



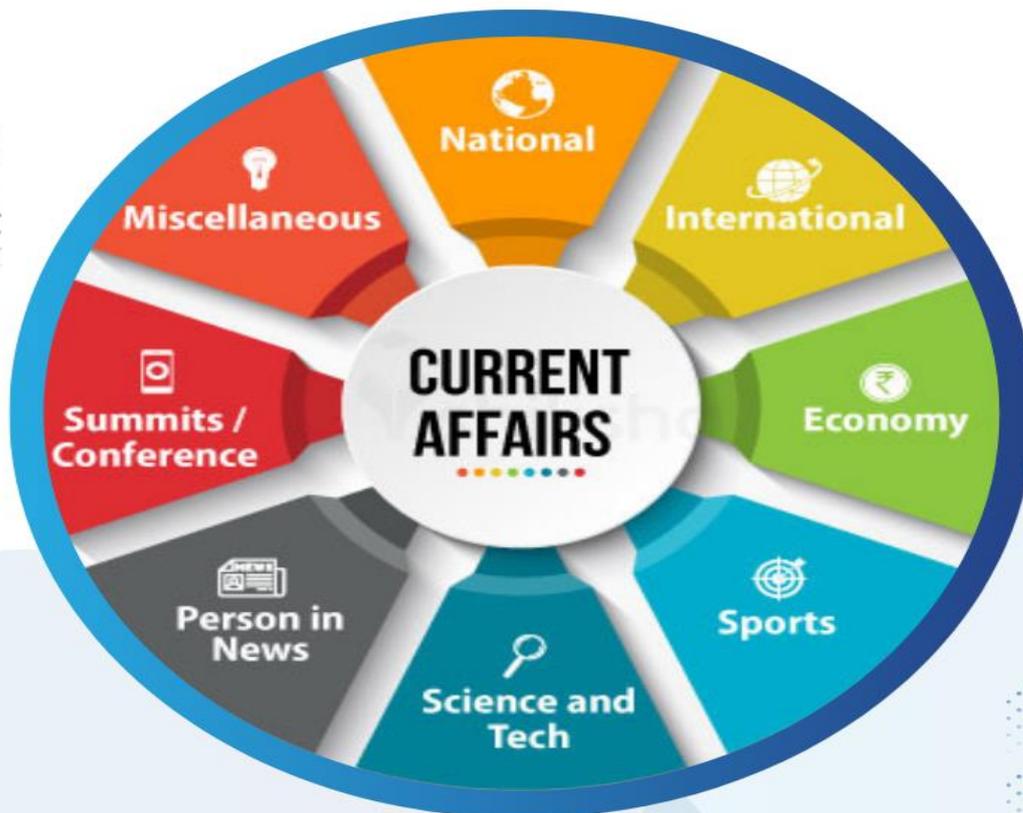
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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 08/08/2025 (FRIDAY)



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Table of Contents

1. India's Strategy to Counter US Tariffs & Diversify Exports.....	2
2. 5G and 6G Development Projects under Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF).....	3
3. Schemes under Ministry of Cooperation & NCDC: Enhancing Cooperative Development and Digitalization	4
4. Profit to Bamboo Farmers in the Northeast	6
5. STPI Network & National Software Growth Initiatives.....	7
6. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)	8
7. National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS'	10
8. MoU for Capacity Building of Civil Servants in J&K	11
9. Issue of Migrant Voters and Electoral Disenfranchisement in Bihar	12
10. World Court's Advisory Opinion on Climate Change: A Boost for Global Climate Action.....	13
11. Is the Indian Economy Perfectly Balanced? – A Critical Appraisal.....	15
12. India-Russia Strategic Engagement Amid Global Tensions	17

I. India's Strategy to Counter US Tariffs & Diversify Exports

● Background: US Tariff Hike and India's Response

India is preparing a strategic response to the steep rise in US import tariffs, which now total 50% on several Indian goods, particularly after the US imposed an additional 25% tariff citing India's continued purchase of Russian oil. In response, India is not planning a retaliatory approach but is pivoting towards alternative export markets and internal support for exporters.

● Diversification of Export Markets

To reduce dependence on the US (India's largest export destination at \$86.5 billion in FY25), India plans to set up trade desks in Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe—regions with over \$60 billion untapped potential. Trade representatives will be sent to assess local demand and promote Indian products, especially where Indian MSMEs have a competitive edge (e.g., pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles, agri-machinery, and IT services).

● Support Measures for Exporters

To cushion the impact of the US tariffs, India is considering several incentives:

- Raising the **duty drawback rate** from 1% to 5%
- Reintroducing the **Interest Equalization Scheme (IES)** to lower borrowing costs
- Launching a ₹20,000 crore **Export Promotion Mission** to fund these incentives. These efforts aim to prevent a potential slowdown in GDP growth, projected to dip to 6.2–6.3% if the tariff shock persists.

● Impact on Key Export Sectors

High tariff rates are expected to severely hit Indian exports of gems and jewellery, textiles, marine products, engineering goods, and agriculture. Sectors like gems & jewellery (\$9.94 bn) and engineering goods (\$19.16 bn) could witness up to 40% fall in exports. Exporters have already flagged difficulties in absorbing 50% tariffs, especially in demand-depressed sectors like diamonds.

● Geopolitical & Strategic Angle

This trade standoff has wider geopolitical implications. India's firm stance on issues like energy security and farmers' welfare—despite external pressure—shows its shift towards **strategic autonomy**. PM Modi emphasized no compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and dairy producers. India's participation in **de-dollarization** efforts through BRICS reflects a growing push for trade in national currencies across the Global South, especially post-Covid.

● Legal & Constitutional Aspects

- **Article 301** of the Constitution provides for freedom of trade and commerce across the territory of India, while external trade falls under **Union List (Entry 41)**, empowering the central government to regulate foreign trade and economic policy.
- India's actions also align with **WTO norms**, as it seeks non-retaliatory, market-driven strategies without violating global trade rules.



Conclusion

India's move to diversify export markets and provide incentives instead of retaliating to US tariffs reflects a pragmatic, long-term strategy aimed at ensuring trade resilience, protecting key sectors, and asserting sovereign policy choices in agriculture and energy.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2 (International Relations):** India-US trade dynamics, WTO rules, BRICS
- **GS-3 (Economy):** External sector, export promotion strategies, impact on GDP, MSMEs
- **GS Mains Essay & Ethics:** Strategic autonomy vs external pressure, balancing farmer interests with global trade
- **Current Affairs:** Relevance for Prelims and Mains 2025, especially for questions on tariffs, trade diversification, and BRICS initiatives.

2. 5G and 6G Development Projects under Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)

• What is the TTDF Scheme?

The **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)** Scheme was launched on **1st October 2022** by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to promote **indigenous R&D and innovation** in telecom technologies. It encourages collaboration among **start-ups, MSMEs, academia, research institutions, and industry** to create a self-reliant telecom ecosystem under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

• Focus on 5G and 6G Technology

As of **30 June 2025**, **110 projects** focused on **5G and 6G development** have been approved under the TTDF, with a **total funding of ₹304.70 crore**. These projects cover a wide range of technological domains and are at **early stages of implementation**, with timelines ranging from **1 to 5 years**.

• Objectives and Scope

The TTDF aims to **reduce dependency on foreign technologies**, support **cutting-edge innovations**, and strengthen India's position in **emerging global telecom standards**. It supports **R&D in core telecom areas**, including **radio access networks, IoT, AI-driven telecom systems, and indigenous chipsets** for future networks.



• Institutional Participation

The scheme promotes **public-private partnerships (PPP)** by involving central government labs, IITs, NITs, private telecom firms, and emerging **start-up ecosystems**. Special emphasis is placed on encouraging **MSMEs and academic institutions** to contribute to strategic telecom development, especially in **rural and remote areas**.

• Legal and Policy Framework

- The scheme aligns with **National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018**, which promotes innovation, skill development, and indigenous technology.
- Supported under **Entry 31, Union List, Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution: "Posts and telegraphs; telephones, wireless, broadcasting and other forms of communication".



- It also contributes to **Digital India** and **Startup India** missions by enabling digital infrastructure development and boosting domestic entrepreneurship.

● Definition: 5G & 6G

- **5G (Fifth Generation):** Advanced wireless technology enabling ultra-fast data speeds, low latency, and support for IoT and smart infrastructure.
- **6G (Sixth Generation):** Future generation telecom technology envisioned to offer **1 Tbps** speeds, **AI-native networks**, and **space-terrestrial integration** for seamless global connectivity.

Conclusion

The TTDF-backed 5G and 6G R&D projects are crucial for building **technological sovereignty**, ensuring **strategic autonomy**, and positioning India as a **global telecom leader**. These efforts are instrumental for national security, digital inclusion, and long-term economic growth.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-3 (Science & Technology):** Indigenization of technology, R&D promotion, telecom sector reforms
- **GS-2 (Governance):** Role of government schemes in innovation & infrastructure development
- **Prelims:** TTDF scheme, 5G/6G definitions, NDCP 2018
- **Essay & Ethics:** Public-private innovation partnerships, national interest in tech autonomy

3. Schemes under Ministry of Cooperation & NCDC: Enhancing Cooperative Development and Digitalization

● Computerization and Digitization of Cooperatives

The **Computerization of PACS Project**, with an enhanced outlay of **₹2,925.39 crore**, aims to bring all functional **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** onto a **common ERP-based national software**, improving transparency, governance, and operational efficiency. The ERP integrates modules such as **credit, procurement, accounting, warehousing, PDS, and KCC integration**. NABARD provides handholding support and training to ensure inclusivity for digitally marginalized farmers.

● Capacity Building and Training Initiatives

A major focus is on **training PACS personnel** to handle ERP systems. The **training cost per PACS is ₹10,198**, with **₹64.24 crore** spent on capacity building. From **FY 2023–24 to 2025–26**, over **4.4 lakh PACS members** have been trained. Additionally, **NCDC and NCCT** have organized **481 training programs** for PACS, dairy, and fisheries cooperatives in Maharashtra alone, benefitting **7,203 participants** between **2020–2025**.

● Key Schemes and Financial Assistance by NCDC

NCDC, a statutory body under the Ministry, provides **term loans, investment loans, margin money, and working capital** to cooperative societies across sectors such as:





- **Marketing, Processing, Cold Chain, Storage, Agro-based Industries**
- **Fisheries, Dairy, Health, Education, and Women Cooperatives** Notable schemes include:
 - **YUVA SAHAKAR** – For start-up cooperatives with innovative ideas
 - **AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR** – Focused on health and wellness infrastructure
 - **NANDINI SAHAKAR** – Empowering women through cooperative enterprises
 - **DAIRY SAHAKAR & DIGITAL SAHAKAR** – For ESG-linked and digital cooperatives
 - **SWAYAM SHAKTI SAHAKAR** – Credit for women SHGs through cooperatives
- **IT-Based Reforms for Cooperative Governance** The “**Strengthening Cooperatives through IT Interventions**” umbrella project includes:
 - **Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)** in 10 states (₹119.40 crore)
 - **Computerization of Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) offices** in 35 States/UTs (₹94.59 crore) to ensure **paperless, transparent operations** and ease of doing business for cooperatives
- **Synergy with Other Central Schemes** NCDC dovetails funding with major central schemes such as:
 - **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
 - **PM Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)**
 - **National Livestock Mission (NLM)**
 - **Formation of 10,000 FPOs**
 - **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)** These integrations ensure cooperatives get access to **subsidies, infrastructure funds, and technical support** from multiple sectors.
- **Constitutional and Legal Framework**
 - **Article 43B (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Promotes voluntary formation and democratic functioning of cooperatives
 - **97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011:** Gave constitutional status to cooperatives and inserted **Part IXB** for their regulation
 - **Entry 32, State List & Entry 43, Union List:** Define legislative competencies over cooperatives and incorporation, regulation of cooperative societies
 - Ministry of Cooperation established in **2021** to streamline policy, governance, and development of the cooperative sector

Conclusion

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Cooperation and NCDC, is spearheading a comprehensive transformation of the cooperative sector using digital tools, capacity building, financial support, and alignment with national schemes. This approach is crucial for **inclusive rural development, financial empowerment, and self-reliant local economies**.



UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2 (Governance & Polity):** Cooperative federalism, 97th Amendment, constitutional status of cooperatives
- **GS-3 (Economy):** Inclusive growth, rural infrastructure, digital economy
- **GS-3 (Agriculture):** Role of cooperatives in agro-processing, credit, marketing
- **Essay & Ethics:** Role of cooperatives in social justice, grassroots empowerment, and democratic decentralization
- **Prelims:** TTDF, PACS, ERP, NCDC schemes, Digital Sahaakar, 97th CAA

4. Profit to Bamboo Farmers in the Northeast

• Role of National Bamboo Mission (NBM)

The **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)**, launched under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, aims to support state governments in developing the bamboo value chain. It promotes **bamboo cultivation, value addition, market infrastructure**, and links bamboo **growers, artisans, and consumers**, with special emphasis on the **North Eastern Region**. It also facilitates setting up of **bamboo bazaars, retail outlets**, etc., by both public and private sectors.

• Market Reforms & Standardization

To ensure profitability and global competitiveness, **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has issued **quality standards** for bamboo products such as **mat boards, panels, corrugated sheets, composites**, etc. These are essential for expanding **domestic and international market access**, especially for **bamboo artisans and SMEs** in the Northeast.

• Infrastructural Push in Construction Sector

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and **CPWD (Central Public Works Department)** have encouraged the use of **engineered bamboo products** in construction. CPWD amended its **Delhi Schedule of Rates in 2017** to include **bamboo wood composites**, paving the way for greater public infrastructure use of bamboo-based materials.

• State-Level Interventions (Assam Example)

The **Assam Cabinet** has mandated **at least 5% usage of bamboo composite materials** in all new public buildings via its PWD Schedule of Rates. This not only boosts **demand for bamboo products** but also promotes **eco-friendly, sustainable construction practices** and offers **direct market access and profitability** to local bamboo farmers and artisans.

• Role of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)

The Ministry of DoNER has facilitated **consultations with stakeholders and export partners** to help bamboo growers and producers **align with export standards**, enabling long-term economic benefits through **international trade** in bamboo products from the region.

• Definitions & Constitutional-Legal Framework

- **Bamboo (Grass):** As per the **Indian Forest (Amendment) Act, 2017**, bamboo is no longer classified as a “tree” under the Indian Forest Act, thereby easing restrictions on harvesting and transport.
- **Directive Principles (Art. 39b & 39c):** Promote equitable distribution of resources and prevent concentration of wealth — relevant for bamboo value chain.
- **Schedule VI Areas & NE States Autonomy:** Bamboo sector interventions align with decentralized governance and local empowerment in the North-East.

Conclusion

The government's strategic focus on enhancing the **bamboo economy in the Northeast** through policy reforms, quality standardization, construction integration, and marketing infrastructure is a critical step towards **rural livelihood enhancement, sustainability, and regional development**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2 (Governance):** Cooperative federalism, role of State-Centre coordination (NBM)
- **GS-3 (Economy):** MSMEs, agri-based industries, inclusive growth in NE
- **GS-3 (Environment):** Sustainable resource use, eco-friendly infrastructure
- **GS-1 (Geography):** North Eastern regional development
- **Prelims:** National Bamboo Mission, BIS standards, CPWD norms, Indian Forest (Amendment) Act, 2017
- **Essay & Ethics:** Sustainable development, grassroots empowerment, indigenous economies

5. STPI Network & National Software Growth Initiatives

• Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Driving IT Growth in Non-Metros

- STPI, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), has established **68 centres**, of which **60 are in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, promoting decentralised IT development.
- STPI has created **2.98 lakh jobs in non-metros** (till March 2025), boosting employment and inclusive economic growth.
- Additionally, **9 incubation centres** and **15 Centres of Entrepreneurship (CoEs)** were set up to foster startups and tech innovation outside metro hubs.



• Direct Support to Startups through Strategic Schemes

- STPI has supported **1,121 startups** with **₹445.77 crore** through various programs.
- Out of these, **₹39.86 crore** was direct funding to **590 startups** in the last 3 years, enabling growth of indigenous tech products and services.
- CoEs and the **Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS)** together created approx. **9,800 jobs**, indicating success in grassroots-level innovation.

• Strong Performance in Software Exports and Revenue

- India's IT/ITES sector has grown robustly with **FY 2024–25 software exports** reaching **₹10.64 lakh crore** (from STPI units alone).
- Total **IT revenue** (export + domestic) increased from **\$191 billion in 2019–20** to an estimated **\$282.6 billion in 2024–25**, showing consistent annual growth.

• National Policy on Software Products (NPSP) 2019: A Gamechanger

- Aims to transform India into a **software product nation** by boosting **IP creation, product innovation, and export competitiveness**.
- NPSP facilitates shift from service-based to **product-led digital economy**, aligning with goals of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

● Key Government Programs Supporting Innovation & Digital Inclusion

- **Future Skills Prime:** Skilling in emerging tech like AI, AR/VR, Big Data.
- **NGIS:** Promotes tech startups in smaller cities.
- **SAMRIDH:** Provides investor access and scaling support via accelerators.
- **GENESIS:** Empowers 10,000 youth-led startups.
- **TIDE 2.0:** Supports tech entrepreneurship through incubators.
- **Digi-SAPNE:** Nurtures NE startups with societal impact.
- **BHASHINI:** Breaks language barriers through digital translation tools.
- **CoEs:** Domain-specific support hubs for innovation and mentoring.

Definitions & Constitutional Provisions

- **Startup:** As per DPIIT, an entity <10 years old with annual turnover <₹100 crore, working toward innovation or improvement of products/processes/services.
- **Tier-2/3 cities:** Urban centres beyond top metros, critical for balanced regional development.
- **Article 38** (Directive Principles): Mandates state to minimise inequalities and ensure inclusive development.
- **Article 19(1)(g):** Provides right to practice any profession or carry on any trade, aiding entrepreneurship freedom.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The STPI network and NPSP 2019 reflect India's strategic shift toward an innovation-driven, inclusive digital economy. These initiatives decentralise growth, empower local talent, and boost global software exports. Understanding these programs is vital for UPSC aspirants under GS-3 topics like **Indian Economy, Science & Technology, Startups, Employment, Innovation Ecosystem, and Governance Reforms.**

6. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

● Overview of AHIDF

The **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)**, launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, aims to boost investment in the livestock sector. The scheme provides **3% interest subvention for 8 years** with a **2-year moratorium** and **term loans up to 90% of project cost** from scheduled banks, NABARD, NCDC, NDDB, and SIDBI. No upper ceiling exists for the eligible loan amount.

● Target Beneficiaries and Support Mechanism

The scheme supports **individual entrepreneurs, MSMEs, FPOs, Section 8 companies, and cooperatives**. Projects within MSMEs also benefit from **25% credit guarantee** on term loans via **NABSAnrakshan Trustee Pvt. Ltd.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD, ensuring risk coverage for banks.

● Project Scope and Economic Impact

Approved projects cover **dairy and meat processing, animal feed plants, veterinary vaccines, drug manufacturing, breed improvement farms, waste-to-wealth units, and wool processing**





infrastructure. So far, **402 projects** worth ₹14,413.88 crore have been approved under AHIDF, alongside **37 projects** worth ₹6,776.80 crore under DIDF (now merged with AHIDF). The initiative is projected to **create 43,372 jobs** and **benefit 25 lakh farmers**, enhancing rural livelihoods.

- **Capacity Building Achievements**

The scheme is expected to add significant infrastructure:

- **214.73 lakh LPD** dairy processing
- **9.70 lakh MTPA** meat processing
- **100.22 lakh TPA** animal feed
- **3 crore injectable doses, 70 lakh vials**, and other veterinary products
- **25 crore poultry birds, 191 crore eggs**, and other breeding assets

- **Budget Allocation and Financial Support**

Total budget allocation (2020–2026): **₹679.5 crore**, with increasing allocations over time to scale operations:

- ₹77 cr (2020-21), ₹113.5 cr (2021-22), ₹115 cr (2022-23), ₹179 cr (2023-24), ₹195 cr (2024-25), ₹260 cr (2025-26)

- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions**

- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** under **Article 48** mandate the State to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern lines.
- The scheme aligns with **Article 21 (Right to Livelihood)** through job creation and **Article 19(1)(g)** supporting economic activities by citizens.
- Falls under the **State List (Entry 15 and 17)** but is supported centrally under cooperative federalism.

Definition:

- **Animal Husbandry:** A branch of agriculture concerned with the breeding, raising, and caring of farm animals for food, fiber, and labor.
- **FPO (Farmer Producer Organization):** A collective of farmers registered under the Companies Act aiming to enhance collective bargaining and market access.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

AHIDF is a critical initiative for transforming India's livestock sector from an unorganized, subsistence-based practice to a **market-linked, technology-driven** industry. It supports the **Doubling Farmers' Income** goal and strengthens **rural entrepreneurship**. It also plays a key role in **nutritional security, employment generation, and agri-infrastructure development**.

UPSC Relevance:

- Topics under **GS Paper 3:** Agriculture, Food Processing & Infrastructure, Animal Husbandry
- **GS Paper 2:** Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections
- **GS Paper 1 (Society):** Rural Livelihoods and Employment
- Useful for **Essay Paper** (Themes on rural development, agri-economy, cooperative federalism) and **Interview Stage**

7. National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS'

- **Introduction to MANAS Helpline:**

The Government of India launched *MANAS (Madak-Padarth Nished Asoochna Kendra)* Helpline - as a dedicated, secure, bilingual, citizen-centric platform to combat drug abuse. The helpline enables **anonymous reporting** of drug trafficking, illicit cultivation, and provides access to **counselling and rehabilitation services**.

- **Multi-Channel Access & Support Services:**

Citizens can access MANAS through multiple modes:

- **Toll-Free Number:** 1933
- **Web Portal:** www.ncbmanas.gov.in
- **Email:** info.ncbmanas@gov.in
- **UMANG Mobile App**

It also links with the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's** helpline **14446** for de-addiction support, and hosts educational materials like videos and posters to increase public awareness.



- **Public Participation and Outreach Mechanism:**

MANAS has actively involved the public through:

- **Contests** on MyGov like poster-making, reel-making, and quizzes.
- Use of awareness tools to amplify the “*Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan*”. This enhances **citizen engagement**, particularly the youth, in the fight against drug abuse.

- **Performance and Impact (Till July 2025):**

- **70,000+** citizens used the helpline.
- **6,152 actionable tips** led to **36 NDPS Act cases** via Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and State Anti-Narcotics Task Forces.
- **7,100 calls** addressed de-addiction support; **56,700 calls** related to miscellaneous queries.
- Over **3,000 entries** submitted for awareness contests under *Drug-Free India* campaign.

- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions:**

- **NDPS Act, 1985:** Provides the legislative framework for controlling and regulating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India.
- **Article 47 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Directs the State to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health.
- **Right to Health** (under Article 21): Reinforces the need for State-led initiatives like MANAS to promote rehabilitation and treatment.

- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance:**

The MANAS helpline is a crucial digital and community-driven tool in India's **anti-drug ecosystem**, promoting transparency, public awareness, and rehabilitation. Its integration with the broader **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan**, coupled with legal enforcement and citizen engagement, makes it a model for participatory governance.

UPSC Relevance:

- Important for **GS Paper II** (Governance, Social Justice, Government Schemes)
- Relevant for **GS Paper III** (Internal Security – Drug trafficking and border security)
- Potential topic for **Essay** and **Ethics** (Role of society in curbing drug abuse, participatory platforms, digital governance).

8. MoU for Capacity Building of Civil Servants in J&K**• Overview of the Initiative:**

On **August 5, 2025**, a tripartite MoU was signed between the **Government of Jammu & Kashmir**, **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**, and **Karmayogi Bharat** to implement **Mission Karmayogi** in J&K. This partnership aims to institutionalize structured, **role-based, and continuous learning** for civil servants via the **iGOT Karmayogi** digital platform.

• Key Objectives of the MoU:

The MoU focuses on:

- Promoting **competency-based training**.
- Enhancing **citizen-centric governance**.
- Enabling **digital, modular, and self-paced learning**.
- Developing **future-ready public administration** by onboarding government officials on the iGOT platform and launching **curated learning journeys** aligned with their job roles.

**• Role of Local Institutions and Stakeholders:**

- **General Administration Department (GAD)** and **Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD)** will lead the rollout.
- Training and orientation for Additional/Deputy Secretaries was held to familiarize them with the platform's functioning.
- Officials expressed interest in **customized blended learning** based on J&K's specific governance and development needs.

• About Mission Karmayogi and iGOT Platform:

- **Mission Karmayogi** is the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), launched in 2020 to build a **competency-driven, performance-oriented bureaucracy**.
- **iGOT Karmayogi** is an integrated Government Online Training platform offering role-based learning with over **1.26 crore users** nationwide. It promotes **continuous learning, digital skilling, and service delivery improvement**.

• Legal and Constitutional Context:

- **Article 309** of the Constitution empowers the government to regulate recruitment and conditions of service of civil servants.
- Mission Karmayogi is aligned with **Good Governance** principles under **Article 38** and **Article 51A (Fundamental Duties)**, ensuring efficiency, integrity, and responsiveness in public service.

- Strengthens **executive capacity**, critical for successful implementation of **welfare schemes, development programs, and federal administration** in Union Territories like J&K.

- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance:**

The MoU symbolizes a transformative push towards a **digitally empowered, skilled, and citizen-responsive public service** in Jammu & Kashmir. It strengthens the federal-state institutional framework for governance reforms through capacity-building and tech-enabled learning.

UPSC Relevance:

- GS Paper II: **Governance, Civil Services Reforms, Government Policies**
- GS Paper IV: **Ethics in Public Administration, Accountability, Professionalism**
- Important for topics like **E-Governance, Role of Civil Services, and Federalism** in essay and Mains answers.

9. Issue of Migrant Voters and Electoral Disenfranchisement in Bihar

1. Legal Definition of ‘Ordinarily Resident’ & RP Act Provisions:

- *Representation of the People Act, 1950* governs electoral rolls in India.
- **Section 19:** Requires a person to be an *ordinarily resident* in a constituency to be included in its electoral roll.
- **Section 20:** Defines that mere property ownership doesn't qualify as residence. Temporary absence does not affect the residential status.
- **Section 20A** (added in 2010): Allows *Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)* to vote based on passport address.
- **Gauhati HC in Dr. Manmohan Singh Case (1999):** Held that ‘ordinarily resident’ must reflect a *habitual, permanent intent* to reside in a place.



2. Fundamental Rights and Migrant Labour Realities:

- **Article 19(1)(e)** of the Constitution guarantees the *freedom to reside and settle* anywhere in India.
- However, approx. **11% of India's population** are migrant workers (15 crore people approx.), many of whom do not change their voter registration.
- Migrants often return home for voting where their families and permanent ties exist.

3. Problems with Electoral Roll Revisions in Bihar (SIR 2024):

- In Bihar, many migrants were *excluded from the draft electoral roll* as they were marked ‘permanently shifted’ or ‘not found’ during the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) treated absence during enumeration as disqualification under ‘ordinarily resident’ clause.
- This leads to potential **disenfranchisement** of large sections of migrant voters.



4. Legal vs Political Complications in In-Migration States:

- While legally, migrants *can shift their vote* to their place of work, there are **practical and political hurdles**.
- Regional parties oppose their inclusion in new States citing lack of connection to local issues.
- Lack of address proof, documentation, and social friction contribute to their **de facto disenfranchisement**.

5. Need for Electoral Reforms and Remote Voting Solutions:

- ECI had piloted **Multi-Constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machines (RVMs)** to enable remote voting but halted due to concerns.
- Measures like *statutory paid holidays, transportation support, and remote voting mechanisms* should be explored.
- Parliament should amend the **RP Act** to better reflect the realities of migrant labour and uphold electoral inclusiveness.

6. Definitions of Key Terms:

- **Ordinarily Resident:** Someone who habitually and permanently resides in a place with intent to dwell.
- **Disenfranchisement:** Denial of the right to vote.
- **Migrant Worker:** A person who moves, often seasonally or temporarily, from one place to another for employment.

Conclusion:

The electoral rights of migrant labourers are at a critical juncture, trapped between legal definitions and administrative rigidity. Despite constitutional guarantees and court interpretations favoring inclusivity, millions risk disenfranchisement. The issue demands urgent reform and technological solutions to uphold democratic principles.

UPSC Relevance:

- **GS Paper 2:** Governance, Constitution, Representation of People Act, Electoral Reforms.
- **Ethics Paper (GS 4):** Social justice, inclusion, and democratic participation.
- Important for **Essay** and **Interview:** Human rights of migrants, governance challenges, electoral accountability.

10. World Court's Advisory Opinion on Climate Change: A Boost for Global Climate Action

Key Highlights:

- **Legal Obligations of States Clarified:**
The International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered a landmark *advisory opinion* affirming that **states are legally obligated** to protect the global climate system. It emphasized obligations such as the **duty of due diligence, duty to prevent significant harm, and duty to cooperate**, derived from international treaties, customary international law, and environmental law principles.

- **Treaties Interpreted in a Unified Manner:**

The ICJ harmonized the interpretation of key climate treaties—UNFCCC, **Kyoto Protocol**, and **Paris Agreement**—in conjunction with the latest scientific consensus. For instance, it held **1.5°C** as the critical threshold for limiting global temperature rise and asserted that *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)* must reflect the **highest possible ambition**, not arbitrary goals.

- **Climate Justice & CBDR-RC Principle Reinforced:**

The court upheld the **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)** principle, noting that developed nations have **legally binding obligations** to provide **financial and technological support** to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation. Climate action must consider **historical emissions** and **current national capacities**.



- **Human Rights Dimension Emphasized:**

The ICJ highlighted the **impact of climate change on human rights**, particularly for vulnerable communities. States must ensure that **climate action does not violate human rights** and that the transition to green energy is a **just transition**, maintaining equity and fairness.

- **Rejection of 'Self-Contained Regime' Argument:**

The court rejected claims (including by India) that climate treaties operate in isolation from general international law. It ruled that environmental norms are **interconnected** and climate obligations persist even if a country **withdraws from treaties** (e.g., the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement).

- **Global South Gains Legal Leverage:**

Initiated by vulnerable small island nations, the opinion empowers **Global South countries**, like India, to **demand accountability** from major emitters and **press for stronger climate finance and technology transfer**. It may influence strategic climate litigation, such as the *Ridhima Pandey* case in India, concerning rights-based climate action.

Definitions & Legal Context:

- **Advisory Opinion:** A legal interpretation given by a court (like ICJ) upon request, not binding but highly influential in shaping international law.
- **CBDR-RC (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities):** A foundational principle in international environmental law recognizing differing capacities and responsibilities of states based on development and emissions history.
- **Due Diligence:** The legal duty to take all appropriate measures within a state's capacity to prevent environmental harm.

Relevant Constitutional & Legal Provisions:

- **Article 21 (Right to Life)** – Interpreted by the Supreme Court of India to include the **right to a healthy environment**.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 48A, 51A(g))** – Obligate the State and citizens to **protect and improve the environment**.
- **Paris Agreement (2015)** – Legally binds parties to prepare NDCs and pursue efforts to limit temperature rise.



Conclusion & UPSC Relevance:

The ICJ's advisory opinion marks a pivotal moment in the **international legal landscape of climate change**, elevating environmental obligations to **legal duties** enforceable through international norms and human rights lenses. For India and other developing countries, this offers **strategic legal tools** to advocate for **climate justice**, ensuring that **historical emitters bear fair responsibilities**. This topic holds **high relevance for UPSC** under GS Paper II (International Relations, Treaties), GS Paper III (Environment, Climate Change), and GS Paper IV (Ethics & Justice).

II. Is the Indian Economy Perfectly Balanced? – A Critical Appraisal

Key Highlights for UPSC:

- **The 'Goldilocks Economy' Claim vs Ground Reality:**

The Finance Ministry and some analysts have termed India's current macroeconomic condition as a "Goldilocks situation" — characterized by **moderate growth, low inflation, and favorable monetary policy**. However, deeper economic indicators reveal structural **imbalances**, including **volatile food inflation, stagnant real wages, income inequality**, and **fiscal constraints** that challenge this optimistic narrative.

- **Stagnant Real Wages Amid Rising Living Costs:**

Despite nominal salary hikes (e.g., 9.2% in 2023), **real wage growth** remains low (2.5%) or even negative (−0.4% in 2020), due to inflation. Food inflation, in particular, often exceeds general CPI and disproportionately affects **low-income households** (as food makes up nearly 50% of their consumption). This "silent squeeze" erodes purchasing power, undermines household savings, and increases dependence on credit.

- **Persistent and Structural Income Inequality:**

Though the **Gini Coefficient** (measure of income inequality) shows slight improvement (from 0.489 in AY13 to 0.402 in AY23), this is largely based on **taxable income**, ignoring the vast **informal sector**. India's recovery post-COVID is **K-shaped**: the wealthy thrive while lower-income groups see stagnation, leading to **unequal access to education, health, and economic opportunities**.

- **Fiscal Constraints and Debt Pressures:**

India's fiscal deficit, though declining (projected 6.4% in 2022–23 to 4.4% in 2025–26), remains **substantial**. The **public debt-to-GDP ratio (81%)** far exceeds the **FRBM target (60%)**, limiting future **fiscal space** for essential sectors like health, education, and infrastructure. High borrowing can **crowd out private investment** and reduce growth potential.

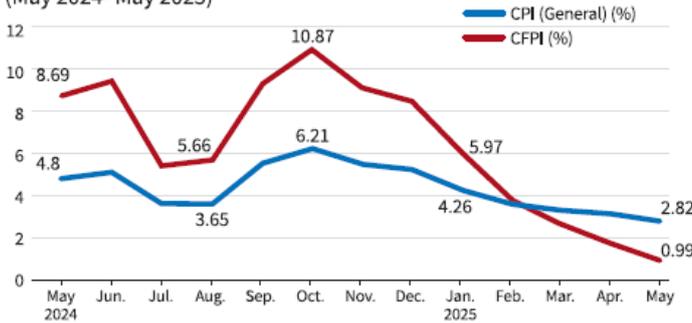
Inflation Composition & Policy Dilemma:

While headline CPI has moderated (2.82% in May 2025), **core inflation** (excluding food and fuel) remains more relevant for policy and household welfare. Experts like Dr. Pronab Sen argue for focusing on **core inflation**, which better reflects long-term trends in costs for housing, education, and transport, directly linked to quality of life.

India's Goldilocks moment

While the number of billionaires in India has surged, real wages for many at the lower end of the income spectrum have remained the same. This persistent inequality can undermine social cohesion

Chart 1: All-India inflation rates: CPI (General) and CFPI
(May 2024- May 2025)



Source: MoSPI

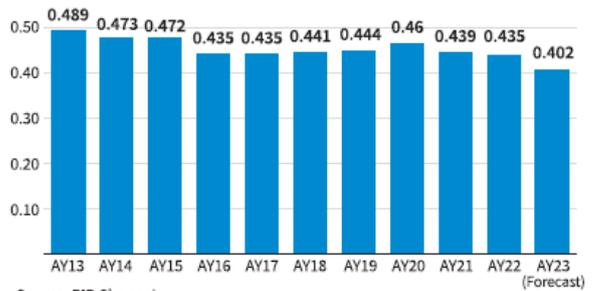
Chart 2: Salary increase vs real wage growth (2019-2025)



Sectors handing out lower hikes: IT product and services, manufacturing, engineering and consumer industries

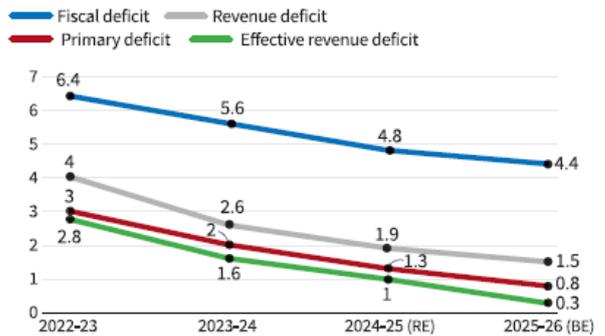
Source: 2025 projection is on the basis of MNC data collected by Deloitte in December 2024 for salary increases

Chart 3: Gini coefficient on taxable income (AY13-AY23F)



Source: PIB Chennai

Chart 4: Trends in fiscal and revenue deficits (% of GDP)



Source: Union Budget, PIB

Economic Growth Not Translating Into Broad-Based Prosperity:

India's GDP growth (7.6%) and \$3.6 trillion economy status hide underlying **exclusion**. Without improving **job quality**, **real wages**, and **fiscal equity**, GDP growth alone cannot ensure **inclusive development**. The **benefits of growth remain concentrated**, failing to address socio-economic aspirations of the wider population.

Definitions & Constitutional-Legal Provisions:

- **Goldilocks Economy:** A macroeconomic state where growth is neither too fast (causing inflation) nor too slow (leading to recession), but "just right."
- **Real Wages:** Wages adjusted for inflation; reflect actual purchasing power.
- **Gini Coefficient:** A statistical measure of income or wealth distribution; 0 indicates perfect equality, 1 indicates maximum inequality.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:** Aims to ensure **inter-generational equity in fiscal management** and **long-term macroeconomic stability** by setting targets for deficits and debt.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance:

While India's macroeconomic indicators suggest a stable and growing economy, the **lived realities** of citizens reflect **inequity, volatility, and fiscal strain**. The illusion of a “perfectly balanced” or “Goldilocks” economy **masks the unequal distribution of gains**. For UPSC aspirants, this topic is crucial under **GS Paper III** (Indian Economy – Growth, Development, Inequality, Inflation), **GS Paper II** (Government policies, Welfare Schemes), and **Essay Paper** (themes of Inclusive Growth, Social Justice). True economic strength lies not in aggregate numbers but in how **growth translates to real improvements in quality of life** for all Indians.

12. India-Russia Strategic Engagement Amid Global Tensions

- **Deepening India-Russia Strategic Partnership:**

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, affirming the “**strategic and special partnership**” between India and Russia. Doval emphasized the long-standing and high-level engagements that have significantly shaped bilateral ties. The meeting aimed to finalize President Putin's upcoming visit to India and enhance cooperation in defense and global security matters.

- **Backdrop of Geopolitical Pressures (U.S. Tariffs):**

The meeting gains importance as it occurred a day after **U.S. President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on India**, citing its continued purchase of Russian oil. This reflects the **tightrope India walks** in maintaining strategic autonomy amid increasing geopolitical polarization between the West and Russia-China axis.



- **Defense & Security Cooperation Highlights:**

Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar and Russian Deputy Defence Minister Aleksandr Fomin discussed steps to **strengthen military ties**, emphasizing joint cooperation in defense technologies and strategic platforms. The Russian Defence Ministry confirmed that India-Russia military cooperation will be “further strengthened” in the coming months — aligning with India's long-standing goal of **diversified defense sourcing** and indigenization under ‘**Atmanirbhar Bharat**’.

- **Support in Counter-Terrorism & International Security:**

Doval thanked Russia for its support following the **April 22 Pahalgam terror attack**. Both sides also exchanged views on **multilateral platforms** and global security issues, reaffirming mutual cooperation in forums like **BRICS, SCO, and the UN**.

- **Key Definitions & Legal Provisions:**

- **Strategic Partnership:** A long-term bilateral relationship involving cooperation in key areas like defense, energy, economy, and international diplomacy.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India):** An Indian government initiative to reduce dependency on foreign imports, especially in critical sectors like defense and technology.
- **Non-Alignment 2.0:** A modern adaptation of India's historic non-alignment policy, emphasizing **multi-alignment** and strategic autonomy in foreign policy.

- **Historical Context of Putin's Visit & Ukraine Conflict:**

Putin's last India visit was in December 2021. His subsequent military operation in Ukraine (Feb 2022) created global diplomatic shifts. Despite Western sanctions on Russia, India has maintained an



independent position, continuing energy and defense trade with Moscow while also engaging with the U.S. and EU.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance:

India's engagement with Russia — despite U.S. pressure — underscores its pursuit of **strategic autonomy** and a **multipolar world order**. It also demonstrates India's nuanced foreign policy balancing economic interests, security cooperation, and geopolitical realities.

This topic is highly relevant for **GS Paper II** (International Relations – Bilateral, Regional and Global groupings, India and Major Powers), **GS Paper III** (Internal Security, Defence Technology), and **Essay Paper** (India's Foreign Policy, Strategic Autonomy, Geopolitical Challenges).


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