The Ultimate Reference Compendium of 2026

CHRONICLE YEAR BOOK

INDIA IN A TRANSFORMING GLOBAL ORDER

India's Decisive Role in the Global Economy

India: Enhanced Regional Security Preparedness

The Rise of Geo-economics: A New Dimension of Global Diplomacy

Rare Earths: The New Fuel of the Global Economy

The Rise of Women in the Defence Sector

Integrated and Scientific River Management in India

Agenda 2030

◆ SECURITY ◆ ECONOMY ◆ RESOURCES
◆ GOVERNANCE ◆ SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

DIARY OF EVENTS

INDIA AT A GLANCE | WORLD AT A GLANCE

GROUPINGS & ORGANISATIONS

CHRONICLE
Nurturing Talent Since 1990

The Ultimate Reference Compendium of 2026

CHRONICLE YEAR BOOK

This edition represents a paradigm shift, from our last year's issue, transitioning from 'information' to 'understanding' to better serve your exam preparation.

The issues and events have been selected to meet the requirements of the aspirants while fostering a deep understanding of all subjects.

With a new focus on General Studies across all levels- Prelims, Mains, and Interview-this Year Book aligns perfectly with modern requirements to streamline your path to success.

Editor
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Concept & Writen by
Chronicle Editorial Team

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Preface

As we step into 2026, the world navigates a **'Great Transition**.' The post-Cold War order has yielded to a multipolar reality where technology, geo-politics, economy, regionalism, and sectarianism intersect in complex ways. In this era, India has emerged as a "leading power," anchoring global stability while charting its own destiny.

What's new in this edition?

The Chronicle Yearbook 2026 is centered on the theme: **"India in a Transforming Global Order."** Further, it elaborates how India is treading its path with **Agenda 2030** framework to become world's 3rd largest economy as well as establishing itself as a leading global power.

This edition serves as a roadmap for UPSC and State PSC aspirants, as well as general readers, to understand India's five pillars (Security, Economy, Resources, Polity & Governance, and Social Development). Additionally, it includes more than 185 current-based dynamic issues that redefine the Indian narrative within the Agenda 2030 ($5 trillion economy) framework.

The issues and events have been selected to meet the requirements of the Preliminary exam, Main exam, and Interview, while fostering a deep understanding of all General Studies subjects.

India in a Transforming Global Order

India is asserting its role as a pivotal security and economic leader by leveraging digital infrastructure and strategic resource autonomy in a shifting global landscape. Through social inclusion and ecological resilience, the nation is redefining its influence as a confident, multidimensional, and future-ready global power.

Five Pillars of Agenda 2030 - India's Strategic Roadmap

India's "Agenda 2030" represents a visionary blueprint for a nation on the rise. This strategic roadmap is built upon ***five foundational pillars****: Social Justice, Science and Technology, Environment, Governance, and International Affairs. Together, these pillars form a cohesive strategy to drive inclusive social transformation while establishing India as a leader in the global digital economy.*

As India advances through this defining decade, The Chronicle Yearbook 2026 seeks not merely to inform, but to inspire clarity of thought, strategic vision, and intellectual confidence. In capturing the rhythms of change—global disruptions, national aspirations, and civilizational continuity—this edition empowers readers to view India not as a passive respondent to world events, but as an active shaper of the emerging global order.

It is our hope that this Year Book will serve as a trusted companion for aspirants and readers alike, enabling them to engage the future with informed conviction, analytical depth, and a steadfast belief in India's transformative journey toward 2030 and beyond.

Editor-in-Chief

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INDIA
IN A TRANSFORMING GLOBAL ORDER

Security, Economy, Resources, Governance & Social Transformation

In the third decade of the 21st century, India stands at the intersection of profound global and domestic transformations that are reshaping the contours of power, development, and governance.

The changing nature of regional and global security—marked by hybrid warfare, maritime competition, cyber threats, and strategic realignments—has compelled India to expand its regional security preparedness and assume greater responsibility as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific.

India is emerging as a premier global economic force, projected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030. Driven by its

demographic dividend, digital infrastructure, and manufacturing reforms, it is reshaping global supply chains. As a leader in energy transition, innovation, and the Global South, India serves as a vital engine for inclusive, sustainable global growth and stability.

Rare Earth Elements have replaced oil as the strategic engine of global technology, green energy, and defense. China's processing monopoly poses significant geopolitical risks, prompting nations to diversify supply chains. With the world's fifth-largest reserves, India must leverage innovation, private investment, and international partnerships to transform potential into strategic power, ensuring national security and long-term global leadership.

Global diplomacy has shifted from military dominance to geo-economics, weaponizing trade, technology, and finance. India navigates this fragmented order through strategic autonomy, leveraging its digital infrastructure, manufacturing reforms, and connectivity like IMEC. By securing critical minerals and leading the Global South, India has evolved from a rule-follower into a vital rule-shaper and balancing power in the current landscape.

India's rivers face severe stress from pollution and climate change, requiring Integrated and Scientific River Management (ISRM). This paradigm shift treats rivers as ecological systems, prioritizing basin-centric governance, AI-driven monitoring, and enforced environmental flows. By integrating water-efficient agriculture, community participation, and innovative financing, ISRM ensures sustainable water security, climate resilience, and ecological restoration across the nation.

Women's rising participation in defense is now a strategic necessity for modern, tech-driven security. In India, judicial reforms granting Permanent Commission and NDA entry have broken barriers to combat and leadership. While challenges like patriarchal mindsets and infrastructure gaps persist, inclusivity enhances operational efficiency. The future lies in role-based standards, ensuring women lead in shaping sustainable global security.

Ultimately, India's trajectory toward 2047 is defined by its ability to synthesize economic prowess with strategic foresight and internal resilience. By mastering the complexities of geo-economics, securing critical resource chains, and fostering inclusive, tech-driven security architecture, India has transitioned from a balancing power to a decisive rule-shaper.

INDIA'S EXPANDED REGIONAL SECURITY PREPAREDNESS

Extended regional security defines India's shift from defense to deterrence

India's national security strategy has shifted from a land-centric focus on territorial defense to an expanded regional and global outlook. Recognizing that economic growth and energy security depend on maritime routes, India has adopted an Extended Regional Security approach. Anchored in the doctrines of SAGAR and its role as a Net Security Provider, India has strengthened maritime domain awareness, naval deployments, and regional partnerships across the Indian Ocean Region. Through logistics agreements, defense cooperation under the Act East Policy, cyber and space capabilities, and indigenous defense production, India is evolving from a border-focused state into a proactive regional security provider.

In the third decade of the 21st century, India's national security architecture is undergoing an epochal transformation. For decades, Indian defense planning revolved around the preservation of 'territorial integrity' and the security of land borders (LoC and LAC) with Pakistan and China.

However, changing geopolitical equations and India's rise as a superpower have compelled it to shift its strategic vision from the 'mainland' to the 'Extended Neighborhood' and beyond.

Today, India's security perimeter is not limited to the peaks of the Himalayas; it has expanded from the depths of the Indian Ocean to the disputed waters of the South China Sea, and from the Gulf of Aden to the strategic orbits of outer space.

A Shift in the Security Paradigm

The most significant change in India's security outlook is the transition from a 'Continental Mindset' to a 'Maritime and Expeditionary Mindset'.

The global security landscape of the 21st century has become unprecedentedly complex and multi-dimensional. Alongside traditional military threats, the security of energy routes, the protection of supply chains, and the preservation of the Global Commons have become indispensable for national survival.

India has acknowledged that the security of its economic growth—which depends on 90% of maritime trade and 80% of energy imports—cannot be ensured merely at the Wagah Border or Tawang, but must be secured in the Strait of Malacca and the Strait of Hormuz.

This is the doctrine of 'Extended Regional Security', which advocates for neutralizing threats in the deep sea or on foreign soil before they reach Indian shores.

Expansion of Security Doctrine

India's extended regional security concept is based on two main pillars: 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the role of a 'Net Security Provider' (NSP).

Through these two principles, India is advancing a collaborative, inclusive, and development-oriented approach in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The 'SAGAR' doctrine was propounded by the Prime Minister during his visit to Mauritius in 2015. Its objective is to ensure security and development for all nations in the Indian Ocean Region. It is not limited to military security but encompasses the blue economy, connectivity, environmental sustainability, and collective well-being.

Under this doctrine, India prioritizes the security of maritime trade routes, sustainable use of marine resources, and regional cooperation.

India has taken several concrete steps to implement this doctrine:

- **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** India has expanded its Coastal Surveillance Radar Stations (CSRS). Radar networks have been established in countries like

THE INDIAN CENTURY: NAVIGATING THE SHIFT IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWER

India drives growth through reforms, demographics, manufacturing, and digital leadership

India has emerged as a decisive force in the 21st-century global economy, driven by sustained high growth, structural reforms, and strategic stability. As the world's fourth-largest economy and the fastest-growing major economy, India is projected to become the third-largest by 2030 and contribute over 16% of global growth in the coming decade. Its demographic dividend, digital public infrastructure (Aadhaar–UPI), manufacturing push under the PLI scheme, and leadership in global supply-chain diversification have strengthened its economic weight. India's role in energy transition, rising exports, FDI inflows, technological leadership, and advocacy for the Global South position it as a key engine of global growth and stability.

In the changing economic structure of the 21st century, India has emerged as a nation that has not only influenced the balance of power in the world economy but has also demonstrated the capability to redefine it.

Amidst the challenges and uncertainties facing the global economy, India has registered its presence as an indispensable power based on its internal strength, structural reforms, and strategic stability.

The demographic dividend, commitment to sustainable development, technological innovation, a rapidly emerging consumer market, geopolitical stability, and leadership as the voice of the Global South—all these elements make India a decisive force in the global economy.

Today, India is not only the fourth-largest economy in the world but is also firmly on the path to becoming the third-largest by 2030. This transition signifies not just an increase in size, but a shift of the global economic center towards Asia, and specifically towards India.

The restructuring of global supply chains, the expansion of the digital economy, the transition to green energy, and strategic partnerships have further broadened India's role.

India's Growth Rate

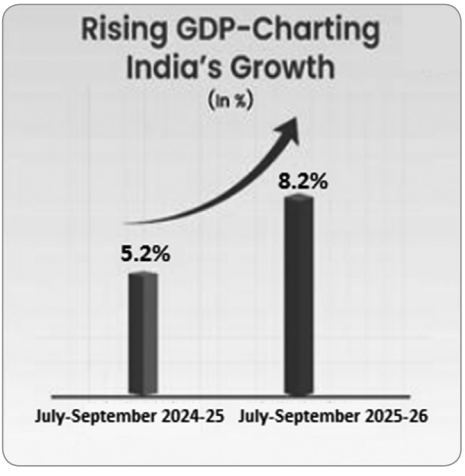
Over the last decade, India's economic growth rate has consistently remained higher than that of the world's major economies, making it a decisive factor in the global economic landscape.

Assessments by international financial institutions confirm that India will remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world. According to the latest estimates, India's GDP growth rate in FY 2024–25 stood at 6.8%, which is multiple times higher than the global average growth rate of 2.9%.

More Recent Findings

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is one of the primary indicators of overall economic performance which reflects the rate at which the country is expanding.

As per the latest data, the real GDP of India, adjusted for inflation, is estimated to grow by 8.2% in Q2 of FY 2025-26 against the growth rate of 5.6% during Q2 of FY 2024-25. The GDP in Q1 of FY 2025-26 grew at 7.8% against the growth rate of 6.5% during Q1 of FY 2024-25.



RARE EARTHS: THE ‘NEW FUEL’ OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

India trades oil dependency for autonomy within rare earth mining

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) have emerged as the strategic backbone of the 21st-century global economy, replacing crude oil as the key driver of power, technology, and geopolitics. Essential for green energy, high-tech electronics, and advanced defence systems, REEs underpin electric vehicles, wind turbines, missiles, and digital infrastructure. China’s near-monopoly over mining and especially processing has weaponised global supply chains, creating major strategic vulnerabilities for other nations. India, with the world’s fifth-largest reserves, faces both opportunity and challenge—unlocking domestic potential while overcoming technological, environmental, and institutional constraints. Sustainable mining, recycling, innovation, and strategic alliances will determine future global leadership.

The center of global politics and economy in the twentieth century was 'Black Gold' or crude oil, which determined the direction of energy security, wars, and alliances. However, in the third decade of the 21st century, a new source of power is emerging—'Rare Earth Elements' hidden in the Earth's crust.

Although these 17 chemical elements may be invisible, they are present in every dimension of modern life: from smartphones and laptops to fighter jets, electric vehicles, and wind turbines. These minerals, becoming the backbone of the technological age, are now defining the next phase of the energy and industrial revolution.

Today, Rare Earth elements are not merely mineral resources but have become a new battleground for geopolitical competition. **China has established a near-monopoly over them, acquiring the capability to control the global supply chain, thereby increasing the strategic dependence of other nations.**

For India, this scenario presents both an opportunity and a challenge—on one hand, there is the potential for developing domestic resources and participating in alternative supply networks; on the other, technical and financial barriers loom large.

In this new geo-economic war, Rare Earth elements have become the key to national security, combating climate change, and global technological dominance, which will redefine the balance of power in the coming decades.

Rare Earths: The 'Silent Partners' of Modern Civilization

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are the 'silent partners' of the modern technological civilization, without which the imagination of energy, communication, defense, and the digital economy is incomplete.

Rare Earths are a group of 17 elements, comprising 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium. Although they are called 'rare', they are found in the Earth's crust in quantities comparable to metals like copper or nickel. **Their actual 'rarity' lies in the complex, expensive, and environmentally highly detrimental process of extraction and purification.**

Due to their specific magnetic, catalytic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties, these elements provide exceptional power, efficiency, and multi-functionality to modern devices in compact sizes.

The Triangle of Utility: Green Energy, High Tech, and Defense

The global demand for Rare Earths rests on three major strategic utilities that define the current world economy and balance of power.

The **first pillar is the Green Energy Revolution**. As the global community moves away from fossil fuels to combat climate change, this 'green transition' is

THE RISE OF GEO-ECONOMICS: A NEW CHAPTER IN GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

India anchors a fractured order bridging the North and South.

In the 21st century, global power has shifted from military dominance to geo-economics, where trade, technology, finance, supply chains, and sanctions are key instruments of diplomacy. Economic interdependence is increasingly weaponized through trade wars, sanctions, technology controls, supply-chain manipulation, and currency strategies. As Edward Luttwak argued, commerce now follows the logic of conflict. India is emerging as a balancing power in this fractured world order by pursuing strategic autonomy rather than bloc politics. Through energy diplomacy, Atmanirbharta and PLI-led manufacturing, digital public infrastructure like UPI, alternative connectivity initiatives such as IMEC, and mineral security via overseas partnerships, India is actively shaping geo-economic outcomes. Despite challenges from China-centric supply chains and technology gaps, India is positioning itself as a rule-shaper and credible voice of the Global South in global economic governance.

In the third decade of the 21st century, the landscape of international relations has fundamentally changed. The traditional definition of power, which was based solely on military capability and territorial expansion, has now become history. Today, every move in global diplomacy—whether it is a trade agreement, control over technology, or financial sanctions—has become an indispensable part of the battle for national security and dominance. **We are witnessing the zenith of 'Geo-economics', where markets are battlefields, and dollars, data, and supply chains are the most potent weapons.**

The Chanakya aphorism "Kosha Moolo Danda" translates to "The treasury is the root of administration" (or power/army). This principle, from the ancient Indian treatise Arthashastra, emphasizes that a strong financial foundation is essential for effective governance, defense, and overall state power.

Fundamental Paradigm Shift: From Geopolitics to Geo-economics

The Fundamental Paradigm Shift refers to the transition where the traditional power-centric concept of Geopolitics is being replaced by Geo-economics at the center.

The power of nations is no longer defined merely by military capacity, but by the strategic use of economic instruments such as trade, finance, technology, supply chains, and investment. Consequently, **international relations are shifting from a security-centric view to structures based on economic dependence, connectivity, and mutual profit and loss.**

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or the India-US semiconductor cooperation are direct examples of this. This change is reorganizing the global balance of power and compelling nations to make their foreign policy multi-layered, resilient, and economically diverse.

The Rise of Geo-economics and Luttwak's Theory

The rise of geo-economics is clearly visible after the end of the Cold War. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the primary phase of ideological conflict ended, and states began to combine the "grammar of commerce" with the "logic of conflict" for power expansion.

American strategist Edward Luttwak, in his 1990 essay *"From Geopolitics to Geo-economics,"* stated that geo-economics "admixes the logic of conflict with the grammar of commerce." This means that nations have started viewing trade, investment, and finance as a Zero-Sum Game.

By 2025, this perspective has become mainstream; the expansion of borders is now achieved less by military occupation and more through foreign investment, debt traps, and control over infrastructure like 5G networks, ports, and energy grids.

The Weaponization of Dependence and New Vulnerabilities

The previous assumption was that economic interdependence would prevent war, but the 2008 global financial crisis and the Western sanctions on Russia in 2022 reversed this. Today, this very dependence has become "Weaponized." **Blocking access to the dollar-based financial system or excluding a nation from technological supply chains is often proving more effective than a military siege.**

INTEGRATED & SCIENTIFIC RIVER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

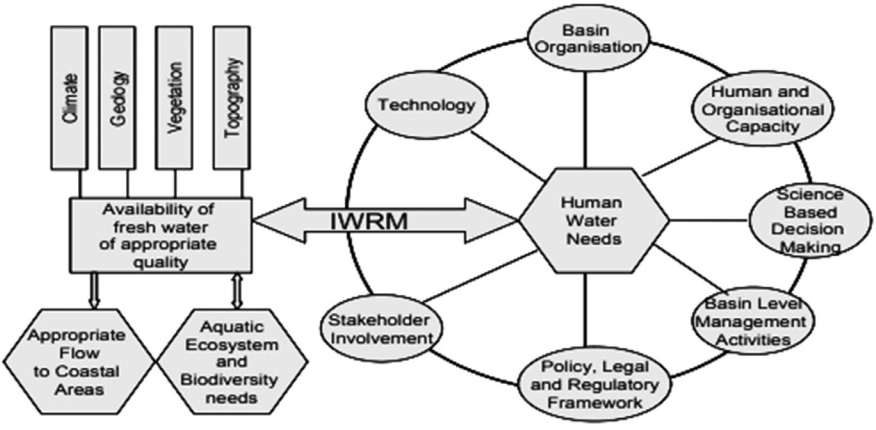
India turns river vulnerability into resilience using integrated water management

By the mid-21st century, India's rivers have become central to food, energy, ecological security, and livelihoods, yet face severe stress from pollution, climate change, over-extraction, and fragmented governance. Integrated and Scientific River Management (ISRM) offers a paradigm shift by treating rivers as complex human-ecological systems rather than engineering projects. It emphasizes basin-centric governance, scientific data and digital monitoring, AI-based forecasting, enforcement of environmental flows, ecological restoration, water-efficient agriculture, and community participation. Supported by legal reforms, innovative financing, and demand-side management, ISRM is essential for water security, conflict reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development in India.

By the middle of the 21st century, India's rivers have ceased to be merely sources of water; they have become the pivots of the country's socio-economic structure, food and energy security, ecological balance, and cultural identity.

From the Gangetic plains to the peninsular deltas, the life-sustaining river systems are facing multi-layered pressures—encroachment driven by rapid urbanisation, unchecked pollution, the extreme impacts of climate change, and decades-old inter-state disputes—which have exposed the limitations of traditional, departmental, and purely engineering-centric approaches.

In this context, "Integrated and Scientific River Management (ISRM)" has emerged not just as a reform program for India, but as a prerequisite for the national water future. **ISRM views rivers not as 'projects' but as 'complex human-ecological systems', wherein water quantity, quality, land use, climate adaptation, and community participation are integrated into management.**



Various components involving IWRM and their interaction with each other

The Context of the Crisis: Why is Integrated River Management Necessary?

Approximately 65% of India's population depends directly on river systems for their livelihood and water security. However, these systems are under unprecedented stress, making ISRM a strategic imperative.

Widespread Scenario of Water Stress and Pollution

Water scarcity is one of the biggest hurdles to India's development.

- **Facing Severe Water Stress:** According to NITI Aayog's 'Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)', over 600 million people in India face severe water stress. This is directly linked to the pollution of surface water and the over-exploitation of groundwater.

THE RISE OF WOMEN IN DEFENCE: CHARTING THE FUTURE COURSE

India ensures national defence with rewarding mental caliber rather than gender

Modern security is shaped by technology, cognition, and inclusive decision-making rather than brute force alone. In this context, women's rising participation in the defence sector has become a strategic necessity, not merely a social reform. In India, judicial interventions enabling Permanent Commission, combat roles, and women's entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA) mark a historic transformation. Women now contribute to operational efficiency, cyber and technological warfare, leadership, and peacekeeping. However, representation gaps, patriarchal mindsets, and institutional constraints persist. The future lies in role-based standards, supportive infrastructure, leadership pathways, and cultural change, making gender inclusivity integral to effective national and global security.

AGENDA 2030

India's "Agenda 2030" represents a visionary blueprint for a nation on the rise. This strategic roadmap is built upon ***five foundational pillars:*** *Social Justice, Science and Technology, Environment, Governance, and International Affairs. Together, these pillars form a cohesive strategy to drive inclusive social transformation while establishing India as a leader in the global digital economy.*

INDIAN ECONOMY

India's pursuit of the "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision marks a paradigm shift, blending the "Quantum Economy" with disciplined fiscal consolidation. Driven by the 2025-26 Budget's "Reforms as Fuel," the nation is synchronizing technological disruption—from the "India Stack" and ESG-integrated banking to ONDC-enabled MSMEs and smart agri-tech. This transformation leverages green finance and digital infrastructure to address structural challenges like asset inflation and labor formalization. By integrating sustainable development with social inclusion, India is building a transparent, resilient, and sovereign economic framework, poised to lead the next phase of global growth through innovation and strategic reform.

MACROECONOMICS

Quantum Economy

The Quantum Economy is an emerging global economic landscape driven by the development and commercialization of technologies based on the principles of Quantum Mechanics. It represents a fundamental shift away from traditional digital computing and communication, wherein information is processed using Quantum Bits (Qubits) instead of classical bits (0s and 1s).

The objective of this new economy is to solve problems that are too complex for traditional computers, provide unprecedented security, and revolutionize sensing.

Three Pillars of the Quantum Economy

The quantum economy primarily rests on three key technical areas:

1. **Quantum Computing:** Quantum computers use Superposition and Entanglement to perform calculations, allowing them to solve specific problems much faster than traditional supercomputers.
   - **Applications:** Development of new drugs and materials (molecular simulation), complex financial modeling, and revolutionizing Artificial Intelligence (AI).
   - **Progress:** Companies like Google and IBM have already unveiled 1000+ qubit processors. India also aims to develop a 1000-qubit quantum computer under its National Quantum Mission.
2. **Quantum Communication:** This field focuses on providing unbreakable security for data transmission, primarily through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology.
   - **Applications:** Secure banking transactions, national security communications, and hack-proof grid infrastructure.
   - **Progress:** China launched the world's first quantum satellite, 'Micius'. In India, DRDO and ISRO have successfully demonstrated free-space quantum communication.
3. **Quantum Sensing and Metrology:** Quantum sensors use quantum properties to detect the minutest changes in their environment.
   - **Applications:** Better GPS-free navigation, advanced medical imaging (MRI), earthquake prediction, and precision timing.

Global Trade Trends

Global Trade Trends refer to the patterns and directions of the exchange of goods and services at an international level. Currently, global trade is undergoing a phase of significant transformation, driven by geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, and pandemic-induced supply chain disruptions.

The current global trade landscape is defined by rising trends of protectionism and the need for China-Plus-One diversification of supply chains.

Relevance for Global Economy

- These trends are crucial for the global economy as they impact economic efficiency, inflation levels, and the balance of power between nations.
- The objective is no longer solely cost-efficiency, but ensuring supply chain resilience and security. The immediate impact is the diversification of trading partners and the emergence of alternative manufacturing hubs like India, Vietnam, and Mexico.

Issues & Challenges

- **Rising Protectionism:** Ongoing trade wars between the US and China, and the imposition of tariffs and non-tariff barriers by other countries, could reduce global trade volume and trigger trade wars.
- **Geo-economic Fragmentation:** The global economy is dividing into different blocs, which could lead to reduced efficiency, increased costs, and hindered global economic cooperation.
- **Supply Chain Disruption:** The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war proved that highly concentrated supply chains (especially in China) are vulnerable to shocks, creating risks of future shortages and inflation.
- **Declining Effectiveness of the World Trade Organization (WTO):** Global trade rules are weakening due to the WTO's dispute settlement system not functioning effectively, creating uncertainty regarding the rule-based trading system.
- The potential long-term consequences of these challenges could include slowing global economic growth, rising trade costs, and consumers worldwide facing fewer products and higher prices.

SOCIAL ISSUES & SOCIAL JUSTICE

In 2026, India's social landscape reflects a transformative shift from basic survival to systemic empowerment. The monumental decline in extreme poverty to 2.3% underscores the success of a "digital-first" welfare model and robust economic growth. However, the mission of social justice has evolved to address new complexities: bridging the widening income gap, formalizing a massive informal workforce, and ensuring a "Just Transition" for communities affected by the climate crisis. With female labor participation reaching record highs, the focus has pivoted toward the care economy and mental health, ensuring that India's path to development remains inclusive, dignified, and equitable for every citizen.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION & INEQUALITY

Sharp Decline in Extreme Poverty in India: Falling to 2.3% by 2022-23

India has made remarkable progress in the field of poverty alleviation in recent years. According to the latest World Bank report, extreme poverty (based on the international poverty line of $2.15 per person per day at Purchasing Power Parity) has dropped from 16.2% in 2011-12 to just 2.3% in 2022-23. During this period, approximately 171 million (17.1 crore) people escaped extreme poverty. This reduction is a result of a combination of economic growth, government welfare schemes, and digital inclusion.

Key Statistics (According to the World Bank)

The table below illustrates the status of extreme poverty from 2011-12 to 2022-23:

Region	2011-12 (%)	2022-23 (%)	Decline (Percentage Points)	Affected People (in Millions)
Rural	18.4	2.8	15.6	Primary beneficiaries
Urban	10.7	1.1	9.6	Primary beneficiaries
National	16.2	2.3	13.9	171

- **Rural-Urban Gap:** Reduced from 7.7 percentage points to 1.7, showing an annual reduction rate of 16%.
- **New Poverty Line ($3/day, 2021 PPP):** Under this revised criterion, the poverty rate fell from 27.1% to 5.3%, benefiting 269 million people.
- **Middle-Income Country Poverty Line ($4.20/day):** Decreased from 57.7% to 23.9%, liberating 378 million people from poverty.

Main Reasons for the Decline

The World Bank report emphasizes the following factors:

Government Schemes

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** Over 55 crore bank accounts opened, increasing financial inclusion.
- **Aadhaar and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Benefited 1.42 billion people, resulting in savings of Rs. 3.48 lakh crore.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** Over 41 crore health cards issued, providing health insurance up to Rs. 5 lakh.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):** Free food grains for over 80 crore people.

Social Security Coverage crosses 50% of the World Population

Significant progress has been made globally in social protection coverage. According to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) "World Social Protection Report 2024-26," for the first time in 2023, more than half of the world's population (52.4%) received coverage of at least one type of social security benefit. This is an increase from 42.8% in 2015, marking a significant step toward the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 1.3). However, 3.8 billion people remain completely unprotected, especially in countries affected by the climate crisis.

Climate-Affected Countries: In the 20 most affected countries, 91.3% (364 million) people are unprotected; in 50 countries, 75% (2.1 billion) are unprotected.

- **Scale of Increase:** From 2015 to 2023, approximately 55 million additional people were included in coverage, mainly through cash benefits.

Key Reasons for Growth in Coverage

According to the ILO report, the following factors are responsible:

- **Policy Expansion:** Many countries increased pensions, health insurance, child/family benefits, and unemployment assistance. Example: Progress in the Asia-Pacific region amid climate change.
- **Post-COVID-19 Recovery:** The pandemic encouraged digital delivery and public investment.
- **International Cooperation:** The ILO's flagship program benefited 55 million people between 2021-2025.
- **Climate Integration:** Social security is being linked to a "Just Transition" (green transition), such as support for skill development and green jobs.

Challenges and Inequalities

- **Spending Disparity:** Global average spending is 12.9% of GDP (excluding health), but only 0.8% in low-income countries. For full coverage, low-income countries need an additional $308.5 billion (52.3% of GDP), which depends on international aid.
- **Gender and Age Inequality:** Coverage is lower among women and children; informal workers (especially in agriculture/domestic sectors) are the most affected.
- **Climate Crisis:** Coverage is minimal in the most vulnerable countries (e.g., Africa, South Asia) where impacts like floods/droughts are higher.

Future Direction

The ILO and World Bank aim to cover an additional 500 million people by 2030, especially women and the poor.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

India is in a critical environmental crossroads, grappling with unprecedented climate volatility alongside rapid industrial growth. From receding Himalayan glaciers and erratic monsoons to the paradoxical "Global Warming Hole," the nation faces a complex spectrum of ecological shifts. While innovative policies like MISHTI and AI-enhanced disaster monitoring signal progress, surging forest fires and public health risks highlight persistent vulnerabilities. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires a unified approach, prioritizing green infrastructure and climate justice to safeguard India's biodiversity and socio-economic future.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME EVENTS

Glacier Research in India

Glacier research in India is primarily focused on the Himalayan region, where the rapid melting of glaciers due to climate change poses a major challenge. Institutions like ISRO, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), IITs, and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) are active in this field. In 2024-2025, research has focused on glacier retreat, GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Floods) risks, and climate modeling.

Key Contemporary Developments

- **Extinction of 110 Glaciers in Arunachal Pradesh:** According to a study conducted in February 2025, glacier cover in the Eastern Himalayas has shrunk by 309.85 sq km.
- **Research Focus:** Increase in debris cover (62% increase, 1971-2017) and GLOF risks.
- **Impact:** Floods/droughts in the Brahmaputra River basin.
- **Increase in Glacial Lakes in Uttarakhand (2013-2023):** A study in the *"Journal of the Geological Society of India"* (May 2025) found that climate warming has formed new lakes, increasing GLOF danger by 20%.
- **Example:** Expansion of the South Chamoli glacial lake.
- **Glacier Changes in Tons Sub-basin over Two Decades:** The *"Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing"* (January 2025) estimated ice flow velocity in the West-Central Himalayas using geospatial techniques.
- **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP 2025):** The UNGA declared 2025 as the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation" (March 2025).
- **India's Commitment:** GHG emission reduction, Artificial Glaciers (Ice Stupas, Ladakh).

Dushanbe Glaciers Declaration

Tajikistan hosted the 1st UN International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) in collaboration with UNESCO and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), leading to the adoption of the Dushanbe Glaciers Declaration.

Government Initiatives: Mapping & Research on Glaciers

- **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE):** A submission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It focuses on understanding climate impacts on the Himalayan cryosphere, promoting conservation, and building resilience of mountain communities.

Extreme Rainfall and Landslides

In 2025, extreme rainfall and landslides in India took the form of disasters, linked to climate change, monsoon irregularities, and human intervention in Himalayan regions. According to an IMD (India Meteorological Department) report, extreme weather events were recorded somewhere in the country on 99% of days from January to September. These events persisted for eight consecutive months (February to September) across 30 states/ Union Territories.

Major Extreme Events (2025)

Month	Region	Details	Impact
May-June	Sikkim (Mangan District)	Deep and shallow landslides due to excessive rain from May 29 to June 3; Teesta river levels rose.	Infrastructure damaged; roads closed, flood risk.
June	North-East India (Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal)	Floods and landslides due to record rainfall; 46+ deaths.	Roads submerged in Guwahati; 30+ deaths, thousands displaced.
July	Himachal Pradesh	Flash floods and landslides; hundreds of houses and bridges damaged.	Dozens missing; Char Dham Yatra affected.
August	Jammu & Kashmir	Massive landslide due to heavy rain; 30+ deaths.	Roads blocked.
August	Uttarakhand	Gangotri Dham connectivity disrupted by flash floods; landslide alerts.	Char Dham Yatra interrupted; IMD issued heavy rain warnings.
September	Himalayan States (Uttarakhand, Himachal)	Excessive rain due to Western Disturbances; floods, landslides, debris flow.	Flooding in Dehradun; roads and bridges collapsed.

Causes

- **Climate Change:** Increased monsoon intensity; extreme events like 270 mm/24 hours recorded in 2025 (300 mm in 8 hours in the Himalayas).
- **Geographical Factors:** Landslides due to soil saturation in Himalayan regions; seismic-prone zones.
- **Human Intervention:** Unplanned construction, deforestation, road/dam projects (e.g., Char Dham Highway).
- **Monsoon Patterns:** Combination of South-West Monsoon with Western Disturbances; North-East Monsoon impact in the North-East.

Increasing Frequency/Intensity of Forest Fires in India

Forest fires in India are an emerging environmental disaster, growing rapidly due to climate change, human activities, and dry weather. A significant increase in frequency and intensity was observed in 2024-25, affecting biodiversity, carbon stocks, and local communities. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), over 1 lakh fire incidents were recorded from November 2024 to April 2025, which is 20-30% higher than in previous years. This poses a serious challenge to SDG-13 (Climate Action).

Key Statistics on Increasing Frequency & Intensity (2024-2025)
(Based on data from FSI and ISRO Satellites)

State/Region	Incidents (Nov 2024 - Apr 2025)	Affected Area (Hectares)	Remarks
Madhya Pradesh	21,000+ (2,754 in April)	5,000+	Most affected; drought in Central India.
Maharashtra	1,766 (in April)	2,000+	Increase in Konkan belt in March-April.
Chhattisgarh	876 (in April)	1,500+	Human causes in tribal areas.
Odisha	603 (in April)	1,200+	Climate impact in Simlipal Biosphere.
Uttarakhand	87 (in 5 days, April 2025)	42 (Nov-Apr)	1,100 hectares damaged in Himalayan region; 1 death.
North-East	1,000+ (April-June)	800+	Dry spells in Assam-Meghalaya.

- **National Trend:** 2,03,544 hotspots in 2023-24 → 20% increase in 2024-25. 84,642 incidents in February-March 2025 (25% higher than the previous year).
- **Global Context:** 3 billion tons of CO_2 emissions from forest fires globally in 2024 (more than India's fossil fuel emissions).

Why are Frequency and Intensity of Forest Fire Increasing?

Climate Change

- **Temperature Rise:** Temperatures up to 40°C in March-April 2025, drought due to El Niño (2023-24).
- **Irregular Rainfall:** Shorter monsoon duration, longer dry spells (2025 study in North-East).
- **Result:** Lack of moisture in forests → Fire intensity 30% higher.

Human Factors (90% of fires are human-induced)

- **Agriculture/Grazing:** Burning bushes for cattle grazing.

INDIAN POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Indian polity is undergoing a transformative phase, bridging constitutional traditions with modern digital imperatives. The transition from colonial-era codes to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, alongside the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, marks a shift toward a justice-centric governance model. Through judicial activism expanding Article 21 to encompass climate rights and landmark reforms like the Women's Reservation Act, India is recalibrating the balance between state authority and individual liberty, ensuring a more inclusive, efficient, and resilient democratic future.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES, & DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

Implementation of Fundamental Duties in Governance

The Fundamental Duties, described in Article 51A of the Indian Constitution, are the moral obligations of citizens that were added by the 42nd Amendment (1976). These duties promote national unity, environmental protection, scientific temper, etc. Although their implementation in governance is non-justiciable (not legally enforceable in court), it occurs through judicial interpretation, government schemes, education, and public campaigns.

Currently, emphasis is being placed on the implementation of Fundamental Duties in the following areas:

A. Protection and Improvement of the Environment (Article 51A (g)): It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

- **Duty:** To protect and improve the natural environment.
- **Implementation:** Programs like the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan demand active citizen participation in environmental cleanliness and river conservation. The government emphasizes making plantation drives a mass movement (Jan-Andolan), such as large-scale afforestation initiatives in various states where citizen participation is essential. Regulations like the ban on single-use plastic expect citizens to fulfill their environmental responsibilities.

B. Scientific Temper and Spirit of Inquiry (Article 51A (h))

- **Duty:** To develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
- **Implementation:** In the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), critical thinking and scientific reasoning have been made a compulsory part of the curriculum. Vaccination drives and health awareness programs emphasize countering superstitions and promoting logic-based decisions.

C. Safeguarding Public Property and Abjuring Violence (Article 51A (i))

- **Duty:** To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.
- **Implementation:** Strict laws have been enacted against acts that damage government projects and railway/public transport infrastructure. During protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and other demonstrations, governments took stringent steps to recover damages to public property from the protesters, emphasizing the fulfillment of this duty.

Article 21 and the Right to Health

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution ("No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law") guarantees the Right to Life. The Supreme Court has repeatedly interpreted that the Right to Health is an integral part of Article 21, which includes a dignified life, medical facilities, a clean environment, and public health. This right is linked to personal liberty and imposes a positive obligation on the State.

In recent years, issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, pollution, gender reassignment health, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) have strengthened the scope of the Right to Health under Article 21. These cases are linked to Supreme Court decisions and government initiatives that emphasize implementing health as a fundamental right.

Article 21 and the Right to Health (2024–2025)

In 2024–2025, the Right to Health has been viewed through the lens of environment, gender equality, pandemics, and pollution. These cases are based on Supreme Court judgments and government policies:

Climate Change and Right to Health (*Ranjit Singh v. Union of India, 2024*)

In the Great Indian Bustard case, the Supreme Court stated that freedom from the adverse effects of climate change is a fundamental right under Article 21. Health includes a clean environment and the basic necessities of life.

- **Impact:** The Supreme Court ordered a balance between solar energy projects and bird conservation. This decision aligns with global standards (similar to the European Court of Human Rights) linking health to environmental justice.
- **Current Relevance:** Ahead of COP30 (2025), India announced a national plan on climate-health impacts, an effort to implement Article 21.

Pollution and Health

The Supreme Court considered air pollution in Delhi-NCR a violation of Article 21. It directed the Central and State governments to reduce emissions, enforce existing laws, and penalize violators.

- **Impact:** Linked the public health crisis to fundamental rights; specifically emphasized the health of children and the elderly.
- **Current Relevance:** During the 2025 winter pollution season, orders were issued to strictly implement GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan).

Safety of Medical Professionals and Health

In the RG Kar Medical College rape-murder case in Kolkata, the Supreme Court considered the safety of healthcare workers as part of health under Article 21. It ordered the formation of a National Task Force to implement safety protocols.

Post-COVID-19 Judicial Interpretations

During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022), India's judiciary adopted virtual hearings, e-filing, and digital justice, providing a technological, social, and constitutional direction to judicial interpretations. Post-pandemic (2023-2025), these interpretations have focused on judicial reforms, pending cases, social justice, and the digital divide. These emerged from the decisions of the Supreme Court (SC) and High Courts, which were linked to legislative changes like the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

Interpretation and Reform of the Digital Justice System

- **Interpretation:** Post-pandemic, the SC recognized virtual courts as permanent but addressed the digital divide. The Supreme Court's 2023 report stated that digital infrastructure (**e-Courts Project**) could reduce pendency (5 crore+ cases), but accessibility in rural areas must be ensured.
- **Key Decision:** In 2024, the SC issued guidelines on the "Use of AI in Judicial Processes," interpreting the balance between privacy vs. efficiency.

India Justice Report 2025

In the India Justice Report 2025 (April 2025), Rajasthan, Kerala, and MP ranked top in digital reforms; the SC emphasized data-driven decision-making.

Interpretation of Social Justice and Undertrials

- **Interpretation:** Focus on the release of undertrial prisoners due to overcrowding during the pandemic. Interpreting Article 21 (Right to Life), the SC considered bail as the default, especially for the poor and marginalized.
- **Key Decision:** 2023 SC decision on "Child Sexual Abuse Cases" – ordered the inclusion of compassion-based justice; fast-track courts for UDT reforms.

PRS Standing Committee Report

The **PRS Standing Committee Report** (August 2023) interpreted the lack of judicial diversity (SC/ST/OBC/Women); focus on new appointments following the retirement of 7 SC judges in 2025.

Interpretation of the Criminal Justice Code

- **Interpretation:** BNS 2023 (effective July 1, 2024) replaced the IPC-CrPC. The SC interpreted not treating adultery as a crime, focusing on gender neutrality and moral values.
- **Key Decision:** In 2024, a parliamentary committee reviewed the BNS; the SC interpreted new provisions on organized crime/terrorism and made community service a part of punishment.

INDIA & THE WORLD

AT A GLANCE

India: A Snapshot

India, a South Asian nation, is the seventh-largest country by area, the most populous country with over 1.4 billion people (UNFPA State of World Population 2025 Report), and the most populous democracy in the world.

India: Brief Facts

- **Capital:** Delhi
- **Extent:** India measures 3,214 km from north to south and 2,933 km from east to west.
- **Total Area:** 3,287,263 sq km (**Land Area** 2,973,193 sq km. – 91%); **Water Area:** 314,070 sq km – 9%) – (Seventh Largest Country)
- **Land Boundary:** India has a total land boundary of approximately 15,200 km.
- **Coastline:** Recently revised to 11098.81 km (Earlier 7,517 km), including the mainland, the coastlines of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea.
- **States/UTs:** 28 States 8 Union Territories (The state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated to two UTs – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and came into existence on 31st October 2019. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were merged to form one UT and came into existence on 26th January 2020).
- **Population**
  - **Census 2011:** 1,210,854,977 (2nd most populous country after China and 17% of World Population)
  - **UNFPA State of World Population 2025 Report:** 1.4 billion (Most populous country in the world; About 17.8% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion.)
- **Density of Population:** 382 per Sq. Km. (Census 2011)
- **Sex Ratio**
  - **Census 2011:** 943
  - **NFHS 5:** 1020
- **Literacy**
  - **Census 2011:** 74.04% (**Male:** 82.14; **Female:** 65.46)
  - **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24:** 80.9% (**Male:** 87.2%, **Female:** 74.6%)
- **Life Expectancy**
  - **NFHS 5:** 72.48 years
  - **Human Development Report 2025:** 72 years in 2023
- **Official Languages:** English, Hindi

POPULATION	
Census 2011: 1,210,854,977 (2nd populous country after China and 17% of World Population) **UNFPA State of World Population 2025 Report:** 1.4 billion (Most populous country in the world; About 17.8% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion.)	
Religious Composition	**Census 2011:** Hindus (79.80%), Muslims (14.23%), Christian (2.30 %), Sikh (1.72 %), Buddhist (0.70 %), Jain (0.37 %), Other Religion (0.66 %), Not Stated (0.24 %)
Annual Population Growth Rate	**Census 2011:** 1.64 per cent
Decadal Population Growth Rate	**Census 2011:** 17.7% (2001 -2011)
Density of Population	382 per Sq. Km. (Census 2011)
Life Expectancy	**Census 2011:** 65.8 years (Males); 68.1 years (Females) **NFHS 5:** 72.48 years **Human Development Report 2025:** 72 years in 2023 **Sample Registration System:** Expectation of life at birth for India was estimated at 70.3 years for the period 2019-23. * At the national level, the life expectancy at birth for males was estimated at 68.5 years and that for females, at 72.5 years. * Expectation of life at birth was highest in Jammu & Kashmir (73.4 years) for males and in Kerala (78.4 years) for females, whereas it was lowest in Chhattisgarh (62.4 years) for males and 67.1 years for females).
Sex Ratio	**Census 2011:** 943 females per 1000 males **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5):** 1,020 females per 1,000 males
Languages	There are 22 different languages that have been recognised by the Constitution of India, of which Hindi is an Official Language. Article 343(3) empowered Parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes.
Crude Birth Rate (CBR)	18.4 (in 2023) Crude Birth Rate (CBR) – (Sample Registration Survey Statistical Report for 2023) * Highest CBR - Bihar at 25.8 * Lowest CBR - Tamil Nadu at 12
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.0 (NFHS 5, 2019-2021) 1.9 in 2023 (Sample Registration Survey Statistical Report for 2023) Highest TFR - Bihar (2.8) Lowest TFR - Delhi (1.2)
Infant Mortality Rate	35.2 (NFHS 5, 2019-2021) 39 per 1000 live births in 2020 (Sample Registration System 2020)

World at a Glance

There are seven continents and five oceans on Earth. Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia, and Antarctica are the continents. There are five oceans: the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, and the Southern Ocean.

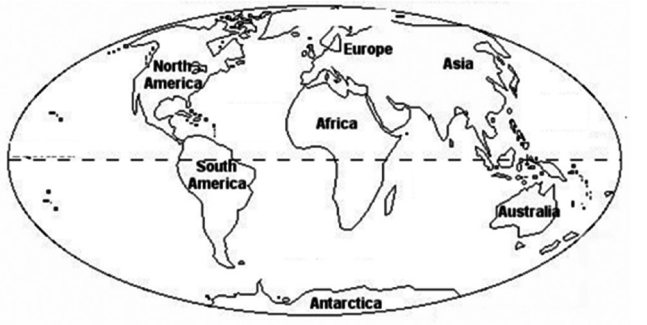
- **Total Land Area:** 148,940,000 sq km (29.2% of Planet Earth's surface)
- **Total Water Area:** 361,132,000 sq km (70.8% of Planet Earth's surface)
- **Total Population:** 8.1 billion
- **Total Continent:** 7 (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia, Antarctica)
- **Total Ocean:** 5 (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, Arctic)
- **UN Recognized Countries:** 193
- **Primary Tectonic Plates:** 8 (African, Antarctic, Australian, Eurasian, Indian, North American, Pacific, South American)
- **Largest Continent:** Asia, 43,820,000 sq km (29.5% of total World landmass)
- **Smallest Continent:** Australia, 9,008,500 sq km
- **Largest Country:** Russia, 17,098,242 sq km
- **Smallest Country:** Vatican City - 0.44 sq km
- **Most Populated Country:** India- 1.4 billion (about 17.8% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion.)
- **Least Populated Country:** Holy See (Vatican City) - 501
- **Newest Country:** South Sudan
- **Richest Country of the World:** Luxembourg (US$ 137,516.6 Per Capita in 2024)
- **Poorest Country of the World:** South Sudan (US $934 Per Capita in 2022)
- **Largest Ocean:** The Pacific Ocean - 155,557,000 sq km
- **Smallest Ocean:** Arctic, 14,056,000 sq km
- **Highest Mountain:** Mount Everest, 29,029 ft - Nepal
- **Longest River:** The Nile - 6,650 km
- **Largest Lake:** The Caspian Sea - 371,000 sq km
- **Largest Peninsula:** Arabian Peninsula
- **Deepest Point:** Challenger Deep
- **Largest Delta:** Sundarban Delta, India
- **Largest Desert:** Sahara Desert
- **Largest Economy:** USA

Continents of the World

There are seven Continents in the World. They together occupy 29% of the surface area of the world. More than two third of this continental mass is located in Northern Hemisphere.

Seven Continents

1. Asia
2. Africa
3. North America
4. South America
5. Europe
6. Australia
7. Antarctica



Asia

Asia is the largest continent, about one-third of the world. It contains 60 per cent of the global population i.e. around 4.75 billion people. Of the 10 nations with the largest populations, six are in Asia - China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Japan.

- **Area:** About 30% of Earth's Total Land Area and 8% of Earth's Total Surface Area (Largest Continent)
- **No. of Countries:** 48
- **Population:** Most Populated Continent (61.84% of the total world population)
- **Largest Country:** Russia
- **Smallest Country:** Maldives
- **Most Populated Country:** India (According to World Population Review)
- **Least Populated Country:** Maldives
- **Longest River:** Yangtze River (China)
- **Largest Lake:** Caspian Sea
- **Highest Point:** Mount Everest (Nepal)
- **Lowest Point:** Dead Sea (Jordan/Israel, Lowest Point in the World)
- **Highest Plateau:** Tibet
- **Largest Island:** Borneo (Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei)
- **Largest Manmade Lake:** Dhebar Lake (Bhopal, India)
- **Largest Desert:** Gobi Desert (Mongolia and China)
- **Wettest Place:** Mawsynram, Meghalaya (India)
- **Driest Place:** Aden (Yemen)
- **Longest Railway Network:** Trans-Siberian Railway (Russia)
- **Countries of Asia which also lie in other Continents:** Turkey and Russia
- **Largest City (Population-wise):** Jakarta (Indonesia)

According to the United Nations' World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 report, released in November 2025, Jakarta's population reached an estimated 41.9 million residents, while Tokyo's population stands at approximately 33.4 million. Japan as a whole is experiencing an aging population and low birth rates, contributing to a slight population decline in the greater Tokyo area, despite the city proper still growing due to internal migration.

The top three most populous cities in the world, according to the new 2025 data, are:

1. Jakarta, Indonesia (41.9 million)
2. Dhaka, Bangladesh (36.6 million)
3. Tokyo, Japan (33.4 million)

- **Busiest Waterways:** Suez Canal