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FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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9972258970 & 9740702455

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



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1. UMEED Portal – Additional Module by Ministry of Minority Affairs

- **Concept and Objective**

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched an **additional module on the UMEED Portal** (August 2025) to extend **maintenance support to widows, divorced women, and orphans**.
- It operationalises **Rule 8(2) of the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Rules, 2025**, framed under **Section 3(r)(iv) of the Unified Waqf Management Act, 1995**.
- Aim: Make **Waqf administration people-centric, transparent, and digitally enabled**.

- **Definition – Waqf-alal-aulad**

- A **Waqf-alal-aulad** is a type of endowment where income is used primarily for the benefit of the settlor's family members and other deserving individuals.
- In this initiative, income from such properties will provide **direct financial assistance** to vulnerable women and children in minority communities.

- **Key Features of the Module**

- **Aadhaar-based authentication** of beneficiary details.
- **Online application and approval process** handled by State/UT Waqf Boards.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** ensures financial support reaches beneficiaries' bank accounts without intermediaries.
- Promotes **transparency, efficiency, and accountability** while reducing delays and leakages.



- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions**

- **Article 15(3)**: Allows special provisions for women and children.
- **Article 29 & 30**: Cultural and educational rights of minorities.
- **Directive Principles (Article 38 & 46)**: Promotion of social justice and protection of weaker sections.
- **Waqf Act, 1995**: Governs administration of Waqf properties in India.
- **Digital Governance Initiatives**: Aligns with **Digital India** and **Good Governance** principles.

- **Significance**

- Provides **targeted social security** for vulnerable groups within minority communities.
- Encourages **digitisation of Waqf property management**, reducing scope for corruption.
- Empowers **State/UT Waqf Boards and Mutawallis** to streamline welfare delivery.



- Strengthens **inclusive development and social justice** through community endowment resources.

Conclusion

The launch of the UMEED Portal's additional module reflects the government's effort to **modernise Waqf administration, ensure transparent delivery of welfare benefits, and safeguard vulnerable sections of minority communities**. By combining **digital tools with traditional charitable endowments**, it integrates community resources into the national framework of inclusive growth.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Waqf-alal-aulad, UMEED Portal, Waqf Act 1995, Direct Benefit Transfer.
- **Mains (GS-II):** Welfare of vulnerable sections, minority rights, government policies for social justice.
- **Essay & Ethics (GS-IV):** Inclusive governance, digital empowerment, accountability in welfare delivery.

2. India's Bioeconomy and BioE3 Policy Achievements

• Concept and Growth of Bioeconomy

- **Bioeconomy** refers to economic activity derived from biotechnology and biological resources, covering sectors like health, agriculture, environment, and industry.
- India's bioeconomy grew from **\$10 billion in 2014 to \$165.7 billion in 2024**, with a target of **\$300 billion by 2030** under the **BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment)**.
- The policy aligns with the vision of an **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by promoting indigenous biomanufacturing and sustainable innovation.

• Institutional and Policy Milestones

- Establishment of **India's first Biomanufacturing Institute at Mohali and Bio-Artificial Intelligence hubs**.
- Launch of the **National Biofoundry Network (6 institutions)** to scale up proof-of-concept innovations and strengthen domestic biomanufacturing.
- Over **2,000 proposals received** across frontier areas: cell and gene therapy, carbon capture, functional foods, and climate-smart agriculture.
- **MoU between DBT and ISRO** for collaboration in **space biotechnology and biomanufacturing**, with DBT-backed experiments on the International Space Station.



• BioE3 Challenge for Youth

- Nationwide innovation competition under the theme **“Design Microbes, Molecules & More”**.



- Open to school students (6–12), university students, startups, and researchers.
- Top winners: **₹1 lakh cash award + mentoring**, with **funding up to ₹25 lakh** through **BIRAC** for 100 awardees.
- Anchored in the **DESIGN framework**: Define needs, Evidence-first solutions, Sustainability, Integration, Go-to-market, Net-positive impact.
- **State, National, and Global Partnerships**
 - **Centre-State collaboration**: Example – MoU with Assam to establish a **BioE3 Cell**.
 - **Global outreach**: Inputs received from Indian missions in **52 countries**, enhancing international bio-collaboration.
 - Convergence of biology with **engineering, AI, architecture, and space science**, fostering new-age innovations like biodegradable plastics, organ-on-a-chip systems, algae-based carbon capture, and prosthetic organs.
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions**
 - **Article 51A(h)**: Fundamental duty to develop scientific temper.
 - **Directive Principles (Article 39 & 47)**: Promotion of health, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods.
 - **Biotechnology Regulatory Frameworks**: Governed by DBT, BIRAC, and aligned with global bio-safety protocols (e.g., Cartagena Protocol).
 - Supports **India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** by contributing to low-carbon growth and sustainable agriculture.
- **Significance**
 - Strengthens India's **R&D ecosystem**, job creation, and **youth-led innovation**.
 - Promotes **green growth**, climate change mitigation, and sustainable agriculture.
 - Enhances **global competitiveness** by positioning India as a hub for bio-innovation and biomanufacturing.
 - Directly contributes to **SDGs (2: Zero Hunger, 3: Good Health, 9: Innovation, 13: Climate Action)**.

Conclusion

The **BioE3 Policy** has transformed India's biotechnology sector into a driver of **economy, environment, and employment**. By integrating digital tools, youth participation, and global partnerships, India is moving towards becoming a **biotech superpower** with a sustainable and resilient **bioeconomy of \$300 billion by 2030**.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims**: BioE3 Policy, Biofoundry Network, DBT & BIRAC roles, DESIGN framework, India's bioeconomy targets.
- **Mains (GS-III)**: Science & Tech in everyday life, biotechnology applications in health, agriculture, environment, and industry; climate change mitigation through biotech.



- **Essay & Ethics (GS-IV):** Youth in nation-building, role of innovation in sustainable growth, ethical use of biotechnology.

3. Data User's Conference on PLFS 2025

- **Concept and Background**
 - The **National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI** is organising the second **Data User's Conference on PLFS** (Aug 2025) in New Delhi, following the first held in Pune (Sept 2024).
 - Objective: **Strengthen dialogue between data producers (NSO) and data users (researchers, policymakers, industry, international organisations).**
 - Focus: Reflect on **innovations in PLFS methodology from Jan 2025** and the utility of **high-frequency labour market indicators**.
- **Definition – PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey)**
 - PLFS is India's **primary household survey** on labour force participation, employment, and unemployment, conducted by the NSO.
 - Provides indicators such as **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR)** under *Usual Status (ps+ss)* and *Current Weekly Status (CWS)*.
- **Key Innovations in PLFS (from Jan 2025)**
 - **Revamped Sampling Methodology** with **22,692 FSUs annually** (12,504 rural + 10,188 urban).
 - **2.65 times increase** in sample size → **2,72,304 households annually**.
 - High-frequency indicators:
 - **Monthly estimates** of LFPR, WPR, UR for rural & urban India (CWS).
 - **Quarterly results extended to rural areas.**
 - **Annual estimates** under both *Usual Status* and *CWS* for rural & urban areas.
- **Conference Highlights**
 - Participation: **200+ stakeholders** including policymakers, economists, industry, academia, and ILO experts.
 - Technical sessions: Presentation of **new PLFS methodology, high-frequency estimates, and policy applications.**
 - Panel discussion on "*Fast Data, Big Impact*": addressed how high-frequency data improves **short-term labour market analysis and policy responsiveness.**
 - Dialogue expected to bridge **data credibility issues** and strengthen collaboration between **users and producers** of labour statistics.





- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions**

- **Article 246 & Seventh Schedule:** Statistics fall under Union List → Central responsibility.
- **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008:** Legal framework for data collection in India.
- **Directive Principles (Article 38, 39, 41, 43):** Obligate the State to secure social justice, right to work, and a living wage → PLFS data aids in policy design for these.

- **Significance**

- Provides **timely and granular data** for evidence-based policymaking on employment, skilling, and welfare programmes.
- Strengthens India's **labour market intelligence** in line with global statistical standards (ILO, SDGs).
- Improves accountability and addresses concerns of **jobless growth, underemployment, and labour market transitions**.
- Enhances **transparency in policy debates** by bridging gaps between government data and independent research.

Conclusion

The revamped **PLFS and Data User's Conference** mark a crucial step in making India's labour statistics **high-frequency, transparent, and policy-relevant**. With a significantly larger sample size and monthly/quarterly outputs, PLFS will help India better track labour market trends, design inclusive employment policies, and align with constitutional goals of social and economic justice.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** PLFS definitions, indicators (LFPR, WPR, UR), Collection of Statistics Act, role of NSO & MoSPI.
- **Mains (GS-III & GS-II):** Employment challenges, jobless growth, labour market reforms, role of statistics in governance.
- **Essay & Ethics (GS-IV):** Data transparency, evidence-based policymaking, bridging trust deficit between state and society.

4. Cost of Collecting Income Taxes in India – Key Summary

1. Definition & Concept

- *Cost of Tax Collection* refers to the administrative expenditure incurred by the government (mainly Income Tax Department under Ministry of Finance) to assess, collect, enforce, and manage income tax revenues.
- It is usually expressed both in **absolute terms (₹ crore)** and **as a percentage of total collections**, highlighting efficiency in tax administration.

2. Trends in India (2000–2024)

- Expenditure rose from around ₹2,000 crore in 2000–01 to nearly ₹10,000 crore in 2023–24 (provisional).



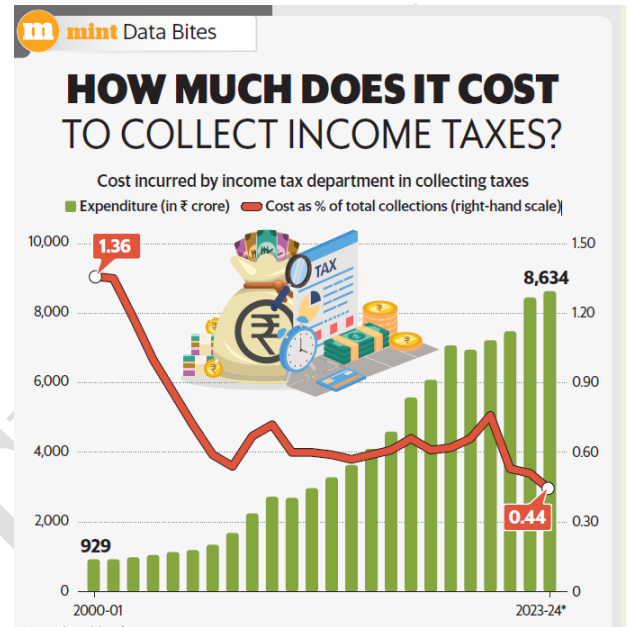
- However, the **cost as % of collections has declined**, moving closer to ~0.5%–0.6% (indicating higher efficiency despite higher absolute spending).
- Rising tax base, digitisation, and widening of reporting networks have contributed to this improvement.

3. Institutional & Legal Framework

- Income Tax collection governed by **Income Tax Act, 1961** and administered under the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, functioning within the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Backed by **Article 265 of the Constitution of India** – “No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law.”
- **FRBM Act, 2003** (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) emphasises efficiency in revenue mobilisation with minimal administrative cost.

4. Factors Influencing Cost Efficiency

- **Digitisation measures:** PAN-Aadhaar linkage, faceless assessment, e-filing, and AI-driven scrutiny reduced physical interface and compliance burden.
- **Expanding taxpayer base:** With GST and information-sharing frameworks, detection of evasion improved.
- **Economies of scale:** Larger collections spread administrative costs, lowering cost-to-collection ratio.
- **Challenges:** Litigation backlog, tax evasion, and compliance burden on small taxpayers may still inflate costs.



5. Global Context

- India's cost of tax collection (around 0.5–0.6%) is comparatively lower than many developing economies and is on par with advanced nations, reflecting relatively strong administrative efficiency.
- OECD countries report an average around 0.6–1%.

6. Policy Significance

- A low cost-to-collection ratio signals **efficient revenue mobilisation**, allowing greater fiscal space for welfare expenditure.
- However, too much cost-cutting may weaken enforcement and monitoring, leading to tax evasion. Hence, balance is crucial.

Conclusion

The declining cost of collecting income tax as a percentage of total revenue reflects India's progress in **digital governance, administrative reforms, and taxpayer services**. It strengthens fiscal capacity without imposing a disproportionate administrative burden.

UPSC Relevance



- **Prelims:** Data trends (cost % of collections, institutions like CBDT, Article 265).
- **Mains (GS-3: Economy):** Efficiency of tax administration, fiscal policy, role of digitisation, comparison with global benchmarks.
- **Essay/Ethics:** “Efficient governance is doing more with less” – linking fiscal prudence with social justice.

5. Clean Slate Principle in Amended Bankruptcy Bill

Key Highlights

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill proposes a *clean slate* provision ensuring that once a resolution plan is approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), all past claims against the corporate debtor and its assets are extinguished, even if not explicitly included in the plan.
- Creditors, government authorities, and other stakeholders cannot pursue recovery of dues post-resolution, thereby preventing delays and legal uncertainty.
- This provision codifies judicial precedents such as *Essar Steel v. Satish Kumar Gupta (2019)* and *Ghanshyam Mishra and Sons v. Edelweiss ARC (2021)*, which upheld the finality of resolution plans but faced inconsistent enforcement.

Legal & Constitutional Framework

- **IBC, 2016 (Section 31):** Deals with binding effect of approved resolution plans. The amendment strengthens this by explicitly extinguishing all prior claims.
- **Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution:** Ensures freedom to practice trade and business, supported by effective insolvency frameworks that promote ease of doing business.
- **Article 300A:** Protects the right to property, balanced against creditors’ rights and revival of businesses in public interest.
- **Doctrine of Clean Slate:** Ensures new investors are free from legacy liabilities, promoting investment and speedy resolution.



Judicial Context

- **Essar Steel Case (2019):** SC upheld primacy of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) in resolution plans, disallowing fresh claims post-approval.
- **Ghanshyam Mishra Case (2021):** SC clarified that once a resolution plan is approved, all claims stand extinguished.
- **Manish Kumar v. Union of India (2021):** Upheld amendments strengthening IBC to maintain efficiency and certainty.

Significance of the Amendment

- Speeds up corporate turnarounds by reducing litigation and forum shopping by creditors.



- Provides certainty to investors and resolution applicants, encouraging participation in distressed asset markets.
- Aligns IBC with its original objective of being a *time-bound, efficient mechanism for insolvency resolution* rather than prolonged litigation.
- Protects creditors' rights in cases of fraud or questionable transactions by retaining liability on promoters, managers, and guarantors.

Definition of Key Term

- **Clean Slate Principle:** A legal concept ensuring that after insolvency resolution, a new investor acquires the company free from past liabilities and claims, allowing smooth revival and business continuity.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The amendment institutionalizes the *clean slate principle*, enhancing investor confidence, improving India's ease of doing business, and making the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code more robust. It addresses judicial inconsistencies, ensures finality of resolution plans, and strengthens the corporate revival ecosystem. For UPSC, this topic is relevant under **GS-II (Governance, Constitution, and Laws)**, **GS-III (Indian Economy, Investment & Industrial Growth)**, and **Current Affairs (Parliamentary Bills & Economic Reforms)**.

6. Lag Effect of US Tariffs on Indian Exports

Key Highlights

- The Finance Ministry (July Monthly Economic Review) noted that the immediate impact of newly imposed US tariffs on Indian exports appears limited.
- However, the **lag effect** (delayed impact of policy changes on trade and economy) could negatively affect India's exports, trade balance, and overall growth in the medium term.
- The ministry has cautioned that proactive policy action may be required to mitigate adverse effects on India's trade competitiveness.

Legal & Institutional Framework

- **Foreign Trade Policy 2023:** Aims to boost exports through market diversification and technology-led trade facilitation.
- **WTO Rules (Most Favoured Nation & National Treatment principles):** Allow India to challenge unjustified tariff hikes.
- **Article 301 of the Constitution:** Guarantees freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse within India, indirectly linked to external trade facilitation.
- **Article 246 & Union List (Entry 41):** Empowers Parliament to legislate on foreign trade and international agreements.



Economic Significance



- US is one of India's largest trading partners, accounting for nearly **18% of India's exports** (2024-25 estimates). Tariff changes can disproportionately affect sectors like IT services, textiles, steel, and pharmaceuticals.
- The **lag effect** may manifest through reduced demand, supply chain disruptions, and loss of price competitiveness for Indian goods.
- Could aggravate India's **current account deficit (CAD)** if exports fall while imports remain high.

Definition of Key Term

- **Lag Effect:** The delayed impact of an economic policy or external shock (such as tariffs) on trade, investment, or growth, often materializing after months due to contractual commitments, supply chains, or adjustment lags.

Possible Government Response

- Trade diversification towards ASEAN, EU, and African markets.
- Strengthening **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes** to enhance export competitiveness.
- Engaging diplomatically with the US through **bilateral trade talks** and WTO forums.
- Supporting affected industries with credit access, tax incentives, and export subsidies (within WTO-compliant limits).

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The Finance Ministry's caution reflects that while immediate risks from US tariffs are contained, the **lag effect could weaken India's export-led growth trajectory**. Proactive trade, industrial, and diplomatic policies are essential to safeguard competitiveness. For UPSC, this issue is relevant under **GS-II (International Relations & WTO framework)**, **GS-III (Indian Economy – External Sector, Trade Policy, Balance of Payments)**, and **Current Affairs (Global Economic Developments & Their Impact on India)**.

7. Prasar Bharati Opens OTT Platform to Public Content (WAVES App)

Key Highlights

- Prasar Bharati's streaming app **WAVES** will now allow **user-generated content (UGC)**, similar to YouTube, covering genres like culture, sports, education, and family entertainment.
- The platform will maintain a **family-centric approach** by following the **Broadcasting and Programme Code**, unlike YouTube's unmoderated model.
- Content moderation will be handled through a mix of **manual checks and tech-enabled interventions** to ensure adherence to cultural and social values.
- WAVES already offers Doordarshan classics, partner channels, live radio, and shopping integration, but faces challenges of content acquisition, technical glitches, and competition from global OTT giants.



Legal & Regulatory Framework



- **Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990:** Established India's autonomous public broadcaster to ensure impartial, culturally relevant programming.
- **Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 – Section 5 & Rules:** Mandates adherence to Programme and Advertising Code for broadcast content.
- **IT Rules, 2021:** Apply to OTT platforms and UGC; compliance with due diligence, grievance redressal, and takedown mechanisms required.
- **2022 Uplinking & Downlinking Guidelines:** May pose regulatory conflicts if private satellite channels stream directly on the platform.

Economic & Strategic Significance

- Provides an **Indian alternative** to global platforms like YouTube, aligning with the government's push for **digital sovereignty** and promotion of Indian technology.
- Enables creators in **cultural, educational, and family-friendly niches** to showcase work on a regulated national platform.
- Could help diversify India's **OTT ecosystem**, reduce dependence on foreign platforms, and encourage content aligned with Indian social values.
- Faces hurdles like weak **ad-tech infrastructure**, lower creator payouts, and lack of private broadcaster cooperation, which could limit scalability.

Definition of Key Term

- **User-Generated Content (UGC):** Any form of content (videos, blogs, audio, images) created and uploaded by users rather than professionals or media companies, often shared on digital platforms.

Challenges Ahead

- **Monetisation:** Competing with YouTube's data-driven ad targeting may reduce revenue.
- **Technical Stability:** Frequent crashes on smart TVs and app glitches reduce user trust.
- **Quality Control:** Balancing inclusivity of UGC with adherence to cultural, ethical, and broadcasting norms.
- **Industry Resistance:** Private broadcasters fear revenue and viewership cannibalisation, limiting professional content sharing.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

Prasar Bharati's OTT initiative represents India's effort to create a **public service UGC platform** rooted in cultural values, family-centric programming, and digital self-reliance. While promising as an alternative to global platforms, success depends on overcoming monetisation, regulatory, and technical challenges. For UPSC, this topic is relevant under **GS-II (Government Policies, Regulatory Frameworks, Role of Autonomous Bodies)**, **GS-III (Science & Tech, Digital Economy, Media Regulation)**, and **Essay/GS-IV (Ethics in Media & Technology Use)**.

8. India Set to Become 2nd-Largest Economy

1. Growth Projections (EY Report 2025)



- India's GDP (Purchasing Power Parity - PPP) is projected to reach **\$20.7 trillion by 2030** and **\$34.2 trillion by 2038**, making it the **world's second-largest economy**.
- India is emerging as one of the most dynamic among the top 5 global economies, driven by **domestic demand** and modern technological capabilities.

2. Impact of US Tariffs

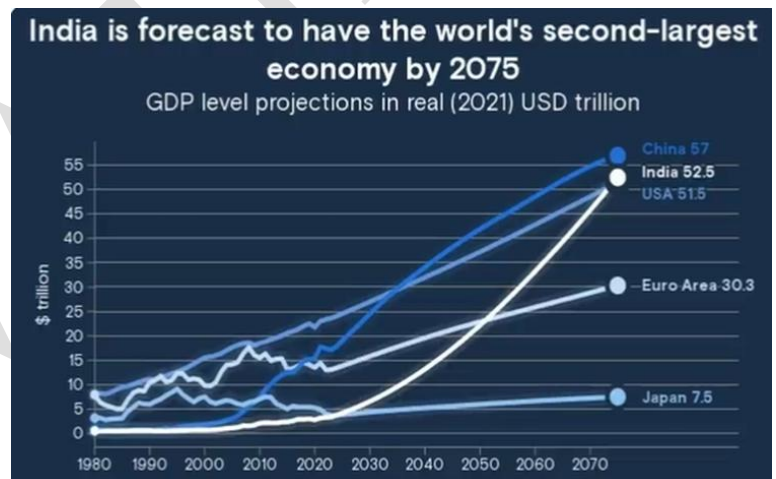
- The report highlights that higher **US tariffs on selected Indian imports** may adversely affect growth.
- With appropriate countermeasures (diversification of exports, domestic reforms), the impact can be limited to **~10 basis points (0.1%) of real GDP growth**.

3. Strong Economic Fundamentals

- Key drivers of India's resilience include:
 - **High savings and investment rates.**
 - **Demographic advantage** (young population).
 - **Sustainable fiscal position** with cautious deficit management.
- India's growth model is increasingly **self-reliant**, based on **domestic demand rather than export dependency**.

4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Purchasing Power Parity (PPP):** An economic metric comparing different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach, adjusting GDP for cost of living and inflation rates.
- **Basis Point (bps):** A unit of measure used in finance to describe percentage changes. 1 basis point = 0.01%.



5. Constitutional & Policy Framework

- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):** Articles 38 and 39 mandate the state to secure a social order promoting welfare and equitable growth.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:** Provides a framework for maintaining fiscal discipline, essential for sustaining long-term growth.
- **Make in India, Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Government programs supporting domestic manufacturing, technology adoption, and economic self-reliance.

6. Challenges Ahead

- **Global uncertainties** such as trade wars, tariff pressures, and slowing international trade.
- **Need for structural reforms** in labour, infrastructure, and skill development.
- **Balancing fiscal consolidation** with growth stimulus will be crucial.



Conclusion

India's projected rise to the **second-largest global economy** reflects robust fundamentals, demographic strength, and policy-driven reforms. While external challenges like US tariffs pose risks, India's domestic demand-driven growth model and tech-driven development provide resilience.

UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS Paper III (Economy)**: Growth projections, trade challenges, fiscal policy.
- Links with **International Relations (GS II)**: Impact of US tariffs on India.
- Prelims utility: Definitions (PPP, basis point), reports (EY Economy Watch).
- Essay relevance: "India's Rise in Global Economy: Opportunities and Challenges."

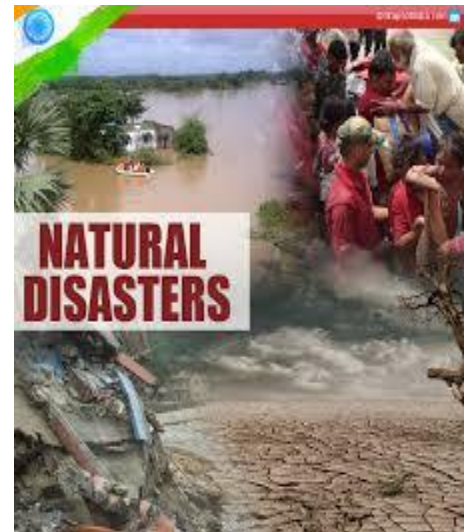
9. Natural Disasters and India's Preparedness – Key Summary

1. Rising Vulnerability to Extreme Weather Events

- India has seen a significant rise in natural disasters, with 3,080 deaths recorded in 2024-25 due to extreme natural events (highest in a decade, 17% increase over previous year).
- The Himalayas, being ecologically fragile, are especially prone to flash floods, cloudbursts, and landslides (e.g., Dharali, Uttarakhand disaster 2025).
- IMD reported North India's wettest monsoon since 2013, with 21 extreme rain events in August 2025 (highest since data collection began in 2021).

2. Climate Change Linkages

- **Definition:** *Climate Change* refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, mainly due to human activities like burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and unplanned development.
- UN reports show climate-related disasters almost doubled between 1980–1999 and 2000–2019.
- Global examples: July 2025 flash floods in Texas killed 135; India mirrors this trend.
- Secretary General António Guterres calls climate change the "defining issue of our time."



3. Anthropogenic and Policy Failures

- Rampant, often illegal, construction in fragile Himalayan zones, unregulated hydropower projects, and heavy tourist pressure aggravate disaster risks.
- Weaknesses include inadequate real-time monitoring, absence of extensive automatic weather stations, and delayed early-warning systems.
- Example: Kedarnath tragedy (2013) highlighted consequences of unchecked development and poor disaster preparedness.



4. Institutional & Technological Measures

- **NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority):** Created under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, post-2004 Tsunami, expanded mandate for risk reduction, preparedness, and capacity-building.
- **ISRO–NASA NISAR Satellite Project:** Aims to monitor climate change impacts, map ecological risks, and forecast disasters using high-resolution Earth observation data.
- Need for *restoration of fragile ecological zones, natural buffer creation*, and strict enforcement of environmental clearance laws.

5. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 21:** Right to life includes the right to a safe environment.
- **Article 48A (Directive Principles):** Duty of the State to protect and improve the environment.
- **Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duties):** Duty of citizens to protect the natural environment.
- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Provides the statutory framework for disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

India is at a critical juncture where climate change and unplanned development are intensifying disaster vulnerabilities. While institutional measures like NDMA and technological initiatives like NISAR show progress, gaps in preparedness, enforcement, and ecological protection persist. For sustainable development, India must adopt an integrated approach combining early warning systems, eco-sensitive planning, and resilient infrastructure.

UPSC Relevance: Important for GS1 (Geography – Natural Disasters, Climate Change), GS2 (Governance, Disaster Management Act), GS3 (Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management, Technology), GS4 (Ethics – Responsibility towards environment & intergenerational equity).

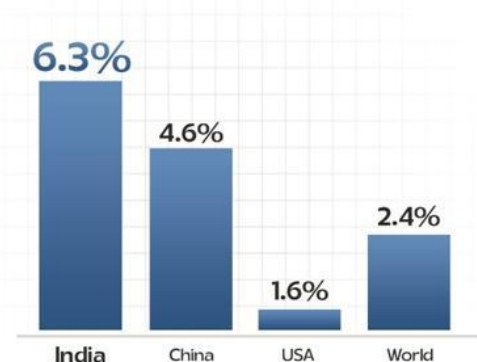
10. Improving GDP Measurement for India's Rise

Context: The UN Statistical Commission has adopted the *System of National Accounts 2025 (SNA 2025)*, which introduces major changes in how GDP and national accounts are measured. For India, aspiring to become a developed nation by 2047, these reforms are critical to capture sustainability, inclusiveness, and equitable growth.

1. Redefining GDP and Natural Capital

- **Definition:** *Gross Domestic Product (GDP)* is the total monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country. However, it does not account for natural resource depletion or income inequality.
- Under *SNA 2025*, depletion of natural resources (coal, iron ore, oil, gas) will be recorded as a **cost of production**, reducing *Net Domestic Product (NDP)*.
- Renewable resources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal) will be treated as assets, strengthening the case for linking climate action with wealth creation.

Global Economic Growth Projections for 2025



Source: World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 (Mid Year Update)



- **Implication:** Resource-rich states (Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa) may see lower headline GSDP if depletion is factored in, pushing debates on royalties, intergenerational equity, and sustainability funds.

2. Distributional Accounts – Measuring Inequality

- *SNA 2025* proposes thematic accounts linking GDP to **household-level distribution** of income, savings, and consumption by socio-economic groups.
- This will enable policymakers to track “**who benefits from growth**”, not just aggregate growth figures.
- Integration of NSS, PLFS, Household Consumption Survey, and tax data will strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

3. Recognition of Unpaid Work and Care Economy

- Household production and **unpaid care work**, especially by women, will be part of extended accounts.
- India’s *Time Use Surveys (2019, 2024)* provide the statistical basis for recognizing women’s invisible contribution.
- This is vital for gender-sensitive budgeting and inclusive growth policies.

4. India’s Preparedness and Past Efforts

- The *Dasgupta Committee (2013)* and *EnvStats India* (since 2018) already include accounts for forests, minerals, water, and ecosystems.
- PLFS (2017), AIDIS, and Household Consumption Surveys form the foundation for distributional accounts.
- Current base revision exercise in National Accounts provides an opportunity to integrate SNA 2025 fully.

5. Constitutional and Legal Dimensions

- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs):** Articles 39(b) (distribution of resources for common good), 47 (raising nutrition and living standards), and 48A (protection of environment).
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Aligns with SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 10 (reduced inequality).
- **Finance Commissions:** Can use revised accounts to recommend equitable fiscal transfers between states.

6. Way Forward

- Develop a **work plan** for integration of SNA 2025 into NAS.
- Improve statistical communication to counter misinformation and highlight India’s progress.
- Institutionalize sustainability and inequality indicators into policymaking at Union and state levels.

Conclusion

The adoption of SNA 2025 represents a paradigm shift: from measuring growth purely through GDP to a



more **holistic framework of wealth, sustainability, and equity**. For India's vision of *Viksit Bharat by 2047*, aligning national accounts with global standards is both timely and necessary.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS3 (Economy):** National Income, GDP measurement, sustainable development.
- **GS2 (Governance & Policy):** Equity, welfare state, role of data in policymaking.
- **Essay & Ethics:** Themes of “*growth vs development*”, intergenerational justice, and inclusiveness.

11. Revised National Action Plan on Glanders – Key Highlights

Context: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has rolled out a *Revised National Action Plan* to eradicate **Glanders**, a contagious and often fatal disease affecting equines (horses, mules, donkeys).

1. Definition & Disease Profile

- **Glanders:** A zoonotic disease caused by *Burkholderia mallei*; primarily affects equines but can infect other animals and humans.
- **Zoonotic disease:** Diseases that spread between animals and humans (e.g., rabies, bird flu, glanders).
- Classified as a **notifiable disease** under the *Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009*, making reporting mandatory.

2. Key Features of Revised Action Plan

- **Surveillance Zones:** Infected zone radius reduced from 5 km → 2 km; surveillance zone redefined as 2–10 km instead of 5–25 km.
- **Enhanced Surveillance:** Mandatory testing in endemic/high-risk areas with advanced laboratory diagnostics and field inspections.
- **Quarantine & Movement Control:** Strict quarantine, regulated transport, and certification protocols for equine fairs and yatras.
- **Rapid Response Mechanism:** SOPs for containment, humane handling of positive cases, and coordination with states.

3. Capacity Building & Awareness

- Training of veterinarians, para-vets, and field staff for glanders recognition, biosafety, and reporting.
- Outreach programs for horse owners, breeders, transporters, and local communities to ensure cooperation.

4. Institutional Collaboration & Research

- Support from **ICAR–National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar** for advanced diagnostics and epidemiological studies.
- Joint implementation with state governments, veterinary universities, and ICAR institutes under DAHD oversight.



5. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 48:** State's duty to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern lines.
- **Article 48A:** Protection and safeguarding of environment and wildlife.
- **PCICDA Act, 2009:** Provides legal framework for controlling infectious diseases in animals.
- Linked with **One Health Approach** – recognizing interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health.

6. Broader Significance

- Protects livelihoods of communities dependent on equines for transport, fairs, and agriculture.
- Contributes to national biosecurity and prevents zoonotic spillovers.
- Supports India's preparedness for global trade compliance (as per OIE/WOAH animal health standards).

Conclusion

The Revised Action Plan on Glanders reflects India's shift towards **science-based disease management**, stricter surveillance, and the *One Health framework*. It balances animal health, public health, and livelihood security, marking a step toward sustainable veterinary governance.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS3 (Economy, Environment, Agriculture, Disaster Management):** Animal husbandry, disease control, biosecurity.
- **GS2 (Governance & Policy):** Role of state-centre coordination, implementation of legal provisions like PCICDA Act.
- **Essay/Ethics:** One Health, zoonotic diseases, and ethical animal management.

12. Joint Doctrines for Special Forces & Airborne-Heliborne Operations

1. Context & Definition

- The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** released two landmark doctrinal publications:
 - *Joint Doctrine for Special Forces Operations*
 - *Joint Doctrine for Airborne & Heliborne Operations*
- **Doctrine (Definition):** A set of fundamental principles guiding the conduct of military operations to achieve national security objectives.
- Released during **RAN SAMWAD Tri-service seminar** at Army War College, Madhya Pradesh (August 27, 2025).



2. Key Features of the Doctrines

- **Special Forces Doctrine:** Provides guiding principles for planning and execution of Special Forces missions in complex, high-risk environments.



- **Airborne & Heliborne Doctrine:** Lays down operational concepts for rapid deployment of troops/equipment by air for surprise, speed, and flexibility.
- **Interoperability Framework:** Enhances coordination and jointness between Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Operational Concepts:** Focus on precision, adaptability, and multi-domain operations in the evolving battlespace.

3. Institutional & Strategic Importance

- Formulated under the **Doctrine Directorate, HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS)** with active participation of all three services.
- Serves as a pivotal reference for planners, commanders, and operators.
- Enhances **joint operational capability** and prepares India for modern hybrid and asymmetric warfare.

4. Broader Security Significance

- Enhances **tri-service synergy** critical for modern warfare, counter-terrorism, and strategic deterrence.
- Strengthens India's ability to respond swiftly to **emerging security threats** (terrorism, cross-border infiltration, insurgencies, and high-intensity conflicts).
- Supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence** by creating indigenous doctrine frameworks aligned with Indian strategic needs.

5. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 51A(d):** Duty of every citizen to defend the country.
- **Union List (Seventh Schedule, Entry 1 & 2A):** Defence of India, armed forces, and integrated command structures.
- Linked with **The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** in special operational contexts.
- Strengthens India's commitment to **national security under Article 355**, ensuring protection of states against external aggression/internal disturbances.

6. Comparative/Additional Keypoints

- Aligns with **Theaterisation reforms** and creation of integrated theatre commands.
- Reflects global best practices of joint warfare seen in the US, UK, and NATO doctrines.
- Addresses challenges of **4th and 5th generation warfare**, cyber threats, and information warfare.

Conclusion

The release of Joint Doctrines marks a transformative step in **institutionalising jointness in Indian armed forces**, ensuring preparedness for multi-domain, high-intensity, and asymmetric conflicts. It demonstrates India's commitment to modernising defence structures and enhancing strategic autonomy.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS3 (Internal Security, Defence Modernisation, Disaster Response):** Tri-service synergy, counter-terrorism, doctrine development.



- **GS2 (Governance):** Role of CDS, inter-agency coordination, and national security architecture.
 - **Essay/Ethics:** Themes of professionalism, duty, and jointness in national defence.
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