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Detailed topics

1. Agriculture & Cropping Patterns

Keywords: Monsoon dependency, MSP distortion, diversification, climate-smart farming.

Facts/Data

1. ~55% of India's net sown area is rain-fed (Economic Survey 2022–23).
2. Agriculture employs 42% of workforce but contributes ~18% of GDP.
3. India = largest producer of milk, pulses, jute; 2nd in rice, wheat, cotton.
4. MSP regime covers 23 crops, but >85% procurement is rice & wheat → regional imbalance.
5. China yields: paddy ~6.8 t/ha vs India's 4.0; US maize ~11 t/ha vs India's 3.0.

Examples: PM-KISAN, PM-AASHA, crop diversification in Telangana (cotton → pulses). Conclusion: Agriculture must move from productivity obsession to resilience and diversification.

2. Inclusive Growth

Keywords: Growth vs development, equity, financial inclusion, social infrastructure.

Facts/Data

1. Gini coefficient India: 0.35 (moderate inequality); Brazil ~0.53, China ~0.47.
2. Financial inclusion: 80% Indians have bank accounts (Global Findex 2021), up from 35% in 2011.
3. Gender gap in labour force participation: India ~25%, US ~57%, China ~61%.
4. Multidimensional Poverty Index (2023): 415 million Indians exited poverty since 2005–06.
5. Top 10% hold 77% of national wealth (Oxfam 2022).

Examples: Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Aspirational Districts Programme.

Conclusion: Inclusive growth is growth with justice—it converts GDP numbers into human well-being.

3. Subsidies & Farm Support

Keywords: Input subsidies, distortion, direct benefit transfer (DBT), WTO AMS.

Facts/Data

1. India spends ~2.3% of GDP on subsidies (food, fertiliser, fuel).
2. Fertiliser subsidy = ₹1.75 lakh crore in 2022–23.
3. WTO: India's farm subsidies = 6% of production value, below 10% ceiling.
4. US farm bill subsidies = ~$20B annually; China ~$212B (2016).
5. Food subsidy (PDS) = ₹2.87 lakh crore 2023–24 BE, world's largest.

Examples: PM-KISAN DBT scheme; debate on MSP legalisation.
Conclusion: Subsidies should shift from blanket input support to targeted, climate-smart DBT.

4. Infrastructure Development

Keywords: National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), PM Gati Shakti, multimodal logistics, PPP. Facts/Data

1. India aims to spend $1.5 trillion (2020–25) on infrastructure (NIP).
2. Infrastructure investment ~5.5% of GDP, China ~8%, US ~2.3%.
3. Road density: India ~1.9 km/km² vs China 0.5; but quality lags.
4. Railways electrification: India 83% by 2030 target.
5. Logistics cost ~13–14% of GDP vs China 8%, US 9%.

Examples: Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, Smart Cities Mission.

Conclusion: Infrastructure is the backbone of competitiveness—India must integrate quality with scale.

5. Employment & Labour Market

Keywords: Jobless growth, demographic dividend, skilling, gig economy.

Facts/Data

1. Unemployment rate (CMIE, 2023): ~7.2%.
2. Youth unemployment: 23% (15–24 yrs), higher than China (13%) & US (9%).
3. Informal sector = ~80–85% of India's workforce.
4. Female LFPR: India 25% vs US 57% vs China 61%.
5. Gig economy: India has ~7.7 million gig workers (2020–21), projected 23.5M by 2029–30 (NITI Aayog).

Examples: MGNREGA as safety net; Skill India Mission; gig policies in Rajasthan 2023.

Conclusion: India's growth story will collapse without employment-intensive, skill-driven, gender-inclusive jobs.

6. Digital Economy

Keywords: UPI, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), fintech, data governance, digital divide.

Facts/Data

1. India leads in real-time digital transactions: ~89.5B in 2022 (more than US, China, EU combined).
2. UPI share in retail digital payments = ~75% in 2023.
3. Internet penetration: India 60% vs China 73% vs US 92%.
4. Digital economy contribution = ~12% of GDP (2022), target 20% by 2026.
5. BRICS digital currency cooperation under discussion (2023 summit).

Examples: UPI–Singapore linkage; ONDC for e-commerce; Aadhaar-enabled DBT.

Conclusion: India's digital economy is its 21st-century soft power, but inclusivity and privacy safeguards are vital.

7. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Keywords: Make in India, policy

liberalisation, automatic route,

strategic sectors.

Facts/Data

1. India received $71 billion FDI in 2022–23, 5th largest globally.
2. Services, computer software, telecom attract ~60% of inflows.
3. China received $189B FDI (2022); US $285B (UNCTAD WIR 2023). Mauritius, Singapore, US = top sources.
4. Defence FDI limit raised to 74% automatic route, 100% with govt nod.
Examples: Apple assembling iPhones in

India; defence joint ventures under Make in

India. Conclusion: FDI is not just capital

inflow—it is technology, jobs, and global

integration.

8. External Trade

Keywords: Atmanirbhar

Bharat, FTAs, trade

deficit, WTO constraints.

Facts/Data

1. India's trade-to-GDP ratio = 46% (2022) vs China 38%, US 25%.
2. Merchandise exports: $451B in 2022–23 (all-time high).
3. Trade deficit widened to $122B (2022), mainly due to oil imports.
4. India signed FTAs with UAE (2022) and Australia (2022).
5. Services exports = $322B (2022–23), surplus offsets goods deficit.

Examples: Rupee trade mechanism with Russia; India quitting RCEP.

Conclusion: India's trade strategy must balance integration with protection of domestic industry.

9. Inflation & Monetary Policy

Keywords: CPI, WPI, core

inflation, repo rate,

monetary transmission.

Facts/Data

1. CPI inflation peaked at 7.8% in Apr 2022, now ~5% (within RBI band).
2. Food inflation contributes ~45% to CPI basket.
3. RBI repo rate = 6.5% (2024).
4. US Fed raised rates to 5.5% in 2023; ECB 4%; RBI more calibrated.
5. Rural inflation often > urban inflation due to food price spikes.

Examples: Tomato price shock 2023; monetary tightening cycle post-COVID.

Conclusion: Inflation management is balancing act—curbing prices while sustaining growth.

10. Banking & Financial Sector

Keywords: Financial

inclusion, NPAs,

recapitalisation,

fintech disruption.

Facts/Data

1. Gross NPAs declined from 11.2% (2018) to 3.9% (2023) (RBI).
2. Credit growth = 15% in 2022–23, fastest in a decade.
3. India's bank assets = ~90% of GDP vs China 200%+.
4. UPI transactions = $1.5 trillion in 2022; fintech adoption ~87% (global avg 64%).
5. BRICS New Development Bank capitalised at $50B; India a founder member.

Examples: Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) reforms; PSB mergers 2019.

Conclusion: India's banking sector has stabilised but must adapt to digital disruption and green finance.

11. Start-ups & Innovation Economy

Keywords: Unicorns,

innovation ecosystem,

venture capital, DPI.

Facts/Data

1. India = 3rd largest start-up ecosystem globally (after US, China).
2. 108 unicorns valued at $340B (2023).
3. DPI (UPI, Aadhaar, ONDC) is backbone of start-up innovation.
4. US VC investments ~$250B/year; India ~$25B.
5. China dominates hardware start-ups, India fintech & SaaS.

Examples: UPI–based fintech like PhonePe, ONDC disrupting e-commerce.

Conclusion: Start-ups are India's new sunrise sector, but need stable policies and global integration.

12. Poverty, Inequality & UBI

Keywords: Universal Basic Income (UBI), social safety nets, MPI, direct transfers.

Facts/Data

1. MPI 2023: 415M Indians exited poverty since 2005–06.
2. 21.2% Indians still multidimensionally poor.
3. Top 10% own 77% of wealth (Oxfam 2022).
4. UBI pilots in Madhya Pradesh & Delhi showed improved nutrition.
5. Brazil's Bolsa Familia covers 50M people; US has Earned Income Tax Credit.

Examples: PM-Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana; PM-KISAN as quasi-UI.

Conclusion: India may not afford full UBI now, but targeted transfers can reduce poverty & inequality sustainably.

13. Fiscal Deficit & Public Finance

Keywords: FRBM Act, fiscal glide path, revenue vs capital expenditure.

Facts/Data

1. Fiscal deficit for 2023–24 = 5.9% of GDP; target to reach 4.5% by 2025–26.
2. Interest payments = 24% of govt expenditure, crowding out capex.
3. India's tax-to-GDP ratio = 11.7%, vs OECD avg 33%, China 20%.
4. Capex allocation records high: ₹10 lakh crore in 2023–24 budget.
5. US deficit ~5.5% of GDP, Japan ~8%.

Examples: GST rationalization debate; 15th Finance Commission's devolution formula.

Conclusion: Fiscal prudence must walk with growth—capex-driven consolidation is India's path.

14. Rural Development & Agriculture–Allied Sector

Keywords: Rural infrastructure, agro-processing, cooperative model.

Facts/Data

1. Rural population = 65% of India; contributes ~47% of GDP.
2. Rural road density ↑ under PMGSY: >7.5 lakh km built.

3. Dairy: India largest producer (221 MMT, 2022–23).
4. China's agri value-add per worker ~4x India's.
5. Rural poverty fell sharply—MPI 2023: 415M exited poverty since 2005–06.

Examples: Amul cooperative model; FPOs under PM-FME scheme.
Conclusion: Rural India's transformation is India's development story—agro-allied diversification is the key.

15. Infrastructure Financing

Keywords: PPP,

Infrastructure

Investment Trusts

(InvITs), monetisation.

Facts/Data

1. India needs ~$1.4 trillion infra investment by 2030 (NIP).
2. NMP (National Monetisation Pipeline) targets ₹6 lakh crore by 2025.
3. InvITs raised >₹1.25 lakh crore by 2023.
4. China spends ~8% of GDP on infra, India ~5.5%.
5. World Bank's Ease of Logistics Index: India 38th/139 (2023), up from 44th.

Examples: NHAI InvIT; airports privatisation model.

Conclusion: Infra needs blended finance—private capital + public regulation

16. Digital Currency & Fintech

Keywords: CBDC,

UPI, financial

inclusion, data

localisation.

Facts/Data

1. RBI launched pilot CBDC (e₹) in 2022 for wholesale + retail.
2. India = global leader in digital transactions: 89.5B in 2022 (3x China).
3. Digital payments = 75% of retail by volume.
4. Fintech funding in India ~$25B, US ~$250B (2022).
5. China piloting Digital Yuan in >20 provinces; US CBDC still in research stage.

Examples: UPI–Singapore cross-border link; ONDC for e-commerce.
Conclusion: Digital currency + fintech are redefining money itself—India must ensure inclusion + cyber-security.

17. Industrial Policy & Manufacturing

Keywords: Make in India,

Atmanirbhar Bharat, PLI

schemes.

Facts/Data

1. Manufacturing share = 16–17% of GDP; target 25% by 2025
2. PLI outlay = ₹1.97 lakh crore (14 sectors).
3. India's manufacturing exports = $447B (2022–23)
4. China's manufacturing = 28% of GDP; Vietnam leveraging supply-chain shift.
5. Ease of Doing Business rank: India 63rd (2020, last edition).

Examples: PLI in electronics → iPhone exports >$10B in 2023.
Conclusion: India must capture supply-chain diversification, else miss its demographic dividend.

18. Urbanisation & Migration

Keywords: Smart Cities, urban sprawl, peri-urbanisation, remittances.

Facts/Data

1. India's urban population = 36% (2023), projected 50% by 2047.
2. Rural-to-urban migration ~60% of total migration (Census 2011).
3. India's cities contribute ~70% of GDP.
4. Slum population = ~65M (2011), highest in Asia after China.
5. UN data: China urbanisation = 65%, US ~83%.

Examples: Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban).

Conclusion: Urbanisation is inevitable—planned growth determines whether it becomes a demographic dividend or disaster.

19. MSMEs & Informal Economy

Keywords: Cluster-based development, credit gap, skilling, digitalisation.

Facts/Data

1. MSMEs = 30% of GDP, 48% of exports, 110M jobs.
2. Credit gap = ₹25 trillion (RBI, 2022).
3. Informal sector = 80–85% of workforce, ~50% of GDP.
4. US small businesses: ~45% of GDP, better credit access.
5. China's SMEs: 60% of GDP, 80% of jobs.

Examples: Mudra Yojana loans; Udyam registration portal; MSME clusters in Ludhiana, Tiruppur.

Conclusion: MSMEs are India's growth engine; reforms must target finance + formalisation.

20. Tourism Economy

Keywords: Cultural tourism, medical tourism, eco-tourism, soft power. Facts/Data

1. Tourism contributed $194B to GDP (2022), 6.8% of GDP.

2. Jobs: ~39M in 2022 (8% of total employment).
3. Foreign tourist arrivals: 6.2M in 2022; Thailand ~40M, France 66M.
4. Medical tourism market = $7B in 2022, projected $13B by 2026.
5. BRICS: Brazil, South Africa have similar eco-tourism strengths.

Examples: Statue of Unity, Kashi Vishwanath corridor; Ayush Visa scheme.
Conclusion: Tourism is India's underutilised soft power—if integrated with infrastructure & branding, it can rival IT exports.

21. Energy Security

Keywords: Import dependency, diversification, renewables, strategic reserves.

Facts/Data

1. India imports ~85% of crude oil, 55% of gas, 25% of coal.
2. Energy demand ↑ by 3% annually, fastest globally (IEA)
3. US has 714M barrels in SPR; India ~39M barrels capacity.
4. China largest energy consumer (26% global coal use)
5. Renewables now supply 40% of India's installed capacity.

Examples: International Solar Alliance; India-Russia oil deals post-Ukraine crisis. Conclusion: Energy security = balancing imports with domestic renewables + geopolitics.

22. Inflation & Food Security Nexus

Keywords: Food inflation, supply shocks, buffer stocks, NFSA.

Facts/Data

1. India produces 130M tonnes rice, 110M tonnes wheat annually.
2. Buffer stock norms = 30M tonnes rice + wheat; FCI holds >60M (2023).
3. Tomato prices spiked to ₹250/kg in 2023 → CPI food inflation >11%.
4. NFSA covers 813M beneficiaries, world's largest food scheme.
5. Brazil: food inflation tackled by direct cash transfers (Bolsa Familia).

Examples: Tomato Mission in Andhra; PMGKAY free food grains during COVID.

Conclusion: Inflation control in India = food security + supply chain efficiency.

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