

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 31 January, 2026



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## RAJASTHAN



### Central Economic Survey - 2025-26: Rajasthan's Revenue Situation



#### Why in News?

- The recently released Central Economic Survey - 2025-26 has recorded a significant reduction in Rajasthan's revenue deficit, highlighting the state's economic management, innovations in the social and health sectors, best practices, and administrative reforms.



#### Key Points:

- **Revenue Deficit:** In the financial year 2023-24, the state's revenue deficit was ₹38,954 crore, which decreased to ₹31,939 crore in the revised estimates for the financial year 2024-25.
- **Assessment:** In the budget estimates for the financial year 2025-26, Rajasthan's revenue deficit was projected to be ₹31,009 crore.
- **Inflation:** According to the Economic Survey, inflation in Rajasthan was 6.39 percent in the financial year 2023-24, which decreased to 4.34 percent in 2024-25.
- During 2025-26 (April-December), retail inflation in Rajasthan was 0.81 percent, reflecting effective supply management, targeted interventions, and administrative coordination.

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## Facts for Prelims:

Type	Revenue Deficit	Fiscal Deficit
Scope	It includes only revenue (operational) items.	It includes both revenue and capital items.
Definition	When the government's regular operational expenditure (such as salaries, pensions, and interest payments) exceeds its regular income (such as taxes and fees), it is called a revenue deficit.	It is the difference between the government's total income and total expenditure. It indicates how much total borrowing the government needs to meet its entire annual expenditure.
Formula	Revenue Expenditure – Revenue Receipts	Total Expenditure – (Total Revenue + Non-debt Capital Receipts)

## Other Important Points:

### Rajasthan's Cash Plus Model:

- The 'Rajasthan Cash Plus Model', implemented in Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Udaipur, and Baran districts by integrating the benefits transfer of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and the Mukhyamantri Matritva Poshan Yojana to combat child and maternal malnutrition, has been specifically praised as a best practice in the Central Economic Survey.

### Comprehensive Career Education Program:

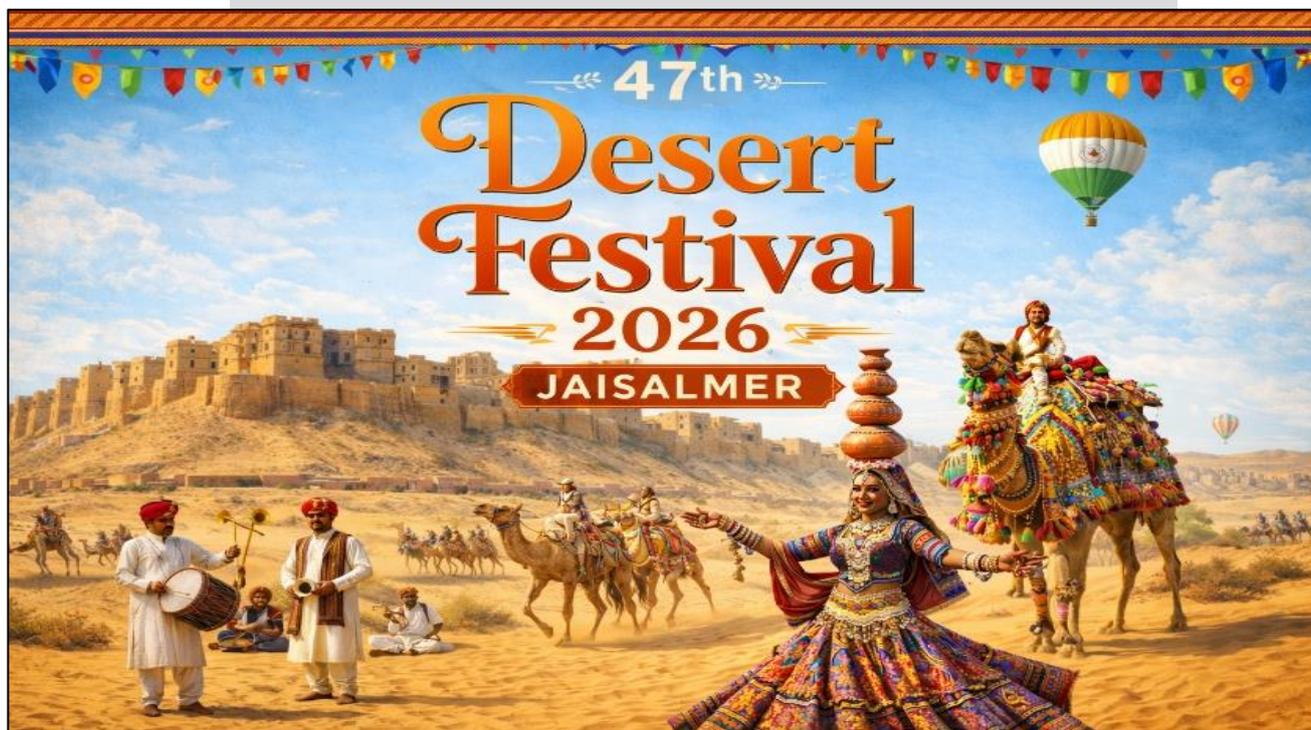
- Rajasthan's Comprehensive Career Education Program has been specifically referenced in the Central Economic Survey. Through this program, students from classes 9 to 12 are receiving career guidance and skills-based learning, which is a significant step towards employment-oriented education.
- The survey also cites, as an example, the institutionalized mapping, documentation, and conservation of shared natural resources in villages at the Gram Panchayat level in Rajasthan for the protection of community resources.
- Similarly, reforms such as third-party inspections implemented in Rajasthan for building plan approvals have also been included as best practices in the survey.

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## 47th Desert Festival 2026 – Jaisalmer

### Why in News?

- The 47th Desert Festival was organized in the Golden City of Jaisalmer from January 30 to February 1, 2026.



### Key Points:

- **Organizers:** Rajasthan Tourism Department and District Administration Jaisalmer.
- **Theme:** Beats of the Thar
- **Inauguration:** Nepaleshwar Mahadev Temple, Pokhran.

### Major Winners:

- **Mr. Desert (Maru Shri) 2026:** Manish Panwar (Jaisalmer)
- **Miss Moomal 2026:** Kusum Panwar (Bikaner)
- **Mr. Pokhran 2026:** Manish Sain
- **Miss Pokhran 2026:** Varsha Bhati

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## National Media Foundation National Conference – Jaipur

### Why in News?

- Recently, the National Media Foundation's national conference was held at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.

### Key Points:

- Inauguration:** Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani.
- Event:** January 29-30, 2026 at RIC Jaipur.
- Edition:** 54th.
- Theme:** 'The Role of Media in the Development and Conservation of Rajasthan's Historical Heritage'.
- Objective:** To strengthen media freedom and its democratic role (the fourth pillar), to raise awareness among journalists, and to honor media professionals and social workers who have done outstanding work.

### Facts for Prelims:

#### Rajasthan Journalists Health Scheme (RJHS)

- The Department of Information and Public Relations issued a notification for the 'Rajasthan Journalists Health Scheme (RJHS)' on April 4, 2025.
- It is noteworthy that this scheme for journalists was launched by the Chief Minister in Bhilwara on March 28, 2025, during the state-level Development and Good Governance Festival.
- Under the scheme, all journalists accredited by the state government will be eligible for RJHS. After the notification of this scheme, accredited journalists will be able to avail cashless medical facilities on the lines of RGHS.
- According to the scheme, the state government will provide medical expenses (IPD) of Rs. 10 lakh per annum for eligible journalists and their family members.

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- The scheme will provide cashless facilities for all indoor treatments and surgeries performed at approved hospitals as defined in RGHS.
- Relevant medical expenses incurred during the period of three days before and fifteen days after hospitalization will be considered as part of the claim.
- Maternity care, inpatient treatment (IPD), and other medical facilities will be available under the RJHS scheme.

## Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Journalists' Children:

- On April 18, 2025, the Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan, issued a notification for the 'Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of Children of Accredited Journalists'.
- This scheme is in line with the announcement made in the State Budget 2024-25 and has been launched to provide financial assistance to the children of all accredited journalists in the state for pursuing studies in national-level higher education institutions.

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## Urban Improvement Trusts (UITs) in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- With the establishment of the Urban Development Trust in the newly formed district of Balotra by the Rajasthan government, the total number of UITs in the state has reached 12.



### Key Points:

- It is noteworthy that the state government had announced the formation of a new UIT in Balotra in the 2025-26 budget.
- The Urban Improvement Trust (UIT) in Rajasthan, also known as Nagar Vikas Nyas, is a statutory body responsible for the planned development, expansion, and management of infrastructure in urban areas.
- **Established under:** Rajasthan Urban Improvement Act, 1959.

### Main Functions:

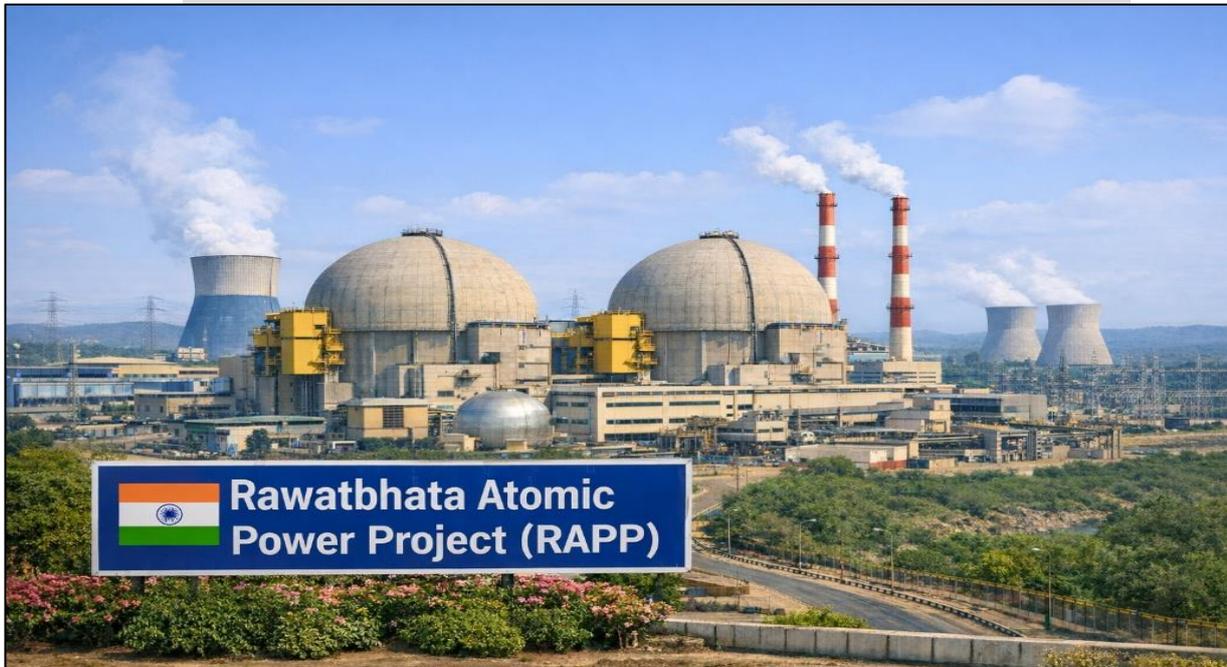
- Promoting planned townships and industrial corridors.
- Streamlining urban governance and promoting public service delivery.
- Accelerating economic development and attracting more investment.
- **Currently active Urban Development Trusts (UITs):** Mount Abu (Sirohi), Alwar, Barmer, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Jaisalmer, Pali, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sri Ganganagar, Balotra, and Dausa-Bandikui.

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## Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project (RAPP): Chittorgarh

### Why in News?

- Recently, the central government granted final approval for units 9 and 10 of the Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project (RAPP), which are being built using indigenous technology.



### Key Points:

- Currently, RAPP has a total of 7 operational nuclear units, while the eighth unit is under construction and is expected to be commissioned in April 2026.

### Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project (RAPP)

- Located in Rawatbhata, Chittorgarh, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) is the state's only nuclear power plant, with 7 operational Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) units and a total installed capacity of 1780 megawatts (MW).
- Commencement:** December 1973 (Collaboration - Canada)
- Operated by:** Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)

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Unit	Production
First Unit	100 MW (Currently shut down)
Second Unit	200 MW
Third Unit	220 MW
Fourth Unit	220 MW
Fifth Unit	220 MW
Sixth Unit	220 MW
Seventh Unit	700 MW
Eighth Unit	Under construction
Total Production	1780 Megawatts (MW)

- **PHWR:** A Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) is a type of nuclear power reactor that uses heavy water (deuterium oxide/D<sub>2</sub>O) as a coolant and neutron moderator and uses natural uranium as fuel.
- **Nodal agency for the production, maintenance, and monitoring of nuclear energy in India:** Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)
- **Facts for Prelims:**
- **Rajasthan's second nuclear power plant:** Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP)
- **Reactors:** Four nuclear reactors of 700 MW capacity each (700x4) will be installed under this project.
- Electricity generation is expected to begin at this plant from the year 2033.
- **Type:** Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)
- **Company:** Anushakti Vidyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI)
- This will be the 9th nuclear reactor to be established in the country.

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Ban on Mobile Phone Use in Ranthambore National Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, the Rajasthan Forest Department announced a complete ban on the use of mobile phones by tourists in Ranthambore National Park (Sawai Madhopur). Ranthambore National Park is the first national park in Rajasthan to implement such a rule.</li><li>This decision has been taken in compliance with the Supreme Court guidelines.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>7th All India Masters Athletics Championship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Venue:</b> Patel Stadium, Ajmer.</li><li><b>Duration:</b> January 29 to February 2, 2026.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Cricket Umpire Raghuvver Singh Rathore Passes Away</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Former Indian international cricket umpire and educationist Professor Raghuvver Singh Rathore passed away on January 30, 2026.</li><li>Professor Rathore was a resident of Udaipur and had umpired in 2 Test matches and 4 One Day Internationals. He also umpired in 50 first-class matches.</li></ul>
4.	<p><b>'Operation Knockout'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>'Operation Knockout' is a special campaign launched by the Rajasthan Police (Jaipur Rural) with the aim of curbing the illegal trade and trafficking of narcotics (drugs).</li></ul>

## 5. **Fourth Vice-Chancellor's Rolling Trophy Sports and Cultural Competition**

- **Event:** January 30 to February 1, 2026.
- **Venue:** Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute (RARI), Durgapura, Jaipur.
- **Objective:** The main objective of this event is to promote team spirit and physical fitness among the university's athletes and scientists.

## 6. **Chief Minister Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (CMREGS)**

- In compliance with the budget announcement, the Rajasthan government decided to provide additional employment under the Chief Minister Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (CMREGS) to families who have completed 100 days of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- Under this scheme, there is a provision for providing 25 additional days of employment in all districts of the state and 50 additional days of employment in 47 blocks of 8 districts with a high Scheduled Tribe (ST) population.
- **Note:** The central government has recently released a new installment of ₹827.86 crore for pending material payments under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) in the state.

## 7. **Champala Bhairu Ji Maharaj's Lakhhi Fair**

- The Champala Bhairu Ji Maharaj Lakhhi Fair was recently concluded in Kuhada village of Kotputli-Behror.
- The biggest attraction of this fair is the 'Mahaprasadi' (grand offering). 651 quintals of churma (a sweet dish) are prepared for this, using machines like JCBs, threshers, and compressors.

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## Rajasthan's Tableau Receives Popular Choice Award

- Rajasthan's tableau, which participated in the 77th Republic Day parade, was awarded the third prize in the Popular Choice Award category.
- **Award presented by:** Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, to Praveen Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Art, Literature and Culture, Rajasthan.
- It is noteworthy that Rajasthan's tableau secured the third position in an online survey conducted on the MyGov portal, where citizens voted for their favorite tableau and marching contingent.
- The first and second positions were secured by the tableaux of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.
- **The theme of Rajasthan's tableau:** The Golden Touch of the Desert: The Golden Art of Bikaner (Usta Art).

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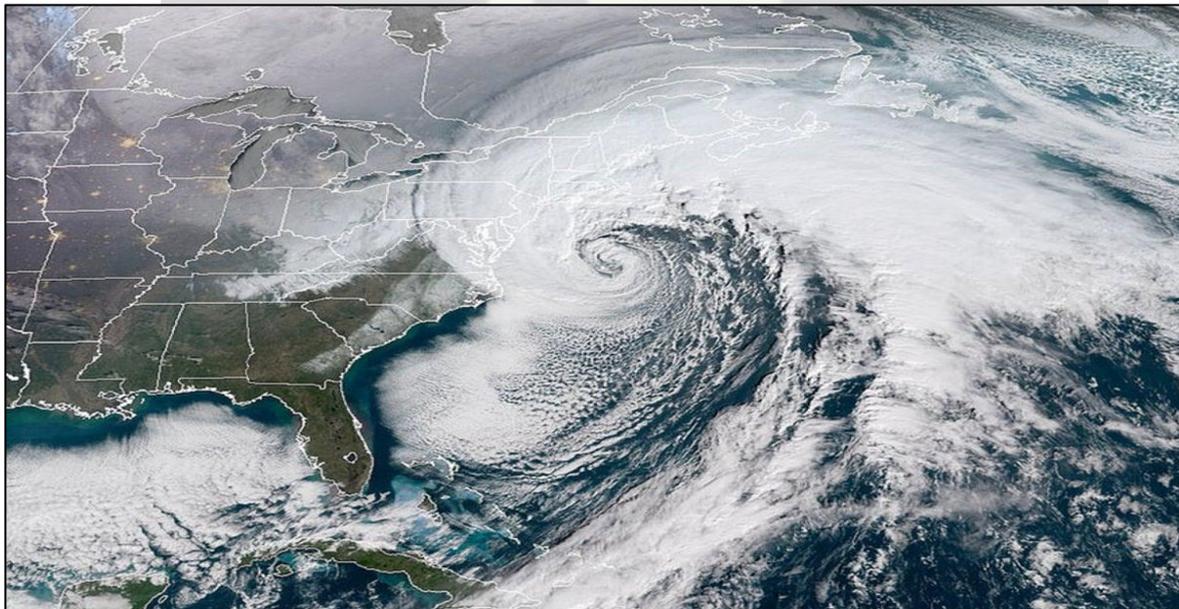
## Geography and Geology

### Bomb Cyclone



#### Why in News?

- Recently, a bomb cyclone hit North America. This resulted in severe weather conditions such as extreme cold, strong winds, and heavy snowfall.



#### Key Points:

- Origin:** When a rapidly intensifying low-pressure air mass collides with a high-pressure air mass, the process is called bombogenesis.
- Characteristics:** A drop of at least 24 millibars in atmospheric pressure is observed within 24 hours.
- Due to this sudden drop in atmospheric pressure, the pressure gradient force increases, causing winds to become strong and reach speeds of up to 80 kilometers per hour.
- Region of Origin:** These cyclones most frequently originate in the western North Atlantic Ocean. This is due to the convergence of cold air masses from North America and warm air masses over the Atlantic Ocean.



## Economic Developments

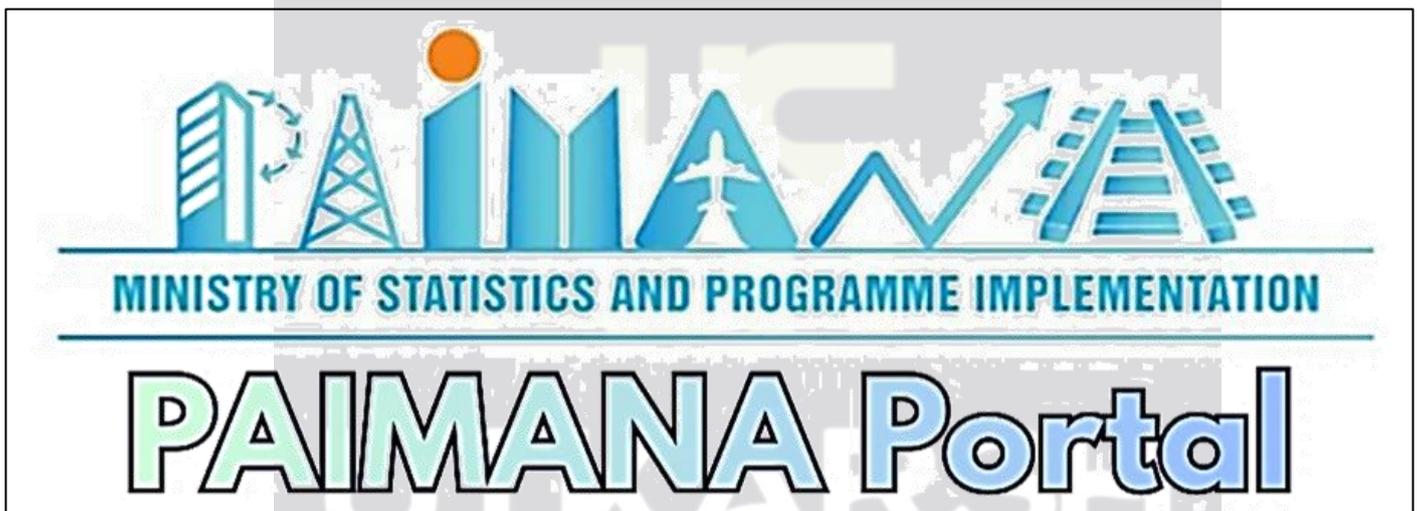


### PAIMANA



#### Why in News?

- Recently, a new web-based portal called PAIMANA has been implemented.



#### Key Points:

- Full form:** Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation Building.
- Operation:** It is a web-based portal. It is operated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Monitoring:** It has replaced OCMS-2006 (Online Computerized Monitoring System). It will be used to monitor Central Sector infrastructure projects worth Rs. 150 crore and above.
- This portal works on the "One Data, One Entry" principle.

## Highlights of the Economic Survey 2025-26

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs presented the Economic Survey 2025-26 in Parliament.

### Key Points:

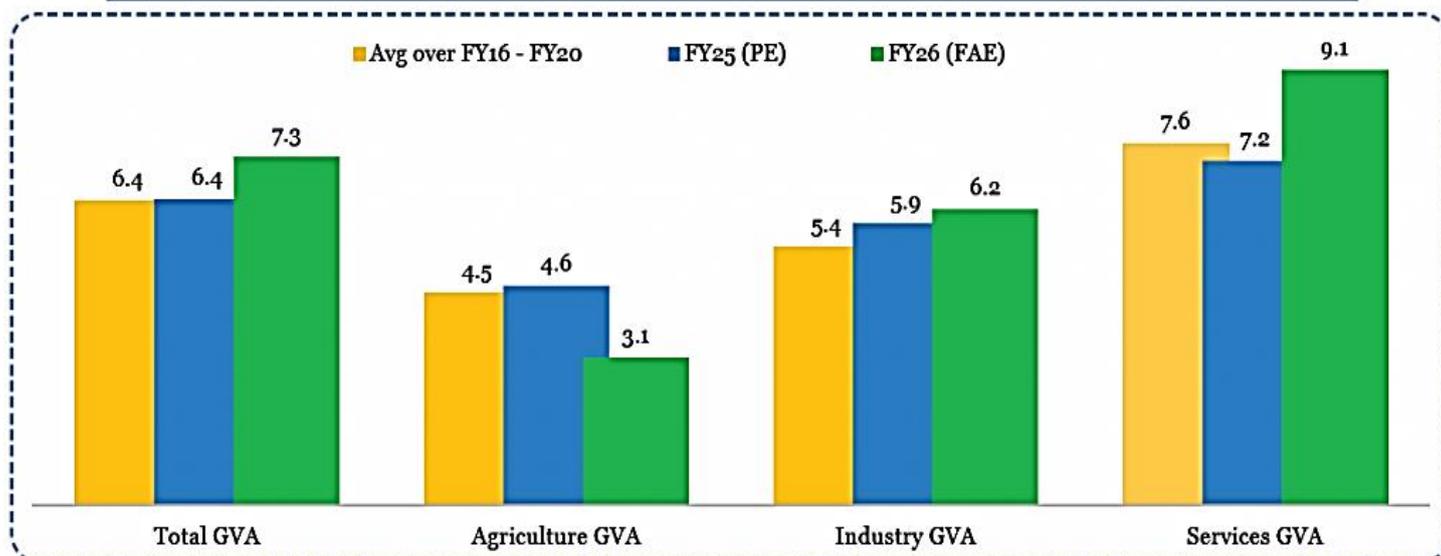
#### What is the Economic Survey?

- It is an official annual document that reviews the state of the Indian economy during the past year and outlines key economic trends, challenges, and policy directions.
- It is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, under the supervision and guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor.

#### Key Highlights of the Economic Survey 2025-26

- Global Context and India's Growth Advantage:** The global economy, beset by geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, and financial vulnerabilities, remains fragile.
- India has emerged as the fastest-growing major economy for the fourth consecutive year.
- According to the first advance estimates, real GDP growth is projected at 7.4% and Gross Value Added (GVA) growth at 7.3% in FY 2026, underscoring strong domestic fundamentals.

## Broad-Based Growth in Real Gross Value Added (%)



### Demand-Driven Growth: Consumption and Investment

- **Consumption Momentum:** Private Final Consumption Expenditure grew by 7.0% in FY 2026, reaching 61.5% of GDP, the highest level since 2012.
- This reflects low and stable inflation, stable employment conditions, and rising real incomes.
- Robust agricultural production boosted rural consumption, while tax rationalization and income growth supported urban demand, indicating a broad-based improvement in consumption.
- **Investment Resurgence:** Gross Fixed Capital Formation grew by 7.8%, maintaining its share of GDP at 30%. Investment growth was supported by sustained public capital expenditure and fresh private sector investments, as reflected in company announcements.

### Regional Performance:

- **Services as the engine of growth:** Services continue to be the primary driver of growth:
- 9.3% increase in gross value added (GVA) in the first half of FY2026.

- **Projected 9.1% growth for the full year:** Thanks to modern, tradable, and digitally delivered services, services now account for 56.4% of total gross value added (GVA).
- **Industry and manufacturing sector rebound:** Industrial activity strengthened despite global challenges.
- The industry's gross market value increased by 7.0% in the first half of FY 2026.
- Manufacturing gross market value registered a growth of 7.72% in the first quarter and 9.13% in the second quarter.
- Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have attracted investments exceeding ₹2 lakh crore.

## Financial Developments

### Key financial trends include the following:

- Central government revenue receipts increased to 9.2% of GDP in FY 2025.
- Non-corporate tax collections have increased from 2.4% of GDP (pre-pandemic) to 3.3%.
- The number of income tax filers increased from 6.9 crore in FY 2022 to 9.2 crore in FY 2025.

### Public capital expenditure witnessed a sharp increase:

- Effective capital expenditure reached 4% of GDP in FY 2025.
- States were incentivized through targeted assistance to maintain capital expenditure.
- India has reduced its general government debt-to-GDP ratio by 7.1 percentage points since 2020, while investment levels remain high.

## Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation

- **Banking sector strength:** The asset quality of Scheduled Commercial Banks has improved significantly, with Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) at 2.2% and Net Non-Performing Assets (NET NPA) at 0.5% (September 2025).

## External Sector: Resilience in a Volatile World

- India's share in global merchandise exports increased to 1.8%, and in services exports to 4.3%.
- Total exports, led by services, reached a record US\$825.3 billion in FY 2025.
- The current account deficit remained at 1.3% of GDP (Q2 FY2026).
- Remittances reached US\$135.4 billion, the highest globally.
- Foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$701.4 billion, covering approximately 11 months of imports.
- India ranked fourth globally in greenfield investments and emerged as the largest destination for digital greenfield projects (2020-24).

## Inflation

- India recorded its lowest ever CPI inflation, with average headline inflation at 1.7% (April-December 2025).
- This was driven by a decline in food and fuel prices and effective supply-side management.
- Among emerging economies, India recorded the largest decline in inflation during 2025.

## Agriculture and Food Management

- Food grain production reached 357.7 million tonnes in FY 2024-25.
- Horticultural production was 362.08 million tonnes, exceeding food grain production and contributing 33% to agricultural gross value added.
- Digital and market reforms expanded the reach of E-NAM, benefiting 1.79 crore farmers.
- Income support continued through MSP, PM-KISAN, and PMKMY pensions.

## Industry and Manufacturing

- The gross market value of the industry increased by 7.0% in the first half of FY 2026, with the manufacturing sector's growth rate rising to 9.13% in the second quarter.
- PLI schemes attracted investments worth ₹2 lakh crore and created 12.6 lakh jobs.
- India's Global Innovation Index ranking improved, reaching 38th position in 2025.
- The Semiconductor Mission approved projects worth ₹1.6 lakh crore.

## Human Capital: Education, Health, and Skills

- **Education:** 24.69 crore students enrolled in 14.71 lakh schools, the number of higher education institutions increased to 70,018, and NEP reforms enabled flexible education, credit portability, and skills integration.
- **Health:** Maternal mortality rate declined by 86% since 1990, infant mortality rate reduced to 25 (2023), and under-five mortality rate declined by 78%.
- **Employment, Skills, and Social Progress:** 56.2 crore people were employed in the second quarter of FY 2026,
- The e-Shram program registered 31 crore workers, with over 54% being women.

## Rural Development and Social Progress

- Poverty levels significantly reduced under revised global standards. Expenditure on social services increased to 7.9% of GDP, while rural asset ownership, digital mapping, and women-led initiatives strengthened economic participation at the grassroots level.

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## Emerging Sectors: Artificial Intelligence, Urbanization, and Strategic Resilience

- India's AI ecosystem is evolving around practical, low-cost, and localized solutions, driving adoption in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and governance.
- Urban connectivity projects are reshaping labor markets and easing pressure on metropolitan areas.
- Strategically, India is moving from narrow import substitution to strategic resilience and global indispensability, and is integrating itself more deeply into global value chains.

## Strategic Resilience and Indispensability

- India's development strategy is evolving from import substitution to strategic resilience and global indispensability.
- A disciplined indigenization framework, lower input costs, the proliferation of AI tailored to real-world needs, and integrated urbanization models are propelling India from 'buying Indian products' to 'buying Indian products without thinking twice'.

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## Economic Survey 2025-26: India as an 'Entrepreneurial State'

### Why in News?

- The Economic Survey 2025-26 calls for India's transition towards an 'Entrepreneurial State'.

### Key Points:

#### What does "Entrepreneurial State" mean?

- This concept was popularized by economist Mariana Mazzucato.

#### Characteristics:

- **Structuring Risk:** An entrepreneurial state is one that does not shy away from uncertainty. The government actively understands and systematically manages risk, rather than avoiding it.
- **Institutional Learning:** This involves moving from "compliance to capability," where the state "learns to fail," i.e., acknowledges failures, and makes rapid course corrections without policy paralysis.
- **Example:** South Korea built state capacity not just through administrative courage, but by deliberately and incrementally developing institutions.

#### Characteristics of the Bureaucracy:

- **Results-Oriented Bureaucracy:** Officials are evaluated based on outcomes, not merely on adherence to rules.
- **Tolerance for Failure with Learning:** Mistakes are acceptable, but stagnation is not.
- **Credible Exit Strategy:** Exiting is as important as entering. This means knowing when to stop supporting an institution, etc.

#### What it is 'not'?

- It does not mean the commercialization of the state (e.g., state capitalism), nor does it suggest privileging private interests.
- Its aim is to empower the state to act as a strategic partner in private sector innovation.
- The Economic Survey suggests that an entrepreneurial state requires a fine division of labor—political leadership sets the direction and clarifies priorities, while the bureaucracy finds the path, solves problems, and adapts policy instruments.



## INDEXES AND REPORTS



### World Nuclear Outlook Report



#### Key Points:

- The World Nuclear Association has released the World Nuclear Outlook Report.
- This report presents a very positive picture for the future of nuclear energy.

