



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**18th August 2025**



# India as a global Innovation Powerhouse



**CONTEXT:** India is steadily moving from being merely a consumer of global technology to becoming its creator.

Aspect	Patent	Copyright	Trademark	Design
<b>Meaning</b>	Legal right granted for an <i>invention</i> (product or process) that is new, useful, and involves inventive steps.	Protection to <i>original literary, artistic, musical, dramatic works, films, software, etc.</i>	A sign, word, logo, symbol, phrase, or combination that distinguishes goods/services of one entity from others.	Protection to <i>aesthetic/ornamental features</i> of an article (shape, configuration, pattern, ornamentation).
<b>Governing Law (India)</b>	<i>Patents Act, 1970</i>	<i>Copyright Act, 1957</i>	<i>Trade Marks Act, 1999</i>	<i>Designs Act, 2000</i>
<b>Example</b>	New drug molecule, new engine design, AI-based process	Books, films, paintings, software code	Nike "swoosh" logo, "Amul" brand name	Unique shape of a bottle, furniture pattern

Aspect	Patent	Copyright	Trademark	Design
<b>Authority</b>	Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks under DPIIT	Copyright Office	Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks	Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks
<b>Term of Protection</b>	20 years (from filing date)	Lifetime of author + 60 years when dies	10 years (renewable indefinitely for 10-year terms)	10 years (extendable by 5 more years)
<b>Type of Right</b>	Exclusive right to <i>make, use, sell, or license</i> the invention	Exclusive right to <i>reproduce, distribute, perform, translate, adapt</i> the work	Exclusive right to <i>use mark</i> and prevent misuse by others	Exclusive right to <i>apply design</i> to articles in class of registration
<b>Nature of Subject Matter</b>	Technical & functional innovations	Creative & intellectual works	Distinctive identity of brand/goods/services	Visual/aesthetic appearance of products



**CONTEXT:** India is steadily moving from being merely a consumer of global technology to becoming its creator.

Chart VII.11 (a to d) : Intellectual properties are growing fast in India



Source: DPIIT

## Advantages of Strong Patent Regime:

- **Incentivizes innovation:** ex- Low cost menstrual pad manufacturing machine in India.
- **Attracting FDI:** ex- China's patent protection regime attracted manufacturing sector FDI.
- **Creating a Knowledge-Based Economy**
- **Promotes exports:** ex- COVISHIELD and COVAXIN in vaccine technology.
- **Fulfillment of India's obligations:** in implementing the international conventions like TRIPS, Berne convention.

## Trends in IPR Filing:

- **Patent-to-GDP Ratio:** a measure of the economic impact of patent activity, grew significantly, from 144 in 2013 to 381 in 2023.
- **Industrial Design Applications:**
  - led by key sectors such as Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, and Health and Cosmetics.

- **Comparison to Global Trends:** China and the United States continue to dominate in the patent and trademark space, India's rising figures in industrial design.

- **Global Trademark Ranking:** India ranked **4th globally** in trademark filings in 2023, with a **6.1% increase** over the previous year.

- Nearly 90% of India's trademark filings in 2023 were made by Indian residents, reflecting a strong domestic focus on brand protection.
- **largest proportion of trademark filings**– Health (21.9%), Agriculture (15.3%), and Clothing (12.3%)





18th August, 2025

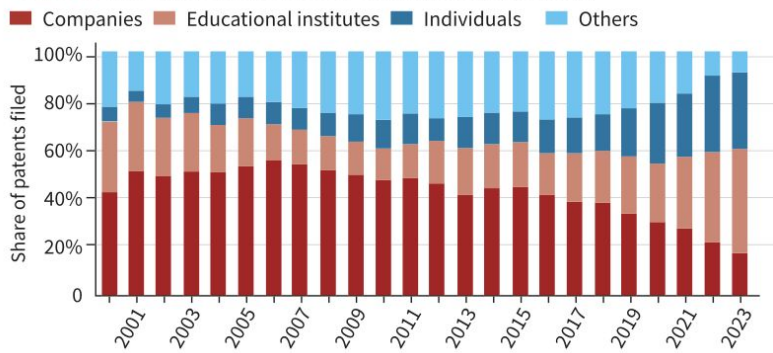
**CONTEXT:** India is steadily moving from being merely a consumer of global technology to becoming its creator.

## World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024

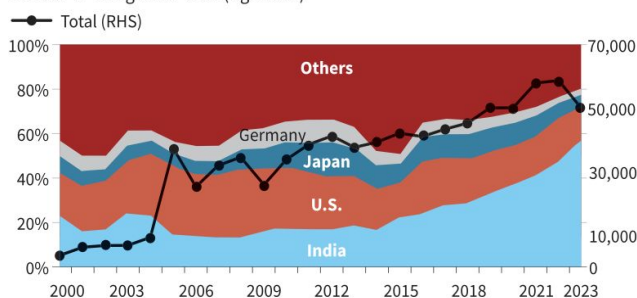


India secures position in top 10 countries in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs

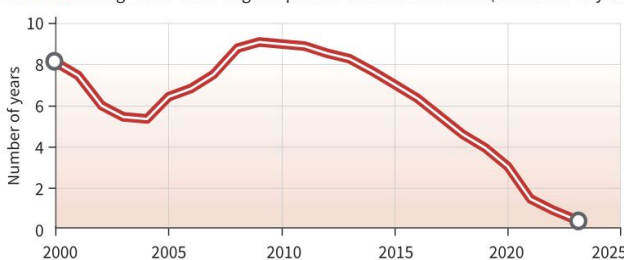
**Chart 3:** Share of patents filed based on filing entity type (in %)



**Chart 1:** Country-wise share of patent filings (left axis, in %) and the total number of filings over time (right axis)



**Chart 2:** Average time taken to grant patents in India since 2000 (in number of years)



## Steps Taken:

- **National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016**
- **Amendments to IPR Rules, 2024:**
  - reforms such as expedited examinations for specific groups,

- simplified timelines, reduced application fees by 80% for educational institutions, MSMEs, and startups, and full digitalisation of filing and communication.

- **Atal Innovation Mission: 2016 by NITI Aayog,**
  - fosters problem-solving skills and entrepreneurship within universities and research centres.
- **KAPILA (Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness), 2020:**
  - promotes IP awareness in higher education institutions.
- **Universities establishing dedicated IP cells and legal support units:**
  - For instance, **IIT Madras** doubled its patents granted from 156 in 2022 to 300 in 2023, while **IIT Bombay** led nationally in 2023-24 with 421 patents granted.
- **IP Commercialization:** Establishment of *Technology Innovation Support Centres* in universities to support IP filings and the commercialization of patents and other IP.



# India as a global Innovation Powerhouse



**CONTEXT:** India is steadily moving from being merely a consumer of global technology to becoming its creator.

## Challenges in Patent System in India:

- **Low R&D:** 0.67% of GDP, far below the U.S. (3.5%) and China (2.5%).
- **Red Tapism:** Nearly 80% of patents filed in the past two years are still "awaiting decision".
- **Provisions of Compulsory licensing:** e.g. used by India in case of Nexavar, a crucial drug for kidney and liver cancer sold by Bayer.
- **Abolition of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board** in 2021
- **Poor enforcement mechanisms for patent violation:** Recent U.S. Trade Representative's Special 301

## Way Forward:

- **Boost R&D:** Raising this to around 2% of GDP is critical.
- **Post-facto analysis of patent quality**
- **Simplifying Procedure**
- **Strengthen IP enforcement mechanisms:**
  - including specialised courts and faster adjudication
  - Re-establishment of Intellectual Property Appellate Board

## Mains Practise Question

*"Examine the recent improvements made by India in its patent regime. What steps have been taken to strengthen the ecosystem for innovation, research, and intellectual property protection?"*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**




# India - Namibia Relations and Africa



**CONTEXT:** New Delhi is quietly reshaping its Africa engagement, with smart and issue-based partnerships by emphasising trust built through inclusive dialogue, acknowledging histories, and letting African priorities shape the agenda.

## India- Namibia Relations:

- **History of friendship:** Both share a colonial past and a post-colonial partnership.
    - **In 1946, India raised the question of independence for Namibia** in the UNGA.
    - First embassy of the South West Africa People's Organisation, which led Namibia's liberation struggle, was **established in New Delhi in 1986**.
    - India also offered **material assistance and military training** to fighters in Namibia's liberation struggle against the **forces of apartheid South Africa**.
    - **Lieutenant General Diwan Prem Chand, an Indian officer**, commanded the United Nations peacekeeping forces during Namibia's delicate transition to independence. (**got independence in March 1990**).
  - **Energy Security:** Namibia is the **third-largest producer of uranium** in the world, and one of the largest producers of lithium, zinc, and rare earth metals.
  - **Economic and commercial ties:**
    - **Two-way trade touched \$654 million** between April and November 2023, after registering a **178% growth**.
- 
- © Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.
- main items of trade are mineral oil, pharmaceutical products, machinery, and cereals.
  - **India's investments in Namibia:** According to India's Ministry of External Affairs - **\$800 million**, mostly in mineral resources such as **zinc and diamond processing**.
  - **Capacity Building initiatives:**
    - India has provided training to Namibian defence personnel, diplomats, public health officials, and cricketers under the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program**.
  - **India's cheetah diplomacy:**
    - **8 cheetahs translocated from Namibia to India in 2022**, marking the world's first intercontinental translocation of a major carnivore species.



# India - Namibia Relations and Africa



**CONTEXT:** New Delhi is quietly reshaping its Africa engagement, with smart and issue-based partnerships by emphasises trust built through inclusive dialogue, acknowledging histories, and letting African priorities shape the agenda.

- **Development Assistance:**

- **2019**– India had gifted rice for drought relief to Namibia.
- **2021**– New Delhi provided **30,000 doses of Covishield Covid-19** vaccines to Namibia.

- **International Cooperation:**

- Namibia is a **key collaborator in the Global South's broader effort** to reshape international rules.
- Namibia has extended support to **India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council**.

- **PM Recent Visit to Namibia:**

- India's Prime Minister undertook a State Visit to Namibia, in **July this year (first in nearly three decades)**
- He was also **conferred Namibia's highest civilian award** the "**Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis**" becoming the first Indian leader to receive this honour.

- **Welwitschia mirabilis (national plant of Namibia):** is a rare, ancient plant native to the Namib Desert in Namibia and southern Angola, often **called a "living fossil"** due to its remarkable longevity and unique features.

- **Visit's outcomes were modest:**

- **Two MoU's** on entrepreneurship and health

- Namibia's accession to the **Global Biofuels Alliance** and the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**.
- **Namibia's recent adoption of India's (UPI)**, the first country in Africa to implement this.

## India - Africa Relations:

- **Geopolitical and Maritime Safeguards:**

- India's first overseas naval base in **Mauritius (2024)** under the **Necklace of Diamonds strategy**.

- **Rising Economic Power:**

- India is the fourth largest trading partner of Africa, with trade volumes around \$100 billion in 2023.
- India is the 10th largest FDI source for Africa.
- **African Continental Free Trade Area:** creates a single market of 1.4 billion people.

- **Securing Critical**

**Minerals:** Democratic Republic of Congo provides over **70% of the world's cobalt**, essential for EV batteries and renewables.

- **Diplomatic Leverage:**

- African Union became a permanent member of G20 under India's presidency.
- Joint efforts at the WTO on intellectual property waivers for Covid-19 vaccines.





# India – Namibia Relations and Africa



**CONTEXT:** New Delhi is quietly reshaping its Africa engagement, with smart and issue-based partnerships by emphasises trust built through inclusive dialogue, acknowledging histories, and letting African priorities shape the agenda.

## Steps Should India Take to Deepen Engagement with Africa:

- **Adaptive approach:**
  - favouring alignment over instruction and forming issue-based coalitions.
  - evoking shared historical solidarities, engaging in present-day pragmatic cooperation, and investing in long-term, future-oriented ties.
- **Leverage Strategic Dialogue Framework:**
  - **India–Africa Forum Summit** – to formalise and solidify diplomatic efforts through institutional cooperation

- **Infrastructure Impetus:**
  - **India–Africa Infrastructure Commission** – fast-track high-impact projects.
  - China’s BRI and **Forum on China–Africa Cooperation** – a partnership platform that was established in 2000.
- **Enhancing Collaboration on Critical Minerals**

### **Mains Practise Question**

*“Discuss the strategic and developmental significance of India–Namibia relations, with special reference to cooperation in energy security, critical minerals, and wildlife conservation.”*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**

VAJIRAM & RAVI





**SYLLABUS:** G.S. 3: Inclusive growth

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express; **Page No :** 9

AS THE TRICOLOUR was unfurled on India's 79th Independence Day, the country stood proudly as a confident, resilient, and rising nation. It is not just the world's largest democracy, but a country that has successfully crafted its destiny since attaining independence in 1947. Notwithstanding the current headwinds of US President Donald Trump's tariff war, it has weathered many storms in the past. One may recall the sanctions by the US in 1998 after the Pokhran nuclear tests conducted by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government or the role of the US in sending its Seventh Fleet in 1971, when India's war with Pakistan led to the creation of Bangladesh. India emerged stronger on each occasion. Today, no one can stop India's rise — its time has come.

Just look at the last decade, India's GDP has more than doubled. It is projected to reach \$4.19 trillion by 2025, making India the fourth-largest economy, behind the United States (\$30.5 trillion), China (\$19.2 trillion), and Germany (\$4.74 trillion) (IMF estimates). Measured in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, India is already the world's third-largest economy at \$17.65 trillion, trailing only China (\$40.72 trillion) and the US (\$30.51 trillion) in 2025. All this is a reflection of rising aspirations and India's strong resolve to regain its civilisational legacy.

- **India's achievements since independence:**

- **Space Explorations:**
  - **Chandrayaan's** historic landing near the Moon's South Pole to the trailblazing **Mars mission, Mangalyaan.**
- **Digital revolution:**
  - **Rise of UPI:** processing over 10 billion transactions each month and inspiring fintech innovations worldwide.
- **Intellectual and entrepreneurial footprint:**

- Indian origin leaders such as **Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Indra Nooyi**, and many more lead some of the most influential corporations.

- **India at Independence:**

- **GDP** was around \$30 billion.
- **Poverty levels:** estimated 80 per cent living in poverty.
- **Average life expectancy** was a mere 32 years (1947).
- **Literacy levels** were just 18.3% (1951).
- **Foodgrain production** stood at about 50 million metric tonnes (MMT).

- **Fast forward to 2025:**

- **Improvement in Poverty:** India's **population has increased to 1.46 billion**, but poverty, measured at the **\$3/day (2021 PPP) threshold**, has fallen to just **5.3 per cent**, (from 27% in 2011-12) as per **World Bank estimates.**
- **Literacy:** 77%.
- **Life expectancy:** has more than **doubled to 72 years (2023).**
- **Foodgrain production:**
  - has **multiplied sevenfold**, reaching 353.9 MMT in 2024-25.
  - India is now the **world's largest rice exporter**, shipping 20.2 MMT in FY25.



**SYLLABUS:** G.S. 3: Inclusive growth

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express; **Page No :** 9

- Grain stocks with the government **exceed 90 MMT, well above buffer norms.**

- **Horticulture** output has risen 15 times since independence, **milk production** 11 times, and **egg production** an astonishing 77 times.

- **From FY15 to FY25**, India's real GDP has grown at an average of **6.5% annually.**

- While **agricultural GDP** has **expanded by 4% per year**, well above the **population growth rate of under 1 per cent.**
- As a result, **India is a net exporter of agriculture, unlike the US and China**, which are both net importers of agriculture.

→ **Challenges:**

- ◆ **Nutritional security:** especially of children under the age of five
  - **As per Global Hunger Index 2024:**
    - Approximately **35.5% of children under five are stunted**, indicating chronic undernutrition, while **18.7% are wasted**, a sign of acute malnutrition.

→ **Rationalising food and fertiliser subsidies:**

- ◆ Together, these account for nearly **Rs 3.71 lakh crore in the 2025–26 Union Budget** – Rs 2.03 lakh crore for food and Rs 1.67 lakh crore for fertilisers.
- ◆ **Leakages:** at least **20 %to 25%** of these subsidies fail to reach intended beneficiaries.
  - Come at the **cost of productive investments.**

→ **Way Forward:**

- ◆ **Increasing investments in agri-R&D** and efficient value chains.
- ◆ **Environmental sustainability** has to be central to this journey. The quality of India's soil, water, and air needs to be protected to attain the Viksit Bharat vision by 2047.
- ◆ Focused on accelerating growth in an **inclusive manner.**
- ◆ Cut down **bureaucratic hurdles**, and adopt a **scientific culture** as the guiding principle, backed by investments.





**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Environment

**Newspaper :** The Hindu; **Page No :** 12

A new study has identified at least two native plants that have joined invasive species to alter the riverine ecosystem of eastern Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (DSNP), the only habitat of feral horses in India.

The study titled *Grasslands in Flux*, analysing the land use and land cover (LULC) changes in Dibru-Saikhowa from its designation as a national park in 1999 through 2024, was published in the latest issue of *Earth*, an international, peer-reviewed journal on earth science.

The researchers used remote sensing and geo-

graphic information systems to analyse the LULC changes in DSNP, an island-like formation between the Brahmaputra to the north and the Dibru river to the south.

The native "grassland invaders" are *Bombax ceiba* and *Lagerstroemia speciosa* – flowering trees known as *Simalu* and *Ajar* in Assamese. Their impact

"The concern is heightened by the fact that numerous species are endemic to the grasslands found in the floodplains of this region. Notable species which are rapidly decreasing include the Bengal florican [*Houbaropsis bengalensis*], hog deer [*Axis porcinus*], and swamp grass babbler [*Prinia cinerascens*]," the study said.

The DSNP is also home to some 200 feral horses, which are descendants of military horses abandoned during World War 2.

#### **Invasive species:**

##### **→ Characteristics:**

- ◆ Fast Reproduction & Growth
- ◆ High dispersal ability
- ◆ Dietary Flexibility
- ◆ Physiological Adaptability (new environmental and climatic conditions)
- ◆ Environmental Tolerance
- ◆ Ability to alter growth form to suit current condition.

##### **→ International Arrangements to Control Invasive Alien Species:**

- ◆ **CBD Aichi Target 9 on invasive alien species:** Calls for identification, control, and eradication of invasive alien species.



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Environment

**Newspaper :** The Hindu; **Page No :** 12

- **Global Invasive Species Programme:** Supports **CBD's Article 8(h)** with IUCN partnership to tackle Invasive Alien Species globally.
- **Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals:** (or Bonn Convention): It considers Invasive Alien species as a threat to migratory species.
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea:** States are required to protect and preserve the marine environment from intentional or unintentional introduction of alien species.
- **IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group:** aims to reduce threats to ecosystems and their native species by increasing awareness of ways to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species.

The study recommended a targeted grassland recovery project that would encompass the control of invasive species, improved surveillance, increased staffing, and the relocation of forest villages and support community-based conservation efforts.

## About Dibru Saikhowa National Park

- It is a National Park as well as a **Biosphere Reserve** situated in the south bank of the river Brahmaputra in the **extreme east of Assam state in India**.
- It is bounded by the **Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers** in the **north** and **Dibru River** in the **south**.
- **Vegetation of Dibru Saikhowa National Park:** It mainly consists of **moist mixed semi-evergreen forests** and **moist mixed deciduous forests**.
- It is the **largest salix swamp** forest in north-eastern India, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter.
- **Flora of Dibru Saikhowa National Park :** It consists of *Dillenia indica*, *Bischofia javanica*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, etc.
- **Fauna of Dibru Saikhowa National Park :** Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Jungle Cat, Bears, Small Indian Civet, Squirrels, Gangetic Dolphin, Slow Loris, Assamese Macaque etc.
- It is an identified **Important Bird Area (IBA)** having more than 382 species of Birds, some of which are Greater Adjutant Stork, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Greater Crested Grebe.

## Conservation History:

- **1890-** The area was declared as Dibru **Reserved Forest**.
- **1997-** Dibru- Saikhowa **Biosphere Reserve** was declared.
- **1999-** The sanctuary area was declared as a **National Park**.

**Indigenous tribal communities:** like Mishings, Sonowal Kacharis, Deoris inhabit the national park and its surrounding areas.

**PYQ. 'Invasive Species Specialist Group' (that develops Global Invasive Species Database) belongs to which one of the following organizations? 2023**

- a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- b) The United Nations Environment Programme
- c) The United Nations World Commission for Environment and Development
- d) The World Wide Fund for Nature





# India's S&P Rating



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Economy

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express; **Page No :** 13

## Credit Rating Agencies V/s Credit information Companies

Basis	Credit Rating Agencies	Credit information Companies
Regulator	SEBI	RBI
Examples	S&P, Moody's , CRISIL,FITCH,Brickwork Ratings etc.	CIBIL TransUnion, Equifax & Experian
Check Creditworthines s of whom	Companies, NBFCs and Governments.	Individual Persons
Rating	<b>Alphabetical symbols</b> E.g. AAA, AA- etc.	<b>Numerical scores</b> E.g. CIBIL Score 300-900
Utility	May get loans at an affordable rate	Better Scores - easy processing of loan applications

→ **Context:** Last week, **S&P Global Ratings** had upgraded its rating on India to **BBB from BBB-**.

→ **Significance:**

- ◆ it came after a **gap of nearly two decades**. (It was in **January 2007** that S&P had last upgraded its rating on India.)
- ◆ it has **meaningful implications** for the Indian economy.
- ◆ Indian government has over the last several years aggressively pursued the **three global agencies** S&P, Moody's, and Fitch Ratings for higher ratings that, in its opinion, better reflect the economy's fundamentals.

→ **What has convinced S&P?**

- ◆ **Clarity on the government's finances:** FRBM Act, 2003 demands reducing the **annual fiscal deficit to 3 % of GDP** it has rarely been met.
  - **only once** since the Act's enactment has the Centre's fiscal deficit **fallen below 3 per cent, in 2007-08**.
  - **Post Covid:** fiscal deficit reduced from **9.2% in 2020-21 to a targeted 4.4% in 2025-26**.



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Economy

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express; **Page No :** 13

## INDIA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS SINCE S&P'S LAST RATING UPGRADE

	2006-07	2024-25
Real GDP growth	8.1%	6.5%
Real per capita GDP	₹56,964	₹1,33,501
Wholesale inflation	6.6%	2.3%
Retail inflation	6.7%	4.6%
Debt-to-GDP ratio	77.9%	81.3%
Forex reserves	\$199.18 bn	\$668.33 bn

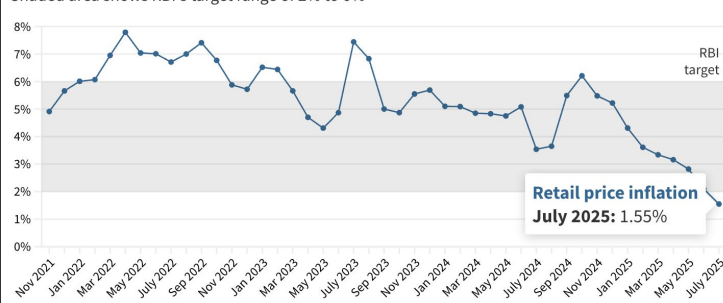
Source: RBI, MoSPI, IMF

- ◆ **Going forward**, the Centre will start targeting a **reduction in its debt-to-GDP from 57.1% in 2024-25 to 49-51% by 2030-31.**
- **One of the fastest growing large economies in the world:**
  - ◆ Despite GDP growth falling to a **four-year low of 6.5%** in 2024-25.
  - ◆ **S&P's words**, "among the best performing economies in the world".
  - ◆ As such, as long as **nominal GDP growth is higher than the pace with which the debt is increasing**, the debt-to-GDP ratio will keep falling.
- **Low and stable domestic inflation:**
  - ◆ S&P praising the RBI's inflation management record.
- **Why credit ratings matter?**
  - ◆ It measure of an entity's creditworthiness, or how likely it is that they may pay back borrowed money.

- ◆ Low and stable inflation is **crucial to foreign investors** as sharp increases in prices can erode their investments, weaken growth and the domestic currency, and create social unrest all **factors that can lead to a rating downgrade.**

### India's retail inflation rate

Shaded area shows RBI's target range of 2% to 6%



Source: MoSPI

THE HINDU

- ◆ If you pay back your loans and credit card bills on time and in full, your credit score improves. **(same for countries)**
- ◆ **Fiscal deficit**; difference between the total income and the expenditure for a year. It is **Rs 15.69 lakh crore for 2025-26. (Indian Govt.)**
- ◆ Now, if the government is seen as **being more likely to repay the loan** which is what a higher credit rating indicates then the **rate of interest is lower.**
- ◆ rating upgrade "can open the door for new pools of global funds' capital".



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Economy

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express; **Page No :** 13

## The road ahead

The implications of a better credit rating are clear — the Indian government should be able to borrow at a lower rate of interest. Financial markets are already preparing for this, with government bond yields in the secondary market on August 14 falling as much as 10 basis points, with the rupee's exchange rate also getting a boost.

Helpfully, S&P said on August 14 that it may further raise India's rating if the fiscal deficit of the Centre and states falls below 6 per cent of GDP on a structural basis. This, however, is a "tough ask", according to Arora of Emkay Global. S&P itself expects the combined fiscal deficit to decline only to 6.6 per cent in 2028-29 from 7.8 per cent in 2024-25.

## → The rating scale:

- ◆ The next step would be BBB+.
- ◆ According to S&P, a BBB rating indicates **"adequate capacity to meet financial commitments, but more subject to adverse economic conditions"**.
- ◆ The next step is A, then AA, and finally, **AAA**, which signifies **"extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments"**.

## PYQ. Consider the following statements : (2022)

1. In India, credit rating agencies are regulated by Reserve Bank of India.
2. The rating agency popularly known as ICRA is a public limited company.
3. Brickwork Ratings is an Indian credit rating agency.

**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



# India's first sustainable aviation fuel Plant



**SYLLABUS:** G.S. 3: Energy

**Newspaper :** The Indian express; **Page No :** 11

→ **Context:** India's **largest refiner and fuel retailer** *Indian Oil Corporation* expects to start producing **sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)** on commercial scale at its **Panipat refinery, Haryana** by December. As earlier this week, **IOC became the first company in India** to receive the **ISCC CORSIA certification** for SAF production at its Panipat refinery in Haryana.

→ **ISCC CORSIA certification system:**

- ◆ is a **certification system** for compliance with the **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation** criteria for SAF.
- ◆ It is a **prerequisite** for commercial SAF production.
- ◆ The **year 2027** will be an important one for **adoption of SAF globally** with the mandatory phase of CORSIA kicking in
- ◆ It applies to international flights, would require airlines globally to **offset any growth in carbon dioxide emissions beyond the 2020 levels**.

→ **What is sustainable aviation fuel?**

- ◆ For instance, **Airbus claims** that all its aircraft are capable of flying on a **maximum 50 per cent blend of SAF and conventional fuel**.

→ **About Indian Oil Corporation SAF plant in Haryana:**

- ◆ manufacturing the biofuel from **used cooking oil**.
- ◆ **By the end of 2025**, it will have the **capacity to produce 35,000 tonnes per year of SAF** from used cooking oil, which will be **sourced from** large hotel chains, **majors like Haldiram's**, which normally discard cooking oil after single use.
- ◆ This capacity will be **sufficient to meet the country's 1 per cent SAF blending requirement** (for international flights) by **2027**.
- ◆ **Challenge is collection:** While it is easy to collect from large hotel chains, a solution needs to be found for collection from small users, including households.





# India's first sustainable aviation fuel Plant



**SYLLABUS:** G.S. 3: Energy

**Newspaper :** The Indian express; **Page No :** 11

EXPLAINED

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What is  
sustainable  
aviation fuel?

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION fuel is a biofuel that is produced from sustainable feedstocks and has chemistry similar to conventional aviation turbine fuel or jet fuel, which is derived from crude oil. This means that existing aircraft engines can easily use the SAF-ATF blend.

- ◆ **Aviation industry's decarbonisation:** SAF alone is likely to account for **over 60 per cent** of the global aviation industry's decarbonisation efforts.
- ◆ **Export opportunities:** Europe already has **SAF blending mandates**, European airlines could be the first potential buyers of IOC's SAF. It's **demand is expected to shoot up globally** over the coming years.

→ **India's National Biofuel Coordination Committee indicative targets for blending of SAF:**

- ◆ In line with the **CORSIA framework**.
- ◆ **Indicative targets are:**

- **1% blending in 2027** and **2 per cent in 2028.** ( starting with international flights )
- The government is expected to announce SAF blending mandates for **domestic flights** in India as well, but only after blending for international flights begins 2027 onwards.

→ **Concerns:**

- ◆ **High cost of production of the biofuel**
- ◆ **Apprehensions of fuel cost escalation:** According to industry insiders, SAF currently costs around three times the price of regular jet fuel.
- ◆ government is now looking at introducing any such mandate **only from 2027 or beyond**.

While **IOC** has received the certification for the used cooking oil pathway for SAF production, the company is also working on setting up units based on the alcohol-to-jet pathway, which involves using ethanol as a feedstock to make SAF. A few other companies in India are also working to build units based on the various SAF manufacturing pathways. All such technologies and units need to be certified before they can start commercial operations.



# Jan Vishwas (Amendment) bill, 2025



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Economy

**Newspaper :** The Hindu; **Page No :** 11

## Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to decriminalise certain minor offences to promote ease of living and business, will be introduced by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the list of business posted on the Lok Sabha website, the Minister will introduce the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, "to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business". Over 350 provisions are proposed to be amended through the Bill.

The legislation is part of the government's effort to improve the country's business climate.



Piyush Goyal

Earlier, in 2023, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment to Provisions) Act was enacted, which decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries and departments.

Through the Act, the government removed imprisonment and/or fines in some provisions. Imprisonment was removed and fine was retained in a few rules, while in some cases imprisonment and fine were converted to a penalty.

- New concept of **"improvement notice" instead of penalty** for first offence.
  - This **marks a shift from** the **"penalise on first detection"** approach of Jan Vishwas 1.0 (enacted into law in 2023) to an **"inform-correct-penalise" model** in Jan Vishwas 2.0.
  - **No penalty will be imposed for first offence** and an improvement notice will be served instead, giving an **opportunity to rectify the non-compliance within a stipulated period.**

- **Penalties apply from second offence onwards:**
  - The **amount will be the same as it was for first offence in Jan Vishwas 1.0.**
  - Fines will **increase for subsequent offences**, subject to a maximum cap depending on the Sections.
- Formal improvement notice mechanism to **encourage voluntary compliance** before financial sanctions are applied.
- For instance, **The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, manufacture and sale of ayurvedic, siddha or unani drugs is punishable with **six months' imprisonment and fine of Rs 10,000**. The Jan Vishwas Bill proposes to **replace the jail term with only a fine of upto Rs 30,000.**
- **Motor Vehicles Act:**
  - **under Section 194F of the Act**, if a person driving a motor vehicle is sounding the horn needlessly or sounding a horn in an area where it is prohibited, he or she has to cough up a fine of Rs 1,000 for the first offence and Rs 2,000 for the second or subsequent offence.
  - The **bill proposes to replace the fine in the first instance with a warning and for the second and subsequent offence**, impose a penalty of up to Rs 2,000.



# Jan Vishwas (Amendment) bill, 2025



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→ **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023:**

- ◆ **Section 41 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964** was omitted: As per the original provisions of Section 41, the ***use of FCI's name in any prospectus or advertisement without its consent in writing***, was punishable with ***imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may go up to Rs 1,000, or both.***
- ◆ Similarly, the **provision of imprisonment up to 6 months** was **removed** from the **Section 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927** for **tree felling or damage caused by cattle in protected forests**, and Rs 500 fine was kept.





**Q1. Consider the following statements:**

1. The 2024 IPR Rule amendments include expedited exams for women, startups, MSMEs, and simplified timelines.
2. Atal Innovation Mission by NITI Aayog promotes innovation only at the school level.
3. KAPILA aims to spread IP literacy in higher education institutions.
4. India's Patent-to-GDP Ratio has deteriorated over the last decade.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Regarding Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the only place in India where feral horses are found.
2. The park is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.

**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**

**Q3. Regarding the sovereign credit rating, consider the following statements:**

1. A downgrade in sovereign credit rating raises India's external borrowing cost.
2. It influences foreign portfolio investment flows in India.
3. Credit rating agencies directly fix domestic banks' lending rates.

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

- a) Only One

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

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Regarding the Invasive Alien Species, consider the following pairs:**

International Arrangements	Description
Aichi Targets	Eradication of invasive alien species.
Global Invasive Species Programme	Partnering with UNEP.
Bonn Convention	Three appendices to classify invasive alien species.
IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group	Combat invasive alien species solely via the marine route.

**How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Q5. Regarding Namibia, consider the following statements:**

1. The Equator passes through it.
2. It has a coastline only along the South Atlantic Ocean.
3. The Kalahari Desert partly lies within its territory.

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

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

**Answer: d**







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