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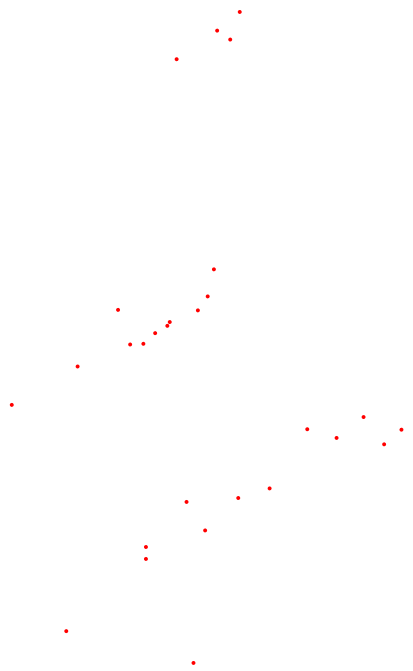


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10 MCQ QUIZ

“Consistency is
silent; success is
loud — exams
reward the quiet
discipline you
practice daily.”

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BY BHUNESH SIR

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ably bigger than Masharo."

The Venezuelan government, now headed by interim leader Delcy Rodríguez, the former Vice President, has not immediately responded to Mr. Trump's claim.

'Narco-terrorism'
Mr. Rodríguez had earlier said Mr. Maduro was the only legitimate President of the country. Mr. Maduro

Govt. pegs real GDP growth at 7.4% amid concerns over tariffs

Estimate for next fiscal comes with uncertainties and 50% U.S. tariffs hitting labour-intensive sectors; with Q1 and Q2 growing at 7.8% and 8.2%, second half will see growth slow to 6.8%; consumer spending to grow at 7% slower than last year

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has estimated that real growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country will stand at 7.4% in the current financial year 2025-26, up from 6.5% recorded the previous year.

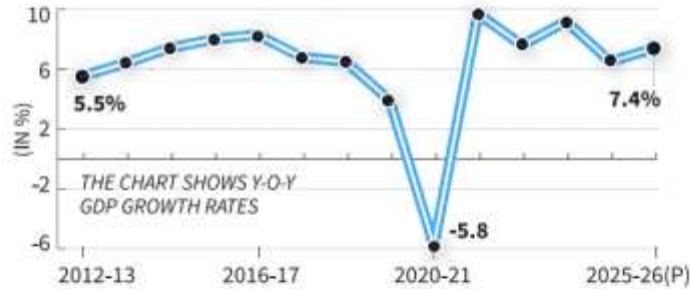
In the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of GDP for 2025-26, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday, the government said that nominal growth for the year would be 8%.

The FAE for any year is important as it forms the basis for various calculations and ratios used in preparing the Union Budget.

The First Advance Esti-

GDP trajectory

Real GDP is estimated to attain a level of ₹201.90 lakh crore in FY26, registering a growth rate of 7.4% compared to FY25



mates, and the Second Advance Estimates, which will be released on February 27, are forecasts of the full year's growth based on data available up to that point. The Provisional Estimates for 2025-26, based on the full-year's data, will be released on May 30.

Based on the Centre's assessment that the full

year's growth would be 7.4%, and the fact that Q1 and Q2 saw 7.8% and 8.2% growth respectively, the second half of the year would see average growth slow to 6.8%.

Braving headwinds

In December, the Reserve Bank of India had said that GDP growth in 2025-26

would be 7.3%, with Q3 growing at 7% and Q4 at 6.5%.

These projections come at a time when India's economy is facing several headwinds. The 50% tariff levied by the U.S. on imports from India has hit several labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles, and engineering goods. The government has tried to boost consumer demand through both direct tax and indirect tax rate cuts, but the data shows it nevertheless expects Private Final Consumption Expenditure, a metric that captures consumer spending, to grow at 7% in 2025-26, marginally slower than the 7.2% recorded last year.

The mining and quarrying sector is estimated to contract in 2025-26 by

0.7%, as compared to a growth of 2.7% the previous year.

The tertiary sector, which comprises the services sectors, is expected to see growth quicken to 9.1% in 2025-26 from 7.2% in 2024-25. Within this, the 'financial, real estate and profession services', and the 'public administration, defence, and other services' sub-groupings are both expected to grow at 9.9% in 2025-26.

The 'trade, hotels, transport and communication' category is expected to grow at a relatively slower 7.5% in 2025-26, although this is faster than the 6.1% seen in 2024-25.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation, on the other hand, is expected to grow at 7.8% in 2025-26, faster than the 7.1% seen in 2024-25.

📌 GDP Growth Estimate 2025-26

- भारत की Real GDP growth वर्ष 2025-26 में 7.4% रहने का अनुमान
(India's real GDP growth is estimated at 7.4% in FY 2025-26)
 - पिछले वर्ष (2024-25) में यह 6.5% थी
(Up from 6.5% in the previous year)
 - अनुमान Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) द्वारा First Advance Estimates (FAE) में दिया गया
-

📌 Quarterly Growth Trend

- Q1: 7.8%
- Q2: 8.2%
- Second half (H2): औसत growth घटकर 6.8%
(Growth expected to slow in second half)

👉 कारण / Reason:


- US tariffs
- Global uncertainty
- Slower consumer demand

Impact of US Tariffs

- **USA ने भारत से आयात पर 50% tariff लगाया**
(US imposed 50% tariffs on imports from India)
 - सबसे अधिक प्रभावित **labour-intensive sectors**:
 - Apparel
 - Textiles
 - Engineering goods
-

Consumption & Investment

- **Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE):**
 - 2025-26: ~7%
 - 2024-25: 7.2%
 - उपभोक्ता खर्च में **marginal slowdown**
(Consumer spending growth moderates)
 - **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):**
 - 2025-26: 7.8%
 - 2024-25: 7.1%

 Investment momentum remains strong
-

Sector-wise Growth Outlook

- **Services sector:**
 - 2025-26: 9.1%
 - 2024-25: 7.2%
 - तेज़ी के क्षेत्र:
 - Financial services
 - Real estate
 - Professional services
 - Public administration & defence
 - **Trade, hotels, transport, communication:**
 - 2025-26: 7.5%
 - **Mining & quarrying:**
 - 2025-26 में contraction expected
-

RBI Outlook

- Reserve Bank of India का अनुमान:
 - GDP growth ~7.3%
- Q3: ~7%
- Q4: ~6.5%

Topic	Data / Fact	Exam Use
Real GDP	Inflation-adjusted growth	Conceptual MCQ
Nominal GDP growth	~8%	Economy basics
First Advance Estimates	Based on data till Dec	Budget linkage
Provisional Estimates	Released on May 30	Static + CA
Second Advance Estimates	Feb 27	Timeline question
Tariff impact	Labour-intensive sectors hit	Mains GS-III
Services share	~55% of GDP	Structural economy
PFCE	~60% of GDP	Consumption theory

Exam	Year	Question (Memory / Exact)	Answer
UPSC Prelims	2020	What does “Gross Fixed Capital Formation” indicate?	Investment in fixed assets
UPSC Prelims	2022	PFCE is used to measure	Consumer spending
SSC CGL	2021	Which sector contributes the most to India’s GDP?	Services sector
RBI Grade B	2019	Difference between real & nominal GDP?	Inflation adjusted
RRB NTPC	2020	Which body releases GDP estimates in India?	MoSPI
State PSC (MPPSC)	2023	First Advance Estimates are released in	January

**Which sector is
expected to grow
fastest in 2025-
26?**

- A) Mining
- B) Manufacturing
- C) Services
- D) Agriculture

Venezuela will 'turn over' up to 50 mn barrels of oil to U.S.: Trump

Stanly Johnny

U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed that Venezuela's interim government would send 30 to 50 million barrels of oil to the United States, after Washington invaded the oil-rich South American country on January 3 and captured its President, Nicolas Maduro.

"I am pleased to announce that the Interim Authorities in Venezuela will be turning over between 30 and 50 million barrels of high quality, sanctioned oil, to the United States of America," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post on Tuesday.

After capturing Mr. Maduro in a night-time attack, which according to American media killed at least 75 people, including 32 Cu-

bans, Mr. Trump had said the U.S. would "run" Venezuela and that American oil companies would return to the country and make investments. Later, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the U.S. was not seeking to "govern" Venezuela but would enforce changes through economic sanctions and a naval quarantine, which is currently in place on oil tankers going in and coming out of Venezuela.

In Tuesday's post, Mr. Trump said the oil sent by Venezuela would be sold at the market price and the proceeds would be controlled by him "to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States". But he did not say what Venezuela would get in return or provide a timeline for shipping



A demonstration was held against the U.S. military action in Venezuela, in Washington DC on Tuesday. AFP

the oil. Meanwhile, Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez insisted that no foreign power was governing her country, according to an AFP report.

Ms. Rodriguez has given mixed signals about how much she is prepared to cooperate with Mr. Trump, at times sounding conciliatory, and at others defiant.

Speaking three days after U.S. attack, Ms. Rodriguez said: "The government of Venezuela is in charge in our country, and no-one else." "There is no foreign agent governing Venezuela."

Mr. Trump, however, insists Washington is now "in charge" of the Caribbean country but has said he is

Trump is mulling the purchase of Greenland: U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump has "actively discussed" the purchase of Greenland with his team, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt has said, adding he preferred diplomacy but would not rule out military action. » PAGE 14

prepared to work with Ms. Rodriguez – provided she submits to his demand for access to oil reserves.

"I have asked Energy Secretary Chris Wright to execute this plan, immediately. It will be taken by storage ships, and brought directly to unloading docks in the United States," he added.

Venezuela, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves, currently produces less than one million barrels of oil a day. At the current production levels, it would take more than two months for Venezuela to produce 50 million barrels of oil. At the current price – around \$60 per barrel Brent crude – 50 million barrels of oil would be worth roughly \$3 billion.

The Venezuelan government, now headed by interim leader Delcy Rodriguez, the former Vice President, has not immediately responded to Mr. Trump's claim.

'Narco-terrorism'

Ms. Rodriguez had earlier said Mr. Maduro was the only legitimate President of the country. Mr. Maduro

is currently in U.S. captivity, facing charges of "narco-terrorism".

On January 5, after she was appointed the interim leader by Venezuela's top court, Ms. Rodriguez issued a statement, reaffirming Venezuela's "commitment to peaceful coexistence".

"We invite the U.S. government to collaborate with us on an agenda of cooperation oriented towards shared development within the framework of international law to strengthen lasting community coexistence," she said, signalling cooperation with Washington.

Mr. Trump had threatened her on January 4, saying, "If she doesn't do what's right, she is going to pay a very big price, probably bigger than Maduro."

Main Claim by Donald Trump

- **US President Donald Trump** का दावा:
Venezuela 30–50 million barrels of oil अमेरिका को देगा
(Trump claimed Venezuela would “turn over” 30–50 mn barrels of oil to the US)
 - यह दावा **Washington** द्वारा **Venezuela** में सैन्य हस्तक्षेप के बाद आया
(Claim followed alleged US military action in Venezuela)
-

Political Context in Venezuela

- **Venezuela** के राष्ट्रपति **Nicolás Maduro** को सत्ता से हटाए जाने का दावा
 - Interim leader के रूप में **Delcy Rodríguez** को स्थापित किया गया
 - Rodríguez ने कहा:
 - “Venezuela is governed by its own people, not by any foreign power.”
-

Oil & Economic Dimension

- Venezuela के पास दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा **proven oil reserve** है
(*World's largest proven oil reserves*)
 - वर्तमान उत्पादन:
 - **< 1 million barrels/day**
 - मौजूदा उत्पादन स्तर पर:
 - **50 million barrels** उत्पादन में **>2 months** लगेंगे
 - Oil price (Brent crude):
 - ~\$60/barrel
 - 50 mn barrels \approx **\$3 billion**
-

US Strategy (As per Trump)

- Oil को **market price** पर बेचा जाएगा
- Proceeds को **US-controlled mechanism** से उपयोग करने की बात
- US oil companies को Venezuela में वापस लाने का संकेत
- **Economic sanctions + naval quarantine** का ज़िक्र

Topic	Key Fact	Exam Relevance
Largest oil reserves	Venezuela	Prelims static
Brent crude	Global benchmark	Economy MCQ
Barrels vs value	50 mn \approx \$3 bn	Data-based
Sanctions	Economic warfare tool	GS-II
Naval quarantine	Blockade-type action	IR
Proven reserves	Quantity not equal to production	Conceptual
Oil diplomacy	Resource as leverage	GS-II/III

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	2019	Country with largest proven oil reserves?	Venezuela
UPSC Prelims	2021	Brent crude relates to	Global oil pricing
UPSC Mains	2020	Discuss impact of economic sanctions on developing nations	Sanctions affect growth
SSC CGL	2022	Which is NOT an OPEC founder?	Qatar
RBI Grade B	2021	Oil price rise impacts India through	Inflation & CAD
State PSC	2023	Meaning of 'proven reserves'	Technically recoverable

Brent crude is:



- A) Indian crude benchmark
- B) US shale oil
- C) Global oil pricing benchmark
- D) OPEC index

ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite on Jan. 12

**The Hindu Bureau
BANGALURU**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOSS-NI Mission on January 12.

The launch of the earth observation satellite (EOSS-NI) satellite along with other payloads will take place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Strategic use

EOSS-NI is an earth imaging satellite said to be built for strategic purposes. ISRO attempted to launch the EOSS-NI satellite aboard the PSLV-C62 on January 12, 2025, but it failed.

"The launch of PSLV-C62 Mission is scheduled on 12 January 2025 at 10:17 hrs IST," ISRO posted on X.

The PSLV-C62/EOSS-NI mission is the first launch for ISRO in 2025. The satellite will be launched within a few days of successfully launching the

U.S.'s Shortfall Block2 satellite communication satellite in low earth orbit on December 24 onboard the LVM-3 launch vehicle.

Post glitch

The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOSS-NI mission will be the 10th launch from Sriharikota.

It is also an important launch for the space agency as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which is ISRO's workhorse, had suffered a glitch during its previous attempt to launch a satellite.

On May 16, 2023, while the EOSS-NI satellite aboard the PSLV-C62 could not accomplish the mission due to an observation in the third stage of the rocket.

The PSLV-C62/EOSS-NI mission will also launch payloads for ISRO in 2025, including science and academia from India and abroad.

Kerala's new language Bill is unconstitutional: Karnataka

Delegation urges Kerala Governor to reject Bill that makes Malayalam compulsory first language in all Kerala schools; it says draft law is against interests of Kannada-speaking minority in Kerala

**Shruthi S. Sivasana
BENGALURU**

Yet another thorn in the Karnataka-Kerala relationship, the Karnataka government has taken objection to the Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, that makes Malayalam the compulsory first language in all schools across Kerala.

A delegation from Karnataka met Kerala Governor Rajendra Arunkar and urged him to reject the Bill.

Karnataka has said that the Bill is "unconstitutional" and against the interest of the Kannada-speaking linguistic minority in Kerala, especially those living in the border district of Kasargod.

The delegation from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority met Kerala Governor Rajendra Arunkar and urged him to reject the Bill.

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The PSLV-C62/EOSS-NI mission will also launch payloads for ISRO in 2025, including science and academia from India and abroad.



A team from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority with Kerala Governor Rajendra Arunkar in Kasargod on Wednesday.

the authority's letter to the Governor pointed out, "We want Kasargod, where more than 70% of the population is Kannada speaking, to be scheduled from the provision of the Bill, especially those living in the border district of Kasargod."

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the delegation. Mr. Arunkar promised us that he would consider our plea," he said.

"The chosen clause on the basis of Rogila Layout demolition following which the dispute arose between Karnataka and Kerala leaders, especially after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan dubbed the demolition "the usual normalisation of bulldozer rule".

Pointing out the provisions of the Bill, the Karnataka government has said, "Section 2(2) defines that the first language Malayalam should be taught as compulsory subject in Kerala schools up to Class 10 in all government and aided schools. In Kasargod and other Kannada-speaking areas of Kerala, linguistic minority students are affected by this provision, which is against the rights of the language and another language as second language."

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Anbumani-led PMK joins NDA fold in T.N. ahead of polls

**Lithay Nair
CHENNAI**

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniyandam and PMK leader Anbumani Sathianathan on Wednesday jointly announced that the PMK would contest the 2025 Assembly election as a part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu.

The announcement was made at the official residence of Mr. Palaniyandam on Greenways Road in Chennai.

While the two leaders refused to reveal the number of seats the PMK would contest, sources privy to the agreement said it would "most likely" contest 18 seats, lower than the 23 seats it contested in the previous Assembly election. Besides, it would be allotted a Rupa Sabha seat.

This time the party is split with a section support Mr. Anbumani's estranged father and party founder S. Karunanidhi.

The PMK, which contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a part of the NDA, unsuccessfully is the first party with sizeable following among the Vanniar community, to join the alliance after the AIADMK and BJP revived ties last April.

Speaking after the conclusion of the negotiations, Mr. Palaniyandam, who is also leader of the party, said, "The AIADMK and PMK formed an alliance with the BJP. Now, PMK has joined our alliance. Soon, more parties will join. This



Anbumani Sathianathan

is a natural alliance. We have formed this as per the wishes of the functionaries of both parties. This will be a victorious alliance formed to realise the goal of removing the anti-principle DMK in the upcoming assembly elections." He insisted the AIADMK alliance will win in most of 234 out of 234 seats and form a government that would on its own implement schemes that people desire.

Mr. Anbumani said, "We have joined the alliance that all of our cadre wished for. It is a strong alliance. Anti-people, anti-women, anti-social justice, anti-working class people and corrupt DMK government must be removed. We are going to post a huge win. People are angry with the DMK and AIADMK will form the next government."

Predicting the development elicited a sharp reaction from Mr. Ramadoss, who contended only he has been "authorised" at the party's general council meeting to hold negotiations regarding the alliance and that any agreement reached with the AIADMK could be "illegal".

The Cyber Crime Police of Hyderabad arrested a YouTuber for allegedly creating and circulating child sexual abuse content through social media platforms.

The accused, Karanth Surya Murthy, 30, a resident of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, was running a YouTube channel, where objectionable videos involving minors were uploaded. Police said the videos featured interviews with children aged between 10 and 17, in which he allegedly asked obscene and sexually explicit questions. In one of the videos, he allegedly induced two minors to kiss each other.

The police registered a non-bailable arrest warrant against Mr. Murthy on October 16, 2024, after the videos were noticed online.

IN BRIEF



Evicted families at a recent protest in Bengaluru. J. ALLEN CORRIE

Online booking of rooms for Makaravilakku to begin soon

Extensive arrangements have been made for the January 14 Makaravilakku festival at the Subramanya temple, the Kerala government and the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) said here on Wednesday. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will operate 900 buses to carry devotees to the temple. The government will also provide food and accommodation for devotees. The festival will be held from January 14 to 16. The online booking system from January 10.

Three workers killed in sugar factory accident in Karnataka

Three workers were killed in a boiler accident in the factory of Inamdar Sugars in Marikudi village of Karnataka's Belagavi district on Wednesday. Five others were injured. The accident was reported from Company Street Number One where workers gathered to repair a heat valve. A case has been registered. SP S. Ramarajan and other police officers visited the spot. Inamdar Sugars is a private factory that has family members of former MLA D.D. Inamdar and KLE Society chairman Prabhakar Kore as members of the governing board.

Ballari DIG transferred over clash that killed Cong. worker

The Karnataka government on Wednesday transferred Ballari range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Vardhika Kattiyar over the clash in Ballari that claimed the life of a Congress worker on January 1. The government had previously suspended Pawan Nigam, who was the Superintendent of Police at Ballari when the clash erupted. Mr. Kattiyar has been replaced by S.S. Harisha, an officer of Inspector General of Police (IGP) rank. Numan D. Pennekar, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Police (Deputy Commr), Bengaluru, is the new Ballari SP.

Satellite images debunk claims of evicted residents, Karnataka govt. tells HC

**The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU**

The Karnataka government on Wednesday informed the High Court that it has satellite images to prove when each of the houses at the illegally developed Fakir and Western colonies were built on government land in Rogila layout in north Bengaluru, while rejecting the claim of some residents that they had been residing in the now-demolished houses for the past 28 years.

State Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty made these submissions before a Division Bench during the hearing of a PIL petition filed by three women, who were among those evicted from the colonies on December 30.

Rejecting the claim of the petitioners that they were evicted without following the due process of law and the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court on eviction, the A-G said the top court's judgment was not applicable to the present case. He said the land on which the petitioners had built houses was not state land. The area was initially used for sparring and later as landfill.



Evicted families at a recent protest in Bengaluru. J. ALLEN CORRIE

The A-G told the court that the displaced families were being accommodated in temporary centres till further orders of the court. They were provided with food, he said. The bench adjourned further hearing till January 23.

The petitioners have urged the court to direct the government to reconstruct their houses or allot land as compensation.

BJP worker alleges police 'disrobed' her; leaders stage protest

**The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU**

There was widespread outrage in Karnataka after a woman, said to be a BJP worker, alleged that she was "disrobed" by police officers during her arrest in Hubballi. A video clip of the purported incident has gone viral on social media.

The police denied the allegation and said the woman, who faces several charges, removed her clothes to resist the arrest. She also attacked the police van and removed her clothes after getting into the police van.

In response, the woman contended, with the help of locals, brought clothes to cover her, he said. Mr. Handi also hit one of the police officers on the stomach, he said. Three cases had been registered against Mr. Handi for assaulting residents in her locality, he added.

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With coir, Kerala carpenter team recreates vessel of yore

**Mithosh Joseph
KOTHAMANGALAM**

A native shipwright's dream to craft a masterpiece for his country came to fruition when the Navy's pioneering "stitched" sailing vessel INSV Kumbhakar started her maiden voyage from Fort Belandier to Oman on December 29, 2024.

Babu Sankaran, a 61-year-old carpenter from Vazhakkara in Kozhikode district, said the craftsmen behind the vessel built with the support of a team of 20 carpenters from Malabar.



Weaving a dream: Master craftsman Babu Sankaran at work on the vessel in Goa. At right, INSV Kumbhakar embarking on her maiden voyage from Fort Belandier on December 29. AP/IC/ANIL K. AN

from Navy officials to recreate the Kumbhakar. The work began in December 2021, entirely using the traditional stitched-plank technique, he says.

He said the wooden plank used for the 18-metre-long ship were stitched together using co-

count coir rope and sealed with natural resins, preserving the sturdiness of the once-prevalent tradition along the coasts and

across the Indian Ocean. Mr. Sankaran, who had been part of six such projects in different parts of India and abroad, said the entire team camped at a shipyard in Goa for the project, supervised by Navy officers. The team finished it in 18 months.

According to Navy sources, the project was undertaken through a tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy, and Hull Innovations, as part of India's efforts to revive indigenous knowledge systems and to highlight its historic role as a maritime nation.

The vessel, inducted as an Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) into service on May 21, 2025, is named after legendary maritime seafarers who are believed to have sailed from India to Southeast Asia in the ancient times.

According to the craftsmen, the vessel incorporated several cultural and significant features. Her sails mirror the motifs of the mythical two-headed Garuda, the Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy, and Hull Innovations, as part of India's efforts to revive indigenous knowledge systems and to highlight its historic role as a maritime nation.

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ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite on Jan. 12

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12.

The launch of the earth observation satellite (EOS-N1) satellite along with other payloads will take place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Strategic use

EOS-N1 is an earth imaging satellite said to be built for strategic purposes. ISRO has not shared further details about the satellite. "The launch of PSLV-C62 Mission is scheduled on 12 January 2026 at 10:17 hrs IST," ISRO posted on X.

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission is the first launch for ISRO in 2026 and comes within a few days of successfully launching the

U.S.'s BlueBird Block-2 satellite communication satellite in low earth orbit on December 24 onboard the LVM-3 launch vehicle.

Post glitch

The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission will be the 105th launch from Sriharikota.

It is also an important launch for the space agency as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), which is ISRO's workhorse, had suffered a glitch during its previous attempt to launch a satellite.

On May 18, 2025, while ISRO attempted to launch the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 it could not accomplish the mission due to an observation in the third stage of the rocket.

PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission will also launch payloads developed by start-up and academia from India and abroad.

Launch Overview

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
12 January 2026 को PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission लॉन्च करेगा
(ISRO is scheduled to launch PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 mission on Jan 12, 2026)
 - लॉन्च समय: 10:17 hrs IST
 - लॉन्च स्थल: Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
-

Satellite Details

- EOS-N1 एक Earth Observation / Imaging satellite है
(EOS-N1 is an earth imaging satellite)
 - इसे **strategic purposes** के लिए बनाया गया है
(Built for strategic use)
 - ISRO ने इसकी **technical specifications** साझा नहीं कीं
-

Mission Significance

- यह ISRO का 2026 का पहला मिशन है
(First ISRO launch of 2026)
- यह Sriharikota से 105वाँ प्रक्षेपण (105th launch) होगा
- PSLV is referred to as ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle

Post-Glitch Context

स्ट्रुचर्ड हण्डल जून May
2025 डू डू
EOS-09 / PSLV-C61 mission
१ टू च घण्टा

Failure डू व डू वघर:

- Third stage of PSLV रू observation / anomaly

→ स्ट्रुचर्ड PSLV-C62
mission **confidence-**
restoring launch खरषर
नू व घण्टा पनू

Additional Payloads

PSLV-C62 डू डू टू वरू

- Startups रू घ academia वरघर
शरडू शरुल payloads कू चरू
पनू
- Indian + foreign institutions
involved

Topic	Fact	Exam Relevance
EOS	Earth Observation Satellite	Prelims
PSLV	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle	Static
ISRO workhorse	PSLV	MCQ
Launch pad	First Launch Pad, SDSC	Location
EOS use	Strategic + imaging	GS-III
Launch count	105th from Sriharikota	Factual
Failure recall	EOS-09 (May 2025)	Chronology
Payload ecosystem	Startups + academia	Space reforms

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	2016	PSLV is mainly used to place satellites in	Polar orbit
UPSC Prelims	2020	Earth observation satellites are used for	Resource mapping
UPSC Prelims	2023	Which is ISRO's workhorse?	PSLV
SSC CGL	2021	Sriharikota is located in	Andhra Pradesh
RRB NTPC	2020	ISRO headquarters are in	Bengaluru
State PSC	2022	EOS satellites help in	Disaster management

Youth leadership is key to Viksit Bharat

India's growth story will be written by those who are shaping its ideas today. Across the country, young Indians are thinking deeply about how India can grow faster, govern better, and become developed by 2047. Their ideas are emerging from campuses and communities, start-ups and sports fields, classrooms and village meetings. The real question is not *whether* the youth have something to contribute, but *whether* their ideas are given a credible platform to influence the nation's direction. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBVLD) is designed to provide that very platform.

India is home to the largest youth population in the world. It is therefore not natural that the direction of the nation's future will be shaped not merely by policies or institutions, but by the imagination, conviction and courage of its young citizens. This vast reservoir of *yuva shakti* is far more than a demographic advantage: it is India's greatest national asset, capable of driving innovation, strengthening democracy and propelling the country towards a better and sustainable development.

Lead the change
During my time as Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, I have had the opportunity to engage with young Indians in varied settings, on university campuses, in cultural districts, at sports arenas and during youth-led community initiatives. What consistently stands out is the *ardor* with which young people think about the nation's future. I recall meeting a group of young volunteers who had organised informal learning centres in their villages. With limited resources but strong conviction, they were addressing gaps in education and skill development through locally designed solutions. Experiences like these reaffirm a simple truth: when young people are trusted and given space, they do not



Manu Mohan
is the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Labour Government of India

merely participate, they lead. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call from the Red Fort to bring one lakh youth without political backgrounds into public life, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue was launched in January 2025, reimagining the National Youth Festival in an entirely new format. Over 30 lakh young people engaged through the Viksit Bharat Challenge, more than two lakh essays were submitted, and thousands of youth presented their ideas at the state level. The journey culminated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, where 3,000 youth leaders interacted in a free-flowing dialogue with the Prime Minister, who spent hours listening to their ideas and inspiring them to lead.

Shaping the India of 2047
Beyond the numbers, it was the nature of engagement that made the Dialogue truly historic. It recognised, both in letter and spirit, that the voices of India's youth matter in shaping the India of 2047. Young participants were encouraged to think critically about national challenges, propose solutions and sign personal *ardor* to their collective purpose.

The strength of the youth leadership platform lies not only in its scale, but in its design. Diversity of thought, language, culture and lived experience is embedded into the very structure of the initiative. Youth from urban and rural India, students and professionals, ministers and grassroots leaders come together on a common platform. Multiple dialogues of engagement ensure that ideas are refined through dialogue and exchange, not filtered out by geography, language or background. In doing so, the Dialogue ensures that every person who participates has both a voice and a platform to amplify it.

India's youth have always been at the heart of the nation's defining moments, from the freedom struggle to the building of

the institutions of an independent India. Today, the nation once again looks to its youth not just for participation, but for leadership and dynamism in co-creating India's growth story.

Building on the success of the first edition, VBVLD 2026, National Youth Festival in an entirely new format. Over 30 lakh young people engaged through the Viksit Bharat Challenge, more than two lakh essays were submitted, and thousands of youth presented their ideas at the state level. The journey culminated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, where 3,000 youth leaders interacted in a free-flowing dialogue with the Prime Minister, who spent hours listening to their ideas and inspiring them to lead.

More than 50 lakh young people participated in the Viksit Bharat Quiz, the first stage of selection for VBVLD 2026, making it one of the largest youth engagement exercises in its kind. Over four intensive days, participants from every corner of the country will engage with leading national and global voices, drawing upon practical insights, ideas, and visions that transcend disciplines and geographies.

Dialogue to Direction
What truly sets VBVLD 2026 apart, however, is that it gives our youth a platform not only to speak, but to be heard. On January 8, 2026, the nation will witness a historic moment as National Youth Day is celebrated with a special programme.

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Cash politics, development paradox

Lakshmi Bhandar scheme has proved electorally transformative

State of Play
Shilpa Sahay Sinha
shilpa.sinha@thehindu.com

On January 3, a little-known Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader in West Bengal triggered a political row by asking *insanuch* as Design for Bharat and *insanuch* who are beneficiaries of the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme to prevent them from voting for the Trinamool Congress during the elections.

The remark sparked outrage in the social and political circles of the state. The Trinamool Congress said it exposed the BJP's "anti-women" mindset. The BJP State committee leader Rajkumar Sinha said the BJP's "anti-women" mindset was a "misinterpretation" of the statement. Yet the controversy also brought renewed attention to Lakshmi Bhandar, one of the largest cash incentive schemes of the West Bengal government.

Announced by Chief Minister Manita Banerjee in February 2021, just months before the state assembly elections, the scheme proved electorally transformative. By January 2025, it had reached 3.21 crore beneficiaries — nearly half of the state's female population. Women aged 25 to 60 receive ₹1,000 per month under the general category and ₹1,200 under reserved categories.

Electoral edge
The political impact has been significant. The scheme has helped keep large sections of the women electorate firmly aligned with the Trinamool Congress despite serious incidents of violence against women — including the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in August 2023.

Data from the 2021 Assembly

West Bengal

ly elections showed that nearly 80% of women voters backed the Trinamool, while only 37% voted for the BJP. The BJP leadership is acutely aware of this gender gap and of how cash incentive schemes help entrench it.

In December 2025, when Mr. Banerjee unveiled a report card titled "Unanganer Panchai" (The Song of Development), he put her government's performance over the past 14 years, Lakshmi Bhandar featured prominently.

Comparing it with a one-time cash benefit of ₹50,000 announced in Bihar before elections, the Trinamool chairperson argued that her government delivers sustained annual support rather than pre-poll handouts. They (BJP in Bihar) gave ₹10,000 before the election, and there is a bulldozer now after the polls," Mr. Banerjee said.

Cash-based welfare schemes catering to different social groups has become a defining feature of the Banerjee administration. By her cabinet, she has announced 98 welfare schemes, with more promised in the next few months. When the schemes are announced, taking the number of schemes well past three digits. Even political opponents have tacitly acknowledged the impact of such schemes on the electorate. Union Home

Minister Amit Shah recently assured voters in Kolkata that none of the Trinamool government's welfare schemes would be discontinued if the BJP came to power.

While these cash incentive schemes may provide a political advantage to the ruling party, it is also important to understand their overall economic and social impact on the population. West Bengal's multidimensional poverty rate stood at 41.89%, according to Multidimensional Poverty Index. A Progress Review 2023. Although poverty declined faster than in Gujarat, the State ranked only 19th nationally, behind populous States such as U.P. and Bihar.

Real change
Cash transfers may help households stay just above the poverty line, but they often fail to generate lasting structural change.

The State's own Kanyashree scheme — designed to reduce child marriage through conditional cash transfers — illustrates this limitation. The scheme has about one crore beneficiaries on paper, but West Bengal continues to record higher number of child marriages almost a decade after the scheme was launched. The latest Sample Registration system data shows that 6.3% of women in the State were married before the age of 18, compared to a national average of 5.9%.

There is little doubt that cash incentive schemes, while Mr. Banerjee's decisive electoral edge, but while putting money directly into women's hands may shape political outcomes, it does not automatically translate into durable social transformation. Over the past few years, West Bengal has emerged as a case study of this development paradox.

How every ₹100 is spent by Indian households

Indians are shifting from subsistence needs to aspirational and service-oriented spending

Data Point
K. Chandrasekhar

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) reveals the first comprehensive update to MPCE data in over a decade, offering valuable insights into India's shifting consumption landscape. These findings are central to revisiting policy estimates, informing social policy, and understanding the lived realities of India's expanding middle-income population.

This article examines long-term MPCE trends from 1989-2000 to 2023-24, with a focus on six key expenditure categories. In this analysis, MPCE is expressed as the proportional expenditure on an item for every ₹100 of total spending.

Decline in MPCE share on food and beverages for both urban (from 48 to 42 per cent) and rural areas (from 58 to 52 per cent) confirms Engel's Law, which states that as real income rises, the proportion of income spent on food declines, even if absolute expenditure increases. (Chart 1)

Further, a fall in expenditure on cereals, alongside higher spending on fruits, eggs, fish, and processed foods, signals a shift from staple-heavy diets to more varied, protein-rich diets — albeit unevenly. Despite marginal increases, particularly in rural areas, spending on pan, tobacco, and other indulgences remains a low share of MPCE, accounting for under 2.8 per cent of spending. From a pu-

blic health perspective, the trend calls for targeted awareness programs in rural belts. (Chart 2)

The reduction in per capita food spending reflects policy successes such as Aardbhaga (rural electrification) and PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access). Lower urban spending may also reflect the use of energy-efficient appliances and access to reliable power supply. Modern fuels, in place of biomass or kerosene, improve quality of life and are an example of expenditure upgrading. (Chart 3)

The decline in spending on clothing, bedding and footwear is moderate and consistent with the transition from need-based consumption to discretionary, aspirational spending. Rising competitiveness, fast fashion, and lower textile prices may also have contributed. Rural India's slightly higher or similar spending may indicate seasonal dependence and growing aspirations. (Chart 4)

The urban housing rent share rose significantly (₹4.46 to ₹6.58 per ₹100), aligning with urbanisation, rental stress, and migration to metropolitan hubs. Rural rent remains minimal due to widespread self-owned housing, informal tenure, or rent-free arrangements. (Chart 5)

The miscellaneous category includes aspirational expenses such as health, education, conveyance, consumer services, and other similar items. Its rising share, particularly in rural MPCE (from ₹21.87 to ₹35.82 per ₹100), reflects a broadening of the consumption basket. This trend aligns with inclusive growth, deeper digital penetration, and access to improved reach and quality of both public and market-based services. (Chart 6)

Taken together, these trends reiterate that India is undergoing an economic transition, with consumption patterns gradually shifting away from subsistence needs toward more aspirational and service-oriented spending.

The views expressed are personal.

Changing consumption basket

The data for the charts were sourced from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for the period 1989-2000 to 2023-24.

The writer is a Deputy Director with the Ministry.

Chart 1: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Food & Beverages (₹ per ₹100)

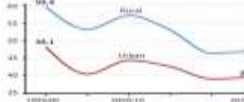


Chart 2: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Pan, Tobacco & Indulgences (₹ per ₹100)

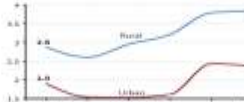


Chart 3: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Food & Light (₹ per ₹100)

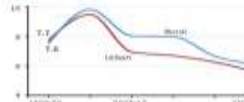


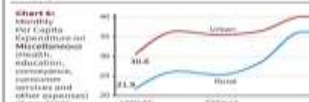
Chart 4: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Clothing, Bedding & Footwear (₹ per ₹100)



Chart 5: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Housing (Rent) (₹ per ₹100)



Chart 6: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Miscellaneous (Health, Education, Conveyance, Consumer Services, and Other) (₹ per ₹100)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1975

World Bank aid for food godowns

MADRAS, Jan. 7. The Food Corporation of India, which is to build up a sizable buffer stock in the wake of plentiful food production and continuing imports, is facing a major problem, that of creating additional storage capacity, and is looking to the World Bank for aid.

The World Bank has shown interest in the programme, which the FCI has already initiated, and Sir John Crawford, Adviser to the Finance Minister, Mr. Robert McNamara, is expected to visit India in January 19 for talks. The World Bank may give aid if it is convinced that the creation of such additional storage would lead to a problem of storage for us because there is going to be a year of plenty and "this creates a problem of storage for us because there is going to be a very heavy procurement and imports will continue." The FCI hopes to build up a sizable buffer stock — 7.5 million tonnes at the end of March and anything between 11 and 12 million tonnes in the peak season July-August. With imports also continuing the FCI was faced with a "situation of emergency" with regard to storage, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1928

Indian Birds to Fiji Islands

Mr. J.C. Ward from Australia had been in Madras on an interesting mission. His mission is to secure for the Fiji Islands a large number of specimens of birds. It would appear that the Fiji Islands was once infested with species of rats which proved pest to the island for generations and in order to destroy this pest a large number of mongoose, was imported, which not only destroyed pests but also the birds of the island. With extinction of birds the Fiji Islands became infested with another kind of pests namely, moths and insects which are causing destruction to coconut plantations and consequently reducing a great source of revenue. To get rid of these pests, the Government of Fiji addressed the Government of Australia for their permission to import a large number of birds, but since Australian birds are mostly fruit eating birds this attempt also proved a failure.

DATA POINT

K. Chandrasekar

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) captures spending pattern of Indian households across various consumption categories. Conducted every five years, the HCES provides granular estimates of Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for both rural and urban populations, covering a wide range of goods and services.

The survey rounds for 2022-23 and 2023-24 represent the first comprehensive update to MPCE data in over a decade, offering valuable insights into India's shifting consumption landscape. These findings are central to revising poverty estimates, informing social sector policy, and understanding the lived realities of India's expanding middle-income population.

This article examines long-term MPCE trends from 1999-2000 to 2023-24, with a focus on six key expenditure categories. In this analysis, MPCE is expressed as the proportional expenditure on an item for every ₹100 of total spending.

Decline in MPCE share on food and beverages for both urban (from ₹48 to ₹39 per ₹100) and rural areas (from ₹59 to ₹47 per ₹100) confirms Engel's Law, which states that as real income rises, the proportion of income spent on food declines, even if absolute expenditure increases. (Chart 1)

Further, a fall in expenditure on cereals, alongside higher spending on fruits, eggs, fish, and processed foods, signals a shift from staple-heavy diets to more varied, protein-rich diets – albeit unequally.

Despite marginal increases, particularly in rural areas, spending on pan, tobacco, and other intoxicants remains a low share of MPCE, accounting for under ₹3.8 per ₹100 of spending. From a pu-

blic health perspective, the trend calls for targeted awareness programs in rural belts. (Chart 2)

The reduction in per capita fuel spending reflects policy successes, such as Saubhagya (rural electrification) and PM Ujjwala Yojana (LPG access). Lower urban spending may also reflect the use of energy-efficient appliances and access to reliable power supply. Modern fuels, in place of biomass or kerosene, improve quality of life and are an example of expenditure substitution. (Chart 3)

The decline in spending on clothing, bedding and footwear is moderate and consistent with the transition from need-based consumption to periodic discretionary spending. Rising competition, fast fashion, and lower textile prices may also have contributed. Rural India's slightly higher or similar spending may indicate seasonal dependence and growing aspirations. (Chart 4)

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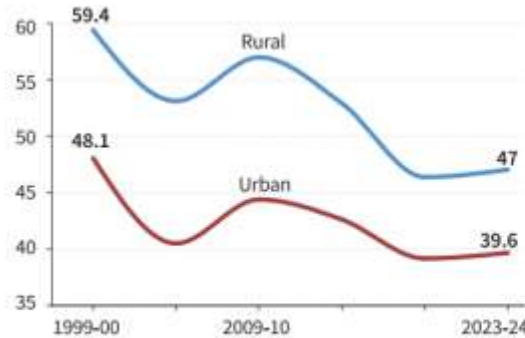


Chart 2: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants (₹ per ₹100)

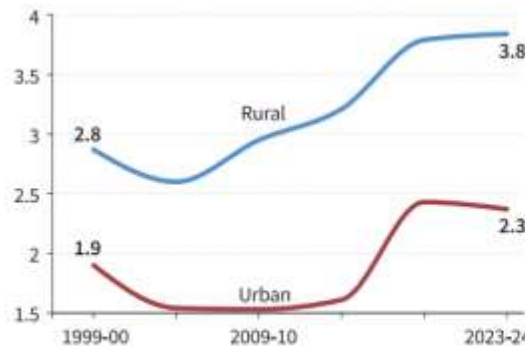


Chart 3: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Fuel & Light (₹ per ₹100)

Chart 4: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Clothing, Bedding & Footwear (₹ per ₹100)

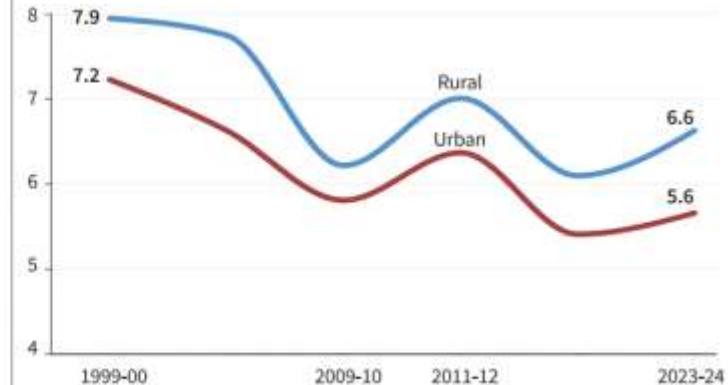
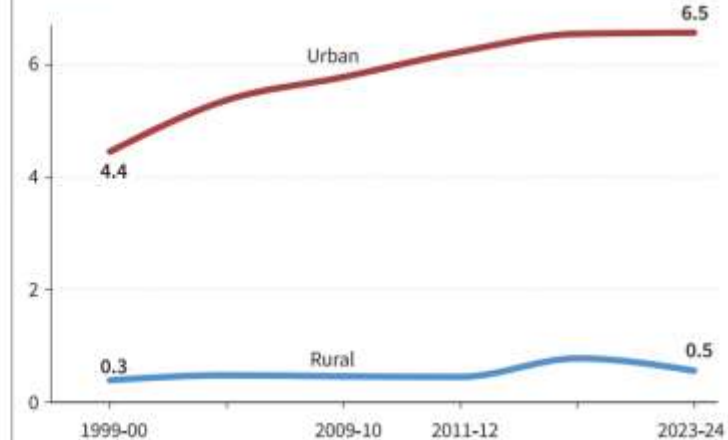


Chart 5: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Housing (Rent) (₹ per ₹100)



◆ 1. What is HCES? (Survey Overview)

- **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)**
भारत के घरों के खपत (consumption) पैटर्न को मापने वाला सर्वे
(*HCES captures spending patterns of Indian households*)
 - Conducting authority: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
 - Survey periodicity:
 - हर 5 साल में एक बार
(*Conducted every five years*)
 - Main indicator:
 - **MPCE – Monthly Per Capita Expenditure**
(*Average monthly spending per person*)
 - Coverage:
 - **Rural + Urban households**
 - **Goods + Services**
-

◆ 2. Why is the 2022-23 & 2023-24 HCES important?

- यह एक दशक बाद MPCE का पहला comprehensive update है
(*First major MPCE update in over a decade*)
 - Uses:
 - Poverty estimates revision
 - Social sector policy design
 - Understanding **India's expanding middle class**
-

◆ 3. Long-Term MPCE Trends (1999–2000 to 2023–24)

📌 (A) Decline in Food Share – Engel's Law

- Food & beverages share declined:
 - Urban: ₹48 → ₹39 per ₹100
 - Rural: ₹59 → ₹47 per ₹100
 - यह **Engel's Law** को confirm करता है
(As income rises, food share falls even if absolute spending rises)
-

📌 (B) Changing Diet Pattern

- Cereals पर खर्च घटा
- Fruits, eggs, fish, processed food पर खर्च बढ़ा

➡ Shift from:

- Staple-heavy diet → **Diverse & protein-rich diet**

(C) Fuel & Energy Spending

- Per capita fuel spending declined
- Reasons:
 - **Saubhagya Scheme** (rural electrification)
 - **PM Ujjwala Yojana** (LPG access)
 - Energy-efficient appliances
 - Reliable power supply

 Example of **expenditure substitution**

(Kerosene/biomass → modern fuels)

(D) Clothing, Bedding & Footwear

- Spending declined moderately
- Causes:
 - Fast fashion
 - Lower textile prices
 - Increased competition
- Rural spending slightly higher/similar →
Seasonal dependence + rising aspirations

📌 (E) Housing Rent

- Urban rent share increased significantly:
 - ₹4.46 → ₹6.58 per ₹100
 - Reasons:
 - Urbanisation
 - Migration
 - Rental stress in cities
 - Rural rent:
 - Remains minimal due to self-owned housing
-

📌 (F) Miscellaneous (Aspirational) Spending

- Includes:
 - Health
 - Education
 - Conveyance
 - Consumer services
- Sharp rise in **rural MPCE**:
 - ₹21.87 → ₹35.82 per ₹100

➡ Reflects:

- Broader consumption basket
- Digital penetration
- Better access to public & market services

Concept	Fact	Exam Relevance
MPCE	Monthly Per Capita Expenditure	Prelims
Engel's Law	Food share ↓ as income ↑	Economy
Consumption shift	Goods → Services	GS-III
Energy transition	Biomass → LPG	GS-III
Urbanisation	Rent share ↑	Social issues
Rural aspiration	Health & education spending ↑	Inclusive growth

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	2016	Engel's law relates to	Food expenditure
UPSC Prelims	2020	MPCE is used to estimate	Consumption level
UPSC Mains	2019	Changing consumption pattern of Indians	Shift to services
SSC CGL	2022	Which body publishes HCES?	MoSPI
RBI Grade B	2021	Fall in food share indicates	Rising income
State PSC	2023	Ujjwala Yojana relates to	Clean cooking fuel

Chart 2: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants (₹ per ₹100)

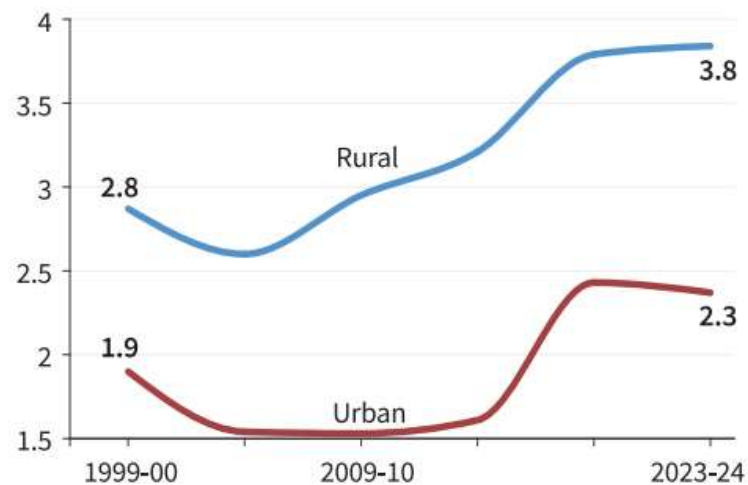


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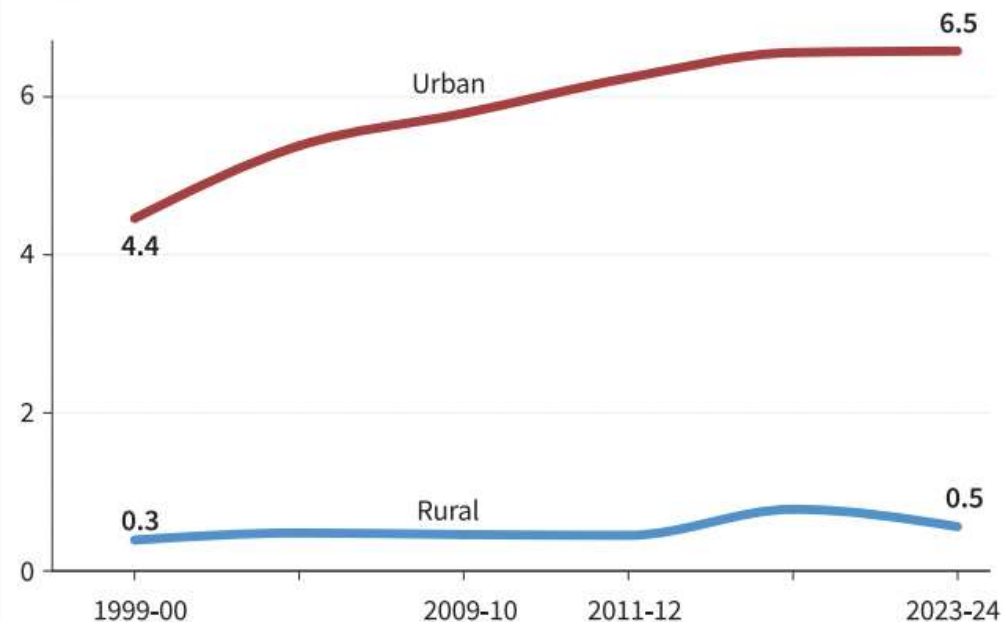


Chart 3: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Fuel & Light (₹ per ₹100)

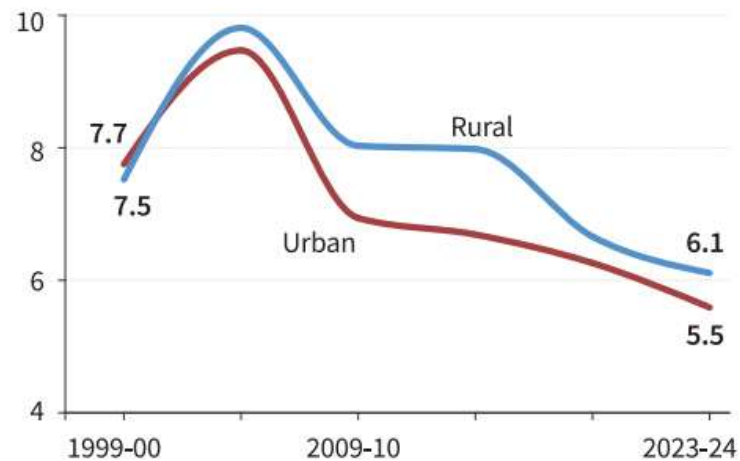
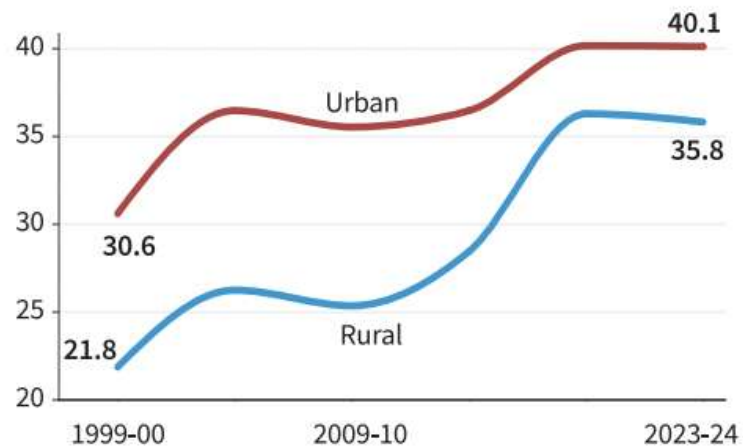


Chart 6: Monthly Per Capita Expenditure on Miscellaneous (Health, education, conveyance, consumer services and other expenses) (₹ per ₹100)



News & context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of public health facilities certified under NQAS

50,373 More than 50,000 public health facilities across the country have been certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), a quality framework established by the Union Health Ministry. ■

Vehicles which were involved in illegal mining seized

631 Police seized 631 vehicles involved in illegal mining, and imposed fines amounting to nearly ₹1 crore last year, officials said on Wednesday. Police officials said out of the 631 vehicles seized, 673 vehicles were released after completion of statutory formalities in 2023. ■

Applications received with suggestions for the 2025 Seeds Bill

9,000 The government is targeting to introduce the Seeds Bill 2025 in Parliament during the first phase of the Budget session in February. The Ministry plans to table the Pesticide Management Bill 2020 after Parliament recess. ■

Villagers evacuated in the Philippines due to volcanic eruptions

3,000 A series of mild eruptions at the most active volcano in the Philippines has prompted the evacuation of nearly 3,000 villagers. Authorities called the 3-step alert around Mayon Volcano in the province of Albay to level 3. ■

Electorers removed from draft list of 12 States, UTs in SIR Phase 2

6.5 In crore. The names of 6.5 crore electors were removed from the draft electoral rolls of nine States and three Union Territories published in the past days as part of the ongoing Sirsi Initiative Revision (SIR). ■

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India's progress on its climate targets

While the country has successfully reduced emissions intensity and increased non-fossil power capacity, challenges remain in translating these achievements into absolute emissions reductions. The next few years will be critical in addressing these gaps and ensuring a sustainable future

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Nagendra Arora
Saksham Rai

There has been a lot of focus on the recent Aravalli judgment and its implications for mining operations across the green belt as well as the government's commitments regarding environmental standards and regulatory protection for ecologically sensitive areas.

In the Paris summit, India had committed to four quantified climate targets, grounded in the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" — a position that reflects how, historically, India's per capita emissions were fraction compared to emissions of other major countries like the U.S. However, currently India is the world's third largest absolute emitter. The co-primacy of Prime Minister Modi's statement at the Paris summit was the pledge to reduce emissions intensity by 33-35% by 2030 (based on the 2005 baseline), coupled with commitments to enhance non-fossil power capacity to 40%, 175 GW of renewable energy, and 2-3 billion tonnes of carbon sequestration through forests.

Now, more than 10 years later, one needs to evaluate whether these promises have actually been delivered.

Incomplete decoupling
India's reduction in GDP emissions intensity (greenhouse gases per unit of economic output) may appear to be a policy success. Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 30% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Three structural drivers explain this trajectory. First, the rapid expansion of non-fossil power capacity (solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear) lowered carbon intensity associated with harnessing electricity. By 2023, non-fossil capacity exceeded by approximately 48%, and reached roughly 50% by mid-2023. Second, India's economic composition shifted toward lower-carbon service and digital sectors, resulting in a reduction in emissions per unit of GDP. Third, national efficiency programmes like Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) and UJALA curbed demand growth in industry and households; national assessments record measurable electricity savings and avoided emissions in FY2020-21.

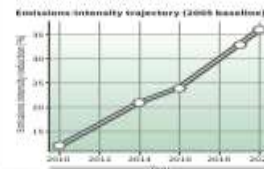
However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions. India's territorial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were approximately 2,369 MtCO₂e in 2020, and absolute emissions have remained high thereafter.

This phenomenon exists because of partial decoupling: GDP growth has outpaced emissions growth, so intensity has declined without an economy-wide absolute fall. This matters because national intensity averages mask sectoral divergence, as evidenced by the continued rise in emissions from the cement, steel, and transport sectors, even as the power sector's CO₂ growth moderated in 2024-25.

Analyses by Climate Transparency and the International Energy Agency show that India's rate of intensity decline exceeds that of many G-20 peers, but coal's large share keeps absolute per-kWh emissions high. For India's 2070 net-zero pledge to be credible, remaining intensity gains must be translated into absolute emissions reductions through a transparent coal phase-down timetable

Climate promises

While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched hegemony of coal.



and industrial decarbonisation roadmaps.

Generation gap
India's renewable capacity scale-up is dramatic, but it does not yet replace fossil baseload. Non-fossil capacity rose from ~20-25% in 2015 to ~34.4% by June 2023. Solar led the build-out (2-2.6 GW in 2014 to 100.9 GW by mid-2023), supported by tariff competition and domestic photovoltaic manufacturing expansion. Wind power increased more modestly (2-1 GW to ~51.3 GW over the same period) but has been constrained by land, grid-connection delays and state-level regulatory bottlenecks. Crucially, electricity generation lacks capacity — renewables supplied ~22% of electricity in 2023 despite greater than 80% non-fossil capacity because of lower capacity factors and storage shortfalls. Thermal (primarily coal) capacity remained ~240 GW in mid-2023 and still provides baseload.

The 175 GW renewables target for 2022 was missed, and although a 500 GW 2030 ambition is technically possible, converting installed capacity into sustained generation and emissions reduction will require storage, transmission upgrades and stronger policy delivery.

The renewable energy targets that India has set for itself, initially 40% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and now 50% by 2030, are headline successes that mask a vital absolute capacity and actual production deficit sharply due to limitations in renewable integration and intermittency patterns. Non-fossil fuel capacity accounted for 51% of India's cumulative installed capacity of 400 GW as of June 2023, marking the achievement of the first commitment. But this is contradicted by an essential reality that more than 70% of electricity production in India comes from coal, in spite of its comprising 51% non-fossil fuel capacity. The reason for this is that renewables operate at much shorter capacity compared to coal, as they produce intermittently on a solar and wind basis. In contrast, coal generates constant "baseload" electricity.

Storage is the major sticking point. The Central Electricity Authority has forecast a demand of 336 GWh of energy storage for the 2025-30 period. However, by September 2023, only 500 MWh of battery energy storage capacity is

Comparative intensity trajectories: India versus selected G-20 peers



Installed non-fossil capacity (%) versus actual generation share (%) (2024-23)



Forests only on paper
The figure of 2-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent carbon sequestration by 2030, as pledged by India appears achievable in terms of numbers. The India State of Forest Report 2023 reveals that India has already sequestered 30.43 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalents of total carbon stock, representing 2.29 billion tonnes of additional sequestration over the 2005 level, with only 0.2 billion tonnes remaining to achieve the target by 2030.

However, the official figures do not capture the definition's elasticity. The Forest Survey of India's definition of "forest cover" includes any land of more than one hectare with the overstory 10% canopied, and includes eucalyptus monocultures and plantations of mango, teak, and roadside trees in addition to natural forests. Satellite imagery indicating that the country has 7,15,343 sq km of forest cover in 2023, with an increase of only 156 sq km from the previous census in 2019, conflates ecological performance with administrative designation.

Policy mechanisms indicate a friction in implementation. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016), approximately ₹95,000 crore has been accumulated. However, there is unequal implementation, as States such as Delhi have been able to utilise only 23% of the allocated amount from 2010-20 to 2023-24. The Green Transition Mission launched in June 2023 after a decade of "moderate progress", has proposed regenerating five million hectares through regional projects in the Aravalli, Western Ghats, and Himalayas. Plantations are, however, equated to "natural regeneration".

Moreover, climate change is an added stress. While satellite evidence reveals leaf

index values that indicate "greening", net primary productivity, and actual carbon assimilation rate are challenged by warming and water stress, especially in the Western Ghats and northeastern parts of India. The country is likely to meet its "forest sink" target by 2030 through mechanisms that are plantation-dominated and governance limited, prioritising carbon accounting over ecological restoration.

The road ahead
While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems with climate action in India. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched hegemony of coal that mask the actual ecological impact. The transition path that has ahead demands sustained effort in areas requiring systemic coordination and coordinated governance like the rapid scaling of battery storage to bridge the capacity generation gap, the development of a coal transition roadmap, reformed forest governance to ensure quality, align one hectare with the overstory 10% target numbers, and increase in data transparency to track progress across sectoral and regional variations as more technology and capital influx will now no longer suffice.

The upcoming five years present a critical window for India to accelerate renewable energy growth, resolve storage bottlenecks, and strengthen government coordination on grid connectivity and land acquisition.

In summation, India's performance standards may have broadly delisted on its quantified commitments. Still, the outcomes that matter most lie beyond installed capacity into continued unabated generation and intensity gains over absolute emissions "moderation". Deepanshu Mohan is professor and O.P. Jindal Global Institute director, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES). He is a visiting professor at the London School of Economics, a visiting fellow with ANES, University of Oxford. Nagendra Arora and Saksham Rai are research analysts at CNES. With inputs from Simar Kaur and Anvita Tripathi.

THE GIST

Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 30% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline. However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions.

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In the Paris summit, India had committed to four quantified climate targets, grounded in the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" – a position that reflects how, historically, India's per capita emissions were fractions compared to emissions of other major countries like the U.S. (however, currently India is the world's third largest absolute emitter). The centrepiece of Prime Minister Modi's statement at the Paris summit was the pledge to reduce emissions intensity by 33-35% by 2030 (based on the 2005 baseline), coupled with commitments to enhance non-fossil power capacity to 40%, 175 GW of renewable energy, and 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon sequestration through forests.

Now, more than 10 years later, one needs to evaluate whether these promises have actually been delivered.

Incomplete decoupling

India's reduction in GDP emissions-intensity (greenhouse gases per unit of economic output) may appear to be a policy success. Using 2005 as baseline, emissions intensity decreased by approximately 36% by 2020, enabling India to meet its original 33-35% target well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Three structural drivers explain this trajectory. First, the rapid expansion of non-fossil power capacity (solar, wind, hydra, and nuclear) lowered carbon intensity associated with harnessing electricity. By 2023, non-fossil capacity exceeded by approximately 43%, and it reached roughly 50% by mid-2025.

Second, India's economic composition shifted toward lower-carbon services and digital sectors, resulting in a reduction in emissions per unit of GDP. Third, national efficiency programmes like Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) and UJALA curbed demand growth in industry and households; national assessments record measurable electricity savings and avoided emissions in FY2020-21.

However, intensity gains still coexist with persistently high absolute emissions. India's territorial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were approximately 2,500 MTCO₂e in 2020, and absolute emissions have remained high thereafter.

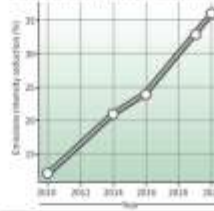
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Analyses by Climate Transparency and the International Energy Agency show that India's rate of intensity decline exceeds that of many G-20 peers, but coal's large share keeps absolute per-kWh emissions high. For India's 2030 net-zero pledge to be credible, remaining intensity gains must be translated into absolute emissions reductions through a transparent coal phase-down timetable.

Climate promises

While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also stress are fundamental promises. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched baseline of coal.

Emissions-intensity trajectory (2005 baseline)



and industrial decarbonisation roadmaps.

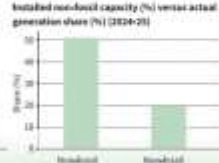
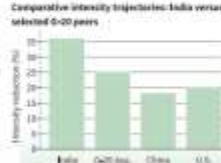
Generation gap

India's renewable capacity scale-up is dramatic, but it does not yet replace fossil baseload. Non-fossil capacity rose from -39.5% in 2015 to -51.4% by June 2025. Solar led the build-out (~2.4 GW in 2024 to ~10.9 GW by mid-2025), supported by tariff competition and domestic photovoltaic manufacturing expansion. Wind power increased more modestly (~21 GW to ~32.1 GW over the same period) but has been constrained by land, grid-connection delays and state-level regulatory bottlenecks. Crucially, electricity generation lacks capacity – renewables supplied ~22% of electricity in 2024-25 despite greater than 50% non-fossil capacity because of lower capacity factors and storage shortfalls; thermal (primarily coal) capacity remained ~240 GW in mid-2025 and still provides baseload.

The 175 GW renewables target for 2022 was missed, and although a 500 GW 2030 ambition is technically possible, converting installed capacity into sustained generation and emissions reductions will require rapid scaling of storage, transmission upgrades and stronger policy delivery.

The renewable energy targets that India has set for itself, initially 40% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and now 50% by 2030, are headline successes that mask a vital subtlety: capacity and actual production differ sharply due to limitations in renewable integration and intermittency patterns. Non-fossil fuel capacity accounted for 58% of India's cumulative installed capacity of 495 GW as of June 2025, marking the achievement of the first commitment. But this is overshadowed by an essential reality that more than 70% of electricity production in India comes from coal, in spite of its comprising 58% non-fossil fuel capacity. The reason for this is that renewables operate at much shorter capacity compared to coal, as they produce intermittently on a solar and wind basis. In contrast, coal generates constant "baseload" electricity.

Storage is the major sticking point. The Central Electricity Authority has forecast a demand of 336 GWh of energy storage for the 2029-30 period. However, as of September 2025, only 500 MWh of battery energy storage capacity is



operational.

Government driven programs such as the National Solar Mission, Solar Park Scheme, UDAY, PM KUSUM, and rooftop solar have successfully added 25 GW of renewable energy every year. However, as there is a delay in grid connectivity and limited land acquisition in the power sector. Although the pace of renewable energy in the Indian power sector has reached a groundbreaking level, the country's backbone remains the 253 GW of coal-based capacity.

Forests only on paper

The figure of 2.5-3.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent carbon sequestration by 2030, as pledged by India appears achievable in terms of numbers. The India State of Forest Report 2023 reveals that India has already sequestered 30.43 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalents of total carbon stock, representing 2.29 billion tonnes of additional sequestration over the 2005 level, with only 0.2 billion tonnes remaining to achieve the target by 2030.

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Policy mechanisms indicate a friction in implementation. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016), approximately ₹85,000 crore has been accumulated. However, there is unequal implementation, as States such as Delhi have been able to utilize only 23% of the allocated amount from 2019-20 to 2023-24. The Green India Mission Revised launched in June 2025 after a decade of "moderate progress," has proposed regenerating five million hectares through regional projects in the Aravallis, Western Ghats, and Himalayas. "Plantations" are, however, regarded to "natural regeneration".

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While India has achieved meaningful progress on specific metrics, they also obscure fundamental problems with climate action in India. The intensity gains achieved coexist with rising absolute emissions, and renewable capacity expansion has not translated into a proportional share of generation due to the entrenched baseload of coal that mask the actual ecological impact.

The transition path that lies ahead demands sustained effort in areas requiring systemic coordination and coordinated governance like the rapid scaling of battery storage to bridge the capacity generation gap, the development of a coal transition roadmap, reformed forest governance to ensure quality biodiversity outcomes alongside carbon target numbers, and increase in data transparency to track progress across sectoral and regional variations as more technology and capital inflows will now no longer suffice.

The opening five years present a critical window for India to accelerate renewable energy growth, resolve storage bottlenecks, and strengthen government coordination on grid connectivity and land acquisition.

In summation, India's performative standards may have broadly delivered on its quantified commitments. Still, the outcomes that matter most lie beyond headline metrics, in converting the now installed capacity into continued sustained generation and intensity gains into absolute emission "moderation".

Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, G.P. Dinkar Global University and Director, Centre for New Economic Studies (CNES). He is a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and a visiting fellow with AMES, University of Oxford. Nagappan Aram and Sahabam Raj are research analysts at CNES. With inputs from Simar Kansar and Arvika Tripathi.

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◆ 1. Context & Background (पृष्ठभूमि)

- भारत ने Paris Agreement (2015) के तहत **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)** के सिद्धांत को अपनाया
(*India committed under Paris Agreement with equity-based approach*)
 - India's key climate promises:
 - **Emission intensity reduction:** 33–35% by 2030 (from 2005 baseline)
 - **Non-fossil power capacity:** 40% (earlier target) → now enhanced to **50% by 2030**
 - **Long-term goal:** Net Zero by 2070
-

◆ 2. What India Has Achieved (क्या हासिल किया है?)

📌 Emissions Intensity (Intensity vs Absolute Emissions)

- **Emission intensity reduced by ~26% by 2020**
(*Well ahead of 2030 target timeline*)
- This reflects:
 - Renewable expansion
 - Energy efficiency measures
 - Structural shift in economy

👉 BUT:

- **Absolute emissions are still rising**
(*Intensity ↓ does not mean total emissions ↓*)

Non-Fossil Power Capacity

- By 2023:
 - **Non-fossil capacity > 40%** of installed power capacity
- Renewable energy expansion driven by:
 - Solar parks
 - Wind energy
 - Hydro & nuclear

Issue:

- **Installed capacity \neq actual generation share**
- Renewable generation remains much lower due to:
 - Intermittency
 - Storage constraints

◆ 3. The Core Challenge: Incomplete Decoupling

- India shows **relative / partial decoupling**:
 - GDP ↑ faster than emissions
- But **absolute decoupling** not achieved:
 - Total GHG emissions still rising

Reason:

- **Coal dominance continues**
 - Coal-based capacity ~ **253 GW**
 - Thermal power still backbone of base-load electricity
-

◆ 4. Sector-wise Insights (महत्वपूर्ण सेक्टरल बिंदु)

📌 Energy Sector

- Renewable energy:
 - Solar capacity ↑ rapidly
 - Wind growth constrained by land & grid issues
- Storage bottleneck:
 - CEA projects ~**236 GWh battery storage need by 2030**
 - Present capacity is far below requirement

Forests & Carbon Sinks

- India's pledge:
 - **2.5–3 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent additional sink by 2030**
- India State of Forest Report (ISFR):
 - Claims ~30.43 billion tonnes CO₂ stock
 - **But actual additional sequestration is limited**

Issues:

- Definition of "forest cover" includes:
 - Plantations, orchards, roadside trees
 - Plantation ≠ natural forest in ecological value
-

Adaptation Stress

- Climate impacts already visible:
 - Heat stress
 - Water stress
 - Agricultural productivity challenges
- Western Ghats, Himalayas, Aravallis under pressure

◆ 5. The Big Gap (Promises vs Reality)

- Renewable targets achieved **on paper**
- But:
 - Coal share in electricity generation remains high
 - Renewable share in **actual generation** still modest
- Policy gap:
 - Focus on capacity addition > grid, storage & integration

Topic	Key Data / Fact	Exam Relevance
Emission intensity	↓ ~26% by 2020	Prelims
Absolute emissions	~3 bn tonnes CO ₂ annually	Concept
Non-fossil capacity	>40% installed	Static + CA
Renewable generation	<30% of actual power	Data-based
Coal capacity	~253 GW	Energy security
Net Zero target	2070	Mains GS-III
Carbon sink goal	2.5–3 bn tonnes CO ₂	Environment

Exam	Year	Question	Answer
UPSC Prelims	2016	What is emission intensity?	Emissions per GDP unit
UPSC Prelims	2021	India's Net Zero target year	2070
UPSC Mains	2022	Distinguish between emission intensity & absolute emissions	Conceptual
SSC CGL	2023	Paris Agreement relates to	Climate change
State PSC	2024	Largest source of India's power	Coal
RBI Grade B	2021	Renewable challenge in India	Intermittency & storage

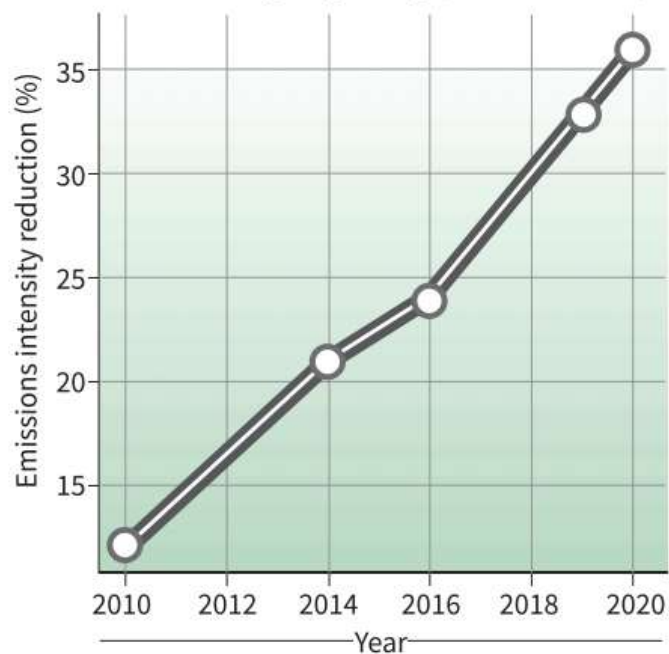
**Why do high non-fossil
capacity numbers not
ensure low emissions?**

- A) Lack of policy
- B) Low electricity demand
- C) Renewable
intermittency & storage
issues
- D) Export of electricity

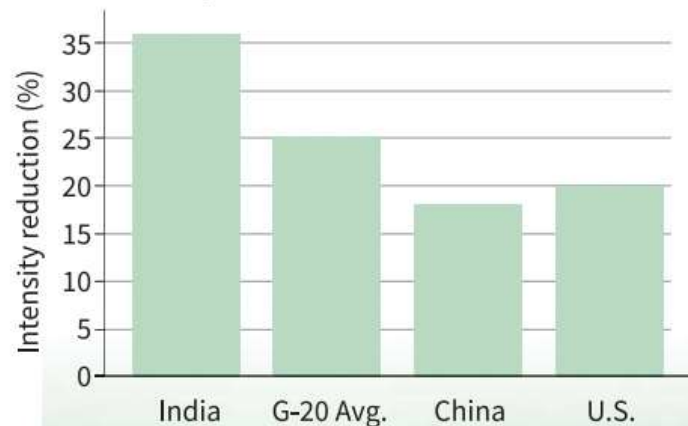
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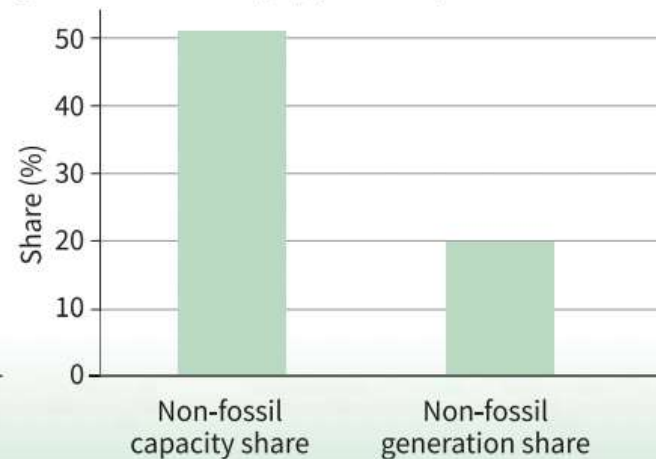
Emissions-intensity trajectory (2005 baseline)



Comparative intensity trajectories: India versus selected G-20 peers



Installed non-fossil capacity (%) versus actual generation share (%) (2024-25)



Trump eyes Greenland; military option on table

STEVE HOLLAND, JEFF
MASON & BO ERICKSON
Washington, January 7

THE WHITE HOUSE said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump is discussing options for acquiring Greenland, including potential use of the US military, in a revival of his ambition to control the strategic island despite European objections.

Trump sees acquiring Greenland as a US national security priority necessary to "deter our adversaries in the Arctic region," the White House said.

"The president and his team are discussing a range of options to pursue this important foreign policy goal, and utilising the US military is always an option at the commander-in-chief's disposal," the White House said.

Greenland has repeatedly said it does not want to be part of the United States. Leaders from major European powers and Canada rallied behind the Arctic territory on Tuesday, saying it belongs to its people. A US military seizure of Greenland from a longtime ally, Denmark, would send shock waves through the NATO alliance and deepen the divide between Trump and European leaders.

The strong opposition has not deterred Trump from reviewing how to make Greenland a US hub in an area where there is growing interest from

POWER PLAY

■ US views acquiring Greenland as a national security priority to deter adversaries in the Arctic

■ President and team considering multiple options to achieve the goal

■ Use of US military remains on the table at the commander-in-chief's discretion

■ Greenland has repeatedly rejected becoming part of the United States

■ European powers and Canada affirm Greenland belongs to its people



Russia and China. Trump's interest, initially voiced in 2019 during his first term in office, has been rekindled in recent days in the wake of the US arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Emboldened by Maduro's capture last weekend, Trump has voiced his belief that "American dominance in the Western Hemisphere will never be questioned again," and has put pressure on both Colombia and Cuba.

He has also started talking about Greenland again after putting it on the back burner for months. A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said Trump and his advisers are discussing a variety of ways to acquire Greenland.

REUTERS

US military seizes Russian oil tanker

THE US SEIZED a Russian-flagged oil tanker that was being shadowed by a Russian submarine on Wednesday, after a more than two-week-long pursuit across the Atlantic as part of a US "blockade" of Venezuelan oil exports. This appeared to be the first time in recent memory that the US military has seized a Russian-flagged vessel.

The operation took place after the tanker, known as the Bella-1, slipped through a US maritime blockade of sanctioned tankers.

REUTERS

Venezuela to give US 50 mn barrels of oil

CARACAS AND WASHINGTON have reached a deal to export up to \$2 billion worth of Venezuelan crude to the United States, US President Donald Trump has said, a flag-ship negotiation that would divert supplies from China while helping Venezuela avoid deeper oil production cuts.

The agreement is a strong sign that the Venezuelan government is responding to Trump's demand that they open up to US oil companies or risk more military intervention.

REUTERS

PRESIDENT TRUMAN WANTED TO BUY GREENLAND TOO

A former US airbase built during WWII in Kangerlussuaq



Golden Offer | In 1946, after Germany invaded Denmark, US took up responsibility for Greenland's defence and established a military presence there. It was then that President **Harry Truman** made an offer to buy Greenland for **\$100m in gold**. Denmark rejected the bid



US's Long-Running Obsession

> In **1867**, then-secy of state William H Seward floated the idea of buying Greenland and Iceland from Denmark. However, no formal offer was made

> In **1910**, then-US ambassador to Denmark, Maurice Francis Egan, proposed the US give Denmark the Philippine island of Mindanao, then a US territory, in exchange for Greenland and the Danish West Indies. The suggestion didn't go further than that

> In **2019**, Trump first publicly expressed interest in buying Greenland. But the idea was quickly shot down. In **2024**, Trump revived his offer, which was again rebuffed

CAN TRUMP TAKE OVER GREENLAND?

Military intervention would rip apart the agreement that underpins Nato, of which Denmark and the US are both founding members

> A nation of **6 million**, the country has about **16,600** uniformed employees in the military and emergency services. Denmark relies heavily on Nato for security

WHY THE ISLAND MATTERS TO WASHINGTON?

Trump says island vital for American security and that Denmark is not spending enough to safeguard it

Naval Gateway

Most of Greenland is **inside the Arctic Circle**, and controlling the island would give Washington an outpost in an important naval corridor connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic



Mineral Prize

Greenland has huge stores of rare-earth minerals used for making batteries, cellphones, electric vehicles and other high-tech items



Oil, Gas | Some scientists say island could hold huge oil & gas deposits



> Greenland's govt **abandoned its oil ambitions** in 2021, citing environmental risks. It has also banned uranium mining. **Under US, all the bans could be lifted**



A statue of missionary Hans Egede in Nuuk. Greenlanders see it as a symbol of lost Inuit traditions

WHO REALLY RUNS GREENLAND?

1721 | Denmark colonised Greenland

1916 | Washington formally recognised Danish sovereignty in Greenland

1953 | Greenland shifts from colony to formal territory

1979 | Greenland gained home rule in a referendum, giving it greater autonomy from Denmark

> Since **2009**, Greenland can **declare independence through a self-rule process** requiring a referendum and Danish parliamentary approval

DENMARK HOLDS THE KEYS

Denmark controls Greenland's **foreign policy, defence & other areas**. Island gets an annual subsidy that pays for schools, cheap gas and strong social services

HOW STRONG IS DENMARK'S MILITARY?



> The US military maintains a permanent presence at **Pituffik air base** in northwest Greenland. Denmark has accommodated US presence as it does not have the capability to defend the Greenland and benefits from US security guarantees through Nato



Factor

Explanation

Geostrategic Location

Greenland sits between North America and Europe, crucial for Arctic and North Atlantic security

Arctic Militarisation


Rising presence of **Russia and China** in the Arctic

US Military Presence

The US already operates **Thule Air Base (now Pituffik Space Base)** in Greenland

Resources

Rare earth minerals, hydrocarbons, and future shipping routes as ice melts



◆ US Position

- The US views control over Greenland as:
 - A **deterrence strategy** against adversaries in the Arctic
 - A way to ensure **American dominance** in the Western Hemisphere
 - The White House has clarified:
 - Multiple options are under consideration
 - **Military force remains "on the table"** at the president's discretion
-

◆ Greenland & Europe's Response

- **Greenland has repeatedly rejected** becoming part of the United States.
- **Denmark, European powers, and Canada** have reaffirmed:
 - Greenland **belongs to its people**
 - Any US military action would strain **NATO unity**
- A forced takeover would:
 - Damage transatlantic relations
 - Create a rift between the US and its European allies

- **Why is Greenland strategically important for the United States?**

- Its location in the Arctic region
- Presence of rare earth minerals
- Hosting US military bases
- Control over emerging Arctic shipping routes

• Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A) 1 and 3 only
- B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D) 2 and 4 only



Indian Army Raises **Bhairav Force** for Drone Warfare



- ✂ **What is Bhairav Force?**
- A **new technology-driven special force** of the Indian Army
- Created specifically for **drone warfare & multi-domain operations**
- Designed for **high-speed operations in contested and hostile environments**
- ✂ **Scale of Drone Capability**
- Indian Army has created a pool of **over 1 lakh trained drone operators**
- Operators spread across various **formations and units**





Aspect

Details

Primary Role

Drone-based combat, surveillance & targeting

Operational Use

Real-time drone operations

Target Profile

Enemy bases and formations

Depth of Operations

Deep inside hostile territory

Nature of Warfare

Hybrid, multi-domain warfare



• **The “Bhairav” force recently seen in news is best described as:**

- A) A counter-insurgency unit of CAPFs
- B) A drone-warfare specialised force of the Indian Army
- C) A cyber command under Defence Ministry
- D) A joint tri-service missile force

Siddaramaiah Becomes Karnataka's Longest-Serving Chief Minister



Aspect	Details
Achievement	Longest-serving CM of Karnataka
Total Tenure	Nearly 7 years 8 months
Nature of Tenure	Two non-consecutive terms
Previous Record Holder	D. Devaraj Urs
Political Landscape	Achieved amid frequent leadership changes & factionalism



◆ **Political Journey (Important Background)**

- Born in **Siddaramanahundi village** near **T. Narasipura** (**Mysuru region**)
- Comes from a **farming family**
- Professionally trained as a **lawyer**
- Briefly taught at **Vidyavardhaka Law College, Mysuru**
- **First electoral victory:**
 - **1983**
 - Won **Chamundeshwari constituency**
 - Contested as an **Independent candidate**

◆ **Electoral Record (High-Probability Fact)**

Parameter	Data
Elections contested	13
Elections won	8
Political span	Over 4 decades
Regional influence	Strong base in Old Mysuru region

IIT Madras Launches Global Initiative to Become World's First Multinational IIT



Aspect

Details

Initiative Name

IITM Global

Launched By

Union External Affairs Minister

Parent Institution


IIT Madras

Objective

Become the world's first multinational IIT

Focus Areas

Overseas campuses, research centres,
startup ecosystems



◆ What is IITM Global?

- A **global outreach initiative** of IIT Madras
 - Seeks to establish:
 - **Overseas campuses**
 - **International research centres**
 - **Startup and innovation ecosystems**
 - Represents India's shift from **domestic excellence** → **global academic leadership**
-

◆ Vision Behind IITM Global

IITM Global is anchored in:

- **World-class faculty**
- **Advanced research infrastructure**
- **Strong industry linkages**

Core Aims:

- Promote **international research collaboration**
- Encourage **global academic partnerships**
- Foster **innovation and entrepreneurship**
- Align Indian technical expertise with **global societal challenges**

The background features two large, overlapping, curved lines. One line is a light blue color and the other is a light green color. They are positioned in the top right and bottom left corners of the image, creating a sense of movement and modernity.

Indian Army Declares 2026 as the “Year
of Networking & Data Centricity”

Aspect

Theme for 2026

Announced By

Core Aim

Time Horizon

Outcome Sought

Details

Year of Networking & Data Centricity

Indian Army

Digitally integrated, data-driven warfare

Part of a **decade-long transformation**

Faster decisions, resilience, agility

◆ Vision Outlined by the Army Chief

- **Upendra Dwivedi** stated that the Indian Army is undergoing a **"decade of transformation"**.
- The transformation is anchored on:
 - **Jointness**
 - **Self-reliance (Atmanirbharta)**
 - **Innovation**
- Emphasis on:
 - **Indigenous technologies**
 - **New operational concepts**
 - **Continuous reforms**
- Networking and data-centricity are providing **fresh momentum** to military modernisation.

◆ What Does "Networking & Data Centricity" Mean?

(Conceptual clarity for Prelims + Mains)

Concept	Explanation
Networking	Seamless connectivity between sensors, shooters, and commanders
Data Centricity	Decisions driven by real-time, accurate, shared data
Operational Impact	Reduced decision cycle, enhanced situational awareness
Warfare Model	Network-centric & multi-domain operations



Uttar Pradesh Opens First Braille Library for the Visually Impaired

Aspect

Initiative

Target Group

Location

Institution

City

Inaugurated By

Details

First Braille Library of Uttar Pradesh

Visually impaired learners

Swami Vivekananda Central Library (1st floor)

Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation
University

Lucknow

Vice-Chancellor Acharya Sanjay Singh

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Word of the day

Marginalia:

notes written in the margin

Synonyms: note

Usage: *Some of their chats were printed as marginalia in the book.*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/marginaliapro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /mɑːdʒɪ'neɪli.ə/



Thank you 😊

