

**Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day**

1. Discuss the evolution of caste-based electoral politics in Bihar, highlighting the major issues associated with it. Analyze its implications on governance, social justice, and economic development in the state. [BPSC General Studies II Section II: 38 marks]
2. Critically analyze the role of technology in driving the modernization of Bihar. Discuss the major initiatives undertaken by the state government to leverage technology for socio-economic development. What challenges hinder the effective use of technology, and how can these be addressed to ensure sustainable growth and governance? [BPSC General Studies II Section III: 38 marks]

**Bihar Special****Electoral roll of Bihar****Why in the news?**

As per the final electoral roll published by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for 243 assembly constituencies on 7th January, 2025:

- ❖ The total electors in the state stands at 7.80 crore with 4.07 crore male voters and 3.72 crore female voters while there are 2104 voters from the third gender.
- ❖ The final rolls updated as per special summary revision 2025 have included a total of 7.94 lakh while names of 4.09 lakh voters have been deleted for various reasons including deceased voters and duplicate entries, as per rules, from the period of draft publication to the final publication of rolls on January 5, 2025.
- ❖ Going by the voters as per age category:
  - The number of youngest voters in the 18-19 age group category is 8 lakh while the highest number of voters are in the age group of 30-39 with 2.04 crore followed by 1.69 crore voters in the age group of 40-49 and 1.55 crore in the age group of 20-29.
  - In the age group of 50-59, there are 1.14 crore voters while in the age group of 60-69, there are 72 lakh voters while in the age group of 70-79, there are 39.65 lakh voters.
  - In the 80-plus age group category, there are 16 lakh voters.

- ❖ The gender ratio in the electoral rolls has witnessed an increasing trend.
  - The gender ratio is the number of female voters enrolled as against every 1000 male voters. It is 914 as per this latest dataset.

### Polity And Governance

#### Joint Parliamentary Committee

##### Why in the news?

The first meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on two bills related to the One Nation One Election is underway in New Delhi.

- ❖ The Bills are officially named as the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

##### About the committee:

- ❖ The 39-member committee has 27 Members from the Lok Sabha and 12 Members from the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Committee will submit its report by the first day of the last week of the next Parliament session.

### International Relations

#### First India-Malaysia Security Dialogue



##### Why in the news?

India and Malaysia have agreed to deepen cooperation in counter-terrorism and deradicalization, cyber security, defence industry, and maritime security.

- ❖ During the India-Malaysia Security Dialogue in New Delhi, both countries explored ways to enhance cooperation in critical minerals and rare earth elements.
- ❖ It was co-chaired by National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval and Director General of the National Security Council of Malaysia Raja Dato Nushirwan Bin Zainal Abidin.

### Economy

#### First Advance Estimates of GDP 2024-25

##### Why in the news?

The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the first advance estimates of GDP for the fiscal year 2024-25 on 7th January 2025.

### Key Highlights of the Estimates:

- ❖ Real GDP has been estimated to grow by 6.4% in FY 2024-25 as compared to the growth rate of 8.2% in the Provisional Estimate (PE) of GDP for FY 2023-24.
- ❖ Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 9.7% in FY 2024-25 over the growth rate of 9.6% in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ Real GVA has grown by 6.4% in FY 2024-25 over the growth rate of 7.2% in FY 2023-24. Nominal GVA has shown a growth rate of 9.3% in FY 2024-25 as compared to a growth rate of 8.5% in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ Real GVA of Agriculture and allied sector has been estimated to grow by 3.8% during 2024-25 as compared to the growth of 1.4% witnessed during the last year, i.e., 2023-24.
- ❖ Real GVA of the 'Construction' sector and 'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' sector has been estimated to observe good growth rates of 8.6% and 7.3%, respectively during the FY 2024-25.

- ❖ Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) at Constant Prices, has witnessed a growth rate of 7.3% during FY 2024-25 over the growth rate of 4.0% in the previous Financial Year.
- ❖ Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE) at Constant Prices, has rebounded to a growth rate of 4.1% as compared to the growth rate of 2.5% in the previous Financial Year.

### What has led to this growth slowdown in the Indian economy?

- ❖ From an expenditure side perspective, the reason seems to be a slowdown in investment rather than consumption.
  - A slowdown in investment basically means subdued expectations of future demand and can therefore set off a vicious cycle of low growth.
- ❖ Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) and Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE) growth is expected to increase from 4% to 7.3% and 2.5% to 4.1% respectively between 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- ❖ Growth in Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), on the other hand, is expected to fall from 9% to 6.4% during this period.

### Miscellaneous

#### Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility



#### Why in the news?

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has launched **Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility** that can cater to Indian research and industry requirements.

- ❖ This state-of-the-art facility is located at the 'Discovery' Satellite campus in Thaiyur, about 36 km from IIT Madras.
- ❖ It is a unique facility that can address challenging problems in Indian ports, waterways, and coastal Engineering.
- ❖ It is a multi-directional shallow wave basin that can handle complex wave and current interactions.

#### Indusfood 2025



#### Why in the news?

The country's farm-to-fork trade exhibition, Indusfood 2025 started in Delhi-NCR on 8th January 2025 with the participation of over 2,300 exhibitors from over 30 countries.

- ❖ The 8th Edition of the festival was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan
- ❖ The integrated trade fair will host over 7,500 international buyers and 15,000 Indian trade visitors.
- ❖ Indusfood 2025 will also host the prestigious Asia President's Forum for the very first time in India, in partnership with the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations.

### Persons In News

#### V. Narayanan

#### Why in the news?

V. Narayanan has been named as the **next Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and Secretary of the Department of Space.





- ❖ He will assume the role of 11th chairman on January 14, 2025, succeeding the current ISRO chief, S. Somnath.

#### About V. Narayanan

- ❖ He is a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in India's space program, currently serving as the **Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** in Valiamala, Kerala.
- ❖ He joined ISRO in 1984 and has since held various critical roles, contributing significantly to India's space missions.
- ❖ He has overseen key developments in liquid, semi-cryogenic, and cryogenic propulsion stages for launch vehicles, chemical and electric propulsion systems for satellites, and space system health monitoring technologies.

#### Important Days/ Dates

#### 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

#### Why in the news?

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is being held in Bhubaneswar from January 8 to 10, 2025.

- ❖ It is celebrated every two years to strengthen the connection between the overseas Indian community and the Government of India while providing a platform for cultural reconnection and collaboration.

- The event commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on January 9, 1915.

#### History:

- The first PBD Convention was held in 2003, and since 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs has organised the event biennially.
- The 17th PBD Convention, held in Indore in 2023, attracted over 3,500 participants from 70 countries, making it the first physical gathering after the pandemic.

- ❖ Objective: To celebrate the significant contributions of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and the global Indian diaspora to India's development.

- ❖ Theme 2025: **Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat.**

- It highlights the vital role the diaspora plays in shaping a prosperous and progressive India.



### News in Short

- ❖ Indonesia has joined BRICS as a full member with the backing of India and other member countries.
  - Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto has accepted a visit to India as the Republic Day 2025 chief guest.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **Z-Morh tunnel** on the Srinagar-Sonamarg road to make Sonamarg an all-weather tourist destination on 13th January 2025.
  - The Z-Morh Tunnel is a 6.5 km long 2-lane road tunnel between Gagangir and Sonamarg in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - It is named after the Z-shaped stretch of road that the tunnel has replaced (Z-Morh translates to “Z-turn” in English).

- ❖ Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the Government of India Calendar for 2025 in New Delhi.
  - The government has chosen “Janbhagidari se Jankalyan” as the central theme for its 2025 calendar, underscoring the ethos of transformative governance.
- ❖ The first human death due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), or H5N1 has been reported in the US state of Louisiana.
  - In India, three tigers and a leopard died recently after getting infected by the HPAI H5N1 virus, at the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park in Nagpur
- ❖ Odisha State Government has launched a new scheme **Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme** with an aim to reduce the dropout rate among ST students.
  - Under the scheme, a one-time incentive of Rs. 5000/- will be provided to ST students getting enrolled in class IX & class XI.



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