



Ranks and Reports Capsule for SBI PO Mains

Ranks & Reports on April 2025

RANKING

- India ranks **10th globally** with a **private AI investment** of **Rs. 11,943 crore (US\$ 1.4 billion)** in 2023, marking significant progress in the global AI landscape. It improved its position in the **UNCTAD 'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' Index**, moving from 48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024. India faces competition from nations like **Germany** in **wind energy**, **Japan** in **electric vehicles**, and **South Korea** in **5G**. With 13 million **software developers**, India is a leader in **AI research** and **nanotechnology**, but to maintain its position, continued investment in **R&D** and workforce **skill development** is essential. The **economic impact** of AI is projected at **Rs. 4,09,48,800 crore (US\$ 4.8 trillion)** by 2033.
- On **April 7, 2025**, **MeitY**, through **CERT-In**, along with **CSIRT-Fin** and **SISA**, released the **Digital Threat Report 2024** for the **BFSI sector**, offering a deep analysis of **cyber threats** and a roadmap for **cybersecurity resilience**. Launched by top officials from **DFS**, **MeitY**, and **SISA**, the report highlights the risks from **AI-driven attacks**, **expanded digital attack surfaces**, and **compliance challenges**. It emphasizes a **unified cybersecurity strategy** and recommends measures across **People, Process, and Technology**, aiming to **anticipate threats**, **strengthen defenses**, and **build a secure digital economy** through **collaborative intelligence-sharing**.
- According to **Ookla's Speedtest Global Index (Feb 2025)**, **Mumbai** recorded the **lowest fixed broadband speed** among Indian cities, ranking **123rd globally** with a **download speed of 58.24 Mbps**, while **Delhi** topped nationally at **89th rank with 91.11 Mbps**. This disparity contributed to **India's overall slip** in global broadband rankings from **94 to 95**, with national averages at **61.66 Mbps download**, **57.89 Mbps upload**, and **7 ms latency**. Mumbai's poor performance is attributed to **dense population** and **challenging terrain**.

REPORT

| Report Name | Submitted By | Key Notes |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| UNESCO report | UNESCO report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Nutrition for Growth' event, hosted by France on March 27-28, 2025, highlighted concerns over the nutritional quality of school meals worldwide. According to a UNESCO report, while 47% of primary school pupils received meals in 2024, many lacked adequate nutrition, impacting child health and academic performance. Key findings include 27% of school meals lacking nutritionist input, only 93 out of 187 countries having school food legislation, and 65% setting food standards. |
| 2025 Technology and Innovation Report | 2025 Technology and Innovation Report | India has made significant strides in adopting frontier technologies, improving its rank from 48th in 2022 to 36th globally in the 2025 Technology and Innovation Report by UNCTAD . The country's progress is attributed to advancements in ICT deployment , research and development (R&D) , industrial capacity , and finance , particularly in AI and nanotechnology . India is now part of a group of developing countries exceeding expectations in technology readiness . |

Ranks & Reports on March 2025

RANKING

India Ranks 4th in Global Wealth Rankings: Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2025

In March 2025, the London-based global property consultancy firm, **Knight Frank**, released the 19th edition of **'The Wealth Report 2025'**, providing a comprehensive analysis of the global distribution of wealth. The report highlights the growing number of **High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs)** worldwide, with India securing the **4th position globally**, boasting an estimated **85,698 HNWIs in 2024**, marking a **6% increase** from the previous year.

With **3.7% of the world's wealthy population**, India continues to strengthen its presence among the top wealth-generating nations. The **United States of America (USA)** remains the leader with **905,413 HNWIs**, followed by **China (471,634 HNWIs)** and **Japan (122,119 HNWIs)**.





Key Global Findings from The Wealth Report 2025

The Growth of High Net-Worth Individuals Worldwide

The report defines **HNWIs** as individuals possessing at least **USD 1 million** in investable assets. According to the findings, the number of **HNWIs increased by 4.4% globally, reaching 2,341,378 in 2024, up from 2,243,300 in 2023.**

The top three regions that experienced the highest percentage growth in their HNWI populations are:

- **United States – 5.2% growth**
- **Asia – 5% growth**
- **Africa – 4.7% growth**

Other notable regional HNWI population growth rates:

- **Australasia – 3.9%** (owing to strong ties with Asian and North American markets)
- **Middle East – 2.7%**
- **Latin America – 1.5%**
- **Europe – 1.4%**

Top 5 Countries with the Highest Number of HNWIs in 2024

| Rank | Country | Number of HNWIs | Percentage of Global HNWIs |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | United States | 905,413 | 38.7% |
| 2 | China (Mainland) | 471,634 | 20.1% |
| 3 | Japan | 122,119 | 5.2% |
| 4 | India | 85,698 | 3.7% |
| 5 | Germany | 69,798 | 3.0% |

Glass-Ceiling Index 2025: Best Countries for Working Women

International Women’s Day (IWD), celebrated annually on **March 8**, serves as a global platform to recognize the achievements of women in **cultural, political, and socio-economic spheres**. It is also a moment to assess progress in gender equality and the challenges that remain in workplaces worldwide. The **Glass-Ceiling Index (GCI)**, compiled by **The Economist**, provides a comparative analysis of the best and worst countries for working women.

The **2025 Glass-Ceiling Index** reveals that while significant improvements have been made globally, disparities still persist. This year, **Sweden** has reclaimed its position as the best country for working women, surpassing **Iceland**, which held the top spot for the past two years. Meanwhile, countries like **Japan, Turkey, and South Korea** continue to struggle due to entrenched societal norms and wage gaps.

Global Trends in Women’s Workforce Representation

Political Landscape: A Historic Year for Elections

The year **2024** was remarkable for women’s participation in politics. According to the **OECD**, the average **women’s parliamentary representation** rose to **34%**, a testament to global efforts toward gender inclusivity.

- **Japan** saw a substantial increase in representation, jumping from **10% to 16%**.
- **Britain** experienced notable growth, with representation rising from **35% to 41%**.
- **The United States**, however, witnessed a slight decline, with female parliamentary representation falling to **28.7%**.

This data highlights the evolving role of women in governance, though many nations still lag behind in achieving gender parity in politics.

Economic Indicators: Progress and Challenges

On the economic front, the **percentage of women on corporate boards** reached **33%**, reflecting a growing acceptance of gender diversity in leadership roles. Additionally, the **labour-force participation rate** for women increased to **66.6%**, up from **65.8%** in the previous year. However, this figure remains significantly lower compared to the **81% male participation rate**.

Despite these advancements, women continue to face obstacles such as **wage disparities, unequal career advancement opportunities, and underrepresentation in top managerial positions**.

Top 10 Best Countries for Working Women in 2025

According to **The Economist’s 2025 Glass-Ceiling Index**, the following countries ranked highest in fostering **gender equality, workplace inclusion, and career growth** for women:





| Rank | Country | Region |
|------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | France | Europe |
| 2 | Spain | Europe |
| 3 | Australia | Oceania |
| 4 | Sweden | Europe |
| 5 | Portugal | Europe |
| 6 | Norway | Europe |
| 7 | Finland | Europe |
| 8 | Denmark | Europe |
| 9 | New Zealand | Oceania |
| 10 | Iceland | Europe |

LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been ranked the third strongest insurance brand globally, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 (2025) report. Poland-based PZU topped the rankings with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance in second place with 93.5. LIC also holds the 12th position in brand value among global insurers, while SBI Life ranks 76th, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.

Key Highlights

LIC's Global Ranking

- Ranked 3rd strongest insurance brand globally.
- Achieved a BSI score of 88/100.
- Holds the 12th position in brand value worldwide.
- SBI Life is the only other Indian insurer in the top 100, ranking 76th.

Global Insurance Market Trends

- The top 100 insurance brands grew by 9% in brand value in 2025.
- Growth driven by higher investment income, rising interest rates, and increased profitability.
- Market capitalization rose due to increasing demand for insurance products.
- Economic recovery, strategic mergers, acquisitions, and tech advancements accelerated industry growth.

LIC's Financial Performance

- Standalone net profit rose 17% YoY in the December quarter to ₹11,056.47 crore (from ₹9,444.42 crore).
- Consolidated net profit increased 16% YoY to ₹11,000 crore.
- Management expenses decreased, with employee compensation and welfare costs dropping 30%.
- Expense ratio reduced by 231 basis points (bps) to 12.97% from 15.28%.

India ranks **11th globally** in pharmaceutical exports, accounting for **3%** of total pharmaceutical exports in 2023. The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** and the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** have implemented measures to ensure **drug quality, safety, and efficacy**, including **risk-based inspections, regulatory amendments, stricter penalties** for non-compliance, and **training programs** to improve manufacturing standards. These initiatives aim to strengthen the **pharmaceutical sector** in India.

Amul, India's leading **dairy cooperative**, secured **3rd position** in the **YouGov India Value Rankings 2025**, making it the only **FMCG brand** in the top three. It stands alongside **Amazon** (1st) and **Flipkart** (2nd), reflecting its strong **consumer trust** and **value-for-money proposition**. This achievement underscores the strength of Amul's **cooperative model**, ensuring fair pricing for **farmers** and delivering **high-quality, affordable dairy products** to Indian households.

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** released the '**Handbook on Indian Insurance Statistics 2023-24**' in March 2025, providing insights into the **Claim Settlement Ratio (CSR)** of various insurers. CSR is a key metric that reflects an insurer's reliability, representing the percentage of claims settled within a specified time, helping stakeholders make informed decisions about insurance companies.





India's Free Speech Ranking in Global Index

| Summary/Static | Details |
|--|---|
| Why in the news? | India's Free Speech Ranking in Global Index |
| Survey Conducted By | The Future of Free Speech (U.S.-based think tank) |
| Survey Date | October 2024 |
| India's Rank | 24th out of 33 countries |
| India's Score | 62.6 |
| Comparison with Other Countries | India ranked between South Africa (66.9) and Lebanon (61.8) |
| Highest Ranked Nations | Norway (87.9), Denmark (87.0) |
| Most Improved Countries | Indonesia (56.8), Malaysia (55.4), Pakistan (57.0) |
| Global Free Speech | Trend Declined in many democratic nations, including U.S., Israel, and Japan |
| Public Perception in India | Indians believe free speech has improved, despite global rankings showing decline |
| Support for Government | Criticism in India 37% support restricting criticism (highest among surveyed nations) |
| Lowest Support for Restricting Criticism | U.K. (5%) and Denmark (3%) |
| India's Free Speech Exception | Despite public support, actual protection remains low (similar to Hungary, Venezuela) |
| Key Expert Opinion | Free speech needs public commitment beyond legal protections (Jacob Mchangama) |

Finland Tops the World Happiness Rankings for the Eighth Consecutive Year

Finland has once again secured its position as the world's happiest country for the eighth consecutive year, according to the latest global happiness rankings. The study, conducted by the **Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford in collaboration with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, revealed that the United States has dropped to its lowest-ever ranking at 24th place. The rankings are based on people's self-assessment of their quality of life, highlighting factors such as social trust, economic stability, and life expectancy.

Global Happiness Rankings: Finland Remains on the Top

The 2024 World Happiness Report has reaffirmed Finland's position as the happiest country in the world. Other Nordic nations, including Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and the Netherlands, rounded out the top five.

The rankings are derived from individuals' responses to survey questions about their overall life satisfaction. Despite Finland's geographical proximity to Russia and increasing geopolitical tensions, its citizens continue to report high levels of happiness.

Factors Influencing Happiness Rankings

The happiness rankings are based on a three-year average of a population's self-assessment of life quality. The factors considered in the ranking include:

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita** – Economic stability contributes significantly to life satisfaction.
- **Healthy life expectancy** – Access to quality healthcare and a longer lifespan improve well-being.
- **Social support** – Having a reliable network of family and friends enhances happiness.
- **Freedom to make life choices** – A sense of autonomy and personal control is linked to higher life satisfaction.
- **Generosity** – Acts of kindness and donations contribute positively to societal happiness.
- **Perceptions of corruption** – Lower levels of corruption improve trust in government institutions and social systems.

The Role of Social Trust in Happiness

One of the key findings of the 2024 report is the strong correlation between happiness and **belief in the kindness of others**. The report highlights that people who believe in social trust—such as the likelihood of someone returning a lost wallet—tend to experience greater happiness.

Nordic countries, which consistently rank at the top in happiness indices, also excel in social trust metrics. This suggests that interpersonal trust and societal stability play an essential role in overall well-being.

United States Sees a Decline in Happiness

The United States, which ranked 13th in 2016, has now dropped to **24th place**, marking its lowest position ever in the global rankings. Experts attribute this decline to increasing **income inequality, political divisions, and social unrest**.

Similarly, the United Kingdom also fell to its lowest ranking since 2017. Researchers have observed that while happiness disparities between countries have remained stable, **happiness inequality within countries has increased by about 25% over the past two decades**.





Geopolitical Challenges and Their Impact on Happiness

Despite facing increased geopolitical tensions due to its **proximity to Russia**, Finland has continued to rank as the happiest nation. Over recent years, Finland and other European countries have experienced a rise in cyberattacks, GPS jamming, and suspected sabotage of critical infrastructure in the Baltic Sea. However, these external challenges have not significantly impacted the Finnish people’s reported happiness levels.

India's **happiness ranking** has improved steadily, reaching **118th** in the **World Happiness Report 2025**, up from **126th** in **2023** and **139th** in **2020**. Key factors include **economic growth**, **better corruption perception (rank improved from 71 in 2022 to 56 in 2024)**, and **rising personal freedom (ranked 23rd in 2024, highest in five years)**. India's **GDP per capita rank** also improved to **93rd** in **2024**. However, it still lags behind **Pakistan (109th)** and **Nepal (92nd)** due to **lower social support and economic inequality**.

REPORT

| Report Name | Submitted By | Key Notes |
|---|--------------|---|
| The Lancet | The Lancet | A study published in The Lancet predicts that by 2050, 44.9 crore Indians will be overweight or obese , with 21.8 crore men and 23.1 crore women affected. This accounts for nearly one-third of India’s projected population. India also had the highest number of overweight or obese young adults in 2021 , surpassing China and the U.S. |
| Knight Frank’s ‘The Wealth Report 2025’ | | Knight Frank’s ‘The Wealth Report 2025’ highlights the global distribution of High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs) , with India ranking 4th worldwide. The report estimates 85,698 HNWIs in India in 2024 , reflecting a 6% year-on-year growth and 3.7% of the world’s wealthy population . |
| OAG report | | IndiGo Airlines is the world’s second fastest-growing airline in seat capacity , with a 10.1% YoY increase to 134.9 million seats in 2024, as per the OAG report . It follows Qatar Airways (10.4% growth). The report highlights IndiGo’s flight frequency growth , expanding international operations , strong financial performance , and future plans . |

Ranks & Reports on February 2025

RANKING

Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Ranks No. 1, India at 80th

The **2025 Henley Passport Index**, compiled by Henley & Partners, **ranks 199 passports** based on their visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to global destinations. The rankings are based on International Air Transport Association (IATA) data, highlighting global mobility trends. **Singapore holds the top spot**, while **India ranks 80th**, sharing the position with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan. The report also highlights countries gaining or losing mobility privileges over the years.

Key Highlights of the Henley Passport Index 2025

Top-Ranking Passports

- **1st Place: Singapore**
- Visa-free access to 193 out of 227 destinations.
- **2nd Place: Japan & South Korea**
- Visa-free access to 190 countries.
- Japan regained visa-free access to China, lost during Covid-19.
- **3rd Place: European Nations**
- Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland
- Access to 189 destinations.

India’s Position (Rank 80)

- Shared with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan.
- Indian passport holders can travel to **62 countries visa-free** or with visa-on-arrival.

Bottom Ranking Passports

- **99th (Last): Afghanistan** – Access to 25 destinations.
- **98th:** Syria – Access to 27 destinations.
- **97th:** Iraq – Access to 30 destinations.
- Countries Showing Growth & Decline

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**Significant Gainers**

- **UAE (Rank 8, 185 destinations)**
- Gained access to 72 more destinations in the past decade.
- Only Arab nation in the top 10.
- **China (Rank 59, 58 destinations)**
- Improved from 94th in 2015 to 59th in 2025.
- Secured 29 new visa-free access destinations in the past year.

Significant Decliners

- **Venezuela** – Suffered the biggest drop in rankings over the past decade.
- **USA** – Experienced an unexpected decline in its ranking.
- **Afghanistan** – Widening mobility gap, losing access to two more destinations.

Top 10 Rankers in Index

- **1st.** Singapore
- **2nd.** Japan, South Korea
- **3rd.** Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland
- **4th.** Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden
- **5th.** Greece, New Zealand, Switzerland
- **6th.** Australia, United Kingdom
- **7th.** Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Malta, Poland
- **8th.** Estonia, UAE
- **9th.** Croatia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia, United States
- **10th.** Iceland, Lithuania

Note: Many Countries are tied with same number of score in the index and they have same number of position in the index.

India and Its Neighbor Country Rankings

- **China** – 59th
- **India** – 80th
- **Bhutan** – 83rd
- **Sri Lanka**- 91st
- **Bangladesh** – 93rd
- **Nepal** – 94th
- **Pakistan** – 96th
- **Afghanistan** – 99th

India's Rank in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024

Corruption remains a significant global challenge, affecting governance, democracy, and development. **The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024**, released by Transparency International, ranks India at 96th position out of 180 countries, with a score of 38—a decline from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022. The CPI evaluates nations based on perceived levels of public sector corruption, using a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Key Findings of CPI 2024**India's Ranking and Score**

- **India** ranked **96th** out of 180 countries.
- **Score:** 38 (down from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022).
- India ranked 93rd in 2023 and 40th in 2022.

Global and Regional Rankings

- **Denmark (1st) is the least corrupt nation**, followed by **Finland (2nd) and Singapore (3rd)**.
- South Sudan, Somalia, Venezuela, and Syria are ranked among the most corrupt nations.

India's neighbors

- **Pakistan:** 135th
- **Sri Lanka:** 121st
- **Bangladesh:** 149th
- **China:** 76th





Most Corrupt Nations (Bottom Rankings)

- **South Sudan** – Lowest score (8 points), displacing Somalia.
- **Somalia** – 9 points.
- **Venezuela** – 10 points.
- **Syria** – 12 points.

Corruption and Climate Action

- Corruption threatens climate initiatives, hindering emission reductions and adaptation efforts.
- Misuse of funds meant for climate action worsens global heating effects.
- Undue influence and bribery obstruct policies aimed at environmental protection.

Global Corruption Trends

- **United States dropped** from 69 to 65 points, ranking 28th (down from 24th).
- **France fell** from 71 to 67 points, ranking 25th (down from 20th).
- **Germany dropped** from 78 to 75 points, ranking 15th (down from 9th).
- **Mexico** dropped five points to 26 due to judicial inaction on corruption.
- **Russia** fell from 26 to 22 points, further impacted by its invasion of Ukraine.
- **Ukraine** declined one point to 35, but showed progress in judicial independence and anti-corruption efforts.

Trends in Corruption Levels

- 32 countries have reduced corruption levels since 2012.
- 148 countries have either stagnated or worsened in the same period.
- The global average CPI score remains at 43, indicating limited improvement.
- More than two-thirds of countries score below 50, showing widespread corruption issues.

Challenges and Recommendations

- Corruption fuels democratic decline, instability, and human rights violations.
- Developed nations with high CPI scores often protect fossil-fuel interests rather than fighting corruption.
- Financial hubs in wealthy nations facilitate illicit funds, worsening corruption worldwide.
- Urgent global action is required to combat corruption for a sustainable and democratic future.

India Ranks 3rd in Global LEED Green Buildings 2024

| Key Points | Details |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Why in News? | India ranked 3rd globally in LEED green building certifications 2024, with 370 projects covering 8.50 million GSM of certified space. |
| Top Countries in LEED 2024 | 1. China – 25+ million GSM 2. Canada – 10 million GSM 3. India – 8.50 million GSM |
| India’s Previous Rankings | 2023: 3rd (7.23 million GSM, 248 projects) 2022: 2nd (10.47 million GSM, 323 projects) |
| LEED Certification Body | U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) |
| India’s Green Building Authority | Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) |
| US LEED Market | Largest globally with 56+ million GSM certified |
| GBCI India Head | Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan |
| LEED Certification Criteria | Sustainability, Energy efficiency, Water conservation, Carbon footprint reduction |
| India’s Climate Goal Link | Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 |

India’s Logistics Performance Sees Major Leap in Global Rankings

India has achieved a remarkable milestone in the **World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023**, securing the **22nd rank in the International Shipments category** and moving up to **38th place overall** among **139 countries**. This improvement underscores the country’s focused efforts on enhancing logistics efficiency, reducing costs, and integrating advanced technology.

What Led to India’s Rise in the LPI Rankings?

India’s progress in the logistics sector can be attributed to multiple factors, including **policy reforms, technology-driven initiatives, and improved infrastructure**. The country has significantly enhanced its global trade competitiveness by streamlining supply chains, cutting delays, and boosting efficiency in freight movement.





- **International Shipments Rank Improvement:** In 2018, India was ranked **44th** in the International Shipments category. The jump to **22nd place** in 2023 highlights the success of government policies aimed at easing global trade.
- **Turnaround Time at Ports:** Indian ports have significantly reduced processing times, with an **average turnaround time of 0.9 days**, outperforming major economies such as **the USA (1.5 days), Australia (1.7 days), and Germany (1.3 days)**. This has been possible due to port modernization and automation.

How Have Government Policies Boosted Logistics Growth?

The government has launched key policy initiatives aimed at strengthening **India’s logistics infrastructure** and reducing inefficiencies. Some of the most impactful policies include:

- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan:** Launched in **October 2021**, this initiative focuses on multimodal connectivity to integrate various transport networks and improve cargo movement. The aim is to reduce **logistics costs** and drive economic growth by **2024-25**.
- **National Logistics Policy (NLP):** Introduced in **September 2022**, this policy seeks to address last-mile delivery challenges, reduce bottlenecks, and enhance overall logistics efficiency. The policy plays a crucial role in making India’s logistics sector more structured and cost-effective.

What Role Does Technology Play in India’s Logistics Transformation?

Technology has been a game-changer in India’s logistics sector. Some of the significant tech-driven improvements include:

- **Logistics Data Bank Project:** Implemented by **NICDC**, this initiative uses **radio frequency identification (RFID) tags** to track containers in real time. This has significantly **reduced delays and improved supply chain transparency**.
- **Automation and AI Integration:** Indian ports and warehouses are increasingly adopting **automation, AI, and digital tracking systems** to enhance cargo handling efficiency.

What is India’s Vision for the Future of Logistics?

India is planning long-term improvements in logistics under the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, which aims to **position the country as a global logistics hub**.

Key focus areas include:

- **Port Capacity Expansion:** The government is working on **greenfield and brownfield developments** to accommodate growing trade demands.
- **Sustainability Measures:** Plans are in place to develop **hydrogen hubs** and implement **eco-friendly logistics solutions**.
- **Boosting Shipbuilding:** India aims to become a **leading player in shipbuilding and repair**, increasing its presence in the global maritime industry.

The Road Ahead

India’s consistent rise in the **World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index** from **54th in 2014 to 38th in 2023** is a reflection of its **policy-driven and technology-backed transformation**. With further advancements in **infrastructure, digitalization, and sustainability**, India is poised to strengthen its position as a key player in global trade logistics.

Mukesh Ambani Tops Asia’s Wealthiest Families List

Asia’s wealthiest families continue to shape the global economy, with their influence spanning across diverse industries such as technology, finance, real estate, and energy. **According to Bloomberg’s 2025 rankings, Mukesh Ambani and the Ambani family have retained the top position**, reaffirming their dominance in business and wealth creation. The rankings highlight the remarkable legacy of Asia’s top business dynasties, showcasing their ability to sustain and expand their financial empires over generations.

Top Ranked Families in the List

| Rank | Family Name | Business Group | Country |
|------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Ambanis | Relaince Industries | India |
| 2 | Chearavanonts | Charoen Pokphand Group | Thailand |
| 3 | Hartonos | Djarum, Bank Central Asi | Indonesia |
| 4 | Mistrys | Shapoorji Pallonji Group | India |
| 5 | Kwoks | Sun Hung Kai Properties | Hong Kong |
| 6 | Tsai Family | Cathay Financial, | Taiwan |
| 7 | Jindals | OP Jindal Group | India |





| Rank | Family Name | Business Group | Country |
|------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 8 | Yoovidhya Family | TCP Group | Thailand |
| 9 | Birlas | Aditya Birla Group | India |
| 10 | Lees Family | Samsung | South Korea |
| 11 | Zhangs | China Hongqiao | China |
| 12 | Cheng | (New World Development) | Hong Kong |
| 13 | Bajaj's | Bajaj Group | India |
| 14 | Pao/Woos | BW Group | Hong Kong |
| 15 | Kwek/Queks | Hong Leong Group | Singapore/Malaysia |
| 16 | Kadoories | CLP Holdings | Hong Kong |
| 17 | Chirathivats | Central Group | Thailand |
| 18 | Hindujas | Hinduja Group | India |
| 19 | Sys | SM Investments | Philippines |

Forbes India 30 Under 30 2025

The Forbes India **30 Under 30 list for 2025** has been released, showcasing **42 young achievers** under the **age of 30 across 19 diverse categories**. This year's list introduces the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) category** for the **first time**, highlighting the growing impact of **AI-driven innovations**. The honorees include entrepreneurs, professionals, and artists who have made remarkable contributions in their respective fields while also driving social change through sustainability and community-focused ventures.

What Makes the Forbes India 30 Under 30 List 2025 Special?

The Forbes India 30 Under 30 list, now in its 12th edition, has evolved significantly over the years to reflect changing industry trends. This year's edition is notable for several reasons:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a New Category:** The addition of AI marks a significant shift, emphasizing how AI-based solutions are transforming industries. This reflects the increasing relevance of AI in business, healthcare, and creative fields.
- **Diverse Sectors Represented:** The list features achievers from sectors including healthcare, entertainment, finance, technology, and social entrepreneurship.
- **Focus on Social Impact:** Many honorees are not only excelling professionally but are also contributing to sustainability, inclusivity, and social progress.

Who Are Some Notable Honorees on the 2025 List?

- **Healthcare Sector:** Devika Gholap, Co-founder and Chief Product Officer of OptraScan, is recognized for her work in digital pathology, helping improve cancer diagnostics.
- **Entertainment Industry:** National Award-winning actress Aparna Balamurali earns a spot for her contributions to Indian cinema.
- **Youngest Achiever:** Devan Chandrasekharan, at just 18, is the youngest honoree. As the Founder and Managing Director of Fuselage Innovations, he exemplifies youthful ingenuity in business and technology.

What Are the Key Highlights of This Year's List?

11 Women Achievers: This year, 11 women feature on the list, reinforcing the rising influence of women in leadership roles across industries.

Recognition of Professionals: Apart from entrepreneurs, 12 professionals have been included for their outstanding work, balancing business ventures with corporate leadership.

Massive Financial Deals: One of the honorees has secured a deal worth \$500 million, showcasing the high economic impact young leaders are making.

How Has the Forbes India 30 Under 30 List Evolved Over Time?

Since its inception, Forbes India 30 Under 30 has consistently reflected the changing business and innovation landscape. The 2025 list continues this tradition by recognizing young individuals who not only excel in their respective industries but also push boundaries in technology, entrepreneurship, and social impact. The inclusion of AI as a category indicates how Forbes is adapting to emerging trends in the global economy.





Women Billionaires Global List 2025: Forbes Billionaire List

Top 10 Richest Women in the World (as of February 2025)

In the 2025 edition of the **Forbes’ Women Billionaire List**, while most of the names have remained the same as last year, there have been some notable additions, and shifts in net worth and ranking.

Top 10 Women Billionaires (2025)

| Rank | Name | Net Worth (USD) | Source of Wealth |
|------|---|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Alice Walton | \$112.5 billion | Walmart |
| 2 | Francoise Bettencourt Meyers and Family | \$74.4 billion | L’Oréal |
| 3 | Julia Koch and Family | \$74.2 billion | Koch Industries |
| 4 | Jacqueline Mars | \$42.3 billion | Mars Inc |
| 5 | Rafaela Aponte-Diamant | \$39.0 billion | Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Group |
| 6 | Abigail Johnson | \$36.0 billion | Fidelity Investments |
| 7 | Savitri Jindal & Family | \$32.3 billion | JSW Group |
| 8 | MacKenzie Scott | \$32.3 billion | Amazon |
| 9 | Miriam Adelson & Family | \$31.5 billion | Las Vegas Sands |
| 10 | Marilyn Simons & Family | \$31.0 billion | Hedge Funds |

Other Ranking News

India is facing a rise in **extreme weather events** due to **climate change**, accounting for **10% of global weather-related deaths**. From 1993 to 2022, over 400 events resulted in **80,000 deaths** and **\$180 billion** in economic losses. Rising temperatures have led to **severe monsoons, heatwaves, and lightning**, with recent incidents like **floods** and **landslides** in northern states and **Kerala**. The increase is driven by **unpredictable weather, deforestation, and carbon emissions**.

The **BJP** is the richest political party in India for FY **2023-24**, with an income of ₹4,340.47 crore, according to the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** report. The **INC** follows with ₹1,225.11 crore, while other national parties like **CPI(M), AAP, BSP, and NPEP** have also reported their financial standings. The report highlights the growing **financial influence** of political parties in India.

Union Minister **Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel** unveiled the report **“Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States”** in New Delhi, assessing the **devolution of power, functions, and finances to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**. The report shows an increase in devolution to **Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)** from **39.9% in 2013-14 to 43.9% in 2021-22** and ranks states based on their **devolution index**.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has achieved a major milestone by securing the **second spot** in the **FutureBrand Index 2024**, surpassing global giants like **Apple** and **Nike**. This is the first time an **Indian company** has entered the **top three** of this global ranking, highlighting **Reliance's strong brand perception** and influence. **Samsung** claimed the top spot, with **RIL** outperforming companies like **Disney, Netflix, and Microsoft**.

REPORT

NITI Aayog Unveils Report on State Higher Education

NITI Aayog has launched a policy report titled **‘Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities’**. Released by Vice Chairman Suman Bery, along with key officials from NITI Aayog and the Department of Higher Education (DHE), the report is a first-of-its-kind policy document focused on State Public Universities (SPUs). It provides detailed quantitative analysis on key aspects such as quality, funding, governance, and employability over the past decade. The report presents nearly 80 policy recommendations and a strategic roadmap to enhance India’s higher education landscape, aligning with the goals of NEP 2020 and India’s vision for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Key Highlights of the Report

1. Launch and Key Stakeholders

- The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul (Member, NITI Aayog), CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, Secretary DHE Vineet Joshi, and AIU Secretary General Dr. Pankaj Mittal.
- It is the first policy document specifically focusing on States and SPUs.
- Based on extensive stakeholder consultations with State Government Officials, Vice-Chancellors of 50 SPUs, and State Higher Education Councils.





2. Role of SPU's in Higher Education

- 80% of India's higher education takes place in State Public Universities.
- SPUs must transition from just providing access to delivering world-class education.
- By 2035, enrolment in SPUs is projected to rise to 7 crore students as per NEP 2020 targets.

3. Challenges Identified in SPUs

- **Funding Limitations** – Need for increased investment and better financial management.
- **Governance Issues** – Need for structural reforms and leadership capacity building.
- **Capacity Building** – Training for Vice-Chancellors, teachers, and staff.

4. Policy Recommendations and Key Strategies

- The report includes nearly 80 recommendations covering,
- **Improving Quality:** Enhancing research, pedagogy, and curriculum development.
- **Boosting Funding & Financing:** Strengthening institutional financial capacity.
- **Governance Reforms:** Upgrading governance structures for better accountability.
- **Industry-Academia Linkages:** Enhancing employability through stronger partnerships.

5. Financial Commitments & Government Initiatives

- PM-USHA scheme allocates ₹13,000 crores (2023-26) for SPUs.
- ₹100 crores per SPU for transitioning into Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs).
- 10,000 PMRF research fellows, 6,500 new IIT seats, and the Bharatiya Bhasha textbook scheme to boost higher education.

6. Alignment with National Goals

- Supports NEP 2020 implementation and India's goal of becoming a knowledge hub.
- Essential for developing human capital and achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

| Report Name | Key Notes |
|---|---|
| International Air Transport Association (IATA) report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has become the global leader in passenger load factor (PLF), achieving an 86.4% in 2024, surpassing the US (84.1%) and China (83.2%). • The country's booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, showcasing its rapid growth and efficiency. • India's booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, highlighting its rapid growth and efficiency. |
| Journal Agricultural and Forest Meteorology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new study predicts that climate change will drastically affect cocoa production in West and Central Africa, which supplies over 70% of the world's cocoa. • Conducted in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon, the research warns that by 2050, 50% of cocoa-growing areas may become unsuitable due to rising temperatures and changing rainfall. • The study underscores the need for adaptive strategies to sustain production while preventing deforestation. |

Ranks & Reports on January 2025

RANKING

Hanley Passport Index 2025

India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2025 has dropped to 85th, five points lower than its 80th position in 2024. The index, based on data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA), is a globally recognized tool for assessing passport mobility. Singapore retains its top spot for the second consecutive year, while Japan ranks second after holding the top position from 2018-2023.

Key Highlights

Henley Passport Index Overview

- **Published by Henley & Partners**, a citizenship advisory firm.
- Based on IATA data with historical data spanning 19 years.
- Includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations.
- A standard reference for global mobility ranking.





India's Ranking Trends

- **2025:** 85th
- **2024:** 80th
- **Best ranking:** 71st (2006)
- **Lowest ranking:** 90th (2021)

India and Its Neighbor Country Rankings

- **China** – 60th
- **India** – 85th
- **Bhutan** – 90th
- **Sri Lanka**- 96th
- **Bangladesh** – 100th
- **Nepal** – 101st
- **Pakistan** – 103rd
- **Afghanistan** – 106th

Top 10 Rankers in Index

- **1st.** Singapore
- **2nd.** Japan
- **3rd.** Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, South Korea
- **4th.** Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway
- **5th.** New Zealand, Switzerland, Portugal, United Kingdom
- **6th.** Australia, Greece
- **7th.** Canada, Malta, Poland
- **8th.** Czechia, Hungary
- **9th.** Estonia, United States
- **10th.** Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, UAE

Key Global Ranking

- **Singapore:** 1st (second year in a row)
- **Japan:** 2nd (previously top from 2018-2023)
- **US:** Second-biggest faller over a decade, from 2nd (2015) to 9th (2025).

Notable Climbers and Fallers

- **China:** Improved from 94th (2015) to 60th (2025), gaining 40 visa-free destinations.
- Venezuela, US, Vanuatu, UK, and Canada are the top five fallers over the past decade.

Global Mobility Trends

- Only 22 passports have declined in ranking over the past decade.
- Wealthy individuals increasingly seek alternative residence or citizenship to optimize outcomes amid global volatility.



India Ranked Second for Cyberattacks in 2024

In 2024, **India** became the **second most** targeted nation globally for **cyberattacks**, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft, according to **CloudSEK's ThreatLandscape Report 2024**. The United States topped the **list with 140 attacks**, while **Israel ranked third with 57 attacks**.

Key Findings from the Report

- **Sector-Specific Impact:** The finance and banking sectors were the most affected, with 20 victims. Other impacted sectors included government (13 victims), telecommunications (12), healthcare and pharma (10), and education (9).
- **Major Data Breaches:** Significant breaches included the leak of 850 million records of Indian citizen data from Hi-Tek Group, customer data from Star Health and Allied Insurance, and 2TB of data from Telecommunications Consultants India.
- **Ransomware Incidents:** The report identified 108 ransomware incidents in India, with Lockbit being the most active group, responsible for over 20 incidents. Other notable groups included Killsec and Ransomhub.





Historical Context

- India has faced significant cyber threats in the past. In 2018, it ranked second globally for data breaches, with over 690 million internet subscribers and a growing number of breaches in both private and public sectors.

Implications

- The surge in cyberattacks underscores the critical need for robust cybersecurity measures across all sectors in India. The rapid digitization of services has exposed vulnerabilities, making it imperative to enhance security protocols to protect sensitive data and maintain public trust.

Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 Rankings

The **Edelman Trust Barometer 2025**, an annual survey by the global communications firm Edelman, revealed key insights into public trust levels in government, businesses, media, and NGOs. This year, India has slipped one rank to the **third spot** globally in terms of overall trust, despite its score remaining unchanged. The study, released ahead of the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting**, highlighted significant disparities in trust levels across income groups and nations.

Key Highlights of the Edelman Trust Barometer 2025

India’s Position in Trust Rankings

India ranked third globally in terms of **trust in institutions** (government, businesses, media, and NGOs). The **top three positions** were as follows:

- China**
- Indonesia**
- India**
 - India lost its second position to **Indonesia**, which achieved an **increased score** despite India’s score remaining stable.
 - India ranks **13th** in trust for **companies headquartered in Indian origin**, with **Canada, Japan, and Germany** topping this specific category.

Trust Gap Between Income Groups in India

The survey emphasized a stark gap between the **high-income and low-income populations**:

- Among the **high-income group**, India ranks **4th globally** after **Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and China**.
- However, the **low-income group** trusts Indian institutions less, placing India in the **3rd position globally**, following **China and Indonesia**.

| Income Group | Rank | Trust Level |
|------------------------|------|-------------|
| High-Income Population | 4th | 80% |
| Low-Income Population | 3rd | 65% |

This **15% trust gap** highlights economic inequality and its impact on perceptions of institutional credibility.

Global Trends Highlighted in the Survey

Disparities Between Developed and Developing Nations

The survey revealed a stark contrast between trust levels in **developed and developing nations**:

Developing Nations:

- China:** 77%
- Indonesia:** 76%
- India:** 75%
- UAE:** 72%

Developed Nations:

- Japan:** 37% (lowest globally)
- Germany:** 41%
- UK:** 43%
- US:** 47%
- France:** 48%

This data highlights a trend of **higher institutional trust in developing countries** as compared to wealthier nations.





Tata Tops India, Apple Leads Globally in 2025 Brand Rankings

In the latest Brand Finance Global **500 report for 2025**, Tata Group has solidified its status as India’s most valuable brand, achieving a **brand value of \$31.6 billion—a 10% increase** from the previous year. This marks the first time an Indian brand has surpassed the **\$30 billion threshold**. Globally, Apple continues to dominate with a brand value of **\$574.5 billion, maintaining** its lead over competitors.

Tata Group’s Consistent Growth

Ranked 60th among the world’s top 100 brands, Tata Group has maintained its **AAA- brand strength rating**. This consistent performance underscores the conglomerate’s diversified business model and its ability to adapt to evolving market dynamics.

Surge of Indian Brands on the Global Stage

The report highlights significant advancements by other Indian brands:

Infosys: Achieved a 15% increase in brand value, reaching \$16.3 billion, and climbed to the 132nd position globally. Notably, Infosys has recorded the fastest compound annual growth rate (18%) among IT services brands over the past five years.

LIC: Emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand with a 36% surge in brand value, totaling \$13.3 billion. The company boasts a Brand Strength Index score of 88 out of 100, the highest among Indian brands in the global ranking.

Reliance Group: Experienced a 17% growth in brand value, reaching \$9.8 billion, reflecting its expanding influence across various sectors.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T): Made a notable entry with a brand value of \$7.4 billion, highlighting its significant presence in the diversified sector.

Global Brand Valuations

On the international front, technology giants continue to lead:

1. **Apple:** Retains the top spot with a brand value of \$574.5 billion, an 11% increase from the previous year.
2. **Microsoft:** Holds the second position with a brand value of \$461.1 billion, marking a 35% growth.
3. **Google:** Ranks third with a brand value of \$413 billion, up by 24%.

These valuations underscore the enduring strength and global influence of technology brands.

Indian Banking Sector’s Rising Influence

The report also highlights the ascent of Indian banking brands in the global arena:

HDFC Group: Entered the global ranking with a brand value of \$14.2 billion.

SBI Group: Secured a position with a brand value of \$9.6 billion.

ICICI Group: Marked its presence with a brand value of \$6.4 billion.

Top 10 Indian brands

| Rank | Brand | 2025 Ranking | 2024 Ranking | Brand Value |
|------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | Tata Group | 60 | 64 | \$31.6 billion |
| 2 | Infosys | 132 | 145 | \$16.3 billion |
| 3 | HDFC Group | 164 | 228 | \$14.2 billion |
| 4 | Reliance Group | 237 | 261 | \$9.8 billion |
| 5 | LIC | 117 | 222 | \$13.3 billion |
| 6 | L&T Group | 316 | 456 | \$7.4 billion |
| 7 | SBI Group | 241 | 330 | \$9.6 billion |
| 8 | ICICI Group | – | – | \$6.4 billion |
| 9 | Mahindra Group | – | – | – |
| 10 | Bharti Airtel | – | – | – |

Globally, Apple is the most valued brand at \$574.5 billion, ahead of Microsoft at \$461 billion, said the Brand Finance report.





Brand Finance IT Services rankings

| Why in News | Key Points |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Top IT Services Rankings for 2025 | Accenture, TCS, Infosys, and HCLTech rank among the top global IT services brands for 2025. |
| Accenture's Brand Value | Accenture leads with a brand value of \$41.5 billion, maintaining its top spot for seven years. |
| TCS's Growth | TCS holds the second position with a brand value of \$21.3 billion, an 11% increase. |
| Infosys's Brand Performance | Infosys reaches \$16.3 billion, with a 15% increase in brand value. |
| HCLTech's Rapid Growth | HCLTech's brand value increased by 17%, reaching \$8.9 billion. |
| Wipro and Tech Mahindra's Rankings | Wipro has a brand value of \$6 billion, and Tech Mahindra ranks in the top 10. |
| Global IT Market Influence | Indian IT companies are showing significant growth, contributing to India's influence in the global IT services sector. |

Global Firepower Index 2025: India's Position

In the 2025 edition of the **Global Firepower Index**, **India** maintains its position at number **four**, with a score of **0.1184**. The index evaluates the military strength of 145 countries based on over 60 parameters, including manpower, natural resources, finance, and geography. A score of 0.0000 represents an ideal military strength, which no country possesses. The top ten countries in the 2025 ranking are:

1. **United States of America – Score: 0.0744**
2. **Russia – Score: 0.0788**
3. **China – Score: 0.0788**
4. **India – Score: 0.1184**
5. **South Korea – Score: 0.1656**
6. **United Kingdom – Score: 0.1785**
7. **France – Score: 0.1878**
8. **Japan – Score: 0.1839**
9. **Turkey – Score: 0.1902**
10. **Italy – Score: 0.2164**



NITI Aayog Unveils Fiscal Health Index 2025 in New Delhi

| Key Point | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Why in News | NITI Aayog launched the "Fiscal Health Index 2025" on January 24, 2025, in New Delhi, evaluating the fiscal performance of 18 Indian states. Odisha ranked first, followed by Chhattisgarh and Goa. |
| Top-Ranked States | Odisha (67.8), Chhattisgarh (55.2), Goa (53.6) |
| States with Challenges | Karnataka faced issues with expenditure quality and debt management. |
| Odisha (Static Data) | CM: Mohan Charan Majhi ; Capital: Bhubaneswar |
| Purpose of Index | Assesses revenue mobilization, expenditure management, and debt sustainability to guide policy reforms for economic growth. |
| Framework Alignment | Supports "Viksit Bharat @2047" vision for sustainable and balanced regional development. |

India's Coffee Journey: From Roots to Global Reach; World's 7th Largest Coffee Producer

India has ascended to the position of the **world's seventh-largest coffee producer**, with exports **reaching \$1.29 billion** in the fiscal year **2023-24**, nearly **doubling from \$719.42 million in 2020-21**.

World's Largest Coffee Producers (Ranked)

1. **Brazil** – The largest coffee producer, contributing approximately 37% of global coffee supply.
2. **Vietnam** – The second-largest, known primarily for its Robusta coffee.
3. **Colombia** – A major Arabica coffee producer, ranked third globally.
4. **Indonesia** – A key producer, particularly known for its robusta and specialty coffees.
5. **Honduras** – One of the leading coffee producers in Central America.
6. **Mexico** – A major exporter of Arabica coffee, ranked sixth globally.
7. **India** – Seventh-largest, growing both Arabica and Robusta beans.





World University Rankings by Subject 2025

The Times Higher Education (THE) **World University Rankings by Subject 2025** have been released, highlighting the leading institutions across various disciplines. Notably, the United States continues to dominate, securing top positions in nine out of eleven subjects. This trend underscores the nation's sustained excellence in higher education.

Engineering Excellence: Harvard Leads

In the Engineering category, Harvard University maintains its position at the top, a feat it achieved in 2024. The top ten universities in this field are predominantly from the U.S., reflecting the country's leadership in engineering education. The rankings are as follows:

1. **Harvard University**
2. **Stanford University**
3. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**
4. **University of California, Berkeley**
5. **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)**
6. **Princeton University**
7. **Georgia Institute of Technology**
8. **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
9. **Yale University**
10. **Carnegie Mellon University**

These institutions are recognized for their research excellence, innovation, and comprehensive engineering programs. The consistent performance of U.S. universities in this category highlights their significant contribution to global engineering education.

Subject-Specific Highlights

Arts and Humanities: MIT has ascended to the top position, overtaking Stanford University. This shift marks a significant change in the traditional hierarchy of leading institutions in this field.

Business and Economics: The University of Pennsylvania leads this category, reflecting its strong programs and research output in business and economics.

Computer Science: The University of Oxford has secured the top spot, indicating its growing influence and excellence in computer science education.

Education Studies: Stanford University leads this category, underscoring its commitment to educational research and innovation.

Law: Stanford University also tops the law rankings, reflecting its prestigious law program and research contributions.

Life Sciences: Harvard University leads this category, highlighting its extensive research and contributions to life sciences.

Medical and Health: Harvard University also tops this category, reflecting its excellence in medical research and education.

Physical Sciences: The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) leads this category, underscoring its strength in physical sciences research.

Psychology: Stanford University leads this category, reflecting its influential psychology programs and research.

Social Sciences: Harvard University leads this category, highlighting its comprehensive social sciences programs and research output.

REPORT

India's 4th Biennial Report to UNFCCC Submitted

India submitted its **4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** on 30th December, 2024. This report builds upon the Third National Communication (TNC) and provides a comprehensive update on India's National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the year 2020. It also includes critical information on national circumstances, mitigation actions, and the associated finance, technology, and capacity-building needs.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, highlighted India's leadership in sustainable growth, emphasizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to balancing economic progress with meaningful climate action.

Key Highlights of BUR-4 Report

1. GHG Inventory for 2020

- **Total GHG emissions in 2020,**
- **Without LULUCF** (Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry): 2,959 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e).
- **With LULUCF:** 2,437 million tonnes of CO₂e.
- **Reduction In Emissions:** A 7.93% decrease in total GHG emissions compared to 2019.





2. Sectoral Contributions to Emissions

- **Energy sector:** 75.66% of total emissions.
- **Agriculture:** 13.72%.
- **Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU):** 8.06%.
- **Waste:** 2.56%.

3. Forest and Tree Cover Contributions

- Forests and tree cover sequestered 522 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2020, reducing 22% of total CO₂ emissions.
- India's forest and tree cover stands at 25.17% of the total geographical area.

Achievements in NDC's Targets

1. Decoupling Economic Growth Emissions

- Between 2005 and 2020, India's emission intensity of GDP reduced by 36%, exceeding its target of 33-35%.

2. Renewable Energy Progress

- By October 2024, the share of non-fossil sources in installed electricity generation capacity reached 46.52%.
- Renewable power capacity (excluding large hydro): 156.25 GW (4.5 times increase from 35 GW in March 2014).
- Total installed renewable capacity (including large hydro): 203.22 GW.

3. Additional Carbon Sink

- Between 2005 and 2021, India created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover.

Commitment to Climate Action

- Despite contributing minimally to historical and current global emissions, India remains proactive in combating climate change, aligning with the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), as stated in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Decline in Student Enrolment: UDISE+ Report 2023-24

The Ministry of Education's Unified District Information System for Education Plus (**UDISE+**) report for **2023-24** reveals a significant decline in **student enrolment**, marking a notable shift from the stable figures observed in previous years.

What is UDISE+?

UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) is an online data collection system developed by the Department of School Education & Literacy in 2018-19. It was introduced to replace the manual paper-based data collection process, with improvements in data capture, mapping, and verification.

Key Findings

Overall Enrolment Decline

The total student enrolment decreased to 24.8 crore in 2023-24, a drop of over one crore compared to the previous years. This marks a 6% decline from the 26.02 crore recorded in 2018-19.

Gender-wise Enrolment Trends

Boys: Enrolment fell from 13.53 crore in 2018-19 to 12.87 crore in 2023-24, a 4.87% decline.

Girls: Enrolment decreased from 12.49 crore in 2018-19 to 11.93 crore in 2023-24, a 4.48% decline.

Regional Variations

Bihar: Enrolment dropped from over 2.49 crore in 2018-19 to over 2.13 crore in 2023-24, a decrease of over 35.65 lakh students.

Uttar Pradesh: Enrolment fell from 4.44 crore in 2018-19 to 4.16 crore in 2023-24, a reduction of 28.26 lakh.

Maharashtra: Enrolment decreased from over 2.32 crore in 2018-19 to 2.13 crore in 2023-24, a decline of 18.55 lakh students.

School Infrastructure:

- Over 90% of schools have basic amenities like electricity and gender-specific toilets.
- 57.2% of schools have functional computers.
- 53.9% of schools have internet access.
- 52.3% of schools are equipped with ramps.





Implications

The substantial drop in enrolment raises concerns about the effectiveness of current educational policies and the need for targeted interventions. The data collected through UDISE+ will be crucial in informing future strategies aimed at improving student enrolment and retention rates across various states and demographics.

Ranks & Reports on December 2024

RANKING

- **IndiGo Airlines** ranked **103rd out of 109** in the 2024 **AirHelp Score** report, placing it among the worst-performing global airlines. **Air India** ranked slightly better at **61st**. IndiGo disputes the findings, criticizing the **methodology** for lacking **transparency**, particularly regarding the **sample size** from India.
- India has become the global leader in **mobile malware attacks**, surpassing the **US** and **Canada**, with **28%** of global attacks in 2024, according to a **Zscaler ThreatLabz report**. This rise highlights the increasing **cybersecurity vulnerabilities** amid India's rapid **digital transformation**, especially with a surge in **Trojans** and **phishing attacks** targeting the **financial sector**.
- **Kerala** ranks **fifth** in the **India Skills Report 2025**, with an impressive **71% employability rate**. The state is recognized for its **talent, workplace inclusivity**, and effective **education and skill development**. The report also highlights **India's leadership in AI skill penetration** and the **transformative impact** of AI on the workforce. Kerala secures the fifth position nationally, after Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- A **UNCCD** report highlights that over **77%** of Earth's land has become drier over the past 30 years, leading to an expansion of **global drylands** by 4.3 million square kilometers. If **greenhouse gas emissions** aren't reduced, an additional **3% of humid areas** could turn into drylands by 2100. This will severely affect **2.3 billion people** currently living in drylands, with projections rising to **5 billion** by the century's end.
- **Taste Atlas** has ranked the **Top 10 Best Food Cities in the World** for 2024-25, with **Italy** dominating the list, claiming six spots. **Mumbai** ranks 5th, showcasing India's culinary diversity, particularly with **Vada Pav**. Other notable cities include **Osaka** (Japan) and **Paris** (France). The rankings are based on over **477,000 ratings** of dishes, with cities like **Naples, Milan, and Bologna** topping the list. Indian cities like **Amritsar, New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kolkata** also feature, reflecting India's growing global food recognition.

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

In a groundbreaking update to the global higher education scene, **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, renowned for its expertise in university rankings, has released the **third edition of the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025'**. This prestigious ranking evaluates universities based on their **sustainability initiatives**, considering factors like **environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance**. The 2025 edition has brought notable improvements for **Indian institutions**, especially the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, with IIT Delhi securing a top spot.

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

| Rank in India | 2025 Ranking | 2024 Ranking | Change | Institution |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|---|
| 1 | 171 | 426 | 255 | Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) |
| 2 | 202 | 349 | 147 | Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) |
| 3 | 234 | 303 | 69 | Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) |
| 4 | 245 | 522 | 277 | Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) |
| 5 | 277 | 344 | 67 | Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) |
| 6 | 299 | 220 | -79 | University of Delhi |
| 7 | 376 | 505 | 129 | Indian Institute of Science |
| 8 | 396 | 449 | 53 | Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) |
| 9 | 401 | 576 | 175 | Manipal Academy of Higher Education – Manipal University (MAHE) |
| 10 | 412 | 496 | 84 | Anna University |





Ranks & Reports on November 2024

RANKING

World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024

| Aspect | Global Rank | Regional Rank | Income Rank | Observations |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| Overall Ranking | 79/142 | 3rd in South Asia | 8th in Income Group | India ranks 79th globally, 3rd in South Asia, 8th among lower-middle-income countries |
| Constraints on Government Powers | 60/142 | 2/6 | 3/38 | Slight decline indicating challenges in balancing executive power |
| Absence of Corruption | 97/142 | 3/6 | 15/38 | Improved; reflects progress against corruption |
| Open Government | 44/142 | 1/6 | 1/38 | India leads in South Asia, showing transparency improvements |
| Fundamental Rights | 102/142 | 3/6 | 15/38 | Low ranking highlights ongoing issues in civil liberties |
| Order and Security | 98/142 | 3/6 | 21/38 | Challenges in safety and order |
| Regulatory Enforcement | 78/142 | 3/6 | 11/38 | Moderate ranking indicating need for regulatory consistency |
| Civil Justice | 107/142 | 3/6 | 23/38 | Low ranking due to delays and weak enforcement |
| Criminal Justice | 89/142 | 3/6 | 14/38 | Reflects accessibility challenges in the justice system |

Top 10 Countries in WJP Rule of Law Index

| Rank | Country | WJP Rule of Law Score |
|------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Denmark | 0.87 |
| 2 | Norway | 0.86 |
| 3 | Finland | 0.84 |
| 4 | Sweden | 0.84 |
| 5 | Germany | 0.81 |
| 6 | Netherlands | 0.80 |
| 7 | New Zealand | 0.80 |
| 8 | Canada | 0.79 |
| 9 | Australia | 0.79 |
| 10 | Singapore | 0.78 |

Observations and Key Points

- Global Trend: Rule of law has declined globally for the 7th consecutive year, with scores dropping in 57% of countries.
- India’s Global Position: India ranks 79th out of 142 countries, holding the 3rd position among 6 South Asian countries.
- Income Group Ranking: Among lower-middle-income countries, India ranks 8th out of 38.
- South Asia Region: India ranks third after Nepal (69) and Sri Lanka (75), ahead of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Top Performing Countries: Denmark, Norway, and Finland lead in global rule of law, whereas Venezuela ranks lowest.

India’s Specific Rankings in Rule of Law Factors

- Constraints on Government Powers: Ranks 60th, showing a need for balance in executive power.
- Absence of Corruption: Ranked 97th; India has shown improvement here.
- Open Government: Leads in South Asia, indicating progress in transparency and openness.
- Fundamental Rights: Ranked 102nd, reflecting issues in protecting civil liberties.
- Justice System: Low ranks in Civil (107th) and Criminal Justice (89th), highlighting problems in efficiency and accessibility.

This structured format provides a concise overview of India’s position and insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2024.





London Leads Global City Brands Rankings Again

| Summary/Static | Details |
|----------------------------|--|
| Why in the news? | London topped the list of the top 100 “city brands” for the second consecutive year |
| Top-ranked City | 1. London (Ranked 1st for 2nd consecutive year) |
| Other Top 10 Cities | 2. New York, 3. Paris, 4. Tokyo, 5. Dubai, 6. Singapore, 7. Los Angeles, 8. Sydney, 9. San Francisco, 10. Amsterdam |
| Survey Respondents | 15,000 people from 20 countries (Including Türkiye, US, Germany, Australia, UAE, Brazil, China, etc.) |
| Ranking Criteria | Based on 7 pillars: Business & Investment, Liveability, Culture & Heritage, People & Values, Sustainability & Transport, Governance, Education & Science |

India Secures Top-10 Position Globally in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Why in News | India ranked in the global top 10 for patents, trademarks, and industrial designs according to the WIPO 2024 report. It recorded the fastest patent growth at 15.7%, ranked sixth in patent filings, and fourth in trademark filings. |
| Patent Applications (2023) | India filed 64,480 patent applications, with 55.2% resident filings (first time achieving this milestone). |
| Patent Growth | 15.7% increase in patent applications, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. |
| Patents Granted (2023) | Increase of 149.4% in patents granted compared to the previous year. |
| Industrial Design Filings | 36.4% rise in industrial design applications; top sectors: Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, Health and Cosmetics. |
| Trademark Filings | India ranked fourth globally, with a 6.1% increase; nearly 90% filed by residents. Key sectors: Health (21.9%), Agriculture (15.3%), Clothing (12.8%). |
| Trademarks in Force | Over 3.2 million trademarks registered, second-largest number of active registrations globally. |
| Patent-to-GDP Ratio | Increased from 144 to 381 over the past decade. |
| Global Context | Asia accounted for 68.7% of global patent applications in 2023, with notable contributions from China, the US, Japan, South Korea, and India. |

India’s Historic Rise: Ranked 6th Globally in WIPO Patent Filings 2023

| Why in News | Key Points |
|--|---|
| India’s Global Patent Filing Rank in 2023 | India ranked 6th in global patent filings for the first time in 2023. |
| Patent Filing Growth in India | India filed 64,480 patents in 2023, showing a 15.7% growth from 2022. |
| Global Patent Filing Total | Over 35 lakh patents were filed worldwide in 2023. |
| Top Countries in Patent Filings | 1. China : 1.64 million patents, 2. USA : 518,364, 3. Japan : 414,413, 4. South Korea : 287,954, 5. Germany : 133,053, 6. India : 64,480. |





| Why in News | Key Points |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Global Patent Filing Growth | Global patent filings increased by 15.7% in 2023, the 4th consecutive year of positive growth. |
| Asia's Share in Global IP Filings | Asia accounted for 68.7% of global patent filings, 66.7% of trademark filings, and 69% of industrial design filings in 2023. |
| India's Growth in IP Rights | India also ranked in the top 10 for industrial designs and trademarks . |
| Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) | Includes patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications, and trade secrets. |
| Types of IPR: | Patents: Exclusive rights for inventions. Copyright: Literary and artistic works. Trademarks: Company identifiers. Industrial Designs: Aesthetic features of products. Geographical Indications: Origin-based goods. Trade Secrets: Confidential business info. |

India Drops Two Spots in Global Climate Index

| Summary/Static | Details |
|--------------------------|---|
| Why in the news? | India drops two places but remains among top 10 climate performers: Report |
| India's Rank | 10th out of over 60 countries |
| Strengths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Low per-capita emissions (2.9 tCO₂e, below global average of 6.6 tCO₂e) – Rapid renewable energy growth (e.g., solar projects, Rooftop Solar Scheme) – Advancements in EV deployment, especially two-wheelers – Improved energy efficiency standards |
| Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Heavy reliance on coal with plans to increase production – Growth-oriented approach driven by rising energy and industrial demand |
| Global Commitments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Net-zero emissions by 2070 – 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030 |
| Global Context | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Top 3 CCPI spots left vacant due to no country achieving “very high” performance – 63 countries and EU assessed, contributing 90% of global emissions |
| Top Performers | – Denmark (4th), Netherlands (5th), UK (6th) |
| Lowest Performers | – Iran (67th), Saudi Arabia (66th), UAE (65th), Russia (64th) |
| China and US Rankings | China (55th) and US (57th) due to heavy coal dependency and weak targets |
| Argentina's Decline | Rank 59th due to new president's climate denial stance |
| India's Climate Approach | Growth-driven, reflecting industrial and population energy demands; need for transition away from fossil fuels |

World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi

| Summary/Static | Details |
|-----------------------|--|
| Why in the news? | World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi |
| Ministers Present | Dharmendra Pradhan (Education), Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Labour & Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports) |
| Main Focus | Skills gap analysis and aligning school curricula with local industry needs |
| States Covered | Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan |
| Report Title | Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States |
| Report Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Analyze skills gaps in youth and align school curricula with industry needs – Focus on skill-based education from grades 9-12 |
| Methodology | Bottom-up approach: Primary & secondary research in districts of six states |
| Recommended Framework | Pan-India framework to broaden the scope beyond the six states |





| Summary/Static | Details |
|---------------------------------|---|
| NEP 2020 Alignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emphasizes mainstreaming skill education in schools – Focus on consistent practice to master skills |
| Key Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Embed skill-based education early (grades 9-12) – Align skills taught with local industry requirements |
| Government’s Perspective | – Broaden “jobs” to include economic empowerment and opportunities |
| Expected Outcome | – Empower youth through skills training, contributing to economic growth |

Henley Passport Index 2024 October

| Rank | Country | Visa-Free Access |
|------|-----------|------------------|
| 1st | Singapore | 195 |
| 2nd | France | 192 |
| 2nd | Germany | 192 |
| 2nd | Italy | 192 |
| 2nd | Japan | 192 |
| 2nd | Spain | 192 |
| 3rd | Austria | 191 |
| 3rd | Denmark | 191 |
| 3rd | Finland | 191 |
| 3rd | Ireland | 191 |

India’s Position

In contrast, **India** ranks **83rd**, providing its citizens with **visa-free access to 58 countries**. This ranking underscores the challenges that Indian passport holders face in terms of global mobility. However, the growing emphasis on international relations may pave the way for improved access in the future.

The World’s Weakest Passports

While some passports grant their holders considerable travel freedom, others offer limited options. The **Henley Passport Index 2024** highlights the least powerful passports, which require holders to obtain visas for most international travel. The countries that rank at the bottom of the index include:

| Rank | Country | Visa-Free Access |
|-------|-------------|------------------|
| 102nd | Pakistan | 33 |
| 102nd | Yemen | 33 |
| 103rd | Iraq | 31 |
| 104th | Syria | 27 |
| 105th | Afghanistan | 26 |

Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024

Top 10 Philanthropists in 2024:

| Rank | Name | Donation (INR Cr) | Growth (%) | Primary Cause | Company/Foundation |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Shiv Nadar & Family | 2,153 | 5% | Education | Shiv Nadar Foundation |
| 2 | Mukesh Ambani & Family | 407 | 8% | Admission for Disadvantaged Communities | Reliance Foundation |
| 3 | Bajaj Family | 352 | 33% | Education for Engineering | Bajaj Group Trust |
| 4 | Kumar Mangalam Birla & Family | 334 | 17% | Education | Aditya Birla Capital Foundation |
| 5 | Gautam Adani & Family | 330 | 16% | Education for Remote Villages | Adani Foundation |





| Rank | Name | Donation (INR Cr) | Growth (%) | Primary Cause | Company/Foundation |
|------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 | Nandan Nilekani | 307 | 62% | Ecosystem Building | Nilekani Philanthropies |
| 7 | Krishna Chivukula | 228 | New | Education | ASHA Foundation |
| 8 | Anil Agarwal & Family | 181 | -25% | Education | Anil Agarwal Foundation |
| 9 | Susmita & Subroto Bagchi | 179 | 63% | Public Healthcare | Mindtree |
| 10 | Rohini Nilekani | 154 | -10% | Ecosystem Building | Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies |

QS Asia Rankings 2025

| Category | Details |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Top 5 Rankings | <p>- 2025 Top Asian Universities include leading institutions from China, Singapore, and Japan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peking University • location Beijing, China (Mainland) • The University of Hong Kong • location Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR • National University of Singapore (NUS) • location Singapore, Singapore • Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) • location Singapore, Singapore • Fudan University • location Shanghai, China (Mainland) |
| Indian Perspective | - India's top-ranked: IIT Delhi (44th), IIT Bombay (48th), IIT Madras (56th). |
| Produced By | Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) , an internationally recognized provider of global university rankings. |
| Past Ranking (India) | - In 2024, IIT Delhi was at 46th, IIT Bombay at 50th, and IIT Madras at 58th. Shows consistent improvement in Indian rankings over the years. |
| Parameters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic Reputation - Faculty-Student Ratio - Citations per Paper - Papers per Faculty - International Research Network - Employer Reputation - Proportion of International Faculty and Students - Inbound and Outbound Exchange - Faculty with PhDs. |
| Organization Facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headquarters in London, UK - Founded in 1990 - Specializes in global education and rankings. |
| Edition | 2025, representing the latest insights and rankings in Asian academia. |
| Total Members / Countries | - Rankings include 984 institutions from 30+ Asian countries. |
| Reports Director's Name | - Ben Sowter , Senior Vice President and Director of QS Intelligence Unit. |
| Major Changes in Ranks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IIT Delhi, Bombay, and Madras improved in Asian standings, entering top 50 for the first time in QS Asia. - Regional rank improvements noted for BRICS and G20 countries, especially in STEM-based metrics. NUST Islamabad from Pakistan shares the 6th position in South Asia alongside IIT Kanpur. |





Global AI Preparedness India's Position Among Leading Nations

| Summary | Details |
|------------------------------|---|
| Why in the news? | <p>AI is revolutionizing the global economy. In the AI Preparedness Index India ranks 72 in the list.</p> <p>IMF AI Preparedness Index 2023</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Digital infrastructure, Human capital, Technological innovation, Legal frameworks. <p>Top 10 Countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore, Denmark, USA, Netherlands, Estonia, Finland, Switzerland, New Zealand, Germany, Sweden <p>India - 72nd, China - 31st, Sri Lanka 92nd, Bangladesh - 113th.</p> |
| AI Preparedness Index | Released By IMF (Internal Monetary Fund) |
| Total Countries | 174 |

Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025

| Category | Details |
|---|---|
| Key Highlight | India's growing role in interdisciplinary research, with 65 universities featured in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025. |
| Top Indian Universities in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna University (Rank 42), VIT University (Rank 65), SRM Institute of Science and Technology (Rank 84), KIIT University (Rank 92), University of Delhi (Rank 98), Lovely Professional University (Rank 99), Amity University (Rank 101), Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (Rank 102), Jamia Millia Islamia (Rank 103), Jawaharlal Nehru University (Rank 105). |
| Global Leaders in Interdisciplinary Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIT (USA) - Rank 1, Stanford University (USA) - Rank 2, National University of Singapore (Singapore) - Rank 3, California Institute of Technology (USA) - Rank 4, Duke University (USA) - Rank 5, University of Minnesota (USA) - Rank 6. |
| Significance for India | Reflects India's growing contribution to interdisciplinary research that combines various fields (engineering, life sciences, computer science) to address global issues such as healthcare, climate change, and technological advancements. |





Network Readiness Index 2024

| Summary/Static | Details |
|---|--|
| Why in the news? | India ranks 49th in Global Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024 |
| Overall Global Rank | 49th (Improved from 60th in 2023) |
| NRI Score | 53.63 (Improved from 49.93 in 2023) |
| Global Ranking in Key Indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AI Scientific Publications - 1st - AI Talent Concentration - 1st - ICT Services Exports - 1st - FTTH/Building Internet Subscriptions - 2nd - Mobile Broadband Internet Traffic - 2nd - International Internet Bandwidth - 2nd - Domestic Market Scale - 3rd - Annual Investment in Telecom Services - 4th |
| Regional Rank | 2nd (Among lower-middle-income countries, after Vietnam) |
| Telecom Infrastructure Growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tele Density 84.69% (Increased from 75.2%) - Wireless Connections - 119 crore - Broadband Expansion - 94.4 crore (Increased from 25.1 crore) |
| 5G Launch | 2022 (Improved mobile broadband speed from 118th to 15th) |
| Future Vision | Bharat 6G Vision (Leadership in 6G telecom technologies) |
| Top 10 Countries | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United States 2. Singapore 3. Finland 4. Sweden 5. Republic of Korea 6. Netherlands 7. Switzerland 8. United Kingdom 9. Germany 10. Denmark |
| India's Neighbouring Countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China - 17th - India - 49th - Bangladesh - 89th - Sri Lanka - 95th - Pakistan - 97th |

REPORT

Rise in Glacial Lake Himalaya Report Tells

| Summary | Details |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Why in the news? | <p>A government report indicated Glacial lake in Himalayan region have experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total area of glacial lakes in India grew from 1,962 hectares in 2011 to 2,623 hectares in 2024, marking a 33.7% increase. • A total of 67 lakes in India experienced over 40% increase in surface area, categorizing them as high-risk for GLOFs. • The most notable expansions were recorded in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. |
| Central Water Commission HQ | New Delhi |
| CWC Chairman | Shri Kushvinder Vohra |





ISA Launches World Solar Report Series

| Summary/Static | Details |
|--|--|
| Why in the news? | 3rd Edition of World Solar Report Series launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). |
| Released By | Pralhad Joshi, President of ISA Assembly and India's Minister for New and Renewable Energy. |
| Reports | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Solar Market Report 2. World Investment Report 3. World Technology Report 4. Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries |
| Overview of World Solar Report Series | First introduced in 2022, provides an overview of global solar progress, investment trends, challenges, and technological advancements. |
| High-Level Conference | Held alongside the 7th ISA Assembly. Co-organized with India's Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Solar Energy Society. |
| Conference Objectives | Drive actionable change in solar technology and policy for a clean energy transition. Focus on emerging technologies, storage, and the role of solar in socio-economic development. |
| About ISA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founded: December 6, 2017, headquartered in India. - Mission: \$1 trillion solar investment by 2030, promoting affordable solar. - Partnerships: MDBs, DFIs, private/public sector collaborations to aid LDCs and SIDS. - Initiatives: Policy support, investment mobilization, cost reduction, training, and data access for stakeholders. |

Ranks & Reports on October 2024

RANKING

India Ranks 105th in Global Hunger Index 2024

| Summary/Static | Details |
|---|--|
| Why in the news? | The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a comprehensive tool that tracks and measures hunger at the global, regional, and national levels and with specific emphasis on India's ranking and challenges. |
| India's GHI 2024 Ranking | 105th out of 127 countries (Serious Hunger Category) |
| India's GHI Score | 27.3 (Severe hunger level) |
| Key Indicators Contributing to GHI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undernourishment: 13.7% of population - Child Stunting: 35.5% of children under five - Child Wasting: 18.7% of children under five - Child Mortality: 2.9% of children under five |
| Impact of Conflict on Hunger | - Conflicts in Gaza, Sudan, Syria, and others contribute to food crises. |
| Challenges & Projections | - Achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2030) is increasingly unlikely without substantial progress. |
| Top Performers (2024) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-22. Belarus, 1-22. Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1-22. Chile, 1-22. China, 1-22. Costa Rica |
| Worst Performers (2024) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 121. Niger, 122. Haiti, 123. Dem. Rep. of the Congo, 126. Yemen, 127. Somalia |





| Summary/Static | Details |
|-------------------------------|---|
| India's Neighboring Countries | 4. China, 52. Thailand, 56. Sri Lanka, 68. Nepal, 109. Pakistan |

2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

| Key Findings | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Global Poverty | 1.1 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty, with 455 million in conflict-affected areas. |
| Child Poverty | Over 584 million children live in poverty, representing 27.9% of children. |
| Basic Needs Deficiency | 828 million lack sanitation, 886 million lack proper housing, and 998 million lack cooking fuel. |
| Undernourishment | 637 million people live in households with undernourished individuals, particularly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. |

| MPI of South Asian Countries (2024) | MPI Value | Poverty Incidence | People in Poverty |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| India | 0.105 | 23.8% | 234 million |
| Pakistan | 0.198 | 38.3% | 93 million |
| Nepal | 0.092 | 22.5% | 7.5 million |
| Bangladesh | 0.104 | 24.6% | 41.7 million |

| Conflict Impact | Details |
|-----------------|--|
| Electricity | 25% of the poor in conflict areas lack access to electricity (vs. 5% in stable regions). |
| Education | 17.7% of children in conflict areas lack schooling (vs. 4.4% in stable regions). |
| Nutrition | 20.8% of people in conflict zones are malnourished (vs. 7.2% in peaceful regions). |

| Slow Progress in Conflict Zones | Details |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Afghanistan | 64.9% of Afghanistan's population was impoverished in 2022/23, with 5.3 million more people falling into poverty. |

| Global Trends | Details |
|---------------|---|
| MPI Tracking | Since 2010, MPI has tracked global poverty trends, emphasizing the need for investments in peace to break the poverty-conflict cycle. |

| MPI Indicators and Cutoffs | Details |
|----------------------------|---|
| Health | Deprived if a child under 18 dies in the last five years. |
| Nutrition | Deprived if any household member is undernourished. |
| Education | Deprived if no household member has completed six years of schooling. |
| Standard of Living | Includes indicators for cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, and assets. |

| Fictional Example (Country X) | Details |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| H (Headcount) | 0.667 |
| A (Intensity) | 0.417 |
| MPI Calculation | $MPI = 0.667 \times 0.417 = 0.278$ |
| Poverty Status | MPI poor ($\geq 33\%$) |





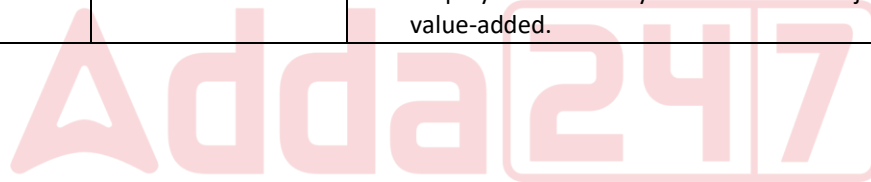
REPORT

| Report Name | Submitted By | Key Notes |
|--|--|---|
| World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific | International Labour Organisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlights challenges in extending unemployment benefits in Asia-Pacific. - Asia-Pacific achieved 53.6% population coverage by at least one social protection benefit but spends only 11.8% of GDP on social protection, below the global average of 19.3%. - Approximately 2.1 billion people remain unprotected from lifecycle and socio-economic risks, with uneven progress. |
| Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS): July 2022 - June 2023 | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of the 79th National Sample Survey (NSS), conducted from July 2022 to June 2023; not conducted in some Andaman and Nicobar Islands villages. - 96.5% of rural and 97.9% of urban individuals (aged 15-24) can read/write simple statements and perform basic arithmetic. - Medical expenses: Rural - Rs 4,129; Urban - Rs 5,290. - 95.7% of rural and 97% of urban youth (15-24) use mobile phones. |
| NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) for 2021-22 | National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on a survey of 1 lakh rural households, covering economic and financial aspects post-COVID. - Average monthly income increased by 57.6% over 5 years, from Rs 8,059 (2016-17) to Rs 12,698 (2021-22). - Average monthly expenditure rose from Rs 6,646 (2016-17) to Rs 11,262 (2021-22). |
| 2024 Living Planet Report - A System in Peril | World Wide Fund for Nature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average size of monitored wildlife populations decreased by 73% in 50 years (1970-2020). - Living Planet Index (LPI) shows steep declines: Latin America and the Caribbean (95%), Africa (76%), Asia-Pacific (60%). - Highest decline in freshwater ecosystems (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (56%) ecosystems. |
| Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024 - Pathways Out of the Polycrisis | World Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India has 129 million citizens living on less than Rs 180 (USD 2.15) daily, a decline from 431 million in 1990. - Increased poverty threshold of USD 6.85 (around Rs 576) for middle-income countries leads to more individuals below this line. - Extreme poverty in India is expected to drop below 3% by the end of the decade. |
| Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2024 | International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) & ILO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 347 GW of photovoltaic capacity added globally in 2023, a 74% increase from 2022. - China contributed 63% (216.9 GW) of new PV capacities. - Jobs in renewable energy grew from 13.7 million (2022) to 16.2 million (2023); 7.1 million in solar PV alone. - India had a cumulative wind power capacity of 44.7 GW, ranking 4th globally. |
| NCPCR Report | National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 11.5 lakh children across 27 states and 7 Union Territories identified as "vulnerable" to child marriage in 2023-24. - Uttar Pradesh has over 5 lakh vulnerable children, Assam has 1.5 lakh, and Madhya Pradesh has nearly 1 lakh. - Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands reported no children vulnerable to child marriage. |
| World Energy Outlook (WEO 2024) | International Energy Agency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India is on track to become the third-largest economy by 2028. - Global electricity demand projected to double by 2050, largely driven by China's energy transition. - India's GDP expected to grow 7.8% in 2024; CO2 emissions projected at 2.5 billion tonnes by 2035, 25% below the STEPS level. |





| Report Name | Submitted By | Key Notes |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| India Digital Payments Report for 1H 2024 | Worldline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UPI transactions grew 52% YoY in 1H 2024, reaching 78.97 billion transactions. - Transaction value rose by 40%, from Rs 83.16 trillion to Rs 116.63 trillion. - PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm account for 94.83% of transaction volume. - 1.451 billion cards in circulation as of June 2024, led by SBI, Bank of Baroda, and HDFC Bank. |
| October 2024 World Economic Outlook (WEO): Policy Pivot, Rising Threats | International Monetary Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's GDP growth forecast retained at 7% for FY25 and 6.5% for FY26. - Global growth stable at 3.2% in 2024 and 2025. - India's headline inflation projected at 4.4% for FY25 and 4.1% for FY26. |
| Employment in India Up by 36% : Center Reports | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in the news?: India saw a 36% increase in employment, adding 17 million jobs from 2016-17 to 2022-23. • Employment Growth: 36% increase, adding 17 million jobs. • GDP Growth: Average annual growth of 6.5% from 2016-17 to 2022-23. • WPR: Increased by 9 percentage points (26%) from 2017 to 2023. • Youth Unemployment: Declined from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23. • Female Workforce Participation: Steady increase due to supportive policies. • Sectoral Employment: 45% of the workforce in agriculture, gradual shift towards manufacturing & services. • Manufacturing Growth: Factories with >100 workers grew by 11.8% (FY18-FY22). • Wage Growth: Rural wages at 6.9% CAGR, Urban wages at 6.1% CAGR (FY15-FY22). • Gig Economy Growth: Projected to employ 2.35 crore by 2029-30. • Employment Elasticity: 1.11% increase in jobs for each 1% increase in value-added. |



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Prime

ALL EXAMS,
ONE SUBSCRIPTION.

