



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** Handout

**31st January 2026**



# India's Next Manufacturing Leap



**CONTEXT:** The next phase of Industrialisation must prioritise strategically important and technology intensive sectors, while scaling up traditional manufacturing.

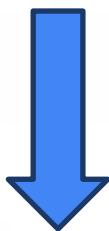
## India's next Manufacturing Leap

### India's manufacturing policy

- Lowering entry barriers through targeted incentives
- Infrastructure investment
- Improving ease of doing business.

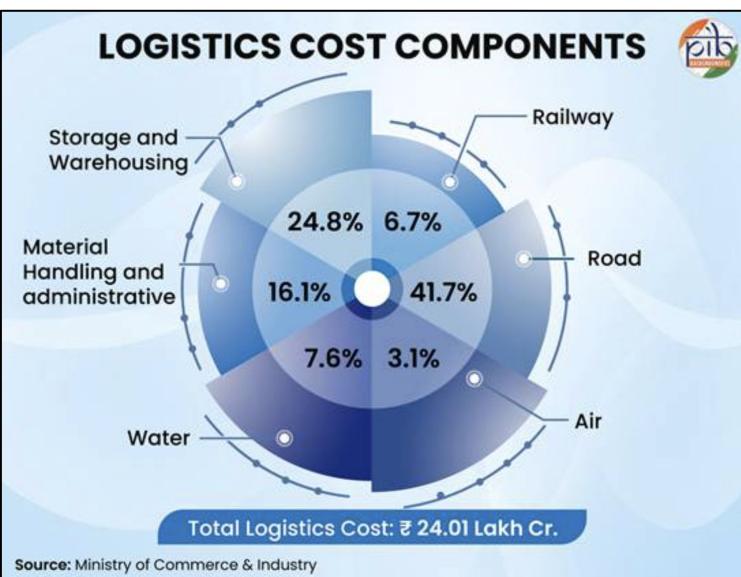
### Greater Bargaining power

- Countries that command critical technologies
- Complex manufacturing processes
- Trusted production capabilities



### Shift from:

- **Volume-led growth → Capability-led growth**
- **Low-end assembly → Strategic, technology-intensive manufacturing**



## India's next Manufacturing Leap – Challenges

### 1. Logistics & Infrastructure

- Logistics cost ~8% of GDP (improving)
- Road dominates freight → inefficient
- Underutilisation of rail & waterways

### 2. Industrial Clustering

- Existing clusters are Fragmented
- MSME-heavy but low productivity

### 3. Regulatory Frictions

- Delays in – Land acquisition, Utilities, Environmental clearances

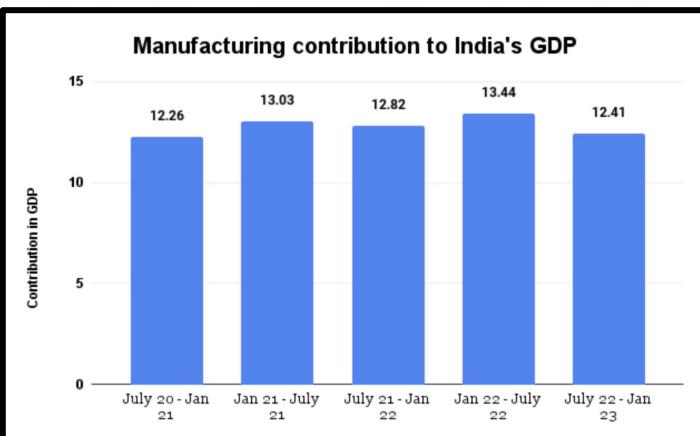
### 4. Spatial concentration

- Over 50% of GVA and Employment is concentrated in ( MH, GJ, TN , KA and UP)

### 5. Low WLFPR

### 6. Technological upgradation + Poor R&D

### 7. Funding Constraints



# India's Next Manufacturing Leap



**CONTEXT:** The next phase of Industrialisation must prioritise strategically important and technology intensive sectors, while scaling up traditional manufacturing.

## Government initiatives and caution

### Policy Instruments & Enablers

#### a) PLI Schemes

- Incentivise scale + exports
- Risk: subsidy dependence
- Need sunset clauses & capability building

#### b) Quality Control Orders

- Align domestic industry with global standards
- Must avoid compliance burden on MSMEs

#### c) National Manufacturing Mission

- Align:
  - i. Skills
  - ii. Infrastructure
  - iii. Innovation

## Way ahead

### • Deepening domestic value addition:

Shift from assembly-led manufacturing to production of components, intermediates and core technologies to capture higher value within India.

### • R&D and industry-academia linkages:

Strengthen applied research and technology transfer through closer collaboration between universities, labs and manufacturing firms.

### • Improving logistics efficiency:

Reduce logistics costs and delays through multimodal connectivity, integrated planning and modern warehousing to enhance competitiveness.

### • Predictable regulatory environment:

Ensure stable, transparent and time-bound regulations to lower uncertainty and encourage long-term industrial investment.

### • Embedding firms into global value chains:

Integrate Indian firms as reliable suppliers by achieving scale, cost efficiency, timely delivery and quality consistency.

### • Maintaining quality standards:

Align products with global standards through quality control, testing infrastructure and skill upgradation to sustain participation in global value chains.



## Mains Practice Question

**Q. Despite recent policy interventions, India's manufacturing sector continues to face structural challenges in achieving scale, productivity and global competitiveness. Discuss the key issues and suggest measures to strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem. (10 marks / 150 words)**

1. जी० डी० पी० में विनिर्माण क्षेत्र विशेषकर एम० एस० एम० ई० की बढ़ी हुई हिस्सेदारी तेज आर्थिक संवृद्धि के लिए आवश्यक है। इस संबंध में सरकार की वर्तमान नीतियों पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)

Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard.

(Answer in 150 words) 10



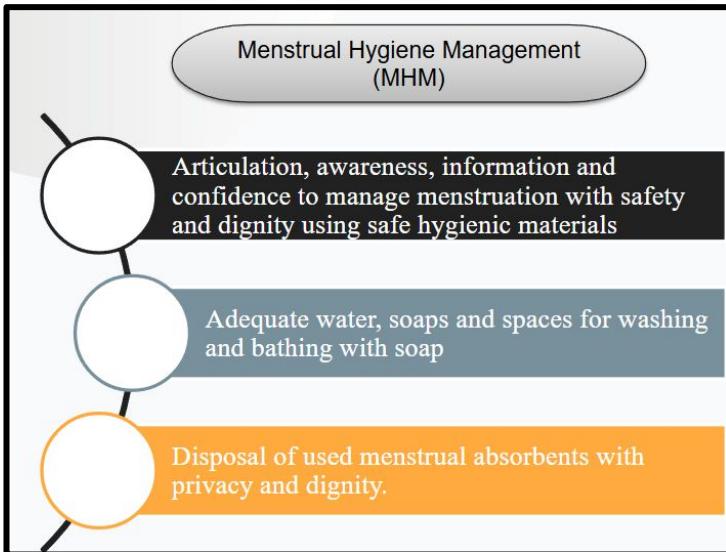
# Menstrual health a fundamental right

**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court declared that the right to menstrual health and access to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) measures in educational institutions is part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

## Menstrual health a fundamental right

- A biological process in a woman where each month blood and other material is discharged from the lining of the uterus.**
- Menstruation occurs from the onset of puberty until the menopause, except during pregnancy.**

## Menstrual health a fundamental right



## MHM is NOT limited to

- Not just giving free pads
- Not only a "women's issue"
- Not a luxury or welfare scheme

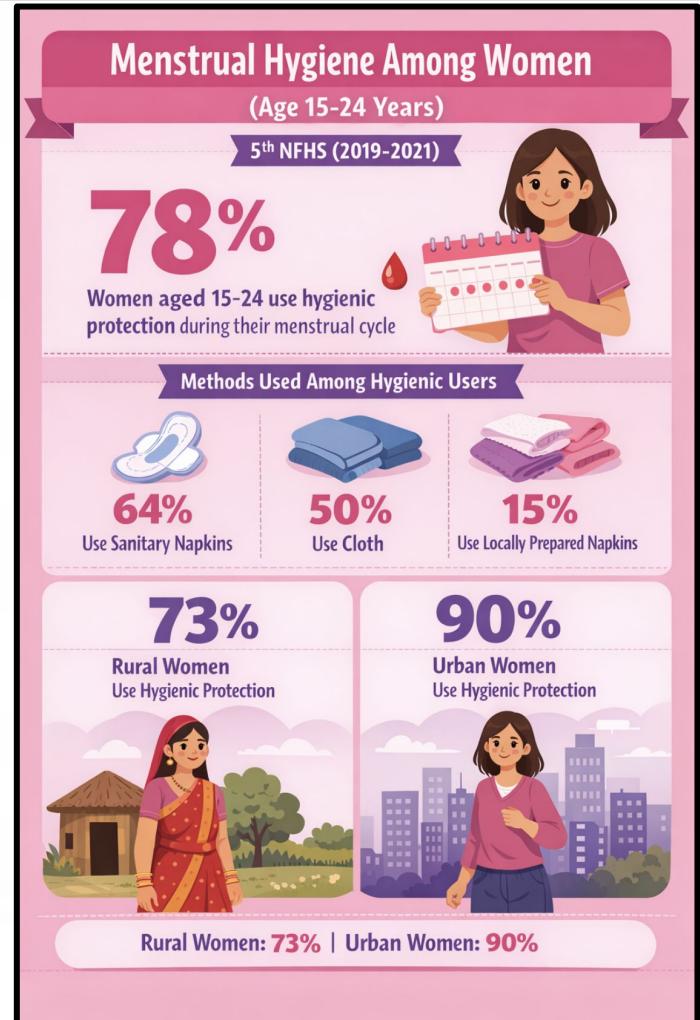
## Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) – Significance

### 1. Health : Silent but Serious

- UTIs, RTIs, fungal & bacterial infections**
- Rural reality:** Continued use of **cloth** increases infection risk
- WHO – Human Papilloma virus (HPV) infection** (key factor behind **cervical cancer**)

### 2. Education : From Absence to Abandonment

- (UNESCO): ~1 in 5 girls miss school during menstruation
- Occasional absenteeism slowly converts into permanent dropout



### 3. Psychological & Social seclusion: The Invisible Cost

- Stigma & silence → anxiety, embarrassment, low self-esteem
- UNICEF : Menstrual shame leads to social withdrawal and mental stress

### 4. Economic & Workforce : Productivity Lost

- Lack of MHM facilities** → **missed workdays**
- ILO insight:** Menstrual-related absenteeism reduces **workforce efficiency** and economic output

### 5. Sexual & Reproductive Health

- Poor menstrual hygiene weakens reproductive health



# Menstrual health a fundamental right



**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court declared that the right to menstrual health and access to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) measures in educational institutions is part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

## 6. Environmental Dimension: A Hidden Externality

- Improper disposal: Open dumping, Water body contamination, Drain blockages, Plastic-based pads take hundreds of years to decompose

## 7. Constitutional & Human Rights Dimension

- **Article 21:** Right to life with dignity includes menstrual needs
- **Article 14:** Exclusion due to menstruation = **indirect discrimination**
- **Article 15:** Gender-based barriers violate non-discrimination
- **Article 42:** State duty to ensure **humane working conditions**
- **UNFPA & UN:** Menstrual hygiene is integral to **gender equality & human rights**.

## Menstrual health a fundamental right – Issues

### 1. Socio-Cultural Barriers: The Silence Problem

- Menstruation surrounded by **taboos, shame, and secrecy**
- Open discussion discouraged → **misinformation persists**

### 2. Educational Barriers: Learning Interrupted

- **No structured menstrual education** in many schools
- Teachers often uncomfortable addressing the topic

### 3. Economic Barriers: Cost of Dignity

- Sanitary products remain **unaffordable** for low-income families
- Remote and tribal areas face **supply-chain gaps**

### 4. Infrastructure Barriers: Where Will She Manage?

- Inadequate number of **clean, private toilets**
- Even if products are available, **safe usage becomes impossible**

## 5. Health System Barriers: Missed Opportunity for Care

- Limited access to **menstrual & reproductive health services**
- Lack of trained health workers for Menstrual counselling

## 6. Policy & Governance Barriers: From Welfare to Rights (Still Incomplete)

- Fragmented approach across ministries
- Focus often limited to **pad distribution**, ignoring Awareness Infrastructure

## 7. Rural-Urban & Social Inequality Divide

- **Rural women:** Limited access, lower awareness, poor infrastructure
- **Urban poor:** Products available, but affordability & sanitation missing
- Marginalised groups (tribal, trans persons) often **excluded from schemes**



# Menstrual health a fundamental right

**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court declared that the right to menstrual health and access to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) measures in educational institutions is part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

## Menstrual health – Government Initiatives

Initiative / Scheme	Implementing Body	Core Focus	Key Features
<b>Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene</b>	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)	Awareness & access to MHM products	Counselling, subsidised pads, safe disposal promotion, education in schools
<b>Menstrual Hygiene Policy (National)</b>	Government of India (Inter-ministerial)	Policy framework for MHM	Standardises: low-cost products, toilets, safe disposal, curriculum integration
<b>Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM – Gramin &amp; Vidyalya)</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti / Education	Sanitation infrastructure & awareness	Gender-segregated toilets, menstrual hygiene awareness via Swachhagrahis
<b>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)</b>	Ministry of Women & Child Development	Girl child education & MHM awareness	Anganwadi workers trained to educate on menstrual hygiene
<b>Swachh Vidyalaya (Samagra Shiksha)</b>	Ministry of Education	School sanitation & hygiene	Teacher training on MHM; toilets with water & disposal facilities
<b>Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKS)</b>	MoHFW	Adolescent health including MHM	Counselling on puberty & menstrual hygiene
<b>National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)</b>	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	SHG empowerment & local pad production	Encourages SHGs to produce/distribute affordable sanitary products

## Menstrual health – Supreme Court stand

### Access for all

Supreme Court rules that all schools must provide menstrual hygiene access to students



■ Lack of **menstrual hygiene management** undermines the dignity, privacy and bodily autonomy of a girl child

■ The **right to life** under Article 21 includes the right to menstrual health

■ Denial of menstrual hygiene measures denies girls **equal participation** in school

■ The right to free and compulsory education under Article 21A includes supply of **free sanitary napkins** in schools

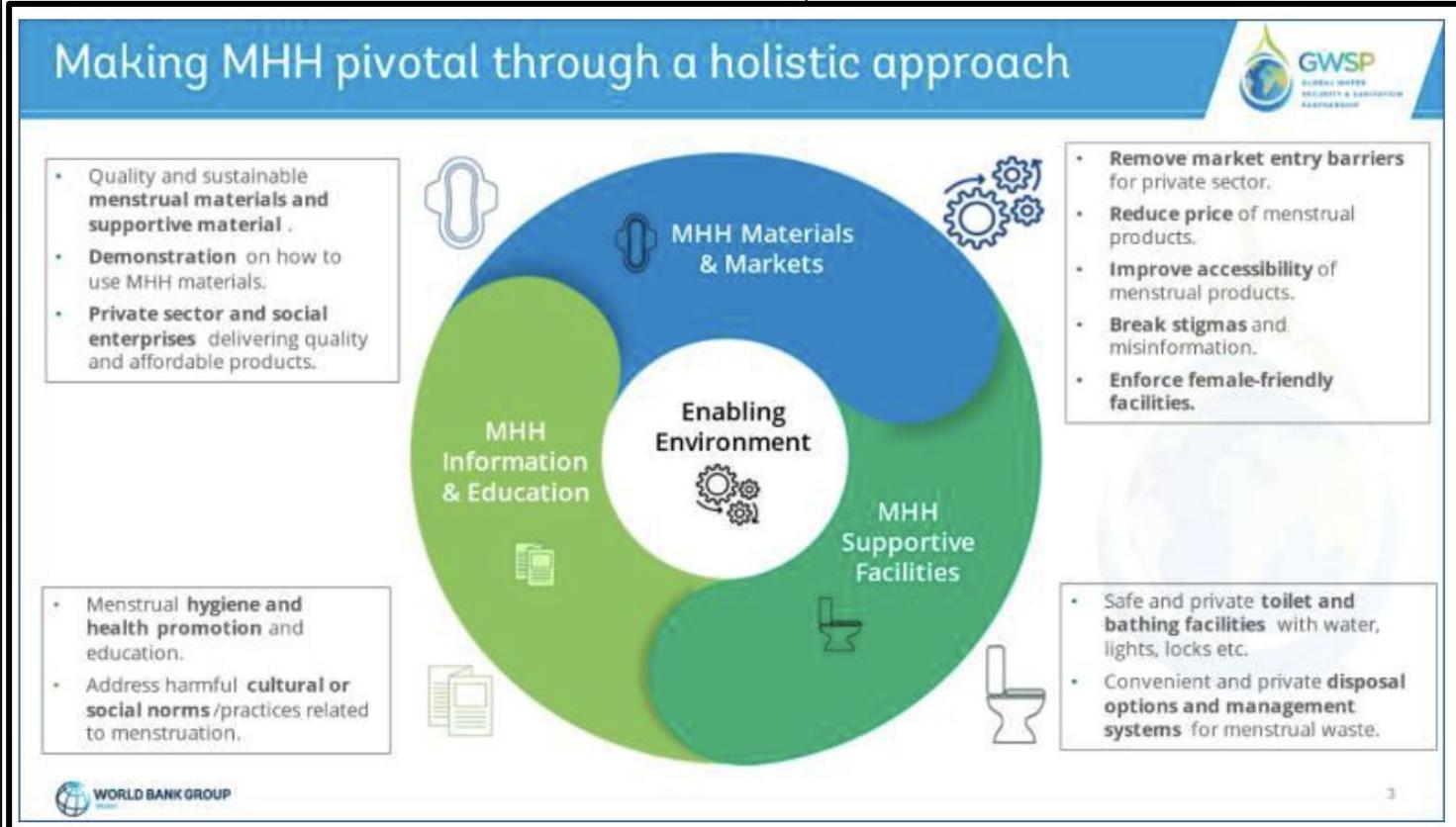
- Supreme Court ordered States and Union Territories to ensure that every school, whether government run or privately managed, in both urban and rural areas, is **provided with functional, gender segregated toilets**
- These schools must make **oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins readily accessible** to students free-of-cost, preferably within the toilet premises, through sanitary napkin vending machines.
- Schools must establish 'MHM corners'** equipped with, spare innerwear, spare uniforms, disposable bags and other necessary materials to address menstruation-related exigencies.
- The court held that the **State concerned would be held accountable** if government-run schools did not comply. Private schools would be de-recognised and face consequences if they did not comply with similar norms prescribed under the RTE Act, the court said.



# Menstrual health a fundamental right

**CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court declared that the right to menstrual health and access to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) measures in educational institutions is part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

## Menstrual health – Way Forward



## Mains Practice Question

**Q. Menstrual health and hygiene lies at the intersection of public health, gender justice and sanitation. Critically examine India's progress in menstrual hygiene management and highlight the way forward. ( 15 Marks / 250 words)**

6. “जल, सफाई एवं स्वच्छता की आवश्यकता को लक्षित करने वाली नीतियों के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए लाभार्थी वर्गों की पहचान को प्रत्याशित परिणामों के साथ जोड़ना होगा।” ‘वाश’ योजना के संदर्भ में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

“To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs the identification of the beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes.” Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.

(Answer in 150 words) 10



# Budget 2026 – Three big macro worries



**SYLLABUS :** GS 3 Issues related to planning and development, Government Budgeting **Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number:** 16

## 1. WEAK GDP GROWTH

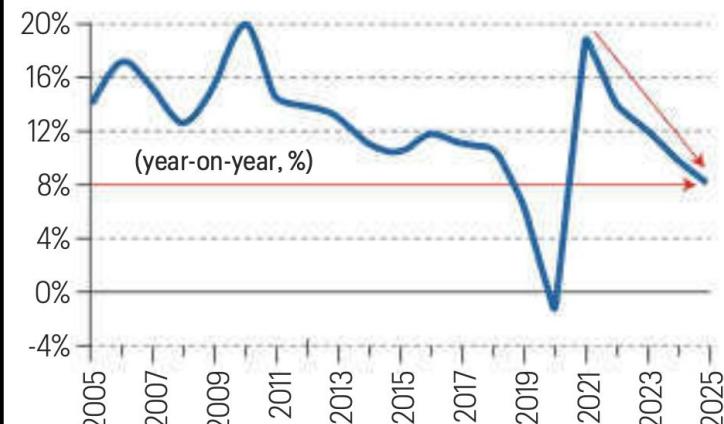
This may sound odd since all stories about India's economic growth (measured by Gross Domestic Product or GDP) have been resoundingly upbeat. However, most reports that present India as the fastest-growing major economy are talking about "real" GDP growth. When it comes to the making of the Union Budget, what matters more is "nominal" GDP and its growth rate.

Last February, the FM expected India's nominal GDP to grow by 10.1%. This was already lower than the past levels. Now, the First Advance Estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics peg the nominal GDP growth at 8%. The first main concern for the FM, then, would be to figure out a strategy to boost the nominal GDP in the coming financial year.

There is one more detail in *chart 2*, sourced from a recent research report by HSBC's Chief India Economist, Pranjul Bhandari. The growth rate of gross tax revenues of the government is far below even the weak nominal GDP growth rate (shown as a red line at 8% level). What this means is that tax buoyancy has gone for a toss. As against an assumed tax buoyancy of 1.1 at the start of the financial year — that is to say that if nominal GDP grows by 1%, then tax revenues will grow by 1.1% — the actual tax buoyancy is half that rate (0.6).

$$\text{Tax Buoyancy} = \frac{\% \text{ change in Tax Revenue}}{\% \text{ change in GDP}}$$

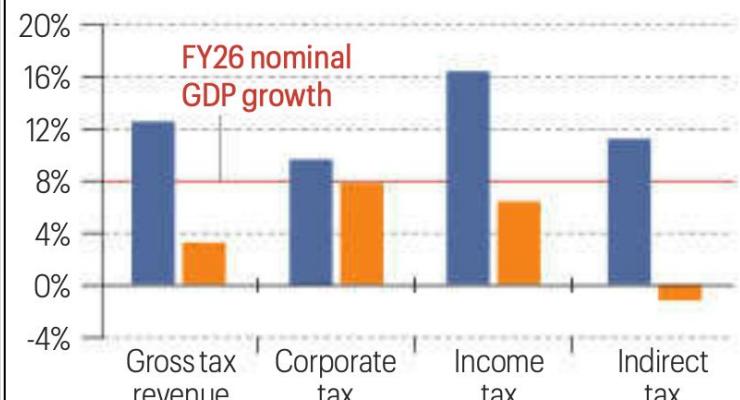
## Chart 1: Decelerating nominal GDP growth rate



SOURCE: CENTRE FOR MONITORING INDIAN ECONOMY

## Chart 2: Underwhelming tax collections

● Budget estimates   ● Year to date



SOURCE: CEIC, HSBC



# Budget 2026 – Three big macro worries

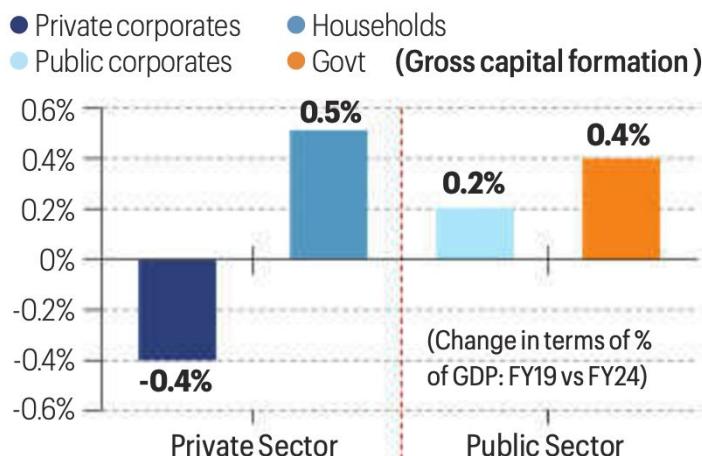


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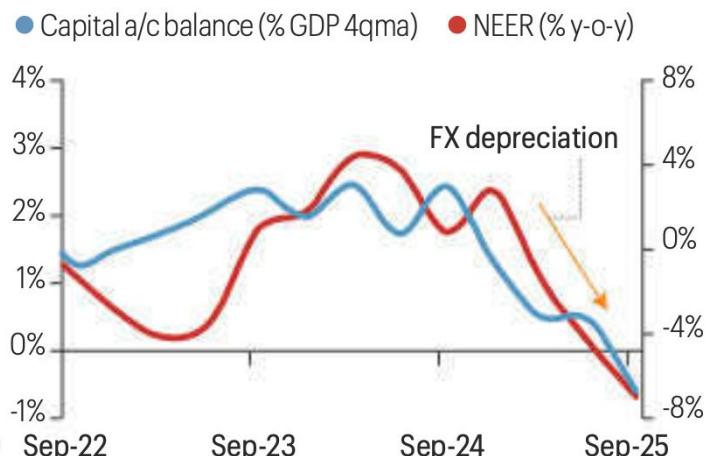
Despite, these changes and the high growth rates of the economy, data (*chart 4*) shows that private corporate investment has fallen from the pre-pandemic period (2019). Indian firms are just not selling enough to perhaps make a case for widespread fresh investments. Read the latest GDP column to know more.

What is also worrying is that over the past year or so, global investors have started shunning India (*chart 4*). This has hit the rupee's exchange rate, and created an economic and a political headache for the FM.

### Chart 3: Lagging pvt. corporate investments



### Chart 4: Declining capital inflows



SOURCE: CEIC, HSBC, BLOOMBERG; NOTES: 4QMA: 4-QUARTER MOVING AVERAGE; NEER: NOMINAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE



**SYLLABUS : GS 3 Environment Conservation, Renewable Energy**  
**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number : 13**

THE CENTRAL Electricity Authority (CEA) has proposed a major regulatory reset to fast-track the expansion of hydro pumped-storage projects (PSPs).

In its latest roadmap, the CEA has recommended allowing hydro PSPs within eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) and up to a 10-km aerial distance from protected areas where ESZs have not been formally notified. It has also called for a differentiated regulatory framework for renewable energy projects and relaxation of stringent conditions applicable to the Western Ghats.

India's total installed PSP capacity is projected to rise sharply to 87 GW by 2033-34 from the current 7.1 GW. It also estimates the installed PSP capacity is expected to cross 100 GW by 2035-36, as per CEA estimates. The CEA has prioritised PSPs over Battery Energy Storage Systems, citing their ability to provide flexible, fast-responding grid balancing support and store electricity for longer durations. PSPs are large-scale energy storage sys-

The roadmap noted that PSPs built on existing reservoirs, on-the-river sites, or off-the-river locations have a significantly lower environmental impact compared to conventional hydropower projects.

“Further, unlike the conventional hydro projects, development of PSPs do not lead to significant displacement of people and thus, require minimum rehabilitation and resettlement,” it added.

## Easing green norms

The CEA has also proposed easing several environmental and land-related norms to speed up the development of pumped storage projects. It has suggested allowing the use of degraded forest land — twice the area of forest land diverted — for compensatory afforestation, instead of non-forest land, a provision that is currently available only to central public sector undertakings and captive coal block developers. The authority has also recommended creating a national-level land bank for compensatory afforestation, with mapped degraded land, a GIS-based repository and a monitoring framework.

## Prelims Pointers

### Central Electricity Authority

- It is a statutory body established under section 3(1) of the Electricity Supply Act 1948
- It is an “Attached Office” of the **Ministry of Power**
- It is headed by a Chairman, (ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India,
- Six full-time Members
- Advise the Central Government on matters relating to
- The national electricity policy
- Formulate short-term and perspective plans for the development of the electricity system

- **Coordinate the activities of the planning agencies for the optimal utilisation of resources** to subserve the interests of the national economy and to provide reliable and affordable electricity for all consumers
- **Specify the technical standards** for the construction of electrical plants, electric lines, and connectivity to the grid;
- **Specify the safety requirements** for the construction, operation and maintenance of electrical plants and electric lines;
- **Specify the grid standards for operation and maintenance of transmission lines**
- **Specify the conditions for the installation of meters for transmission and supply of electricity**



**SYLLABUS : GS 2** Places in News, Drainage system  
**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number : 01**

**Shaju Philip**

Thirunavaya  
(Malappuram), January 30

BEFORE THE curtain rises on the Assembly elections in Kerala, it is witnessing a debut: its very first "Kumbh Mela".

On the bathing ghats of the Nava Mukunda Temple at Thirunavaya in Malappuram district, where generations have offered prayers to the souls of the dead, a festival is seeing a revival as a surrogate

of the Mela from the North. The river that runs next to the ghats, Bharathapuzha, incidentally is known as 'Dakshin Ganga'.

Tens of thousands have been thronging to the ghats for the 18-day Mela, which ends on February 3. Vedic chants echo round

the clock as devotees take the holy dip. By evening, the place is crawling with saffron-clad sadhus, including priests from Kashi Vishwanath Temple who conduct the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**PAGE 1  
anchor**

History shows that till about the 18th century, the banks of Bharathapuzha at Thirunavaya used to host another 12-yearly festival—Mamankam or Mahamagham, to mark the bloody battles between two local kings. In 2016, the Nava Mukunda Temple revived it, as an annual but low-key affair in the month of magh, focusing on river worship. Last year, the new chapter was added, after Swami Bharati was declared the "Mahamandaleshwar" for South India at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. The Juna Akhada, with which he is associated, is one of the oldest Shaivite monastic orders.

## Prelims Pointers

### Kumbh Mela

- Largest **religious congregation** in the world
- **Basis:** Hindu belief in **nectar (Amrit)** from Samudra Manthan
- **Frequency:** Every **12 years** at each location
- **Ardh Kumbh:** Every **6 years** (Prayagraj & Haridwar only)
- **Maha Kumbh : After 12 Kumbh cycles (144 years)** – Only at Prayagraj
- Determined by positions of Jupiter (Brihaspati), Sun and Moon
- **Inscribed by UNESCO (2017)** as: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Place	River(s)
Prayagraj	Ganga-Yamuna-Saraswati (mythical)
Haridwar	Ganga
Ujjain	Shipra
Nashik	Godavari

### Bharathapuzha River (Nila)

- **Also known as:** Nila / Ponnani River
- **State:** Kerala
- **Length:** ~209 km (2nd longest river in Kerala)
- **Origin:** Anaimalai Hills, Western Ghats (Tamil Nadu side)
- Flows through Palakkad Gap (It is located between the Nilgiri Hills to the north and Anaimalai Hills to the south.)
- **Empties into:** Arabian Sea
- **Tributaries**
  - Gayathripuzha
  - Kalpathipuzha
  - Thirupuzha
  - Kannadipuzha



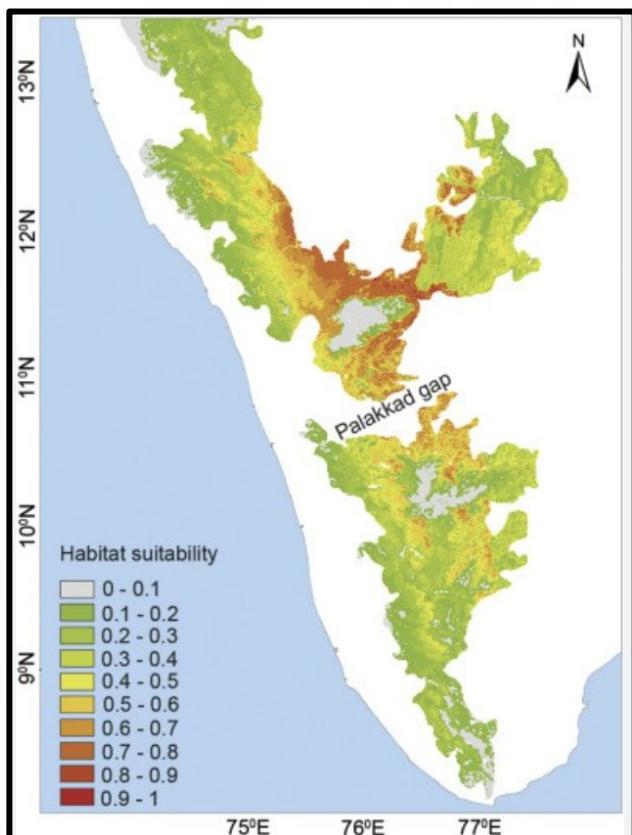
# Kumbh Mela comes to Kerala



**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Places in News, Drainage system  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express **Page Number:** 01

## Prelims Pointers

River	Origin (Western Ghats)	Districts / Key Area	Empties into	Remarks
Periyar	Sivagiri Hills (TN)	Idukki, Ernakulam	Arabian Sea	Longest river of Kerala; Idukki Dam
Pamba	Peerumedu Plateau	Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha	Vembanad Lake	Sabarimala pilgrimage river
Chaliyar	Nilgiri Hills	Malappuram, Kozhikode	Arabian Sea	Largest river basin in Kerala
Kallada	Shendurney Hills	Kollam	Ashtamudi Lake	Linked to Kallada Irrigation Project
Valapattanam	Brahmagiri Hills	Kannur	Arabian Sea	One of north Kerala's longest
Achankovil	Pasukida Mettu	Pathanamthitta, Kollam	Arabian Sea	Flows parallel to Pamba
Chalakudy	Anamalai Hills	Thrissur	Arabian Sea	Athirappilly Falls
Kuttiyadi	Wayanad Plateau	Kozhikode	Arabian Sea	Hydel projects present
Karamana	Agasthyamalai	Thiruvananthapuram	Arabian Sea	Flows through state capital



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims RTI Act 2005  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 09

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused the Narendra Modi-led government of systematically weakening the Right to Information (RTI) Act, a day after the Economic Survey called for a “re-examination” of the transparency law.

The Economic Survey argued that the RTI Act may require re-examination. It suggested exempting confidential service records and exploratory or draft policy discussions from disclosure by introducing a possible “ministerial veto”.

2014. He pointed to the pendency of over 26,000 RTI cases as of 2025 and recalled amendments introduced in 2019 that allowed the Centre to determine the tenure and salaries of Information Commissioners, which, he claimed, undermined their independence.

Mr. Kharge also criticised the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, saying it diluted the RTI Act’s public interest clause. According to him, the law had been used to “weaponise privacy” to block information and shield wrongdoing from scrutiny.

Referring to institutional vacancies, Mr. Kharge

## Prelims Pointers

### Right to information Act 2005

- **Enacted:** 2005
- **Objective:** Promote **transparency & accountability** in public authorities
- **Applies to:** Central, State & Local public authorities
- Citizens can seek information from public authorities
- Information includes:
  - Records, documents, emails, files, memos
  - Samples, models
  - Electronic data
- **Proactive Disclosure (Section 4):** Public authorities must regularly publish organisational details, functions, budgets, decisions, and other key documents.
- **Penalties:** PIOs face fines up to ₹25,000 for delays or wrongful denial of information.
- Only Indian citizens can Seek Information
- No requirement to state reason for seeking information

### Time Limits

- Normal cases: 30 days, If life or liberty involved: 48 hours

### Appeal Mechanism

- First Appeal → Senior officer in same authority
- Second Appeal → CIC / SIC

### Organisational Structure

#### • Information Commissions

- **Central Information Commission (CIC)**
- **State Information Commissions (SICs)**

#### • Composition

- Chief Information Commissioner
- Up to **10 Information Commissioners**

#### • Appointment

- By **President** (CIC) / **Governor** (SIC)
- On recommendation of a committee:
  - Prime Minister / Chief Minister (Chair)
  - Leader of Opposition
  - Cabinet Minister

### Exemptions (Section 8)

- Information exempt if it affects:
- National security, sovereignty, integrity
- Strategic, scientific or economic interests
- Cabinet papers (until decision taken)
- Trade secrets, intellectual property
- Personal information (unless public interest outweighs harm)
- **Section 24 exempts a total of 27** intelligence and security organisations



# Supreme Court on Stem cell therapy



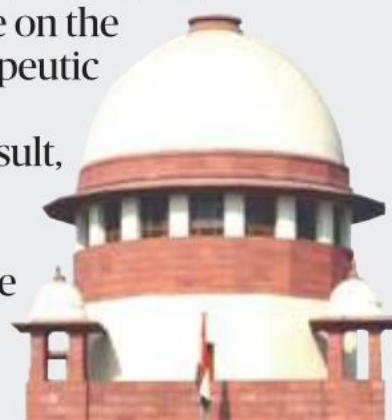
**SYLLABUS:** GS 3 Science and Technology  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 10

**S**tem cell 'therapies' cannot be offered as a clinical service for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), outside of an approved and monitored clinical trial or research setting, the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Friday.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan criticised the Union government for its failure to act against those offering such therapies, which has led parents and guardians to seek an unproven method of treatment for their children suffering from ASD at a huge financial cost.

There is a dearth of established scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of therapeutic use of stem cells in Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a result, the doctors do not have 'adequate information' to provide their patients in the first place

**SUPREME COURT**



about its effectiveness as a cure or the possible repercussions, would fail the "reasonable standard of care" that doctors owed their patients.

"Even consent obtained from patients would not be valid as the prerequisite to disclose adequate information cannot be satisfied," the court said.

## Prelims Pointers

- A **stem cell** are undifferentiated or partially differentiated cells that can change into various types of cells and proliferate indefinitely to produce more of the same stem cell.
- Can **self-renew** (make copies of itself)
- Can **differentiate** into different types of body cells (nerve, muscle, blood, etc.)
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a neurodevelopmental condition
- **Affects:**
  - **Communication**
  - **Social interaction**
  - **Behavior**
- **Common features:**
  - Difficulty in social interaction
  - Repetitive behaviours
  - Sensitivity to sound, light, or touch

### Stem cell therapy

- Stem cells are used to **repair, replace, or regenerate** damaged or diseased tissues

#### Used / researched in:

- Blood cancers (bone marrow transplant)
- Spinal cord injury
- Burns
- Degenerative diseases



**Q1. Consider the following statements:**

1. Tax buoyancy measures the responsiveness of tax revenue to changes in Gross Domestic Product.
2. A tax buoyancy greater than one indicates that tax revenue is growing faster than the economy.

**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**

**Q2. With reference to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), consider the following statements:**

1. The Central Electricity Authority is a statutory body established under the Electricity Authority Act, 1918.
2. It functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Power.
3. The Authority is empowered to specify technical standards, safety requirements, grid standards, and conditions for the installation of electricity meters.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. Bharathapuzha is the second-longest river in Kerala and originates in the Anaimalai Hills of the Western Ghats.
2. The river flows through the Palakkad Gap, which lies between the Nilgiri Hills to the north and the Anaimalai Hills to the south.
3. Bharathapuzha empties into the Bay of Bengal after flowing across the Palakkad plains.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q4. With reference to the Right to Information Act, 2005, consider the following statements:**

1. Only Indian citizens are entitled to seek information under the Act, and they are not required to give any reason for requesting such information.
2. In cases where the information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, the information must be provided within 48 hours.

**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**

**Q5. Consider the following statements:**

1. Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can self-renew and differentiate into specialised body cells such as blood cells.
2. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects communication, social interaction and behaviour.
3. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder often exhibit repetitive behaviours and heightened sensitivity to sensory stimuli such as sound, light or touch.

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

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

**Answer: d**





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