (the boy)

An irregular event of abnormal warming of Pacific waters. Occurs at intervals of two to seven years



Temperature °C*

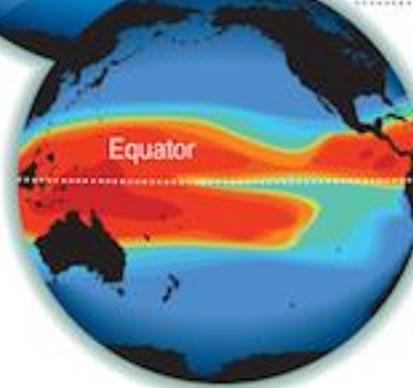
0°
8°
16°
24°
32°

Effects on climate

The warm currents flowing towards the east displace the cooler currents to Oceania. Rainfall occurs over central and eastern Pacific, and drought in Indonesia and Australia

LA NIÑA (the girl)

A cold episode that usually follows the warm El Niño phenomenon. The warm equatorial ridge cools, between the coasts of South America and Oceania

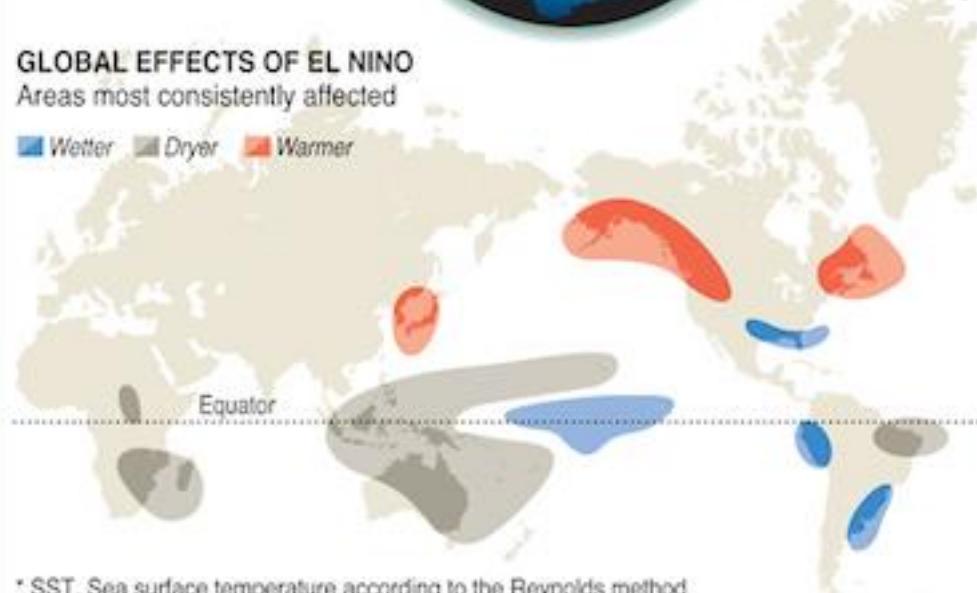


Currents contribute to form a warm pool in Oceania, increase rainfall in Asia and Australia, lower the temperature on the American coasts, and increase aridity

GLOBAL EFFECTS OF EL NIÑO

Areas most consistently affected

■ Wetter ■ Dryer ■ Warmer



* SST, Sea surface temperature according to the Reynolds method

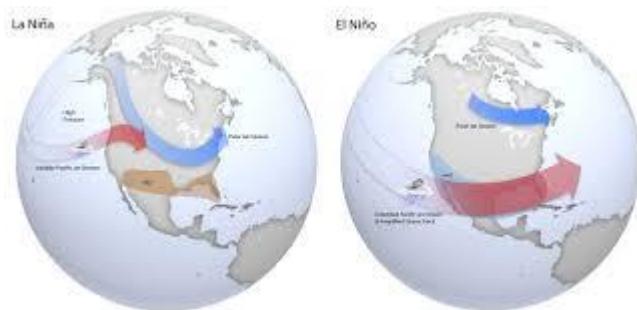
Sources: NOAA, NASA, Australia Bureau of Meteorology, Weather Information Systems

REUTERS

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Videos Link:

National Geographic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6s0T0m3F8s>

Met Office – Weather:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPA-KpldDVc>

Bureau of Meteorology:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzat16LMtQk>

Manual Scavenging and the related issues

Why in News?

The practice of manual scavenging has accursed Indian society since time immemorial. The efforts to abolish this custom have garnered momentum within the state machinery, advocacy groups and academia the last three decades, particularly since the constitution of the Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA) in 1994. Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, launched last year, aims to completely mechanise all septic and sewage tank cleaning operations in 243 cities across India, by April 30, 2021.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Paper I: Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the issue of Waste Management, Social implications of the Manual Scavenging, suggest the remedies to eradicate it from the Indian Society and the issues related to it.

GS I:

- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

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PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – R

GS II:

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

GS III:

- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.

Articles Link

<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-manual-scavenging.php#:~:text=Manual%20scavengers%20use%20basic%20tools,a%20sack%20and%20a%20handle.&text=Manual%20scavenging%20is%20regarded%20as,caste%2C%20and%20human%20dignity>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/waste/manual-scavenging-a-stinking-legacy-of-suffocation-and-stigma-61586>

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/08/25/cleaning-human-waste/manual-scavenging-caste-and-discrimination-india>

<https://www.theleaflet.in/do-sanitation-workers-identify-themselves-with-ambedkar-and-gandhi/#>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/water/the-missing-manual-scavengers-of-india-75104>

Maps and Images:

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THE WAIT IS OVER

The new sewer cleaning machines are expected to reduce the number of deaths due to manual sewer cleaning

10 deaths were reported between August and September last year; More than 80 deaths in the past decade



REASONS CITED FOR DELAY Court cases; Testing of machine models from Hyderabad and Pune



HIGHLIGHTS

- The machines are smaller so they can be used in narrow lanes
- Each machine costs Rs 40 lakh
- Next-gen model being used in Hyderabad municipality
- **First batch of 50 machines** to be launched on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2
- **A total of 200 machines to be launched** in multiple phases
- All machines will be operated by 'Dalit entrepreneurs' (First preference given to manual scavengers, their family members and Dalit individuals)
- DJB will help in funding, training and insurance of entrepreneurs

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Killer cesspool

Tamil Nadu tops the list in cases of deaths due to manual scavenging reported since 1993



Civic workers cleaning a manhole with bare hands at Begumpet in Hyderabad. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

STATE	DEATHS
Tamil Nadu	144
Gujarat	131
Karnataka	75
U.P.	71
Haryana	51
Rajasthan	33
Punjab	30 <i>In 445 cases of death, full compensation had been paid, while partial compensation had been given in 58 cases, the Lok Sabha was informed</i>
Delhi	28
West Bengal	18
Kerala	12
Uttarakhand	9
Andhra Pradesh	8
Chhattisgarh	4
Chandigarh	4
Telangana	2

SOURCE: LOK SABHA DBA

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Raising a stink

States where large number of deaths were reported while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the last four years

2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019*

■ TOTAL ■

*2019 DATA IS TILL NOVEMBER



FACTS THAT THE STUDY REVEALS

■ Conversion of latrines involving human scavenging into flush toilets is nil in Gujarat; below three-fourth in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand

■ Conversion of latrines flowing night soil into drains to sanitary ones is poor in Arunachal, Assam, Gujarat; below average in Kerala and Rajasthan

■ Conversion of latrines 'serviced by animals' into sanitary

ones is poor in Arunachal, Assam; below average in Rajasthan

■ Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal have done well

■ UP is the only state to report such a large incidence (1.5 lakh) of manual scavenging and claims to have eradicated about 70 per cent of it

Videos Link:

The Hindu:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHOup9Qy7nU>

Rajya Sabha TV:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-Rh4R_COKo

Down To Earth:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VChT60sTZSU>

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – R

Inflation Targeting

Why in News?

India's inflation target band of 2%-6% is up for review as the five-year term for the current monetary policy framework draws to a close, Finance Minister of India announced recently.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Paper I: Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the issue of Inflation Targeting, Monetary Policy Reforms etc.

GS I:

- Effects of globalization on Indian society.

GS II:

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/ Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

GS III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government Budgeting.
- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.

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Articles Link

<https://cleartax.in/g/terms/inflation-targeting>

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues15/>

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/basics/target.htm>

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/inflation_targeting.asp

<https://www.thebalance.com/inflation-targeting-definition-how-it-works-3305854#:~:text=Inflation%20targeting%20is%20a%20monetary,an%20inflation%20target%20of%202%25.>

Maps and Images:

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Inflation targeting regime

1) public announcement of numerical targets for inflation over the medium term

2) institutional commitment to price stability as the primary objective of the monetary policy, to which the others are subordinated

3) a comprehensive analysis and forecasting system that includes a variety of variables, not just monetary aggregates and the exchange rate, for monetary policy decisions

4) a transparent monetary policy strategy that involves communication to the public and the markets of the plans, objectives, rationale for central bank decisions

5) mechanisms by which the central bank is responsible to achieve the inflation target

Why inflation targeting is controversial?

A unique and at the same time a controversial feature inflation targeting is that the central bank should sideline all other objectives to ensure that the single goal of price stability is realized. This strategy makes the IT framework generally unacceptable in the developing world. This is because there are **two problems** while a developing country central bank adopt it.

First, fighting inflation or price stability is one important objective of the general macroeconomic objective in fast growing developing economies. The equally important objective is achievement faster economic growth.

Second one is that generally there is conflict or trade-off between the objective of price stability and economic growth.

Another limitation of inflation targeting in countries like India, it neglects the real cause of inflation – agricultural supply shocks which can't be solved by any monetary policy action.

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Pros

Avoid boom and bust

Reduced inflation expectations

Benefits of low inflation

Clarity

Cons

Can conflict with economic growth

Economies may need higher inflation

Limited guide to economy

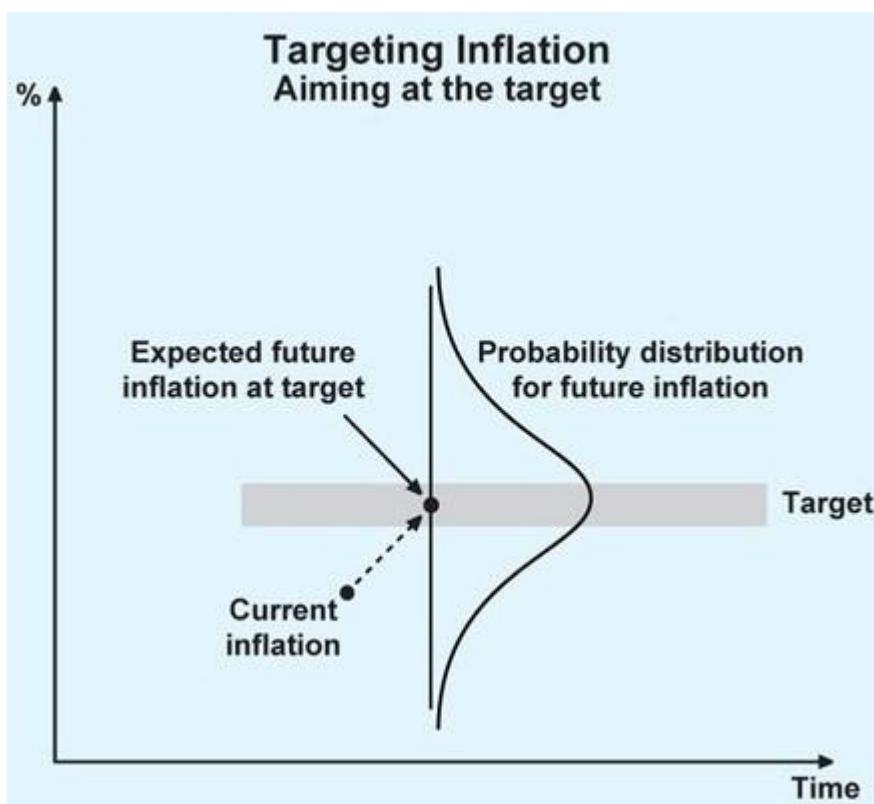
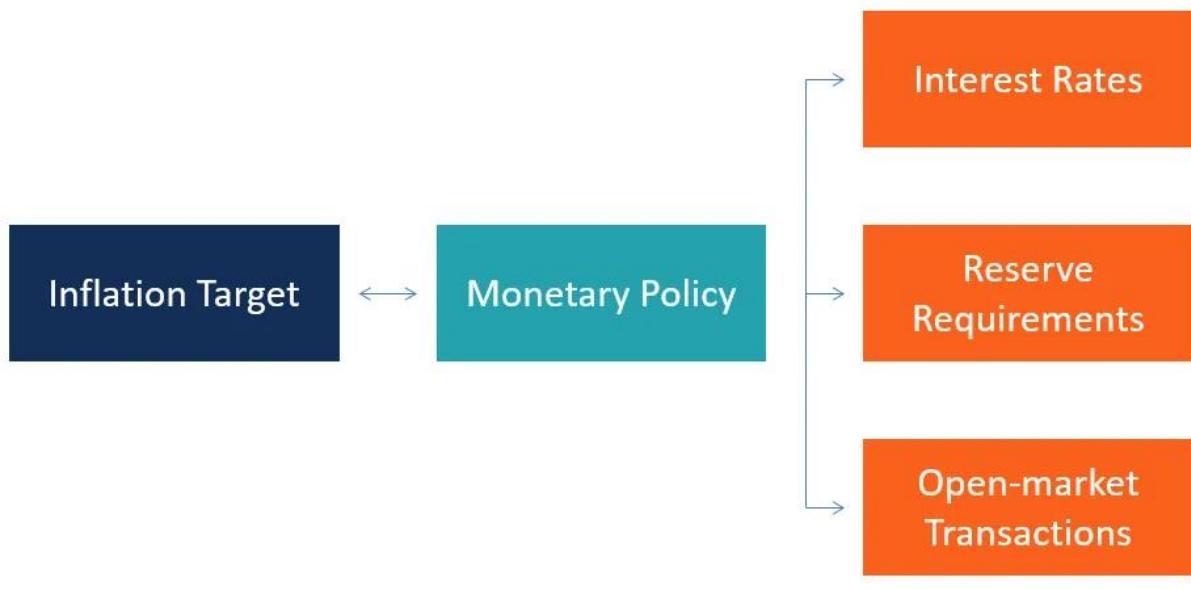
Inflexible

Inflation targetting

www.economicshelp.org

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Videos Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE7jKjdWyjg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Tztcva010Y>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuKuNtafmMo>