



MONTHLY CURRENT

AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY-2025

TIRUMAL

CLASSES

IAS

INSTITUTE

GS-II

1. Election Commission Neutrality:

Concerns regarding the *ECI's independence and transparency* have been raised by claims of bias and a deterioration of neutrality, especially in the conduct of recent elections such as Delhi 2025.

Article 324 of the Indian Constitution establishes the Election Commission of India. The Chief Election Commissioner and two other Election Commissioners make up its three-member body.

It holds *free and fair elections* for the president and vice president, state assemblies, and the Lok Sabha. It oversees voter registration, electoral records, and the model code of behaviour. It settles election-related disputes. It assigns election emblems and registers parties. It guards against government abuse and guarantees moral campaigning.

Allegations:

1. Violations of the Model Code of Conduct
2. Appointments Affected by Politics
3. Electoral Process Manipulation
4. Insufficient Transparency
5. Electoral Calendar Bias

2. Social Security Coverage for Gig Workers:

To increase gig workers' social security, the 2025 Budget included identity registration and health insurance. Basic welfare needs are met, however there are still issues with sustainability and enforcement.

In India, the *gig economy is predicted to grow to 23.5 million workers by 2029–2030*, accounting for 12% of the global labour market. It promotes economic growth by offering flexible work and income options, particularly in the service and e-commerce sectors.

In addition to offering insurance, health benefits, pensions, and a social security fund, the 2020 Code on Social Security acknowledges gig workers as a separate category.

Provisions for health insurance coverage under PM in the Budget for 2025 The e-Shram site for tracking and integrating employees into social security programs is called Jan Arogya Yojana.

Principal obstacles to the establishment of social security:

1. No relationship between the employer and employees
2. Unpredictable income and budgetary limitations
3. Inadequate compliance and registration
4. A framework for sustainable financing

3. Bill proposing 100-day Parliamentary

Sitting:

To improve legislative accountability and scrutiny, senior opposition leaders in the Rajya Sabha have submitted Private Member Bills that would ***require a minimum of 100–120 parliamentary sittings annually***. In order to promote governance accountability and boost deliberative functions, it aims to guarantee Parliament a minimum of 100–120 working days. It draws inspiration from the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002) and the General-Purpose Committee (1955).

No constitutional requirement for a minimum number of sittings Parliament and state legislatures are required to meet at least twice a year under Articles 85 and 174.

In 2023, 44% of all measures were enacted within a day of their presentation, which limited the amount of discussion and examination. A healthy parliamentary debate ensures that laws are constitutional and lessens the need for judicial intervention. Public trust in legislative institutions is weakened by fewer sessions and interruptions.

4. Deportation:

India expressed diplomatic concerns about the treatment and human rights abuses of ***104 Indian nationals who were deported*** by the United States on suspicion of violating

immigration laws. The deportees arrived in Amritsar in shackles on a U.S. military plane.

The forcible removal of foreign nationals from a nation because of criminal behaviour, unlawful entry, visa infractions, or public safety issues is known as deportation.

Concerns about mass deportations include:

1. Violations of human rights
2. Implications for diplomacy
3. Absence of due process and legal support
4. Psychological and socioeconomic effects
5. Growing pattern of crackdowns on immigration.

5. NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education:

The report, "Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities," calls for more public investment, particularly in State Public Universities, and draws attention to differences in state-by-state spending on higher education.

Higher education accounts for 8.11%, 7.25%, 6.64%, and 6.19% of the GDP in Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura, respectively.

The lowest percentages are Telangana (0.18%), Gujarat (0.23%), and Rajasthan (0.23%).

Short-term (0–2 years), medium-term (2–5 years), and long-term (5+ years) suggestions are separated out.

Create a national research policy that supports the Anusandhan National Research Foundation in the near future. Provide faculty research incentives based on performance. Post-doctoral fellowship funding should be increased, especially for women.

Medium Term: Create centres for research commercialization and an advisory committee for R&D. Boost partnerships with other institutions for humanities research

Long Term: Create SPU centres of excellence to tackle local issues. Boost basic research funding to draw in international and Indian students.

6. Paris AI Summit 2025:

As co-chair of the Paris AI Action Summit, India aims to raise the Global South's profile in the areas of AI innovation, governance, and fair access to AI. With an emphasis on AI safety, ethics, governance, innovations, and economic effect, it is organized by France.

It creates guidelines and risk-reduction plans for the advancement of AI. It tackles the global AI divide by promoting cross-border cooperation and open-source AI. It influences international rules, trade policies, and the development of AI-driven industries.

7. USAID Freeze:

In order to reevaluate the effectiveness of the program and its consistency with US foreign policy, US President Donald Trump has placed a ***90-day freeze on foreign aid*** on the first day of his second administration.

Established by a congressional resolution in 1961, USAID is an independent organization tasked with managing development assistance and civilian international aid. It seeks to further ***world peace and prosperity, uphold democratic principles, and support US national security objectives.***

The main areas are governance, food security, health, education, economic development, humanitarian help, and climate change. operates in more than 100 nations.

Withdrawal of funds might jeopardize millions of lives by disrupting vital programs, particularly those related to disaster assistance, food security, and HIV/AIDS treatment. Development and humanitarian programs in top beneficiaries like Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Ukraine are severely hampered.

Over time, India has been less dependent on USAID; today, financing for the country accounts for just 0.2% to 0.4% of USAID's global budget.

8. Decriminalization of Politics:

The Supreme Court is currently considering petitions to permanently bar convicted people from running for office, which is reviving the discussion of decriminalizing politics and maintaining integrity in public life.

According to Section 8(3) of the RPA Act of 1951, anyone convicted of crimes and given jail terms of two years or longer are ineligible. Six years after their release, they are prohibited from running for office.

According to ADR, 31% of MPs elected in 2024 are accused of major crimes like rape and murder, and 46% are facing criminal proceedings.

9. France-India Relations:

With agreements on nuclear energy, military, artificial intelligence, and Indo-Pacific cooperation, the prime minister of India's February 2025 visit to France was a major turning point in the two countries' growing strategic engagement.

A memorandum of intent was signed by both countries to use France's experience and India's industrial ecosystem to co-design, co-develop, and co-produce SMRs and AMRs. The long-delayed Jaitapur project's progress was examined, with a focus on its contribution to India's shift to renewable energy.

Ongoing collaboration on Scorpene submarines, including integration and indigenization of Air Independent Propulsion systems created by DRDO.

Committed to creating trustworthy, safe, and secure AI in line with the common ideals of both countries.

Real-time payment system expansion from India to France. implementation of the Young Professional Scheme to encourage students' and professionals' legal mobility.

10. The "Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States" report:

Which was released in New Delhi by the Union Minister of State, noted that Panchayat devolution has *increased from 39.9% to 43.9% (from 2013–14 to 2021–22).*

With a devolution index score of 72.23, Karnataka achieved the top spot, followed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Twelve states and union territories—including Jharkhand, Punjab, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh—performed poorly in terms of panchayat empowerment, ranking below the national average.

Advantages of the report:

1. Increased Financial Assistance
2. Increased Capabilities of Panchayats
3. Better administrative and digital infrastructure

4. Greater involvement in centrally supported programs

5. Greater social and gender inclusion.

Panchayat Devolution's Obstacles:

1. Financial Devolution Is Declining
2. Inadequate Commissions for State Finance
3. Limited Production of Own Revenue
4. Insufficient Human Capital
5. Panchayat functions are overlapped by parallel bodies
6. Poor accountability and transparency.

11. India-United States Relations:

The India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership was reaffirmed in February 2025 when the Indian Prime Minister met with the US President on an official business visit to Washington, DC.

To improve military system coproduction and interoperability, a new 10-year framework for major defence partnerships has been established. Defence purchases have increased to include six more *P-8I maritime patrol planes, Striker infantry combat vehicles, and Javelin anti-tank rockets.*

By 2030, the goal is to quadruple bilateral trade to \$500 billion. improved market accessibility for labour-intensive exports from India and US agricultural products. increased manufacturing, greenfield, and supply chain

diversification investments made by the US to India.

India will alter the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act in order to work with the US to jointly develop nuclear reactors that are designed by the US.

US-India TRUST program launched to promote quantum computing, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and space technologies. bolstering supply networks for sophisticated materials, medications, and essential minerals.

Enhanced security cooperation in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific through military drills, airlift capabilities, and cooperative marine patrols.

Importance:

1. Enhanced Defence Partnerships
2. Growth in the economy and trade
3. Collaboration on Energy and Climate
4. Technology and the Development of Digital
5. Stability in Geopolitics

Challenges:

1. Trade restrictions
2. Problems with technology transfer
3. Issues with nuclear liability
4. Mobility and visa constraints
5. Constraints imposed by geography

12. India in the Indian Ocean Region:

In Muscat, India, Singapore, and Oman are hosting the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, where 30 countries' foreign ministers are debating economic cooperation and regional security.

Connecting Asia, Africa, and Australia, the Indian Ocean region spans 70.56 million square kilometres, making it the third largest ocean in the world. a natural commerce route that has historically been impacted by maritime networks and Indian civilization.

India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Oman, Indonesia, Australia, South Africa, and Somalia are among the 26 coastal countries that round it. IOR trade channels are especially essential for landlocked nations like Bhutan and Nepal.

It is an important economic corridor that handles 90% of India's energy imports and 70% of the world's container traffic.

Unbroken international traffic is ensured by vital maritime lanes such as the Strait of Malacca, Hormuz, and Bab el Mandeb. It has abundant mineral riches, oil, gas, and fisheries that are vital to the local economy.

13. Indian Panchayati Raj Institutions:

Reduced fiscal autonomy, an over-reliance on centrally-sponsored programs, and dwindling public participation are all contributing factors to their current predicament.

The creation of the PRIs is emphasized in Article 40 of the DPSP. Constitutional status was granted by the 73rd CAA, 1992, which also created Part IX and the 11th schedule, which covered 29 functional issues. It required devolution of funding, powers, and functionaries, as well as periodical elections and reservations for women, SCs, and STs.

It has the power to create plans for village development, carry out programs, and uphold local government. Taxes, duties, tolls, and fees may be levied, collected, and appropriated.

Importance:

1. Decentralization of democracy
2. Empowerment of Women
3. Catalyst for Rural Development
4. Accountability and Local Governance
5. Inclusion in Society

Challenges:

1. Limited financial and administrative independence
2. Excessive reliance on programs supported by the national government
3. The involvement of politics and bureaucratic meddling
4. A decline in public involvement
5. Urbanization's Effect

14. Marital Rape:

The Chhattisgarh High Court decided that Section 377 IPC is covered by the marital rape exemption, which eliminates married women's legal protection from non-consensual actions.

Under Indian law, non-consensual sexual contact between a husband and his wife is not punishable by law and is referred to as marital rape. As a violation of women's rights, ***marital rape is illegal in more than 100 nations, including the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Nepal.***

15. Constitutional Morality:

After a serving Chief minister was arrested, discussions about moral leadership centred on the idea of constitutional morality.

Beyond merely following the law, constitutional morality refers to upholding the principles of justice, equality, and accountability in government.

It guarantees that constitutional principles, not the will of the majority or of any one person, govern. Through institutional accountability, parliamentary scrutiny, and judicial review, it limits the concentration of power. It safeguards a range of interests while upholding individual dignity, social justice, and secularism.

Importance:

1. Upholds the rule of law

2. Preserves freedom and rights
3. Stability under democracy
4. Making moral decisions
5. Judicial accountability

Challenges:

1. Manipulation of politics
2. Majoritarian influence
3. Executive overreach
4. Ignorance
5. Institutional mechanisms are weak.

16. India-Qatar:

In February, India and Qatar upgraded their bilateral ties to a strategic partnership with an emphasis on investments, trade, and energy. Both countries agreed on significant economic cooperation and set a goal to ***quadruple bilateral trade to \$30 billion by 2030.***

Enhances connections in innovation, trade, investment, and security. A 20-year agreement for the supply of LNG beginning in 2028 was struck by Qatar Energy and Petronet LNG.

The Qatar Investment Authority promised to invest \$10 billion in green energy and Indian infrastructure firms. Qatar's use of UPI and the signing of an updated Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

The biggest supplier of LNG and LPG to India is Qatar. collaborative efforts in robots,

IoT, semiconductors, and AI for next-generation industrial expansion.

Indian startups will attend Doha's Web Summits in 2024–2025.

The largest group of expatriates contributing to Qatar's workforce consists of 830,000 Indians.

Difficulties

1. Unbalanced trade
2. Concerns about worker welfare
3. Sensitivities to geopolitics
4. Legal and Judicial Obstacles
5. The case of Naval Veterans

17. Increase in Ragging Complaints:

The head of the University Grants Commission underlined that offenders can avoid punishment when anti-ragging laws are not strictly enforced. *From 2012 to 2022, reports show a 208% increase in ragging complaints, underscoring ongoing regulatory deficiencies.*

Any act of physical, psychological, or mental abuse committed by senior students against juniors in educational institutions is referred to as "ragging." Often passed off as an initiation ceremony, its goal is to establish authority, frighten, or degrade the victim.

Repercussions:

1. Trauma to the mind

2. Academic deterioration

3. A decline in health

4. Legal action

5. Reputational damage

Challenges:

1. Poor law enforcement;
2. Ignorance and fear of reporting;
3. Inadequate oversight systems
4. Peer pressure and the influence of senior students.

18. Live-in Relationship:

The Nainital High Court recently challenged the violation of privacy in consensual cohabitation in its ruling on the mandatory registration of live-in partnerships under the UCC.

Two adults who live together and share their lives without formally tying the knot are said to be in a live-in relationship. Its foundation is the idea of "Mitru Sambhandh," in which partners continue to have a marital-like connection without having a formal marriage contract.

Cases related to it:

1. The 1978 case of Badri Prasad v. Dy. Director of Consolidation
2. State of UP v. Lata Singh (2008)
3. Kanniammal v. S. Khushboo (2010)

4. Asokan K.M. vs. Shafin Jahan (2018)

5. State of UP vs. Kiran Rawat, 2023

19. India-China Ministerial Meet:

During the G-20 foreign ministers' conference in Johannesburg, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Topics covered:

1. Control of the Border
2. Kailash Man Sarovar Yatra
3. Travel facilitation and flight connectivity
4. Rivers that cross borders
5. Cooperation between nations

20. Three-Language Formula:

Because the State has refused to apply the three-language formula outlined in the National Education Policy 2020, the Center has refused to pay Tamil Nadu Rs. 2152 crore under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

Tamil Nadu, which has a two-language policy, sees this as a threat to its linguistic identity and an imposition of Hindi.

The National Education Policy of 1968 included a language policy aimed at standardizing language instruction throughout India. Promoting multilingualism, national cohesion, and administrative effectiveness are the goals.

The three languages, at least two of which are indigenous to India, are available for selection by states and students. No state is required to use a certain language. promotes teaching in the mother tongue or home language from fifth grade, ideally till eighth grade.

The three-language approach promotes Sanskrit as an optional language.

Relevance:

1. Multilingualism
2. Integration of the Nation
3. International Proficiency
4. Cognitive Advantages

Problems:

1. Perceived imposition of Hindi
2. Resource limitations
3. Cultural Opposition
4. Tensions in politics
5. Difficulties with implementation

21. Surveillance Capitalism:

Monitoring With major tech companies like Google, Meta, and Amazon making money off of user data, capitalism is changing digital economies and causing issues with privacy, individual liberty, and government monitoring.

According to this economic model, digital companies gather, examine, and profit from personal data in order to sway behaviour.

Businesses create comprehensive digital profiles by tracking each click, search, and purchase. Algorithms powered by AI predict user behaviour and alter it for profit. They restrict personal freedom and undermine privacy by influencing votes, attitudes, and purchasing decisions.

22. According to the Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation's **Time Use Survey 2024**, women are increasingly taking up paid jobs and providing care.

25% of women between the ages of 15 and 59 engaged in work-related activities.

Compared to women, men spent 132 more minutes on work-related activities. Compared to men, women performed unpaid household work for 201 more minutes.

Among women, 41% took part in providing care. Women cared for others for 137 minutes every day. The amount of time women spends on unpaid household chores decreased from 315 minutes in 2019 to 305 minutes in 2024.

89.3% of kids spent 413 minutes a day engaging in educational activities. Both genders saw a decrease in the amount of time spent on educational activities.

Sports, entertainment, culture, and the media accounted for 11% of daily time. Men's participation dropped from 147 minutes to

138 minutes, but women's time spent communicating and socializing stayed the same.

Men spent 710 minutes a day on self-care, compared to 706 minutes for women.

The employment rate for women increased from 8% in 2019 to 25%, indicating a trend toward paid work.

23. Japan-India-Africa Forum:

In contrast to extractive economic models, the External Affairs Minister highlighted India's commitment to Africa through infrastructure investment, skill development, and capacity-building.

A trilateral framework for economic and strategic cooperation that fosters commerce, investment, and development initiatives throughout Africa. It makes it easier for African countries, Japan, and India to work together to advance digital transformation, infrastructure, and human capital development.

Investments in power generation, ports, and railroads. support for the circular economy, climate finance, and solar electrification.

Importance:

1. Promotes the Industrial Growth of Africa
2. Strengthens strategic communication
3. Make use of India's and Japan's experience
4. Encourage South-South collaboration

5. Balance out Chinese influence

Concerns:

1. Limited Private Sector Involvement
2. Geopolitical Competition
3. Financial Restraints
4. Barriers to Connectivity and Logistics
5. Concerns about Governance and Political Instability.

24. India-UK Free Trade Agreement:

After an eight-month break, India and the UK have resumed their free trade agreement negotiations, which have been ongoing since January 2022 in 14 rounds. With a recent emphasis on western partners like the US, UK, and EU to increase exports and improve commercial relations, India has inked 13 free trade agreements and six preferential trade agreements.

A free trade agreement (FTA) is an agreement between two or more nations to lower or do away with import taxes on the vast majority of traded goods. It also seeks to improve bilateral investments, ease trade in services, and reduce non-tariff barriers.

Benefits

1. Increases market access and exports
2. Promotes international investment
3. Expands the range of trade relationships

4. Promotes economic expansion and job creation

5. Fortifies strategic alliances

With Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Mauritius, ASEAN, and EFTA, India has signed free trade agreements.

25. UGC Equity Guidelines:

In order to prevent prejudice and encourage inclusion, the UGC published proposed regulations for the creation of Equal Opportunity Centres in postsecondary educational institutions.

Establishing Equal Opportunity Centres to address discrimination complaints and advance diversity is required of all HEIs. EOC will support underprivileged children socially, financially, and academically. An equity committee consisting of ten members will supervise EOC activities and carry out investigations. On campus, equity squads will keep an eye out for instances of discrimination and report infractions.

Such a regulation is necessary:

1. Increasing suicide and caste-based prejudice in HEIs
2. Absence of specific anti-discrimination measures
3. Ensuring adherence to orders from the Supreme Court

4. Closing the gap in social inclusion
5. Achieving India's SDG 4 commitments

Difficulties:

1. Problems with implementation and monitoring
2. The weight of bureaucracy on institutions
3. Absence of student representation
4. Potential for abuse and fabricated grievances
5. Support for mental health is not mentioned.

GS-III

1. Economic Survey 2024–2025 Summary:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2024–25, which offers a thorough evaluation of India's economic performance as well as a list of the main obstacles to and prospects for long-term growth.

In 2023, global growth slowed to 3.3%, and the IMF predicted that it would average 3.2% over the next five years.

Despite global challenges, India's economy is still growing steadily; real GDP growth was estimated at 6.4% in FY25 and is predicted to range from 6.3% to 6.8% in FY26.

Food inflation increased to 8.4% as a result of supply chain interruptions and weather-related factors, while retail headline inflation decreased to 4.9%.

In 2023–2024, the unemployment rate decreased to 3.2% due to improvements in worker-to-population ratios and labor force participation.

In FY 25, agriculture is predicted to rise by 3.8%. With robust performance in utilities and construction, the industry is predicted to rise by 6.2%. The financial, real estate, and professional services sectors drove the services sector's strong 7.2% increase.

With an emphasis on infrastructure development, capital expenditures increased by 8.2%. Subsidies and committed liabilities were the main drivers of the 12% increase in state revenue expenditures.

At 2.6% of gross loans, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) fell to a 12-year low.

With the introduction of 17 new Vande Bharat trains, the railway network grew by 2031 km.

Solar and wind power drove a 15.8% rise in renewable energy capacity.

With an average cargo turnaround time of 30.4 hours, port efficiency increased.

Out-of-pocket costs decreased from 62.6% to 39.4% as government health spending rose from 29% to 48%.

To assist MSMEs, the Self-Reliant India Fund was established with a budget of 50,000 crore.

2. Union Budget 2025 Overview:

On February 1, 2025, the finance minister unveiled the Union Budget 2025, pledging significant tax breaks, infrastructural improvements, and job-creation programs.

The new tax system, which benefits the middle class, eliminates income tax up to Rs. 12 lakhs.

Infrastructure has been allotted 11.21 lakh crore.

The National Manufacturing Mission seeks to increase industrial production, decrease reliance on imports, and promote made-in-India.

22 lakh jobs would be created, with a focus on the textile, leather, and MSMEs sectors.

100 low-yield areas will benefit from Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana's 1.2 lakh crore rural credit push.

Twenty thousand crores have been set aside for small modular reactors.

120 new locations will have regional connectivity according to the updated UDAN plan.

In Bihar, the Makhana board is a specialized organization for Makhana production and export promotion that improves value chain and marketing assistance.

10,000 crores for solar PV incentives and lithium-ion battery recycling to support clean energy.

3. AI-Driven Genetic Testing:

By facilitating the quick analysis of enormous genetic datasets, it is transforming precision medicine and genomic research.

In order to find mutations, genetic diseases, and illness risks, machine learning interprets DNA patterns.

In order to identify possible malignant mutations and inherited disorders, AI models examine gene variations.

By combining gene-environment interactions, AI provides personalized health advice based on hereditary characteristics.

By anticipating off-target consequences, AI helps CRISPR-Cas9 precision editing and increases the success rates of gene therapy.

AI predicts the likelihood of diseases based on genetic markers that inform early preventative measures.

Importance:

1. Quicker and more economical analysis
2. Improved Precision of Diagnosis
3. Progress in Drug Development
4. Growth in Preventive Medical Care
5. Integration with Digital Health Platforms:

Limitations:

1. Risks to Data Security and Privacy
2. Concerns about Ethics and Psychology
3. Clinical Relevance Uncertainty

4. Production of Ethanol in India:

According to the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways,

India will meet its goal of blending 20% ethanol into gasoline within the next two months, at least a year ahead of schedule.

With maize emerging as a vital feedstock, the government has increased the capacity for producing ethanol to 1,600 crore litres.

A renewable biofuel, ethanol is made from cereals, sugarcane, and another biomass. It is mixed with gasoline to lessen reliance on crude oil, cut pollutants, and advance energy security. By 2025, ethanol blending is expected to have increased to 20% from 15% in 2024.

Challenges:

1. Availability of feedstock
2. Crops that require a lot of water
3. Gaps in infrastructure
4. There are regulatory obstacles to the interstate ethanol flow.
5. Financial Sustainability.

Nearly 400 crore litres of ethanol are produced from maize, a considerable rise from 2020's nearly zero contribution. Because it uses less water than sugarcane, it is more sustainable.

5. Declining Indian Rupees:

As a result of the US President's increased tariffs on imports from China, Mexico, and Canada, the Indian Rupee is steadily declining in value relative to the US dollar, reaching a record low.

The value of one currency relative to another is known as the exchange rate, and it establishes how much domestic currency is required to purchase one unit of foreign currency. It varies according to supply and demand in the currency market, which is impacted by monetary policy, commerce, and investments.

The rupee and other emerging market currencies have suffered as a result of US tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada, which have strengthened the US currency. India's increased demand for US dollars due to its higher imports than exports cause the rupee to weaken.

India's higher rate of inflation than the US lowers purchasing power and devalues the currency. India's lower interest rates deter foreign investment, which makes the currency even weaker.

6. Household Consumption Spending

Survey 2023-24:

The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation has published the household consumption spending survey 2023-24, which shows a decrease in the disparity between urban and rural consumption and an increase in monthly per capita expenditure.

The purpose of this national survey is to evaluate trends in household spending, living standards, and consumption patterns. It offers crucial information for measuring poverty, economic planning, and updating the Consumer Price Index.

Under MoSPI, it is carried out by the National Statistical Office.

Important Results:

1. An increase in household spending on consumption
2. Reduction in Inequality of Consumption
3. Food and Non-Food Expenditure Share:
47% of MPCE was spent on food, with rural areas spending the most on milk, vegetables, and beverages. Food accounted for 40% of MPCE, with beverages, milk, and vegetables spending the most in cities. Rent, durable goods, medical costs, and transportation account for the majority of non-food expenditures.
4. Closing the Urban-Rural Divide

5. Wide variations in consumption between states

6. Social groups that are vulnerable continue to lag

7. Sacred Groves:

Rajasthan is required by the Supreme Court's December 18, 2024, order to map and categorize sacred groves as forests in accordance with the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The Forest Rights Act of 2006, which supports community ownership of forest lands rather than government control, runs counter to this.

Sacred Groves are forest sections that are safeguarded by the community and have ecological and cultural value. They are preserved by religious beliefs and rituals.

They are widespread in India and act as hotspots for biodiversity and water recharge.

Any area exhibiting forest characteristics should be classified as forest land, according to the 1996 ruling in T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India.

There are sacred groves in every state, however they are more prevalent in the Northeastern States, Tribal Belts, and Western Ghats and Central Plateau.

They serve as genetic reservoirs and are home to endemic and uncommon species. Many are connected to rivers, ponds, and springs, which guarantee aquifer replenishment.

8. Naxalism:

In Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, security forces killed 31 Naxalites, marking a significant victory in the government's goal to eradicate Naxalism in India by March 31, 2026.

Maoist-inspired left-wing extremist groupings that support armed insurrection against the government are known as Naxalism.

Naxalism's causes include:

1. Land Conflicts and Abuse
2. Inequality in the economy
3. Political Distancing
4. Inadequate Law Enforcement
5. Outside assistance

Violent events decreased by 48% between 2013 and 2023. Deaths decreased by 65% between 2013 and 2023. Maoist violence has decreased from 76 districts in 2013 to just 25 districts today.

Actions made:

1. Improving interstate cooperation for cooperative operations and intelligence sharing
2. Special central support is offered.
3. Projects including road connectivity
4. Employment and skill development
5. CAPF deployment in high-risk areas

6. Tracking and destroying Maoist strongholds with UAVs and helicopters.

Challenges:

1. Use of guerrilla warfare
2. Mistrust of authority by tribes
3. Ideological and political backing
4. Sabotage of infrastructure
5. Limited economic options

9. Zamindari Abolition:

The article talks about the political and legal obstacles to ending the Zamindari system in independent India, especially the famous Sankari Prasad v. Union of India (1951) Supreme Court case that supported the first Constitutional Amendment that allowed for land reforms.

Under the Permanent Settlement Act, Lord Cornwallis instituted the Zamindari system in 1793, which placed middlemen in charge of collecting land tax from peasants and transferring it to the British government. The ***British received 89% of the money collected, while zamindars kept 11%.***

Zamindars could lease, sell, or transfer the land and had complete authority over it. West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and portions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were all home to the system. Due to excessive rents, forced labour,

and frequent evictions, peasants experienced widespread suffering in rural areas.

Important court rulings pertaining to India's land reforms:

1. Union of India v. Sankari Prasad, 1951
2. State of Bihar v. Kameshwar Singh, 1952
3. State of Rajasthan v. Sajjan Singh (1965)
4. State of Punjab v. C. Golaknath (1967)
5. State of Kerala v. Kesavananda Bharat (1973)

10. Nuclear Fusion Reactor:

In January 2025, China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak set a record by operating plasma continuously for 1,066 seconds at a temperature of around 70 million degrees Celsius.

Designed to test and enhance magnetic confinement for controlled fusion, it is a nuclear fusion research reactor. It helps researchers create technologies for long-term plasma stability by acting as an ITER testbed.

11. Textile Industry:

India's biggest international textile expo, Bharat Tex 2025, took place in New Delhi and highlighted the country's textile innovations and prospects for international trade. Through innovation, sustainability, and policy assistance, the Indian government hopes to quadruple textile exports from Rs. 3 lakh crores to Rs. 9 lakh crores by 2030.

India's proportion in the world's textile trade is 8.21%. Forty-five million people are directly employed by it. India sells 47% of its textiles to the United States and the European Union.

growing consumer demand for eco-friendly textiles made of biodegradable materials, bamboo, and organic cotton. Production is being revolutionized by AI-driven manufacturing, IoT-based quality control, and 3D weaving. India's unique weaving legacy is being preserved by the government through the promotion of handloom clusters.

Important Government Programs:

1. Production Linked Incentive Scheme
2. Mega Integrated Textile Region & Apparel Parks (PM MITRA)
3. Samarth plan
4. Integrated Processing Development Plan
5. The National Handloom Development Program
6. Schemes for Supporting Raw Materials

Challenges:

1. Competition & Trade Deficit
2. Automation and Technology Deficits
3. Environmental Issues
4. Gaps in Infrastructure
5. Lack of skilled workers

12. Global Infrastructure Resilience

Report:

This report, which assessed infrastructure preparation and resilience in disaster scenarios, was released by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

For important infrastructure sectors like transportation, electricity, telecom, water, and health, it offers financial risk measurements. Disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, and droughts can still affect infrastructure.

Challenges:

1. Budgetary Restrictions
2. Slow Implementation of Policies
3. Inadequate Standardization of Data
4. Hesitancy in the private sector
5. The gap in climate adaptation

13. Biotechnology in North East India:

Through research and innovation, the Department of Biotechnology is propelling bioeconomic change in North East India.

Utilizing biological systems, organisms, or derivatives to create new products and technologies is known as biotechnology. It improves industrial operations, environmental sustainability, healthcare, and agriculture.

More than 8,000 plant species, 850 medicinal plants, and a wide variety of agroclimatic

conditions can be found in the Northeast. Tribal people have long been skilled in organic farming and natural medicine.

Challenges:

1. Inadequate infrastructure
2. Financial limitations
3. Lack of skilled workers
4. Sensitivity to climate
5. Problems with connectivity.

14. Quality of Expenditure:

Recent research on the "*Quality of Public Expenditure*" index by the RBI highlighted gains in the efficiency of government spending since 1991. The study emphasizes how budgetary restraint and higher capital spending have benefited India's social and economic advancement.

Government spending on infrastructure, welfare programs, healthcare, education, and other areas targeted at enhancing social and economic outcomes is referred to as socio-economic expenditure.

The capital expenditure to GDP ratio rose from 1.5% in 2000 to 2.5% in 2023, indicating greater investment in infrastructure. Trade and transportation were improved by improved port, rail, and road connectivity. Life expectancy and literacy increased as a result of higher health and education investment.

15. Reducing India's Fertilizer

Dependency:

Because of their significant reliance on imports and financial burden, the Indian government is planning to cut back on the use of high-analysis fertilizers like urea, DAP, and MoP.

India increased its urea production from 22 million tonnes in 2011–12 to 31.4 million tonnes. As a result of higher domestic production, imports have decreased from 9.8 MT to 7MT.

India imports raw materials and completed DAP from China, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Jordan. India depends on Canada, Russia, and Jordan for its supply of potash because it lacks mineable reserves.

With fertilizer subsidies costing Rs. 1.75 lakh crore, fertilizer imports significantly strain foreign exchange reserves. Affordability is impacted by India's susceptibility to global swings in fertilizer prices.

Overuse of DAP and urea reduces soil fertility by lowering the amount of organic carbon. Nitrate pollution results from urea's excess nitrogen seeping into water bodies. Microbial diversity is impacted by prolonged use, which eventually results in reduced production. Shortages are exacerbated by the diversion of inexpensive, subsidized fertilizers to non-agricultural uses.

GS-IV

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies:

Citing them as discriminatory, U.S. President Donald Trump cancelled the Biden administration's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies.

They speak of institutional and workplace policies designed to guarantee equitable representation and opportunities for people of all races, genders, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Diversity promotes the representation of many racial groups, skill levels, etc. Fair treatment, access, and opportunities are guaranteed by equity. A workplace where various people feel appreciated and respected is fostered by inclusion.

Accessibility guarantees that persons with impairments can use resources, technology, and workplaces.

2. Code of Ethics on OTT Platform:

To stop the spread of pornographic and vulgar information, the government has issued an advice requiring OTT platforms to follow a stringent ***Code of Ethics under IT rules, 2021***. This action comes in the wake of recent scandals that have brought attention to the need for more stringent regulations of internet content, such as the Ranveer Allahbadia controversy on India's Got Talent.

It requires compliance with relevant laws to stop the spread of illegal content and age-based content classification access control for A-rated content.

The necessity of an OTT code of ethics

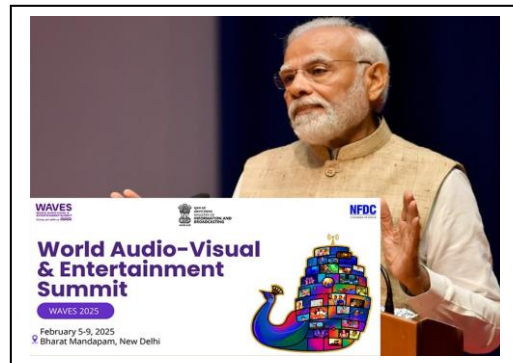
1. Safeguarding Children
2. Preserving Public Morality
3. Strengthening Trust

Issues:

1. Gaps in enforcement
2. Ambiguous definitions
3. Quick changes in content
4. Platform resistance
5. Limitations of technology

FACTS FOR PRELIMS

1. The first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, which will take place in Mumbai from May 1–4, 2025, includes the Make the World Wear Khadi Campaign. The goal of the global campaign is to establish Khadi as a desired global brand by fusing its tradition with contemporary fashion. Through innovative marketing, it seeks to revive Khadi's appeal on a worldwide scale and advance India's textile legacy globally.



2. One Nation-One Port Initiative: To standardize and expedite port operations throughout India, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal introduced the One Nation-One Port initiative.

It is a national port standardization program aimed at improving India's efficiency in international trade, streamlining procedures, and standardizing port documentation. It seeks to eliminate discrepancies in port procedures and documentation. It makes doing business easier by cutting down on inefficiencies and delays, increases the competitiveness of international trade by standardizing logistics. By operating ports efficiently, it lowers its carbon footprint.



3.Ocelot: A new quantum computing chip called "Ocelot" was introduced by Amazon Web Services with the goal of greatly accelerating the creation of commercially feasible quantum computers.

It is a quantum computing chip prototype intended to speed up the scalability of quantum computers and enhance error correction. To enhance error correction, it makes use of "cat" qubits, which were influenced by Schrodinger's cat experiment. It is made with a tantalum-based substance and conventional chip manufacturing methods. Instead of using the industry-estimated 1 million qubits, it seeks to construct a workable quantum computer using 100,000 qubits.

It increases the dependability of machines by lowering the error rate in quantum computing. It might speed up financial modeling, material science advancements, and medicine discoveries. Its scalable methodology could result in a five-year reduction in development time. It improves Amazon's standing in the fiercely competitive race for quantum computing.

Quantum chips are computers that use concepts from quantum mechanics, such as superposition and entanglement, to perform quantum computations.

4. Lunar Trailblazer satellite: To survey and examine the distribution of water on the

Moon, NASA launched the Lunar Trailblazer satellite on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

The purpose of this tiny satellite is to map the water on the Moon's surface. It seeks to comprehend the lunar water cycle and possible resources for human missions, as well as to locate and map the distribution of water on the moon, especially in permanently shadowed craters at the poles.



5. The indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile-

Short Range with a "Man-in-Loop" capability was successfully tested by DRDO and the Indian Navy from a Seaking 42B helicopter at ITR, Chandipur.

It is a missile that enables human decision-making in real time while in flight. Using live seeker photos that are transmitted to the pilot, it permits in-flight retargeting.

6. Hague Service Convention: In order to serve Gautam and Sagar Adani with a summons in a securities fraud prosecution, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission used the Hague Service Convention.

At the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1965, a multilateral agreement was adopted. It creates a uniform procedure for serving extrajudicial and judicial documents in civil and business cases across international boundaries. It facilitates proof of service and guarantees defendants in foreign jurisdiction get timely legal notices.

7. Zero Bacteria Technology: To enhance the quality of the water, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board is thinking about installing Zero Bacteria technology in apartment sewage treatment plants. Bacterial contamination of water sources is eliminated by this water filtration process. It makes use of electrostatic filtration, UV irradiation, nanoparticle coatings, and specialized filtration systems. It was created by Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science.

8. Gulf of Mannar: As part of the 10th round of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has designated a deep-sea area in the Gulf of Mannar for hydrocarbon development.

It is located between Sri Lanka's west coast and India's southeast coast. It is a component of the Indian Ocean's Laccadive Sea. Adam's Bridge divides it from Palk Bay.



9. The Animal Welfare Board of India will award individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievements to animal welfare by holding the Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award Ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

It is a legally mandated organization that was founded in India to advance animal welfare and stop animal abuse. It advises the federal and state governments on legislation and enforcement strategies pertaining to animal welfare. It gives funding to animal welfare organizations, keeps an eye on shelters, rescue houses, and sanctuaries, and supports Pinjarapoles for elderly and ill animals.

10. Gold Card Visa: In order to obtain a green card and a route to citizenship, the US plans to revive its EB-5 visa program as the "Gold Card" visa, which requires a \$5 million investment.

This type of visa enables people to invest financially in order to gain citizenship or residency in a foreign nation. These visas, sometimes known as "Golden Visas," provide

business prospects and long-term residency tax benefits.

11. Exercise in Delimitation: In response to the Tamil Nadu chief minister's worries, the union home minister promised that no parliamentary seats will be cut in South Indian states following the proposed delimitation process.

Delimitation is the process of establishing the borders of each state's parliamentary and legislative assembly constituencies as well as the number of seats available. When deciding which seats are designated for SCs and STs, it guarantees proportional representation based on population. A parliamentary legislation formed the Delimitation Commission. It is a powerful organization whose rulings are unchallengeable in court. It is made up of the Chief Election Commissioner, State Election Commissioner, and former Supreme Court judge from each state.

12. Doomsday Fish: Rumours of impending natural calamities have been raised by recent sightings of the rare oarfish, often known as the "Doomsday Fish," close to the beaches of Baja California Sur, Mexico. With a maximum length of 11 meters, it is the longest bony fish in the world. It is thought to emerge ahead of tsunamis and earthquakes. According to experts, sightings are not caused by seismic activity but rather by disease, deep-sea currents, or variations in water temperature and pressure.



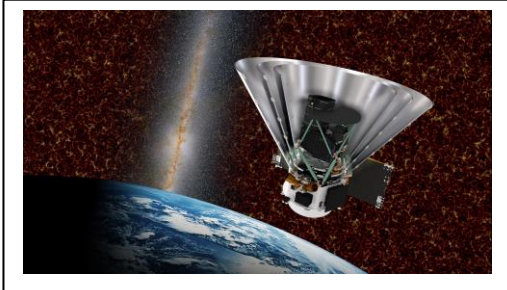
13. Pig Butchering Scam: The government has warned about the "Pig Butchering Scam," a cybercrime that preys on vulnerable people, students, and jobless youth.

Google and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre are working together to fight this scam, which includes cyber slavery and money laundering.

It is an online fraud method in which con artists gain victims' trust before taking their money. It started in China in 2016 and has since expanded throughout the world. It includes forced computer labour, cryptocurrency frauds, and widespread financial fraud.

14. SPHEREx Space Telescope: NASA is preparing to launch the SPHEREx space telescope, which will look for organic compounds and water in the Milky Way and investigate the universe's beginnings. By producing a three-dimensional map of the universe, this project will shed light on cosmic inflation and galaxy formation.

Its purpose is to survey the sky using near-infrared and optical light. It looks into how quickly the cosmos expanded following the Big Bang.



15. SWAYATT initiative: Celebrates six years of empowering young people in public procurement, women entrepreneurs, and startups. Women entrepreneurs currently make up 8% of registered vendors on the Government e-Marketplace, demonstrating the initiative's tremendous increase in participation.

It focuses on self-help groups, micro and small businesses, and underprivileged groups in society. It gives government purchasers direct access to markets without the need for middlemen. It promotes inclusive economic growth and hyper-local employment creation.

16. INS Tamal: The Indian Navy's final imported warship, it is scheduled to go into service in June 2025. As India shifts to building all future battleships in-house, this is a major turning point.

Yantar Shipyard in Russia is the manufacturer of this stealth guided-missile frigate. It is intended to decrease radar cross-section,

which makes detection more difficult. It has naval weapons and cutting-edge missile systems installed.



17. Jhumoir Binandini: To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Assam's tea business, the Prime Minister went to the biggest-ever Jhumoir Binandini event in Guwahati, Assam.

This traditional folk dance is mostly done by the tea garden inhabitants of Assam. It honours the cultural legacy of migrant tea workers as well as agricultural celebrations. It is mostly played in Assam, particularly in areas where there were a lot of tea plantations. It symbolizes the tea-tribe community's hardships and goals. Themes like migration, labour exploitation, and resiliency are reflected in songs. Women dressed in red and white sarees perform it, and men play flutes, cymbals, dhak, madal, and dhol.



18. Black Polymer: Black plastic includes harmful flame retardants, according to a recent study, which raises worries about food contamination and other health hazards. This kind of plastic is frequently made from recycled electronic waste, such as computers, TVs, and appliances. It is frequently utilized in toys, packaging, takeaway containers, kitchenware, and cutlery.

Polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene are its constituents. It contains heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium as well as flame retardants like bromine and decarbomodiphenyl ether. According to studies, when food is heated, traces of harmful chemicals may seep into it. The long-term effects of these compounds are still unknown, despite the modest chances of contamination.

19. Gharial: To support conservation efforts, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh released ten gharials into the Chambal River at the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary.

The state has reaffirmed its leadership in gharial conservation by housing more than 80% of India's gharial population.

With a long, thin snout designed for collecting fish, the gharial is a critically endangered species of crocodile. Large river systems like the Chambal, Ganges, Yamuna, Son, Gandak, Mahanadi, and Brahmaputra rivers are home to it.



20. Kota Care project: To address stress, mental health issues, and safety concerns among coaching students, the Kota district administration implemented student welfare changes under the "Kota Cares" project.

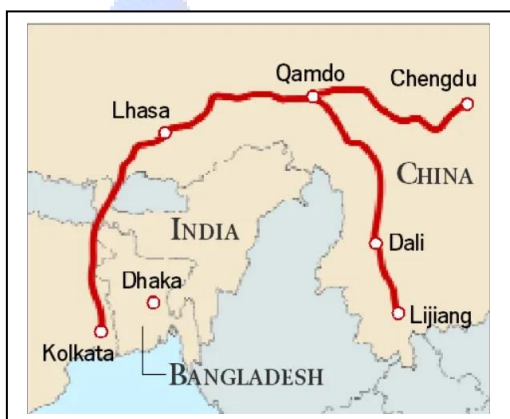
It is a student assistance program designed to help 1.25 lakh students in Kota's coaching institutes feel less stressed, safer, and happier. By attending to issues related to accommodations, safety, mental health, and recreation, it seeks to establish a setting that is secure, encouraging, and student-friendly.

21. African Asian Rural Development

Organization (AARDO): The 21st AARDO meeting ended in New Delhi with a renewed dedication to South-South collaboration and community-driven rural development. It is an intergovernmental organization that encourages collaboration between Asia and Africa in rural development. At the moment, 33 Asian and African nations are members. It seeks to improve technical and economic cooperation for rural development. It encourages food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable agricultural growth. It makes it easier for member countries to share

expertise, conduct research, and conduct training programs.

22. Tea Horse Road: Xu Feihong, China's ambassador to India, emphasized the Tea Horse Road's historical significance and its role in trade between China and India via Tibet. The vast tea trade from China to India via the Himalayan passes was made possible by the historic 2,000-kilometer route.



23. Project Farm Vibes: In Baramati, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella showcased Project Farm Vibes, which utilized AI-driven solutions to reduce fertilizer consumption by 25% and increase crop output by 40%. This AI-powered initiative is being expanded from 1,000 farmers to 50,000 farmers by the Agricultural Development Trust, Baramati, in partnership with Microsoft.

To provide farmers with useful information, it makes use of drones, IoT devices, satellite data, and AI algorithms.

24. The University Grants Commission's independent National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is in charge

of evaluating and accrediting Indian higher education institutions. It was established in 1994 in response to suggestions made by the National Policy on Education and Program of Action. It was developed in response to India's declining quality of higher education. Prioritizing optional accreditation at first, it was then made essential for money and recognition.

25. India's Internet Shutdown: According to a report by Access Now, India had the most internet shutdowns in 2024—84—among democratic nations. Myanmar surpassed India with 85 shutdowns, marking the first time in six years that India did not top the global list.

Internet services are being disrupted by the government in order to limit access to online communication platforms. It is frequently employed in security operations, exams, elections, protests, and acts of communal violence.

26. Reclassification of Major Minerals: Barytes, Feldspar, Mica, and Quartz were previously classed as minor minerals but were later reclassified as major minerals by the Ministry of Mines through a gazette notification.

Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957, the Central Government regulates major minerals. They include minerals like iron ore, coal, bauxite, gold, and lately barytes, feldspar, mica, and

quartz, which have great strategic and economic value.

27. F-35 Lightning II Fighter Jet: After U.S. President Donald Trump alluded to a possible offer for India, the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet attracted notice at Aero India 2025. Designed for multi-role combat tasks, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is a stealth aircraft with a single seat and engine. With its sophisticated stealth, electronic warfare, and sensor fusion capabilities, it is categorized as a fifth-generation fighter aircraft. Lockheed Martin produces it as part of a global initiative directed by the United States.



28. Ratnagiri Buddhist Heritage Site: In December, archaeologists discovered more than 1500-year-old tablets and stupas at Ratnagiri, Odisha, along with a huge Buddha head that stands 1.4 meters tall. Ratnagiri's historical significance as a prominent Vajrayana centre that draws scholars from all over the world is confirmed by the excavation.

It is located in the Odisha district of Jajpur. Together with Lalitgiri and Udayagiri, Ratnagiri is a member of the Diamond

Triangle of Buddhist legacy. The Brahmani, Kimiria, and Birupa rivers round the site, giving Buddhist scholars a remote and advantageous setting.



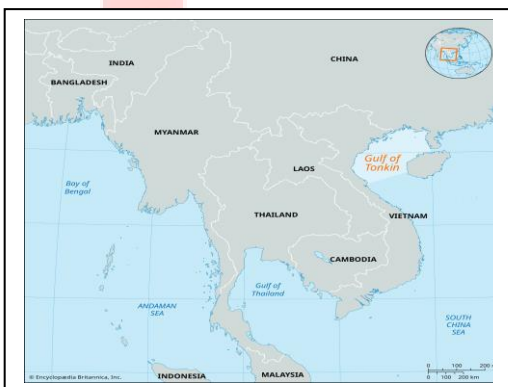
29. DeepCXR AI Tool: In spite of the absence of published validation studies or an official Health Technology Assessment of India assessment, the Central TB Division suggested the DeepCXR AI tool for TB screening.

This AI-powered chest X-ray interpretation tool was created as part of the National TB Elimination Program to identify TB cases. The Institute for Plasma Research in Gandhisagar developed it, and the ICMR has authorized its usage.

30. Perovskite-Based LEDs: Indian scientists at CeNS, Bengaluru, have created a novel technique to improve the stability of perovskite nanocrystals, resolving problems with heat sensitivity and colour deterioration. The development of Perovskite-based LEDs has increased their durability and efficiency, making them an economically feasible option for next-generation displays and lighting.

Perovskite nanocrystals are the light-emitting material used in these light-emitting diodes. These offer exceptional brightness and energy efficiency by combining the benefits of OLEDs and QLEDs.

31. Gulf of Tonkin: To strengthen its sovereign rights and maritime authority, Vietnam's foreign ministry published a map outlining its baseline claim in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Vietnam-China Gulf of Tonkin Delimitation Agreement and UNCLOS 1982 are in accordance with the baseline drawn between the provinces of Quang Nih and Quang Tri.



32. The Bharat Tech Triumph Program was introduced as part of the first season of the Create in India Challenge to highlight India's gaming prowess internationally. The winners will showcase their solutions at the WAVES Summit in India and the Game Developers Conference 2025 in San Francisco.

It is a nationwide effort to support India's innovative, gaming, and interactive entertainment industries. It gives Indian tech companies, entrepreneurs, and game

developers international exposure. Its goal is to find and showcase Indian gaming talent on international stages.

33. Rupee and Dollar Swap Auctions: To add Rs. 86,000 crores to the banking system, the RBI organized a \$10 billion USD/INR buy/sell swap auction.

The RBI uses it as a tool to control economic liquidity and control currency volatility. In the first leg, banks sell the RBI US dollars in return for rupees, with the understanding that the dollars will be repurchased later.

34. Purchasing Manager's Index: Following three consecutive quarters of decline, India's Composite Flash PMI had its first uptick in February 2025, rising to 60.6.

An economic metric called PMI is obtained from monthly business surveys. In contrast to IIP, which tracks actual output, it counts activity at the purchasing/input stage.

When the PMI is above 50, the economy is expanding; when it is below 50, it is contracting.

In India, S&P Global carries out PMI surveys.

35. Lokpal: Calling the top anti-corruption ombudsman's interpretation "very disturbing," the Supreme Court delayed a Lokpal ruling that brought High Court justices under its purview.

The purpose of the Lokpal, an anti-corruption ombudsman, is to look into claims of

corruption against public servants, members of parliament, ministers, and the prime minister.

Following the India against corruption campaign spearheaded by Anna Hazare, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act was passed in 2013.

36. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj: On

February 19, 2025, the country celebrates the 395th anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's birth.

On June 6, 1674, he was crowned Chhatrapati at Raigad Fort. He proclaimed independence from the Deccan and Mughal Sultanates and founded Hindavi Swarajya. He created Guerrilla Warfare, a strategy that outwitted the Deccan and Mughal kings. In order to protect the Western coast and the Konkan from foreign incursions, he established the Indian Navy. Over 370 forts, including Torna, Raigad, Pratapgad, and Sinhagad, were taken by him and constructed. For governance, he established the Ashta Pradhan Mandal. To ensure a healthy economy, he instituted progressive revenue measures. He included Muslims, Europeans, and members of all castes in the administration and advocated for religious tolerance.

His main conflicts were the Battle of Pratapgad, the Battle of Purandar, the Battle of Sinhagad, and the Battle of Pavan Khind. After defeating Adilshah and Golconda, he

extended his power into Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.



37. Remission: States were instructed by the Supreme Court to take into account the early release of qualified inmates without needing an application.

The lowering of a convicted person's sentence before the entire term is served is known as remission. It reduces the length of incarceration but does not overturn the conviction.

38. Technology Adoption Fund: In order to promote the commercialization of early-stage space technology and boost the expansion of space startups and MSMEs, IN-SPACE, India's space regulator, established the Technology Adoption Fund.

It seeks to establish India as a world leader in the space industry by fostering and commercializing cutting-edge space technology created by Indian startups, MSMEs, and larger companies.

39. Electronic Personnel License: India became the second nation after China to adopt digital pilot licenses when it introduced the

Electronic Personnel License for pilots. This program promotes India's Digital India and Ease of Doing Business Initiatives and complies with International Civil Aviation Organization requirements.

It seeks to improve efficiency, safety, and security in order to modernize the civil aviation industry.

40. Northern White Rhino: There are currently only two northern white rhinos remaining, putting them in danger of going extinct. With 36 embryos prepared for implantation, an advancement in in-vitro fertilization, however, gives hope for the survival of the subspecies.

Both short and long grass savannahs are home to the white rhino, also referred to as the square-lipped rhinoceros. With smaller numbers in Kenya, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, South Africa is home to the majority of southern white rhinos. There are just two Northern White rhinos left in Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy, making them very endangered.



41. IALA-International Association of Aids to Marine Navigation: As part of the organization's inaugural General Assembly in Singapore, India was chosen as its Vice President.

India will host the IALA Conference & General Assembly in Mumbai in September 2027 and the IALA Council meeting in December 2025.

IALA is an international organization that works to standardize marine navigation aids so that maritime activities are safe, effective, and ecologically conscious. Its goal is to standardize maritime navigation systems around the world. It encourages the preservation of the maritime environment in a sustainable way. It makes technologically advanced solutions for increased navigational safety possible.

42. DBIM: Digital Brand Identity Manual: As part of the Gov.In: Harmonization of Digital Footprint program, the GoI organized the First CIO Conference 2025 and released the Digital Brand Identity Manual.

In order to improve service delivery and citizen involvement, it seeks to standardize and integrate all digital platforms used by the government under a single, unified digital identity.

It seeks to guarantee uniformity in governance, accessibility, and design across digital platforms. enhances e-governance's

effectiveness and transparency. It makes digital infrastructure safe and prepared for the future.

43. Dinesh Khara Committee: To examine important clauses of the 1938 Insurance Act, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India established a powerful committee under the direction of former SBI chairman Dinesh Khara.

It was created to examine and revise the 1938 Insurance Act to bring it into compliance with contemporary requirements. It guarantees revenue retention in India and fortifies policyholder safeguards.

44. Microsoft Majorana 1: Microsoft's first quantum computing chip, Majorana 1, was revealed with the goal of improving the stability, speed, and usefulness of quantum computing. To reduce processing errors, it makes use of Majorana particles, a kind of unusual quantum state.

45. Asia Economic Dialogue 2025: From February 20 to February 22, 2025, Pune, Maharashtra, will host the 9th Asia Economic Dialogue 2025. Policymakers, economists, business executives, and academicians gather at this premier international geoeconomic conference to debate regional and global economic issues.

It seeks to promote discussion on economic policies that affect Asia and the rest of the world. Economic fragmentation is addressed,

and recovery and resilience initiatives are identified. In addition to discussing new economic issues including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, climate change, and the blue economy, it fortifies regional and international economic cooperation.

"Economic Resilience and Resurgence in an Era of Fragmentation" is the theme for 2025.

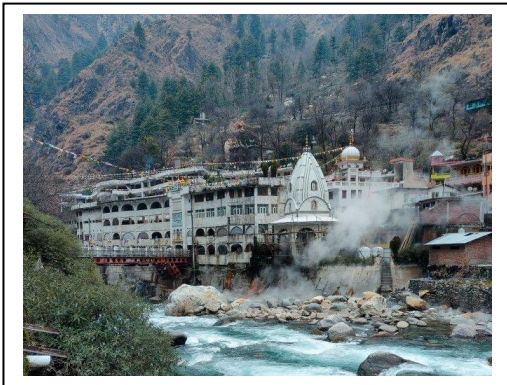
46. The Kalyani Chalukya: In Kankal Village, Vikarabad, Telangana, archaeologists have found 900-year-old Kannada inscriptions from the Kalyani Chalukya period. During the reign of Emperor Someswara III Bhulokamalla Deva, temple construction and land gifts are described in these inscriptions from 1129–1132.

From the tenth to the twelfth centuries CE, the Kalyani Chalukyas dominated the western Deccan. Tailapa II founded it following his victory over the Rashtrakutas. Important monarchs include Jayasimha II, Someswara I, Someswara III, and Vikramaditya VI.

47. Manikaran: Residents and religious organizations in Himachal Pradesh are protesting the plan to move hot spring water from Manikaran to Kasol for a tourism project.

Manikaran is a place of worship for Sikhs and Hindus. Hindus think that following the Great Flood, Manu brought human life back here. Manikaran became revered to Sikhs when Guru Nanak visited it during his third Udasi in 1574 Bikrami.

It is situated in the Parvati valley, which is well-known for its geothermal activity and hot springs. The Himalayan mountains encircle it, providing a stunning backdrop. Important mountain passes including Debsa Pass, Sara Umga La Pass, and Pin Paravati Pass connect it.



48. Rare Doctrine's Rarest: Conflicting rulings on the death sentence in the Kolkata R.G. Kar Medical College case and the Sharon Murder case rekindled discussions about the use of India's most uncommon concept.

The arrest of In India, the death sentence is enforced on a rare doctrine. It stipulates that the death penalty must only be applied in extreme circumstances where the offense deeply disturbs society as a whole. By maintaining constitutional protections, the concept makes sure that the death sentence is always the exception rather than the rule.

49. TrailGuard AI: By effectively deploying AI-enabled TrailGuard Cameras, the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha has achieved an 80% reduction in poaching incidences.

Through real-time monitoring in protected forests, this AI-powered surveillance system aims to prevent poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. It was developed by Nightjar Technologies, a social impact company with headquarters in Gurgaon that specializes in remote conservation surveillance.

50. NAKSHA Project: In 152 Urban Local Bodies in 26 States and 3 Union Territories, the National Geo-Spatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitats pilot project is scheduled to begin.

It is a land survey project powered by GIS technology that aims to create and update land records in urban areas to guarantee accuracy, efficiency, and transparency in property ownership paperwork.

The Department of Land Resources, National Informatics Center Services Inc., and the Survey of India work together to implement it.

It seeks to support infrastructure planning and smart city development by ensuring accurate, up-to-date, and digitalized land ownership information.

51. Humpback Whale: While kayaking in the Strait of Magellan, Chile, a 23-year-old Venezuelan kayaker was momentarily engulfed by a humpback whale. In a matter of seconds, the whale, thinking the kayak was prey, swallowed Simancas and let him go unhurt.

With a maximum weight of 36 metric tons and a length of 12 to 16 meters, it is among the largest whale species.

There are two kinds of whales: Humpback, blue, and grey whales are all considered baleen whales. Toothed whales, which include sperm whales, beaked whales, killer whales, and dolphins, have baleen plates in place of teeth and are used to filter-feed plankton and krill. possess fangs and pursue larger prey, such as squid and fish.



52. Vertical Planetary Mixer: In partnership with CMTI, Bengaluru, ISRO successfully created a 10-tonne vertical planetary mixer, the largest solid propellant mixing apparatus in the world. It guarantees that delicate and dangerous chemicals are precisely blended, which is essential for rocket motor efficiency. It is a component of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" program, which aims to improve domestic space capabilities.

53. PM-AASHA scheme: During the 15th finance commission cycle, the GoI authorized the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan

Abhiyan scheme's continuation until 2025–2026.

It is a comprehensive program designed to guarantee farmers fair prices by means of efficient procurement processes and price support systems. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare is in charge of overseeing it.

In order to stabilize prices, avoid hoarding, and guarantee an affordable supply for customers, it purchases pulses, oilseeds, and copra at MSP and keeps a buffer stock of onions and pulses. For four months, farmers are compensated directly for the difference between the market price and MSP, up to 40% of oilseed production.

54. The Export Development Authority for Agricultural and Processed Food Products,

or APEDA: The first commercial trial shipments of premium Sangola and Bhagwa pomegranates from India to Australia were successfully accomplished by APEDA, AgroStar, and Kay Bee Exports.

These are high-quality pomegranate types that are prized for their lengthy shelf life, bright crimson arils, and high sugar content. Because of its perfect agroclimatic conditions, Maharashtra is the main hub for these kinds.

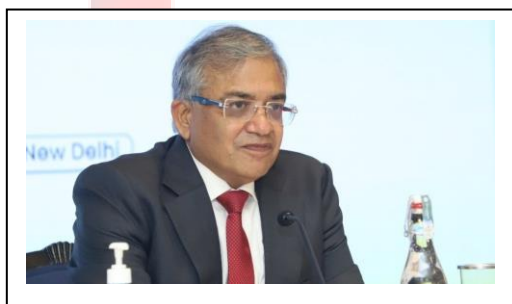
APEDA seeks to guarantee quality standards in international trade, expand market access, and boost India's agricultural exports.

55. Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv

Kumar has been replaced by Gyanesh Kumar as India's new Chief Election Commissioner.

The Election Commission of India is led by the CEC, which makes sure that elections are free and fair. It is regulated under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, which gives the Election Commission oversight, guidance, and control over elections.

Candidates are recommended by a selection committee that includes the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.



56. DICGC-Deposit Insurance and Credit

Guarantee Corporation: The DICGC statute of 1961 now sets the deposit insurance ceiling at Rs. 5 lakhs, which the Finance Ministry is thinking of raising.

It is a division of the RBI that offers bank depositors deposit insurance, guaranteeing the security of their funds in the event of bank failures. It seeks to preserve public trust in the banking system and safeguard depositor money.

57. Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS)

assault: A DDoS attack severely disrupted operations on Karnataka's property registration portal, Kaveri 2.0.

A DDoS attack disrupts service by overloading a server or network with traffic. It uses a botnet—a collection of hacked devices—to bombard the target system with requests.

58. Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi

Yojana: The Finance Minister launched it in the Union Budget 2025 to increase the sustainability and productivity of agriculture.

A comprehensive plan for agricultural development aimed at improving irrigation, storage infrastructure, crop diversification, and farm production. It seeks to increase land use and crop productivity in designated districts. It promotes eco-friendly farming practices and crop variety. It increases small and marginal farmers' access to effective irrigation systems.

59. Green Sovereign Bonds: Due to the lack of investor interest in India's Sovereign Green Bonds, the government has had difficulty obtaining a greenium.

Governments create debt instruments to generate money for environmentally friendly initiatives that lower carbon emissions and improve climate resilience. It seeks to raise money for climate resiliency, sustainable infrastructure, and clean energy. As part of its

Net Zero 2070 pledge, it backs India's renewable energy targets.

60. The largest biannual airshow in Asia,

Aero India 2025, is taking place in Bengaluru and will feature cutting-edge military aircraft, defence technologies, and international aerospace partnerships.

Military aviation, cutting-edge defence technologies, and international collaborations are all on display at this premier aerospace and defence show.

The Ministry of Defence, Government of India, organizes the biennial event with assistance from the Indian Air Force, DRDO, and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

It promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat and Made in India in the defence industry. Major defence companies are drawn to it for technology transfers, contracts, and joint partnerships. It showcases next-generation aviation technologies, fighter jets, helicopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles. It makes it easier for Indian and foreign defence industries to work together.



61. Tamil Civilization: According to the paper Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu, the use of iron dates back to the first part of the fourth millennium BCE, marking the start of the Iron Age in Tamil Nadu.

With almost 5,300 years of evidence of sophisticated urban life, trade, and metallurgy, the Tamil Civilization is among the oldest known civilizations. It developed into a continuous cultural and commercial network along important rivers including Thamirabarani, Vaigai, and Noyyal.

62. Exercise Dharma Guardian: Mount Fuji, Japan, will host the Sixth iteration of Exercise Dharma Guardian, a joint military drill between India and Japan. It seeks to enhance military-to-military cooperation and fortify bilateral defence relationships. Under UN rules, it carries out combined anti-terrorism and urban combat operations.



63. mRNA-based cancer vaccine: By early 2025, patients will be able to receive a free personalized mRNA-based cancer vaccination developed in Russia. An mRNA vaccination gives the body's cells genetic instructions so

they can create antigens that elicit an immune response. In contrast to conventional vaccines, these target antigens specific to tumours and are used to treat cancer patients who already have the disease.

64. Reciprocal Tariffs: In a move away from WTO trade standards, US President Donald Trump declared "reciprocal tariffs" on all trading partners, including allies.

A reciprocal tariff is an import tax that is equal to the tariff imposed by a nation on US exports. Its goal is to level tariffs worldwide in order to establish a "fair" trading system.

65. India-US Trust Initiative: To improve supply chains for vital minerals, medications, and sophisticated materials, India and the USA started the TRUST initiative.

A bilateral agreement to strengthen cooperation in innovative materials, pharmaceuticals, and essential minerals is called TRUST-Transforming Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology. It seeks to ease technology transfer, diversify supply networks, and lessen reliance on China.

Lithium, rare earth elements, and cutting-edge materials for industries including energy storage, semiconductors, and defense are its main focus.

66. NSDC-National Skill Development Corporation: To promote skill development in India, it announced intentions to open 10

NSDC international academies and 50 future skills centres.

It is a public limited business that is not for profit and was founded to promote skill development in India. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship oversees its operations.

By offering training that is relevant to the sector and improving workforce readiness, it seeks to close the skills gap. It also supports businesses, start-ups, and training organizations with funding and concessional loans.

67. J.C. Bose grant: To help top Indian scientists and engineers advance cutting-edge research, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation established the J.C. Bose Grant.

Senior Indian scientists in a variety of scientific and technological fields are recognized and supported by this esteemed research grant program run by ANRF. By giving top scientists and engineers extramural financing, it seeks to foster technical advancements and encourage high-calibre research.

68. Sudan Virus Outbreak: A new outbreak of the Sudan virus has been confirmed by the WHO and Ugandan authorities, and cases have been connected to hospital and family clusters in Kampala. During an outbreak in Southern Sudan in 1976, it was initially

discovered. It is a member of the same family as the Ebola virus, the Orthoebolavirus genus.

With prior outbreaks in Sudan and Uganda, it is primarily prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa. Direct contact with contaminated materials, diseased animals, or bodily fluids can spread it.

Its death rate varies between 40% and 60%; the 2022 outbreak in Uganda had a 47% death rate. There is no effective antiviral medication or vaccine for it.



69. PARAS-2 Spectrograph: TOI-6038A b, a dense sub-Saturn exoplanet in a broad binary system, was found by researchers at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad. The PARAS-2 spectrograph was used to make the finding, which advances India's knowledge of astronomical instrumentation and exoplanet research.

A high-resolution radial velocity spectrograph called PARAS-2 is used to estimate mass and discover exoplanets.

70. Climate Risk Index 2025: It was published, emphasizing the need for more

robust climate action and the growing worldwide effect of extreme weather occurrences. Even though it rose to 49th place in 2022, India was still rated sixth among the nations most impacted by extreme weather disasters.

Countries are ranked by the Climate Risk Index according to how vulnerable they are to extreme weather disasters. It evaluates the financial and human costs of disasters brought on by climate change. The environmental think tank Germanwatch publishes it. With data spanning the previous 30 years, it has been published annually since 2006.

It seeks to inform climate policies and risk reduction initiatives by offering a comparative examination of the effects of extreme weather events. It draws attention to the countries most impacted and stresses how urgent climate resilience is.

71. Matsya 600: According to a Union Minister, India's first manned submersible, the Matsya 6000, is scheduled to launch by 2026 as part of the Deep Ocean Mission. Only five countries have produced manned deep-sea submersibles: the United States, France, China, Russia, and Japan.

It is an undersea exploration-focused deep-sea manned submersible. It is being constructed as part of the Deep Ocean Mission's Samudrayaan project. The National Institute of Ocean Technology constructed it.

Its objectives include surveying mineral resources including copper, manganese, and cobalt, as well as investigating marine ecosystems and deep-sea biodiversity. India's technological prowess in manned deep-sea exploration is improved.



72. Committee on Public Accounts:

Excessive toll collection on national highways and toll operators' noncompliance with agreements to offer passenger facilities have sparked criticism.

Following the Government of India Act of 1919, it was first implemented in 1921. It has 22 members: the Speaker elected 15 from the Lok Sabha, and the Chairman elected 7 from the Rajya Sabha.

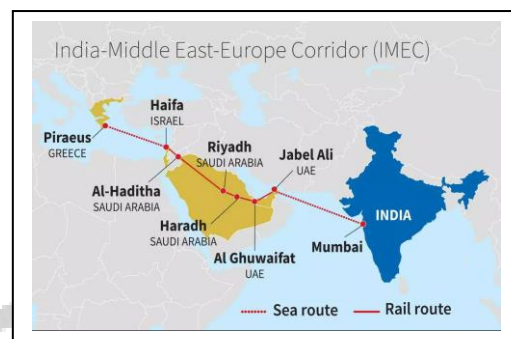
It looks at government spending to make sure the money that Parliament has allotted is being used within the authorized range of demand.

73. India-Middle East-Europe Corridor:

During the Prime Minister's visit to France, India and France reiterated their commitment to executing the IMEC.

A multimodal connectivity project that uses land and marine routes to connect Europe, the Middle East, and India. Bypassing the Suez Canal, it is a different commercial route that lessens reliance on China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The participating countries include the United States, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, France, Germany, Italy, India, and the European Union.



74. US-India COMPACT effort:

A new chapter in bilateral ties was reached when the United States and India introduced the U.S.-India COMPACT effort to improve defence, commerce, and technological collaboration.

In addition to expanding bilateral trade, with a target of \$500 billion by 2030, it seeks to deepen defence collaboration, co-production, and technology exchange, strengthen the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership across key sectors, and promote innovation and technological cooperation, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, semiconductors, and space exploration.

75. Bird Flu: Following its discovery at Birsa Agricultural University in Ranchi, the Jharkhand health department has issued a notice over an outbreak of bird flu.

Influenza A viruses are the source of this contagious illness, which mainly affects birds but can also infect humans. Because of its high zoonotic potential—the ability to spread from animals to people—it could cause a pandemic if mutations allow for human-to-human transmission.

Direct contact with infected birds, polluted settings, or poultry products can result in human diseases. Although they are not common, rare instances of human-to-human transmission have been documented.



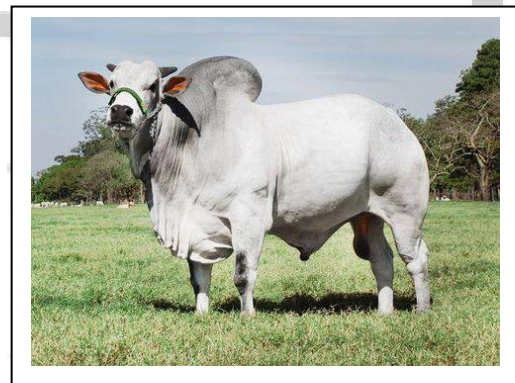
76. The "Tax Year" Idea: In an effort to streamline tax reporting, the Income-Tax law 2025 replaces the current assessment year with the new "Tax year" idea.

The 12-month period beginning on April 1st during which income is assessed and subject to taxation in the same fiscal year is referred to as the tax year. The assessment year system, which taxed income in the year after

the fiscal year in which it was generated, has been replaced.

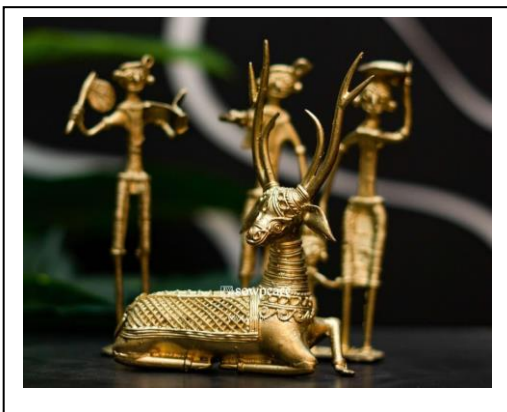
77. Ongole Breed Cattle: The ongole breed cow Viatina-19 just broke the world record by selling for \$4.82 million in Brazil, outselling the Brahman and Wagyu breeds from India and Japan, respectively.

Native to India, Ongole cattle are renowned for their exceptional strength, resilience to disease, and ability to withstand extreme temperatures. It has long supported livestock economies through its usage in dairy, agriculture, and breeding. It is indigenous to the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district.



78. Dokra Metal Craft: During the AI Summit in Paris, the Indian prime minister presented French President Emmanuel Macron with a Dokra piece of art, highlighting India's rich handicraft heritage. Using the lost-wax casting method, which has been used for more than 4,000 years, it is a non-ferrous metal casting technique. It is renowned for its handcrafted, jointless

designs, distinctive folk themes, and primal simplicity. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu are among the states where it can be found. In 2018, Adilabad Dokra was granted the GI badge.



79. The Euclid Space telescope of the European Space Agency has found an unusual Einstein ring around the galaxy NGC 6505, which is 590 million light years from Earth.

The Einstein ring is a gravitational lensing phenomenon in which light from a far-off galaxy forms a ring-like pattern as it bends around a huge astronomical object. Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity made the theoretical prediction.

80. Tobin Tax: The administration of US President Donald Trump is thinking of enacting a Tobin Tax on capital movements, which might cause a stir in the world's financial markets.

The Tobin Tax is a foreign exchange transaction tax designed to deter short-term

trading speculation. The purpose of this minor tax on currency conversions is to lessen financial market volatility.

81. Su-57 Fighter Jet: In an effort to localize fifth generation fighter aircraft technology, Russia has extended an offer to India for a joint production collaboration at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

It has increased stealth, agility, and multi-role combat capabilities, making it ideal for ground attack and air superiority operations.



82. Elephant Trumpeting: In contrast to earlier theories that they exclusively trumpet in reaction to disruptions, a recent study published in Mammalian Biology shows that Asian elephants use trumpeting noises in a variety of social interactions.

Elephants use a loud, high-frequency sound called "trumpeting" to interact with other members of their herd. It can be used to warn people, show enthusiasm, play, and indicate danger, among other things.

83. President's Rule: As the BJP is unable to agree on a candidate, Manipur may be subject

to the imposition of President's rule after Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned.

When a state government does not operate in accordance with the Constitution, the president's rule suspends it and imposes direct central management. When the President is certain that a state's government cannot be carried out in accordance with the constitution, it is invoked under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution.

84. Chips made by Shakti Semi-conductor:

As part of the Digital India RISC-V program, IIT Madras and ISRO produced "Shakti," India's first domestic aerospace-grade semiconductor chip, to bolster the country's semiconductor ecosystem and strategic autonomy.

It is made to satisfy the high security and dependability requirements of India's computer, defense, and space sectors.

85. Lymphatic Filariasis: To eradicate lymphatic filariasis by 2027, India has started a statewide Mass Drug Administration campaign that would reach 111 endemic districts in 13 states.

Filarial worms infect the human lymphatic system, causing lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, a parasitic disease that causes significant swelling and paralysis. India contributes significantly to the global caseload and is one of the countries with the largest burden of LF. Among the

states with the most LF cases are Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. By using methods for vector control, morbidity management, and mass medicine administration, the government hopes to eradicate LF by 2027.

It is brought on by the parasites *Wuchereria Bancrofti*, *Brugia Malayi*, and *Brugia Timori*. Infection must develop via months or years of recurrent mosquito bites.



86. Morand-Ganjal Irrigation Project:

Important tiger habitats, Satpura and Melghat Tiger Reserves, would be submerged by the Morand-Ganjal Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh, the National Tiger Conservation Authority has warned. The Narmada River is thought to have two significant tributaries: the Morand and Ganjal rivers.

87. Bombay Blood Group: For a patient with the uncommon Bombay blood group, India has successfully completed its first-ever cross-blood kidney transplant. Dr. Y.M. Bhende made the initial discovery of this uncommon blood type in Mumbai in 1952. The H antigen, which serves as the foundation

for the A and B antigens in the ABO blood group system, is absent from it.

88. India-UK Defence Agreements: During Aero India 2025, India and the UK inked a number of defence agreements, such as the creation of an ASRAAM missile assembly facility in Hyderabad and the start of the Defence Partnership-India collaboration on next-generation weapons.

89. BIMSTEC Youth Summit: In Gandhinagar, Gujarat, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports formally opened the inaugural BIMSTEC Youth Summit, which aimed to foster collaboration and foster leadership skills among the young people of BIMSTEC countries.

Its objective is to give young leaders from BIMSTEC countries a forum to debate emerging issues and regional collaboration. "Youth as a bridge for intra-BIMSTEC exchange" is the subject.

90. The U.S. President has placed restrictions on investigations that jeopardize the "national security" of Washington and its allies, including Israel, putting the **International Criminal Court** in the public eye.

It was created in 2002 in accordance with the Rome Statute. The Hague, Netherlands, is home to the headquarters. It brings charges against people for crimes of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

91. South Coast Railway Zone: The Waltair Railway Division was recently divided by the Union Cabinet. For Indian Railways, this division generates some of the most revenue. The new South Coast Railway Zone will result from the division. It includes important divisions including Vijayawada, Guntur, and Visakhapatnam, as well as portions of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. It seeks to increase industrial growth, facilitate better logistics, and promote local tourism.

92. NCSK-National Commission for Safai Karamcharis: The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has been given a three-year extension by the Cabinet, ending on March 31, 2028. The extension seeks to end manual scavenging and enhance the working environment for sanitation staff.

It is a government agency dedicated to Safai Karamcharis' well-being. It seeks to end manual scavenging and guarantee the social, economic, and working conditions of sanitation personnel.

93. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary: Six to eight cheetahs from South Africa are anticipated to arrive at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh before the summer of 2025, making it India's second cheetah sanctuary.

It is located near the Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan border in northwest Madhya Pradesh. The Chambal River separates it into two sections, creating a varied ecosystem. Its

northern tropical dry deciduous woodlands and scrublands offer cheetahs the perfect open grasslands.

94. Delhi Assembly: Established in 1952 as a Part-C state, Delhi's first legislative assembly had restricted authority. Delhi became a Union Territory when the assembly was disbanded in 1956, and it did not have an assembly for 37 years, until 1993.

Delhi was given special status by the 69th CAA, 1991, in accordance with the S Balakrishnan Committee. A party needs to win 36 seats in the Delhi Assembly, which has 70 elected members, in order to establish a government. Delhi can only have a maximum of seven ministers since the Council of Ministers is only allowed to represent 10% of the assembly's membership.

With the exception of public order, law enforcement, land, and similar state list entries that are still under central authority, the assembly has the authority to enact laws on both state list and concurrent list topics.

The President appoints the Chief Minister, who provides advice on government nominations. In his capacity as administrator, the governor has the authority to call, adjourn, and dissolve the assembly.

95. By reaching the milestone of 100 GW solar energy capacity, India has strengthened its position as a global leader in renewable

energy and advanced its goal of 500 GW non-fossil fuels by 2030.

As of January 2025, India had 100 GW of solar capacity, with a target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. As evidence of its dominance in clean energy, solar energy currently accounts for 47% of all installed renewable capacity.

96. Bank.in domain: To combat financial fraud, improve cybersecurity, and guarantee safer online transactions, RBI launched the special bank.in domain for Indian banks.

It seeks to lessen cyberthreats by distinguishing authentic banking websites from fake ones. All Indian banks would have to use bank.in to have a safe and authentic online presence as of April 2025. Consumers can quickly recognize legitimate banking sites, avoiding financial fraud and phishing.

97. Olive Ridley Sea Turtle: More than 1200 carcasses of olive ridley sea turtles were discovered in January 2025, indicating a spike in deaths along Tamil Nadu's Chennai and Chengalpattu coasts. With a heart-shaped olive-green carapace and a maximum weight of 45 kg, it is the smallest species of sea turtle. Olive Ridley turtles mass nest on a few beaches during their mating season, which runs from November to April. It can be found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans' tropical seas. India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha are among the nesting locations.



98. TROPEx-25: From January to March 2025, the Indian Navy is conducting its biennial theatre-level operating exercise in the Indian Ocean region. India is hosting it. With significant involvement from the Indian Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, it is headed by the Indian Navy.



99. Quantum Teleportation: In order to enable large-scale networked quantum computing, researchers at the University of Oxford have made a significant advancement in distributed quantum computing by successfully connecting quantum computers through quantum teleportation for the first time.

It's a quantum phenomenon in which a particle's state is instantly transferred, without physical transfer, to another distant particle through quantum entanglement. Secure

quantum communication and quantum computation both make use of it.

100. Repo rate: For the first time in almost five years, the RBI lowered the repo rate by 25 basis points, to 6.25%.

The interest rate at which the RBI extends short-term loans to commercial banks is known as the repo rate. It is a crucial monetary policy instrument for managing liquidity, influencing economic growth, and containing inflation. Banks can provide loans to households and companies at reduced interest rates when the RBI reduces the repo rate since it decreases their borrowing costs. On the other hand, as the repo rate rises, borrowing becomes more costly, which reduces wasteful expenditure and keeps inflation under control.

101. SARAT Version 2 Tool: The Union Minister for Science and Technology declared the release of SARAT Version 2, a cutting-edge tool that will increase the effectiveness of Indian search and rescue organizations by improving their visualization skills, accuracy, and response times.

The Indian National Centres for Ocean Information Services carry out its implementation, which is overseen by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. By offering specific search areas, exportable data, and improved visualization tools, it seeks to increase the effectiveness, precision, and success rates of SAR operations.

102. Donkey Route: With a 100% increase in agent and facilitator arrests in 2024, Delhi has become a significant transit hub for illegal immigration via Donkey routes to the US. The term "donkey route" describes an illegal immigration strategy in which people attempt to enter the US by taking detours through several nations in order to evade detection.

103. Pinaka Ammunition: Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Defence Ministry inked contracts worth Rs. 10,147 crores with EEL, MIL, and BEL to upgrade the Pinaka MRLS firepower, increase range and accuracy, and modernize artillery systems. India's long-range artillery backbone is the Pinaka MRLS.



104. Monetary Policy Committee: The Finance Act of 2016 revised the RBI Act of 1934, which constituted this legislative committee. In order to keep inflation within a given goal range, it is in charge of establishing the benchmark policy rate. It consists of three external members representing the Government of India, the RBI Governor, the RBI Deputy Governor in responsibility of monetary policy, and one

officer chosen by the RBI board. The term of an external member is four years.

105. Navigation with Indian Constellation:

The NVS-02 navigation satellite's partial failure represents yet another setback for India's indigenous navigation system with Indian constellation, underscoring the difficulties in keeping a fully functional satellite navigation network.

India's in-house satellite navigation system, NAVIC (previously the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System), was created to offer precise location, navigation, and timing services throughout India and the neighbouring areas. By offering a dependable and independent positioning system for both strategic and civilian uses, it seeks to lessen India's reliance on international navigation systems like GPS, GLONASS, and Galileo. Three of its seven satellites are in GEO orbit, and the other four are in geosynchronous orbit. It offers services throughout India and an area up to 1500 kilometres outside of its boundaries.



106. Fort William: As part of the Indian government's efforts to eradicate colonial legacies and support indigenous customs, the ancient military fortification from Kolkata's British era has been renamed "Vijay Durg." It is located on the eastern banks of the Hooghly River, a significant Ganga distributary, in Kolkata, West Bengal. Fort William was first built in 1696 and finished in 1706. Following the Battle of Plassey, the present fort was reconstructed between 1758 and 1781.



107. Stryker Infantry Combat Vehicle: With a plan for co-production in India, the Stryker Infantry Combat vehicle arrangement is a step forward in the defence collaboration between the United States and India. This eight-wheeled, armoured infantry combat vehicle is built for quick deployment and improved mobility on the battlefield. Compared to other light-armoured vehicles, it offers superior survivability against IEDs.



108. Grameen Credit Score: The Finance Minister's introduction of the Grameen Credit Score in the Union Budget 2025 intends to improve financial inclusion for SHGs and rural women entrepreneurs. It is an electronic system for evaluating creditworthiness. It seeks to encourage financial inclusion for rural women and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and close the gap between informal rural economies and formal financial institutions.

109. USAID: Concerns of setbacks in India's development, health, and climate programs have been raised by the Trump administration's closing of the US Agency for International Development. The independent US government organization USAID is in charge of development assistance and civilian international aid. More than half of all US foreign aid is provided by this organization, making it one of the biggest in the world. It seeks to reduce poverty, advance healthcare and education, fortify democracy and governance in developing countries, offer disaster relief and humanitarian aid, and encourage economic growth and climate resilience.

110. Beggar-Thy-Neighbour policies: The idea of beggar-thy-neighbour policies has received a lot of attention lately because of the rise in trade conflicts and protectionism, especially in the United States under populist governments like the Trump administration.

These are economic policies, frequently implemented through protectionist measures like tariffs, quotas, or currency devaluation, that are intended to boost one nation's economy at the expense of another. Adam Smith used it to criticize mercantilist trade practices in his 1776 book, *The Wealth of Nations*.

111. Indian State insignia: The Union Home Ministry has instructed states to avoid misrepresenting the Indian state insignia, stressing the need to include the word "Satyameva Jayate" in Devanagari script.

On January 26, 1950, the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka accepted it as the State Emblem of India.

112. University of Tribhuvan Sahkari: In order to build India's first national cooperative university at IRMA, Gujarat, the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025 was presented to the Lok Sabha.

With an emphasis on training, education, and research in the cooperative sector, it is India's first national cooperative university. It has been designated as a national institution. It seeks to advance standardized cooperative

education throughout India and produce qualified individuals for management, technical, and administrative positions in cooperative societies.

113. Jevons Paradox: Since the DeepSeek AI launch caused a selloff in global tech equities, increasing concerns about the need for AI chips, the Jevons Paradox has come up again in economic talks.

It asserts that overall consumption rises rather than falls when a resource gets more cost-effective and efficient to use. William Stanley Jevons made the suggestion in 1865 after noticing that increased coal efficiency did not result in savings but rather in increased coal consumption.

114. Extra-Long Staple Cotton: In the Union budget 2025–2026, the Union Finance Minister launched a five-year initiative to increase the sustainability and productivity of Extra-Long Staple cotton cultivation in India. Cotton types noted for their exceptional quality, softness, and durability that have fiber lengths of 30 mm or more are referred to as ELS cotton. The *Gossypium barbadense* species, commonly referred to as Egyptian or Pima cotton, is its primary source.

115. Fentanyl problem: The US president has linked trade policies to the opioid problem by imposing 25% tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada due to fentanyl trafficking.

Almost 100 times more powerful than morphine, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is authorized for anaesthesia and pain treatment. Although illegally made forms of it contribute to the opioid epidemic, it is frequently utilized in medical settings to treat severe pain.

116. The International Big Cat Alliance

(IBCA) is a treaty-based international organization that has its main office in India and has formally entered into effect. India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, and Liberia have all ratified the alliance.

In celebration of Project Tiger's 50th anniversary, the Prime Minister of India launched it on April 9, 2023. The seven great cats—the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma—are to be conserved worldwide. It offers both monetary and technical assistance for conservation initiatives in both range and non-range nations.



117. Gambusia Affinis and Poecilia

Reticulata: Although the National Biodiversity Authority has designated *Gambusia Affinis* and *Poecilia Reticulata* as invasive alien species, the National Green

Tribunal has requested a statement from the Center regarding their usage as biological mosquito control agents.

Originally from North America, this little freshwater fish was brought in large quantities to help control mosquitoes. It is ranked among the top 100 invasive alien species in the world. Freshwater habitats such as lakes, ponds, and sluggish rivers are ideal for its growth. Because of its versatility, it can be found in both temperate and tropical climates.



118. Plastic Degradation Bacteria:

Companies and research institutes are creating microbial strains and modified enzymes to speed up the breakdown of polyethylene terephthalate and other plastics, and scientists are investigating bacteria-based solutions for plastic degradation.

Enzymes such as PETase and MHETase have been modified by scientists to increase their efficiency for widespread application.

119. Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi

Yojana: In the Union Budget 2025–2026, the finance minister introduced the Prime

Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, which aims to improve the agricultural productivity of 100 districts. In 100 low-productivity districts, it seeks to increase crop variety, post-harvest storage, irrigation infrastructure, agricultural production, and loan availability.

120. Presumptive Taxation: In the Union Budget 2025–2026, the finance minister instituted a presumptive taxation system for non-residents, with a particular focus on individuals offering services in India's electronics manufacturing industry.

Income is determined using a presumptive rate of profit rather than actual income under this simplified tax system. It is intended to lessen the burden of compliance and make tax filing easier for professionals and small enterprises.

Businesses like goods carriage, agency employment, and occupations needing meticulous bookkeeping are not included.

121. Cardamom: The genus *Elettaria* now includes seven species after an international research team discovered two new cardamom species in Kerala's Western Ghats. The "Queen of Species," cardamom is a spice that belongs to the Zingiberaceae family and has a strong scent. It is mostly grown in Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, and it is indigenous to the evergreen rainforests of the Western Ghats in South India.

Kerala produces 58% of India's cardamom, mostly in the region of Idukki. In Karnataka, the districts of Kodagu and Chikmagalur are the sites of considerable production.

122. Gyan Bharatam Mission: A unique project for the investigation, recording, and preservation of India's textual legacy, the Gyan Bharatam Mission was announced in the Union Budget 2025–2026.

It focuses on manuscripts owned by individual collectors, academic institutions, museums, and libraries.

123. Insurance Sector and FDI Limit: In order to draw in foreign investment and fulfil the objective of "Insurance for All by 2047," the Union Budget 2025–2026 suggested increasing the FDI limit in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%.

By offering risk protection through life, health, and general insurance products, the insurance sector is an essential part of the financial services sector. Because it provides financial security against unanticipated events, it is essential to economic stability.

India's insurance industry is the second largest among emerging economies and the tenth largest in the world. By 2033, it is anticipated to overtake nations like Canada and Germany to rank as the sixth-largest market. By 2026, the market is expected to grow to a value of USD 22 billion.

124. Man Portable Air Defence System

(MANPAD): The DRDO executed three successful flight tests of the MANPAD, an indigenously built Very Short Range Air Defence System. It is a shoulder-fired missile system that is lightweight and intended to target low-altitude aerial threats such as aircraft, drones, and helicopters. For air defence in battle zones, it gives ground forces freedom and mobility.

It seeks to give the Indian military a domestic, cutting-edge air defence system that can eliminate contemporary aerial threats.



125. Ocean Coordination Mechanism:

Designed to improve sustainable ocean governance and safeguard biodiversity, it was established to address important marine issues in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf.

It is a cooperative framework for the Wider Conservation region's sustainable management of marine resources. It seeks to advance maritime spatial planning, pollution prevention, blue carbon development, sustainable fishing, ecosystem restoration, and marine protected areas. It prioritizes disadvantaged groups, emphasizes cross-

country cooperation, and combines traditional wisdom with scientific research.

126. Financialisation: The Economic Survey 2025 warns that India's economy may suffer from excessive financialisation, which could raise inequality, debt levels, and other dependence on asset markets for growth.

It alludes to the increasing power of financial markets, organizations, and incentives in determining economic outcomes and policies.

127. New Ramsar sites: In a major step toward wetland conservation, India has added four new Ramsar sites, bringing the total to 89. Tamil Nadu leads with 20 wetlands, while Sikkim and Jharkhand added their first Ramsar sites.

Therthangal and Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Khecheopalri Wetland in Sikkim, and Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand are the recently added locations.



128. SwaRail Super App: To improve user convenience and lessen app clutter, Indian Railways has introduced the SwaRail Super App, which combines several railway services into a single platform, into beta testing.

It is a one-stop shop that provides all kinds of railway services, such as freight services, meal ordering, PNR inquiries, and ticket purchasing. It seeks to decrease the need for several apps, enhance user experience, and streamline railway services.

129. Kolleru Lake: The Andhra Pradesh government has been prohibited by the National Green Tribunal from moving forward with six infrastructural projects in the Kolleru wetland area.

It is among the biggest freshwater lakes in India. Because of its ecological significance, it was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002. The central Asian flyway, a significant bird migration path, passes through this area. It is an important wetland environment since it is home to a variety of aquatic and avian species.



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