



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

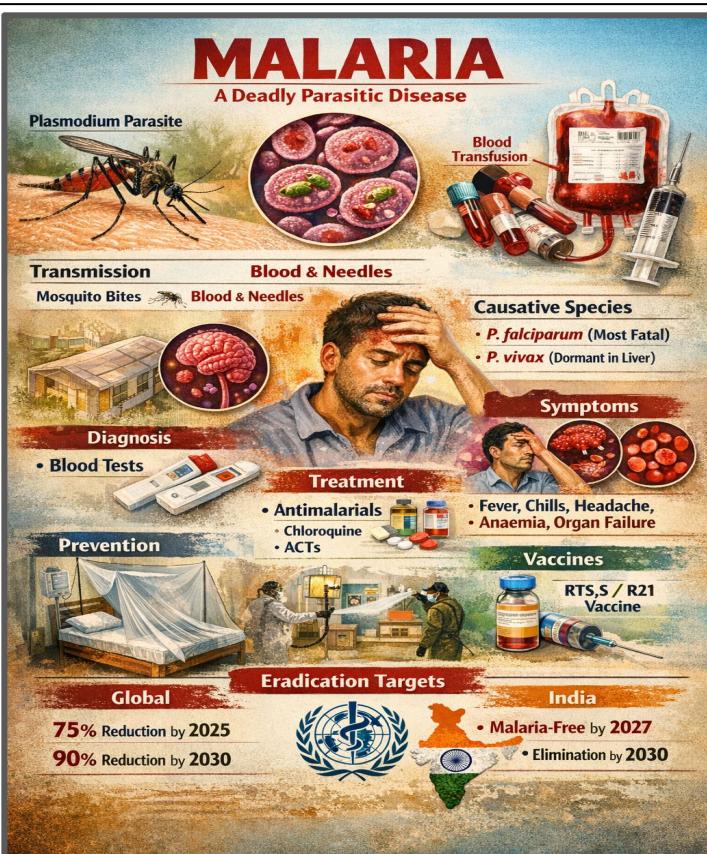
27th December 2025



Invasive Mosquito Species and India's Malaria Elimination Target

27th December 2025

CONTEXT: Urban invasive mosquitoes threaten India's 2030 malaria goal; asymptomatic cases, cross-border spread, and persistent pockets in Odisha and the Northeast remain key challenges.



The Anopheles stephensi mosquito: What you need to know

The STAR Digital

Health officials say it has infested nearly entire Northern Kenya

First detected in Marsabit and Turkana in 2022

Known to transmit malaria parasites to humans

Reported to be resistant to all classes of insecticides used against adult malaria vectors

Breeds in man-made water containers such as tanks, barrels, rooftop water storage

Thrives in urban and semi-urban environments

Its spread is viewed as a significant emerging threat that could undermine malaria elimination gains

Health official also predict the mosquito has spread to 12 other counties at the Coast, Central, Eastern and Rift Valley.

Recommended measures include eliminating standing water, improving water storage, indoor residual spraying, and using mosquito nets

Sometimes nicknamed the Indian mosquito

www.the-star.co.ke

27th December 2025

CONTEXT: Urban invasive mosquitoes threaten India's 2030 malaria goal; asymptomatic cases, cross-border spread, and persistent pockets in Odisha and the Northeast remain key challenges.

World Malaria Report 2024

Global Findings : Disease Burden

- **263 million malaria cases (2023)** → ↑ by **11 million** from 2022
- **597,000 deaths (2023)** → decline from **622,000 (2020)**

Geographic Concentration

- **WHO African Region:**
 - **94%** of global cases
 - **95%** of global deaths
- **Top 5 countries (≈52% of cases):**
 - Nigeria (26%), DR Congo (13%), Uganda (5%), Ethiopia (4%), Mozambique (4%)

Elimination Progress

- Since 2015, **9 countries** certified malaria-free, **Egypt certified in 2024**

Interventions

- Rollout of **RTS,S** and **R21** vaccines → improved coverage in endemic regions.

India-Specific Findings

Historical Turnaround

- At Independence: **7.5 crore cases/year, 8 lakh deaths**
- By 2023: **>97% reduction in cases**, deaths down to **83**

Recent Trends (2015–2023)

- Cases: **11,69,261** → **2,27,564**
- Deaths: **384** → **83 (~80% decline)**
- **ABER: 9.58** → **11.62** (better surveillance & early detection)

Global Recognition

- Exited World Health Organization High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) group in 2024
 - HBHI = country-led global malaria response framework

Challenges in Eliminating Malaria

- **Drug Resistance**: Rising resistance to **Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs)**. Prolonged infections → higher transmission & mortality.
- **Insecticide Resistance**: **Anopheles mosquitoes** developing resistance to commonly used insecticides.
- **Climate Change & Ecological Factors**: Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall expand mosquito habitats.
- **Weak Health Systems & Surveillance Gaps**: Limited diagnostics, under-reporting, and low access in remote areas. Delayed detection and treatment → sustained transmission.
- **Socio-Economic & Behavioral Barriers**: Poverty, poor housing, low awareness, and migration. Incomplete treatment → relapse and spread.
- **Vaccine Limitations**: New vaccines (**RTS,S, R21**) offer **partial protection**, require multiple doses. Example : RTS,S efficacy ~30–40% in children.

27th December 2025

CONTEXT: Urban invasive mosquitoes threaten India's 2030 malaria goal; asymptomatic cases, cross-border spread, and persistent pockets in Odisha and the Northeast remain key challenges.

Artemisinin based combination therapy (ACT)

- Artemisinin compounds are shorter acting drugs
- Monotherapy needs to be extended beyond disappearance of parasite to prevent recrudescence
- This can be prevented by combining 3-5 day regimen of artemisinin compounds with one long acting drug like mefloquine 15 mg/kg single dose
- Indicated by WHO in acute uncomplicated resistant falciparum malaria



R21/MATRIX-M
MALARIA VACCINE

Government Initiatives to Curb Malaria in India

Initiative / Programme	Key Focus
National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)	National roadmap to eliminate malaria; target zero indigenous cases by 2030
National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)	Integrated prevention, surveillance & treatment of malaria and other vector-borne diseases
National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP)	IRS with DDT, case surveillance, and patient treatment
High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) Initiative	Targeted malaria reduction in high-burden states via ITNs
Malaria Elimination Research Alliance – India (MERA-India)	Malaria research & evidence-based policy support (ICMR-led)



27th December 2025

CONTEXT: Urban invasive mosquitoes threaten India's 2030 malaria goal; asymptomatic cases, cross-border spread, and persistent pockets in Odisha and the Northeast remain key challenges.

Measures to Address Challenges in Malaria Elimination

- **Tackle Drug Resistance**
 - Deploy **triple ACTs**, rotate antimalarials, and strengthen **therapeutic efficacy surveillance** (WHO protocol).
- **Overcome Insecticide Resistance**
 - Use **next-generation ITNs** (pyrethroid + PBO), insecticide rotation, and integrated vector management.
- **Climate-Resilient Malaria Control**
 - Climate-based early warning systems; integrate malaria control with **disaster & climate adaptation plans**.
- **Strengthen Surveillance & Health Systems**
 - Universal **rapid diagnostic testing**, digital surveillance, higher **ABER**, and last-mile health delivery.
- **Address Socio-Economic Barriers**
 - Target migrants & tribal areas with **mobile clinics**, community health workers, and behaviour change communication.
- **Optimize Vaccine Use**
 - Scale up **RTS,S / R21** as complementary tools alongside vector control and case management.

Mains Practise Question

Q : Despite significant progress, malaria continues to pose challenges to public health in India and globally. Discuss the major challenges in malaria elimination and suggest suitable measures to address them. (10 Marks, 150 words)



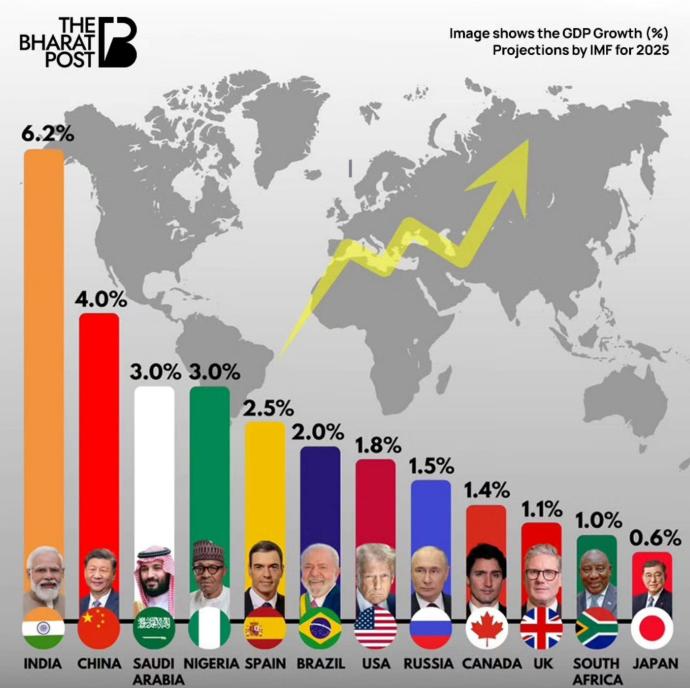
Looking at 2026 Economy



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared presenting a snapshot of the Indian economy.

Pillar 1: India's Economic Momentum: Data-Backed and Broad-Based

- Real GDP grew 7.8% in Q1 FY 2025-26, a five-quarter high.
- Gross Value Added (GVA) is up 7.6%, with:
 - Manufacturing: 7.7%
 - Construction: 7.6%
 - Services: ~9.3%
- Nominal GDP expanded 8.8%.



Once A Dream, Now
A Global Ranking:
**India Is World's 4th
Largest Economy**

	United States	\$30.507 Trillion
	China	\$19.231 Trillion
	Germany	\$4.744 Trillion
	India	\$4.187 Trillion
	Japan	\$4.186 Trillion
	United Kingdom	\$3.839 Trillion
	France	\$3.211 Trillion
	Italy	\$2.422 Trillion
	Canada	\$2.225 Trillion
	Brazil	\$2.125 Trillion

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**Fastest Growing
Economies in 2025**

@thebharatpost

Business Standard S&P raises India's rating after 18 yrs

Highs & lows



ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

S&P's rating actions on India

Sept 30, 1990	Assigned BBB
Mar 7, 1991	▼ Lowered to BBB-
May 29, 1991	▼ Lowered to BB+
Oct 22, 1991	▼ Lowered to BB
Feb 2, 2005	▲ Raised to BB+
Jan 30, 2007	▲ Raised to BBB-
Aug 14, 2025	▲ Raised to BBB

Rating of top five economies by S&P

US	AA+
China	A+
Germany	AAA
India	BBB
Japan	A

S&P rating scale (investment grade, from lowest to highest): BBB-, BBB, BBB+, A-, A, A+, AA-, AA, AA+, AAA

India's rating by other agencies

	Rating	Outlook
Moody's	BAA3	Stable
Fitch	BBB-	Stable

Source: BS Research

Looking at 2026 Economy

27th December 2025

CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared presenting a snapshot of the Indian economy.

Key Growth Drivers & Challenges

Domestic Demand Revival

Importance

- **Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) \approx 58–60% of GDP.**
- Sustained growth requires consumption-led momentum.

Current Status

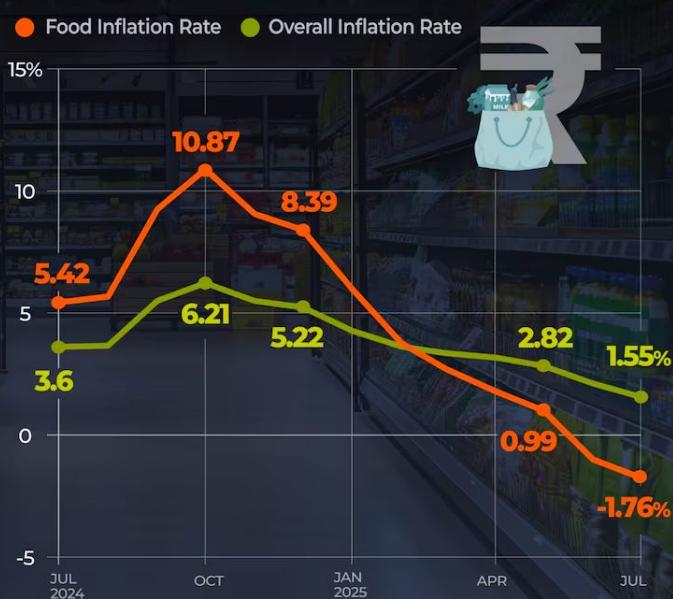
- **Urban demand:** Gradual recovery (services, premium consumption)
- **Rural demand:** Weak due to
 - Stagnant real farm incomes
 - Erratic monsoons
 - High food inflation

Constraints

- Food inflation compressing discretionary spending
- Uneven wage growth
- Informal sector stress

Food Deflation Brings Down Inflation to 8-Year Low

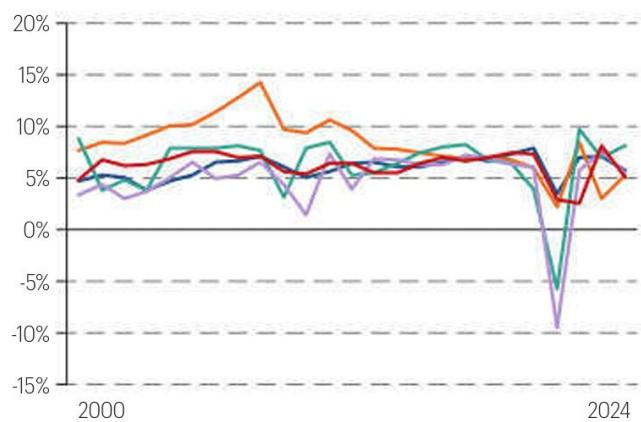
Food prices shrank for second time in a row in July 2025



Source: MoSPI | Graphic: Samrat Sharma, Muskan Arora

India and its peers: Annual GDP growth rate (%)

● Bangladesh ● China ● India ● Philippines ● Vietnam



Salary Increase (India) Trendline Graph

Real Wage Growth in 2024 Projected to be Higher than 2023 Actuals



Looking at 2026 Economy

27th December 2025

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Investment & Capital Formation

Positive Trends

- **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)** improving.
- Public capex $\approx 3.4\%$ of GDP (historically high)
- Driven by:
 - Public capex (roads, railways, defence, logistics)
 - CPSE investment
- Government capex acts as **crowding-in mechanism**

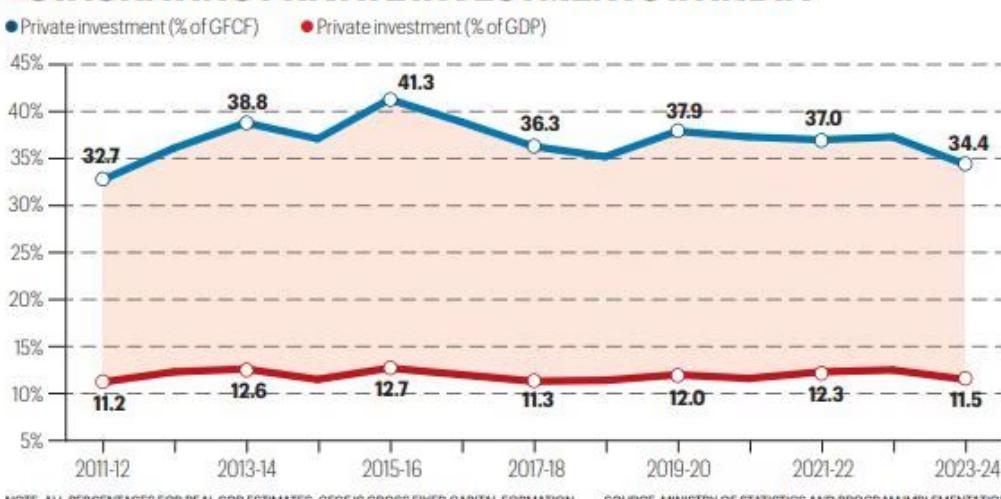
Structural Weakness

- Private investment remains cautious due to:
 - Global uncertainty
 - Demand visibility issues
 - Geopolitical risks

Table 1: Distribution (in %) of GDP by expenditure type: India and China, 2023

	India	China
Private consumption	60.3	39.1
Investment	30.8	41.3
Government consumption	10.4	16.5
Exports	21.8	19.7
Less imports	-24.1	-17.6
GDP	100.0	100
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2481	12,614

• STAGNATING PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN INDIA



27th December 2025

CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared presenting a snapshot of the Indian economy.

INVESTMENT IN INDIA HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR

SINCE 2013, PRIVATE INVESTMENT AS % OF GDP HAS DECLINED



Source: Economic Survey 2022-23. Private investment = Gross Fixed Capital Formation (private) as % of GDP at current prices



External Sector Headwinds

Risks

- Slowing global growth
- Rising protectionism (tariffs, trade barriers)
- Volatile crude oil prices
- Capital flow reversals from tightening global liquidity

India's Buffers

- **Forex reserves > \$600 billion**
- Managed exchange rate regime
- Diversifying export markets

Vulnerable Sectors

- Pharmaceuticals
- Auto components
- Engineering goods
- IT services

TRUMP SLAPS 50% TARIFFS ON INDIA

The country is now among the most heavily tariffed Nations by USA



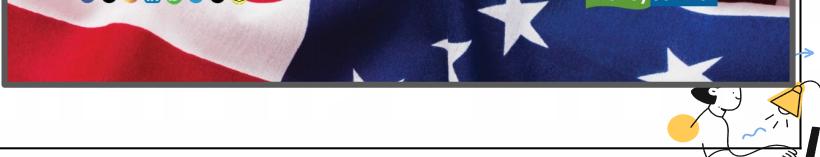
50%

HIGHEST TARIFFED NATION
Brazil, India

Brunei	25%
Kazakhstan	25%
Moldova	25%
Tunisia	25%
Bangladesh	20%
Sri Lanka	20%
Taiwan	20%
Vietnam	20%
Cambodia	19%
Indonesia	19%
Malaysia	19%
Pakistan	19%
Philippines	19%
Thailand	19%
Nicaragua	18%
Afghanistan	15%
Angola	15%
Bolivia	15%

FOREIGN TRADE AGREEMENT
TRADE AGREEMENT

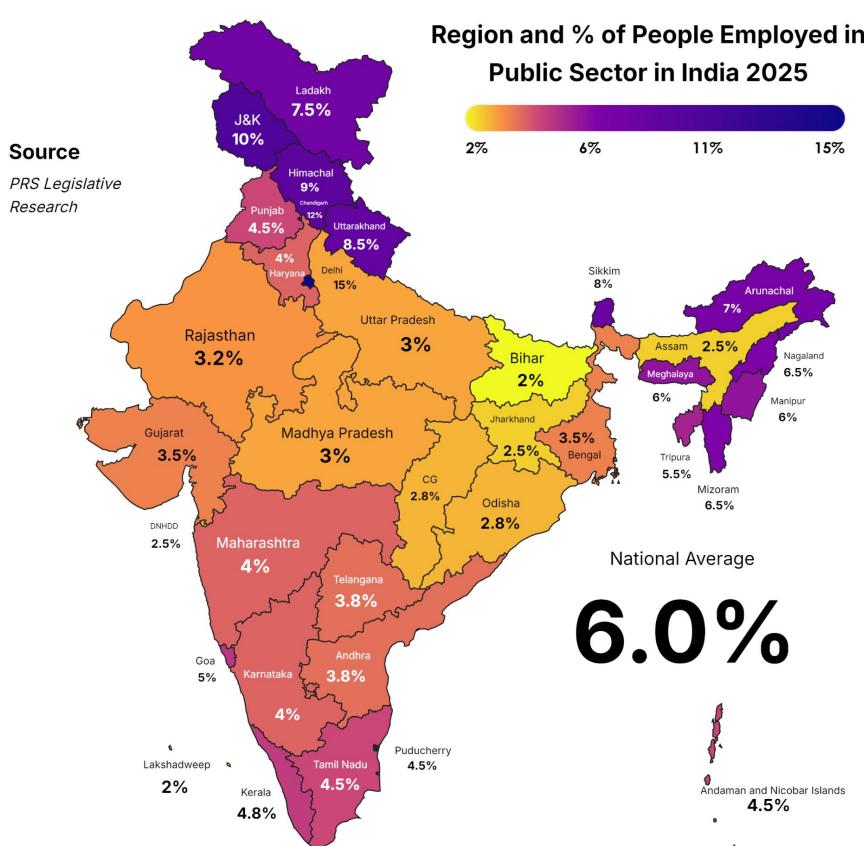
moneycontrol



Looking at 2026 Economy



CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared presenting a snapshot of the Indian economy.



Employment & Demographic Challenge

Situation

- Formal sector job creation improving
- Informal sector remains stressed

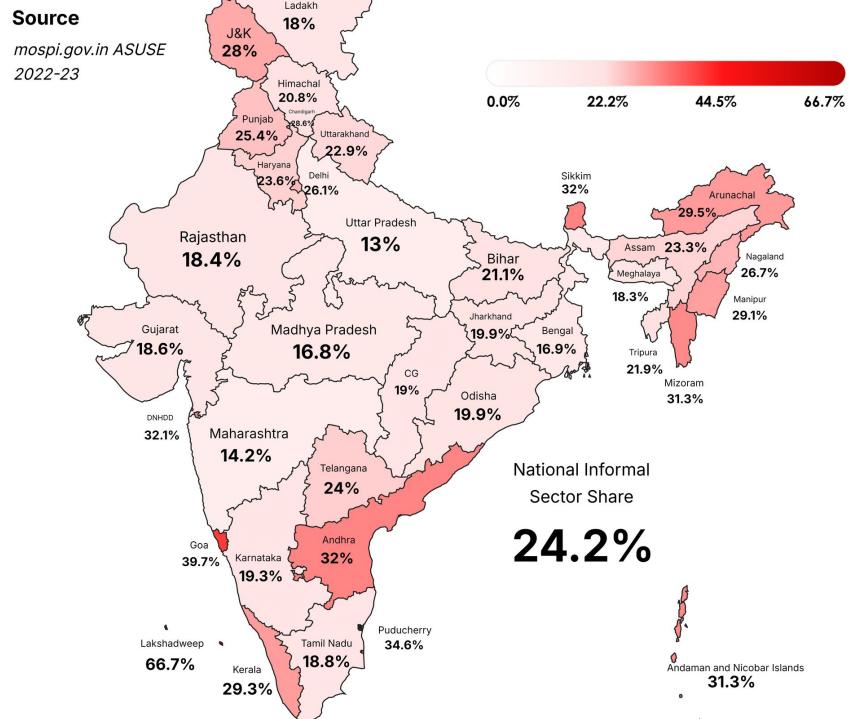
Structural Issue

- Quality employment deficit**, especially for youth
- Manufacturing share in employment still < 15%

Risk

- Failure to harness **demographic dividend** may convert it into demographic str

Indian States by employment in informal sector (2025)



Looking at 2026 Economy

27th December 2025

CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared presenting a snapshot of the Indian economy.

Fiscal-Monetary Policy Trade-off

Fiscal Side

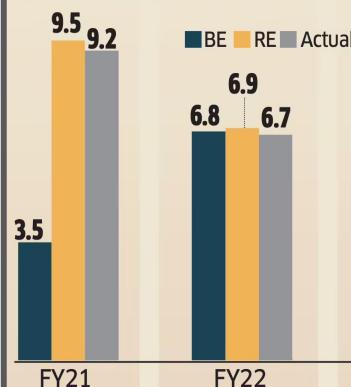
- Commitment to **fiscal consolidation**
- Limited space for revenue-heavy welfare expansion
- Focus shifting to:
 - Targeted subsidies
 - Asset-creating expenditure

Monetary Side

- RBI balancing:
 - Inflation control (especially food inflation)
 - Growth support
- Likely **calibrated stance**, not aggressive easing

State of Finances

(Fiscal deficit as % of GDP)

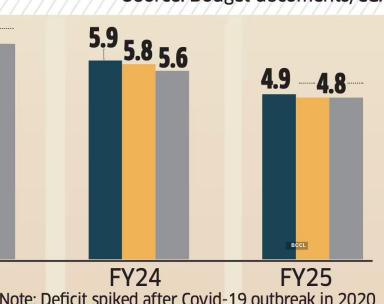


Fiscal Deficit

(₹ lakh cr)

Financial Year	Fiscal Deficit (₹ lakh cr)
FY21	18.18
FY22	15.85
FY23	17.38
FY24	16.55
FY25	15.77

Source: Budget documents/CGA



The Path Ahead

Demand Side

- Strengthen **rural incomes** (MSP reforms, non-farm jobs)
- Control food inflation via supply-side measures
- Expand targeted welfare, not blanket subsidies

Investment Side

- De-risk private investment through policy certainty.
- Accelerate **National Infrastructure Pipeline**.
- Deepen corporate bond markets.

External Sector

- Export diversification beyond US & China.
- Trade agreements with growth markets.
- Build resilience against oil price shocks.

Employment

- Labour-intensive manufacturing push.
- Skill-industry alignment.
- MSME credit and formalisation support.



27th December 2025

Looking at 2026 Economy

CONTEXT: A write-up has appeared presenting a snapshot of the Indian economy.

Mains Practise Question

Question : What are the major challenges plaguing the Indian economy? Discuss the measures required to address them. (10 Marks, 150 words)



27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Mineral & Energy Resources, Energy Security
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No : 13

Decoding the News

The government notified rules that dispense with the Coal Controller Organisation's (CCO) nod for opening a coal mine, individual or sections of a seam in a bid to boost efficiency in approval process for hastening coal output.

The amendment entrusts the board of the concerned coal firm with the authority to accord the requisite permissions.

This would also apply to permission for re-starting mines that were nonoperational for 180 days or more.

The notified rules mandate the board would be able to give approvals only after it received the requi-



Firms can save up to 2 months in operationalisation of mines.

site approvals from Central or State governments and/or statutory bodies. Also, the board would have to submit information to CCO about the opening of mine.

The Coal Ministry expects firms to save up to two months in the operationalisation of a mine.



कोयोरा नियंत्रक संगठन
COAL CONTROLLER
ORGANISATION
MINISTRY OF COAL
मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ कॉल

Role of Coal Controller Organisation in Mining & Mine Closure Plan

Every mining project must be planned with precision to meet safety standards and environmental regulations..

The Coal Controller Organisation is entrusted to approve Mining Plans and Mine Closure Plans in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended in 2023.

It plays a crucial role in ensuring that mines are closed systematically, environmentally, and socially responsibly.

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Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)

Subordinate Office: Ministry of Coal

Core Mandate

Coal & Lignite Data Management

Production, Dispatch & Quality Data (Public & Private Mines)

Statistics

Monthly Data Collection & Annual Publications

Market Oversight

- Fair Production & Quality Surveillance
- Orderly Commercial Transactions

Key Functions

Mining Plan Approvals



Operational Permissions

Quality Regulation



Dispute Resolution

Mine Closure Oversight



Mine Closure Oversight

Land Acquisition Disputes



Financial Role:
Commissioner of Payments

Guarantee Custodian



By-Product Disposal

Gasification Incentives



Linkage Support

Ensuring Efficient and Transparent Coal Management

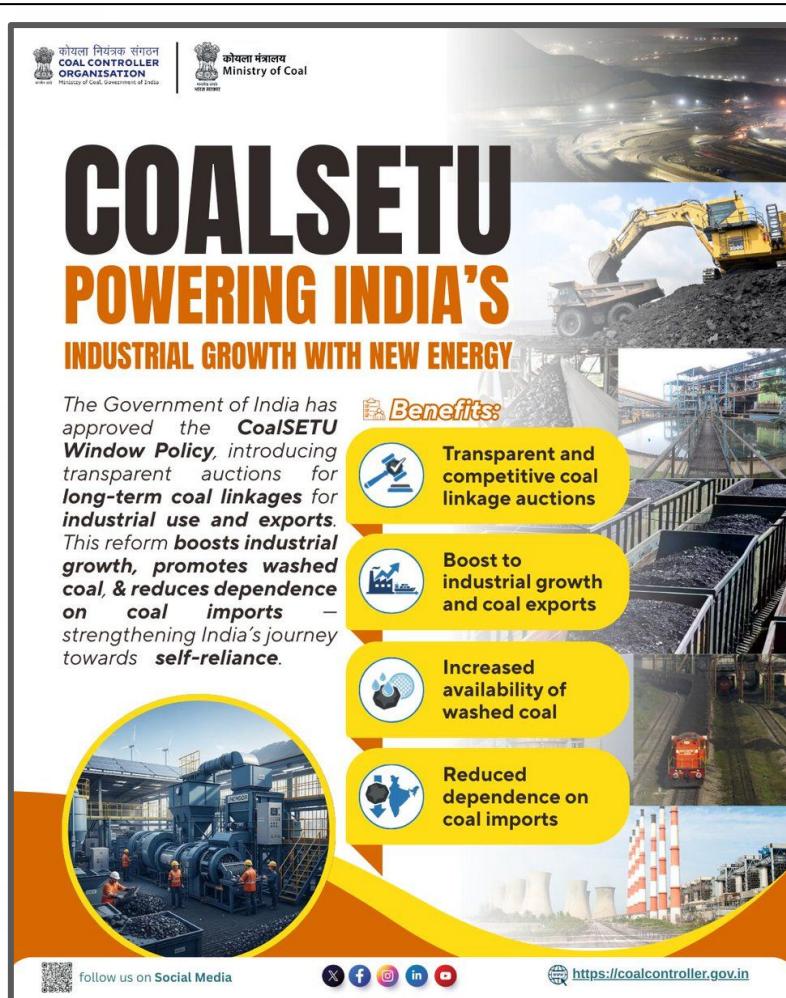
Promoting Sustainable Mining Practices

Safeguarding Financial Interests



27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Mineral & Energy Resources, Energy Security
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No : 13



COALSETU
POWERING INDIA'S
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH WITH NEW ENERGY

The Government of India has approved the **CoalSETU Window Policy**, introducing transparent auctions for long-term coal linkages for industrial use and exports. This reform boosts industrial growth, promotes washed coal, & reduces dependence on coal imports – strengthening India's journey towards self-reliance.

Benefits:

- Transparent and competitive coal linkage auctions
- Boost to industrial growth and coal exports
- Increased availability of washed coal
- Reduced dependence on coal imports

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UPSC Prelims PYQ 2022

Q: In India, what is the role of the Coal Controller's Organization (CCO)?

- CCO is the major source of Coal Statistics in Government of India.
- It monitors progress of development of Captive Coal/Lignite blocks.
- It hears any objection to the Government's notification relating to acquisition of coal-bearing areas.
- It ensures that coal mining companies deliver the coal to end users in the prescribed time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4



UIDAI to expand full-service Aadhar Centres

27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions, E-Governance
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No : 12

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) will increase the number of full-fledged Aadhaar enrolment and update centres for adults to 473 from the current 88 by September 2026, its CEO, Bhuvnesh Kumar, told *The Hindu*.

While children can be enrolled for Aadhaar at post offices, adult enrollees have fewer places to go.

Since adult applicants may have to travel past multiple districts to reach a centre, the expansion will help them, Mr. Kumar said. Such centres offer all modification and enrolment services. Some Aadhaar details can be updated online, but changes in biometrics and updating one's name after a certain limit require a visit to a centre.

Mr. Kumar said the UIDAI wants to ensure that

there is at least one centre in two districts.

The number of adult enrollees is likely a small percentage of Indians (the precise share cannot be calculated due to the lack of a nationwide Census since 2011), but even a small percentage could translate to lakhs of people due to India's population. "We are working with Google and we will soon have Google locations for Aad-

haar centres," Mr. Kumar said.

Field verification

Mr. Kumar said that due to concerns of illegal immigration, Aadhaar has been issued in recent months "only after field verification" by district administrations. Most adult applicants include non-resident Indians or overseas citizens of India, the latter being foreign nationals with

ties to India either by marriage or parentage. Foreign nationals who live in India are permitted to have an Aadhaar as it is not a proof of citizenship.

The UIDAI is working on the integrity of data by restricting changes in date of birth of Aadhaar holders. "If someone has two different dates of birth in two different documents, one is false," Mr. Kumar said. People who had to change the date of birth once will be allowed to do so after filing an affidavit admitting a clerical mistake but doing so twice will not be allowed, he said.

Parents who falsified their children's date of birth during Aadhaar enrolment risk criminal action, Mr. Kumar said, referring to a case in which the Allahabad High Court ordered the filing of an FIR against a parent over irregularity surrounding a child's date of birth.

What is Aadhaar?

A 12 digit Unique Identification Number, issued by Government of India.

Who can get Aadhaar?

All residents of India, including children, trans-genders and the differently-abled.

What are the benefits of Aadhaar?

- Aadhaar is valid all over India as a Proof of Identity and Proof of Address.
- Aadhaar can help you open a bank account, get a mobile connection and avail LPG.
- In future, you would be able to access other Government and non-Government services.

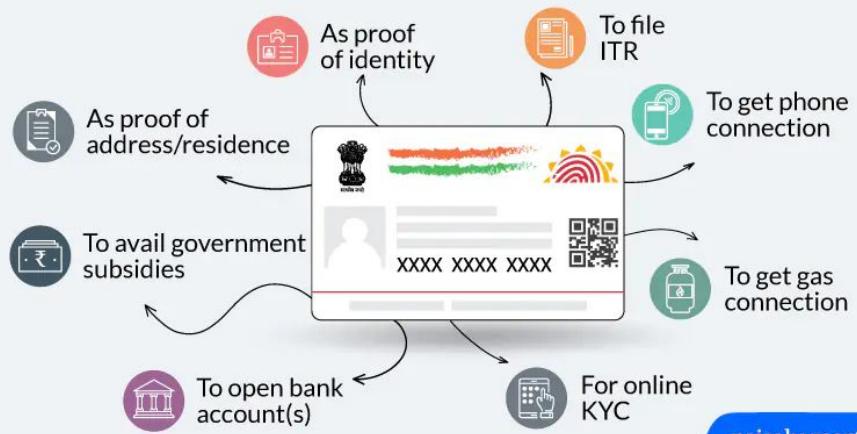
"I've got my
Aadhaar Number.
I can tell
you something
about it."



27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions, E-Governance
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No : 12

Aadhaar Card can be Used:



SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON AADHAAR



27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Government Policies & Interventions, E-Governance
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No : 12**

Prelims PYQ (2018)

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Prelims PYQ 2020

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored for more than three months.
2. State cannot enter into any contract with private corporations for sharing of Aadhaar data.
3. Aadhaar is mandatory for obtaining insurance products.
4. Aadhaar is mandatory for getting benefits funded out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only



27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 3: Conservation

Newspaper: The Indian Express, **Page No : 09**

Express News Service
Ahmedabad, December 26

GUJARAT HAS regained its status as a 'Tiger State' after 33 years, with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) confirming the presence of a tiger in the Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary in central Gujarat and including the state in the national Tiger Census.

Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia announced the development in an official statement Friday. According to the statement, forest officials detected pugmarks of a tiger on February 23 in the Pipalgota Round of the Kanjeta Range

in the sanctuary. Subsequent analysis of camera trap data revealed an image of a tiger captured at 2:40 am on February 22.

Modhwadia said the NTCA was informed about the presence of the tiger after these findings. "A team of the NTCA carried out a study in Gujarat and confirmed the presence of a tiger in Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary in its primary report and included Gujarat for the Tiger Census in India, also suggesting steps to strengthen the ecosystem," Modhwadia said.

The release, however, said the Gujarat Forest Department is yet to receive an authorised communication from the NTCA



Gujarat has become the only state in India to host 3 big cat species — lion, tiger and leopard — simultaneously, says government. FILE

in this regard. The minister said the state Forest Department has begun efforts to strengthen the ecosystem for tiger habitation.

"The area is being constantly supervised since confirmation

of the tiger's presence, and necessary steps are being taken to ensure availability of water and prey base, security, and fire prevention. The number of camera traps in the area has

been increased," he said, adding the sanctuary has wild boars, blue bulls and monkeys, and that prey base species are being augmented where required.

"Antelopes and spotted deer were released in the area during the monsoon. Forest department officials will be trained in conservation and breeding of tigers. Moreover, attempts are on to bring a female tiger to increase the tiger population in the region. All efforts are also being made to ensure that Ratanmahal Sanctuary is declared a Tiger Reserve," the release said.

Calling it a "proud moment", Modhwadia said Gujarat is the only state in India to host three

big cat species — lion, tiger and leopard — simultaneously. "This is a result of forest conservation work done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel," he said.

"The last time, in 1989, when the Tiger Census was conducted, officials spotted pugmarks of a tiger but no tiger was seen. In the 1992 Tiger Census, Gujarat was excluded and lost its status as a 'Tiger State'. With the sighting of a tiger in 2019 in Mahisagar district, a ray of hope was raised, but it survived only for 15 days. It is a matter of joy for us that a tiger has once again made Gujarat its home," he said.



NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



- National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory organization of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change formulated in the year 2005.
- The NTCA is in charge of Project Tiger and particularly the management of Tiger reserves.
- It provides policy frame work guidelines and action plans for implementing tiger conservation strategies and assesses the level of compliance.
- It also frequently undertakes tiger census surveys and participates in improving the enforcement of poaching regulations and protection and enhancement of tiger habitats.



Decoding the key tiger report

HT

The upper limit of the tiger population is now estimated to be 3,925 and the average number is 3,682

Big cat numbers in the country

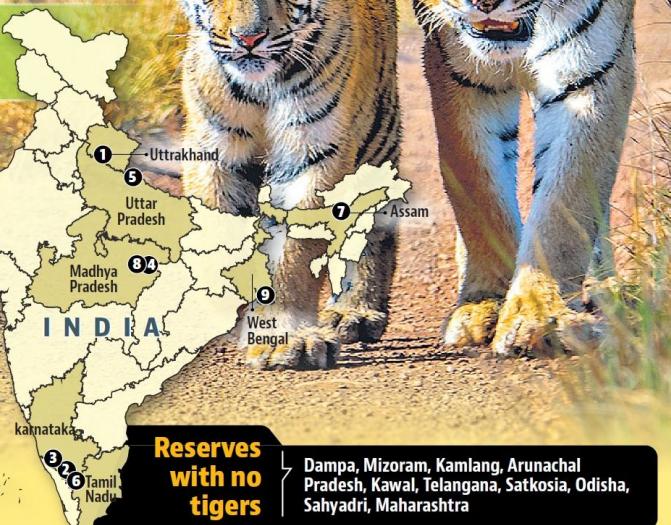
2,967	3,682
2018	2022

States with highest tiger numbers

	2018	2022
Madhya Pradesh	526	785
Karnataka	524	563
Uttarakhand	442	560
Maharashtra	312	444
Tamil Nadu	264	306

States with lowest tiger numbers

	2018	2022
Nagaland	0	0
Mizoram	0	0



Reserves with highest tiger population

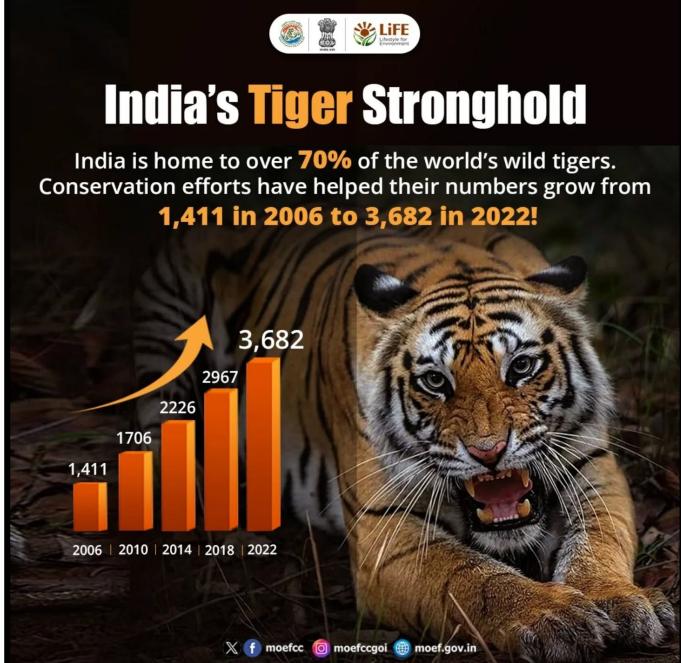
1	Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand	231	260
2	Bandipur, Karnataka	126	150
3	Nagarhole, Karnataka	127	141
4	Bandhavgarh, MP	104	135
5	Dudhwa, Uttar Pradesh	82	135
6	Mudumalai, Tamil Nadu	103	114
7	Kaziranga, Assam	104	104
8	Kanha, MP	88	105
9	Sunderban, West Bengal	88	100

Reserves with highest tiger population

Reserves with no tigers

India's Tiger Stronghold

India is home to over **70%** of the world's wild tigers. Conservation efforts have helped their numbers grow from **1,411 in 2006 to 3,682 in 2022!**



Year	Population
2006	1,411
2010	1,706
2014	2,226
2018	2,967
2022	3,682

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27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Judiciary, Indian Constitution
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No : 16**

Mediation is not a sign of the law's weakness, but rather its highest evolution, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said here on Friday.

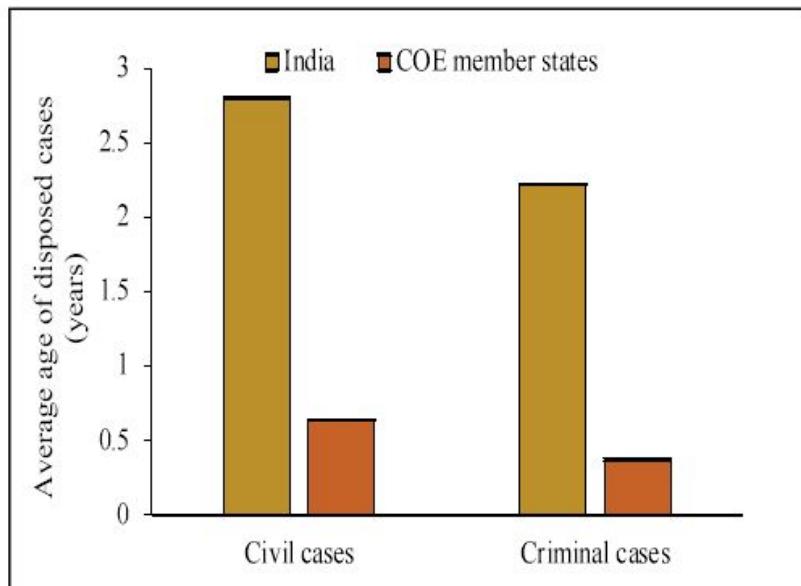
He was addressing the conference "Mediation: How significant in the present-day context", organised by the India International University of Legal Education and Research at Sancoale in South Goa.

"Mediation is a true transition from a culture of adjudication to a culture of participation where we cultivate harmony," he said. The Chief Justice said he envisioned a transition towards a multi-door courthouse where the court is a comprehensive centre for dispute resolution and not merely a place for trial.

Earlier in the day, the CJI took part in a symbolic walk for "Mediation Awareness" near Kala Academy in Panaji. "Mediation is being accepted as successful and cost-effective. It is a win-win situation for both parties," he said.

He added that the top court had launched the "Mediation for Nation" initiative. "(The message is) not only for the consumers of justice but also for direct stakeholders," he said.

Figure 6: Average Disposal Time - India and Council of Europe



Source: NJDG, 2019 Council of Europe, European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ, 2016).



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Types of ADR Mechanism

Arbitration

- Neutral tribunal gives a final, binding award.
- Less formal than court; relaxed rules; limited judicial role.
- No appeal (except rare cases).
- Common in commercial, international, and infrastructure disputes.

Mediation

- Facilitator helps parties communicate and reach agreement.
- Outcome is non-binding unless both agree.
- SC accreditation: 40 hrs training, 10 settlements, 20 mediations.
- Common in family, business, and community disputes.

Conciliation

- Third party proposes solutions; parties may accept or reject.
- Settlement is binding only if both parties accept it.
- Used in employment, consumer, and commercial matters.
- Less formal than arbitration.

Negotiation

- Parties settle disputes themselves through discussion.
- Most basic and widely used method.
- Used in business, legal, diplomatic, and everyday scenarios.



Indus Water Treaty

27th December 2025

SYLLABUS: GS 2: India and its Neighbourhood, Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests

Newspaper: The Indian Express, **Page No : 06**

AMID THE Centre's push to expedite pending infrastructure projects in the Indus basin, the Environment Ministry's sectoral expert appraisal committee (EAC) on hydel projects has recommended clearance for the 260-MW Dulhasti Stage-II project on the Chenab river in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, according to minutes of the panel's December 19 meeting.

The project will be developed by the NHPC Limited at an estimated cost of Rs 3,277.45 crore.

The 390-MW Dulhasti-I is a run-of-the-river scheme, and was commissioned in 2007 by NHPC Ltd. Dulhasti-II will utilise the existing dam, reservoir, power intake of the Stage-I project, and draw water from the Marusudar river, a tributary of the Chenab, via the Pakal Dul project.

While giving its nod, the panel noted that the water of the Chenab basin is shared between India and Pakistan, in accordance with provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, and parameters of the project were planned in accordance with the treaty.

"However, the Indus Waters Treaty stands suspended effective from 23rd April, 2025," the

panel noted in the minutes.

India put the IWT in abeyance after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack earlier this year. Under the treaty, Pakistan controlled the waters of Indus, Jhelum and Chenab while India controlled Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. After the IWT was put in abeyance, the Centre has moved to expedite several hydroelectric projects in the Indus basin such as Sawalkote, Ratle, Bursar, Pakal Dul, Kwar, Kiru, Kirthai-I and II.

The clearance will be subject to general and some specific conditions, including development of a river conservation strategy to mitigate the impacts of hydrological alterations due to the operations of Dulhasti-II and Pakal Dul dam.

"It was noted that the Dulhasti Stage-II HEP is planned to utilise surplus water to be diverted from the Marusudar

river through the Pakal-Dul powerhouse into the Dulhasti reservoir.

Downstream of diversion of Pakal Dul HEP, about 25 km stretch of Marusudar river will undergo significant hydrological alteration upon commissioning of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project," the committee noted.

In light of this, it directed a structured river conservation strategy, covering aspects related to robust environmental flow regimes, restoration and maintenance of channel morphology, protection and conservation of aquatic and riparian biodiversity.

The Chenab basin already has three operational projects: the 390-MW Dulhasti-I at Kishtwar, the 890-MW Baglihar at Ramban, and the 690-MW Salal at Reasi. Other projects under construction on Chenab include the Ratle (850 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW).

The Dulhasti Stage-II project will require an area of 60.3 hectares, according to information submitted to the EAC. A public hearing was conducted on August 22 in Banzwar village, where the powerhouse is proposed. Private land spread over 8.26 hectares will be acquired from 62 families in Banzwar and Palmar villages of Kishtwar.

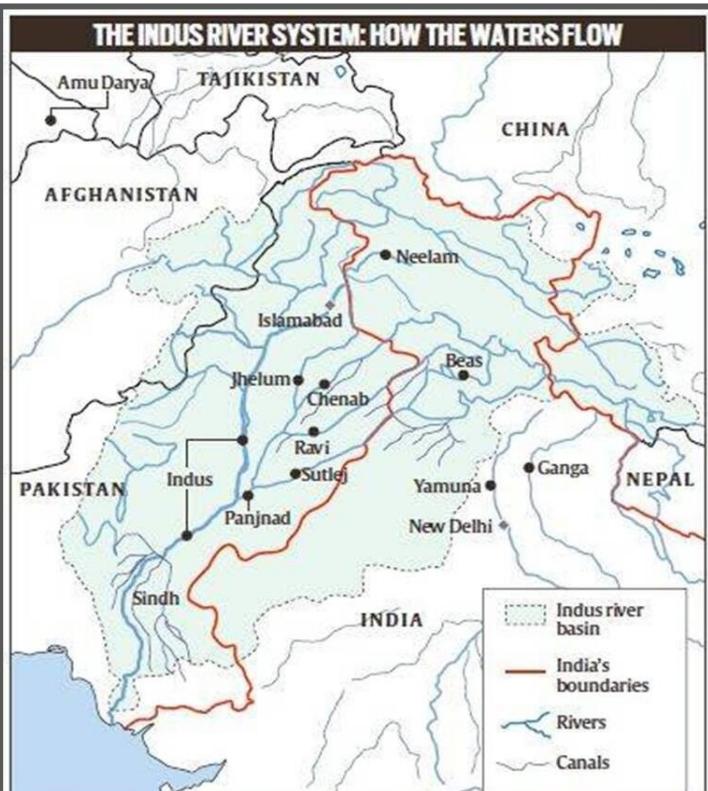


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Newspaper: The Indian Express, **Page No : 06**

- **Key Provisions of the Indus Water Treaty**
- **Allocation of Eastern and Western Rivers**
 - **Eastern Rivers:** India –**Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.** consumption, irrigation, and hydroelectric projects without restriction.
 - **Western Rivers:** Pakistan—**Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab.** India retained some limited rights for specific uses, the primary usage rights of these rivers are allocated to Pakistan.
- **India's Limited Rights on Western Rivers**
 - For non-consumptive purposes, such as **hydroelectric projects, storage, and limited irrigation.**
- **Establishment of the Permanent Indus Commission**
 - comprising **representatives from both India and Pakistan.**
 - meets **regularly to exchange data, address disputes, and ensure compliance** with treaty obligations.



EASTERN RIVERS

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

11 cubic km

Annual flow before entering Pakistan.

India has full rights on all waters. Pakistan can use whatever flows into its territory.

WESTERN RIVERS

Indus, Jhelum, Chenab

232.5 cubic km

Annual flow before entering Pakistan.

India can use only about 62.2 cubic km; 170.3 cubic km reserved for Pakistan.

TOTAL AREA OF INDUS BASIN:

11.65 lakh sq km

47% in Pakistan

39% in India,

8% in China,

6% in Afghanistan.

Source: India Water Resources Information system



27th December 2025

Q1. With reference to *Anopheles stephensi*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a mosquito species known to transmit malaria parasites to humans.
2. It has infested nearly the entire Northern Kenya.
3. It is reported to be resistant to all classes of insecticides used against adult malaria vectors.
4. It was first detected in Brazil in the year 2015.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: c

Q2. With reference to recent trends in the Indian economy, consider the following statements:

1. India's real GDP grew by 7.8% in the first quarter of FY 2025–26, a five-quarter high.
2. Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) accounts for about 58–60% of India's GDP.
3. Public capital expenditure stands at approximately 3.4% of GDP, marking a historic high.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d

Q3. With reference to the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO), consider the following statements:

1. It functions as a subordinate office under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. Its core mandate includes coal and lignite data management, production monitoring, and quality surveillance.
3. It is responsible for approving mining plans and overseeing mine closure activities.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to Aadhaar, consider the following statements:

1. It can be obtained by all residents of India, including children, transgender persons and persons with disabilities.
2. It serves as a valid proof of identity and address across India.
3. It serves as proof of Indian citizenship.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It frames policy guidelines, oversees compliance, and conducts tiger population assessments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

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

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121
Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com