



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

20 September 2024



## SOURCES



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## GS I

# 1. White Revolution 2.0 to Empower Women and Combat Malnutrition

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** White Revolution 2.0, Women Empowerment, Cooperatives, Malnutrition, PACS

**Mains:** Role of Cooperatives in Economic Development, Women-Led Initiatives, Malnutrition in India, Government Schemes for Dairy Sector

**Context:** The Union Home and Cooperation Minister launched White Revolution 2.0 to empower women and reduce malnutrition by integrating them into formal dairy jobs with direct bank payments.

### White Revolution 2.0 Objectives:

- Increase milk procurement from cooperatives from 660 lakh liters to 1,000 lakh liters per day.
- Empower women in milk production with formal employment and direct bank payments.

### Empowering Women Through Dairy Cooperatives:

- Recognizes women's crucial role in milk production, particularly in cooperatives, with 36 lakh women in Gujarat generating ₹60,000 crore.
- Aims to provide women with bank accounts and financial tools to enhance their financial autonomy.

### Cooperative Expansion and Reforms:

- Plans to register 200,000 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) across the country, ensuring every panchayat has cooperative access.
- This will strengthen cooperative institutions and foster grassroots economic development.

### Malnutrition and Dairy Sector:

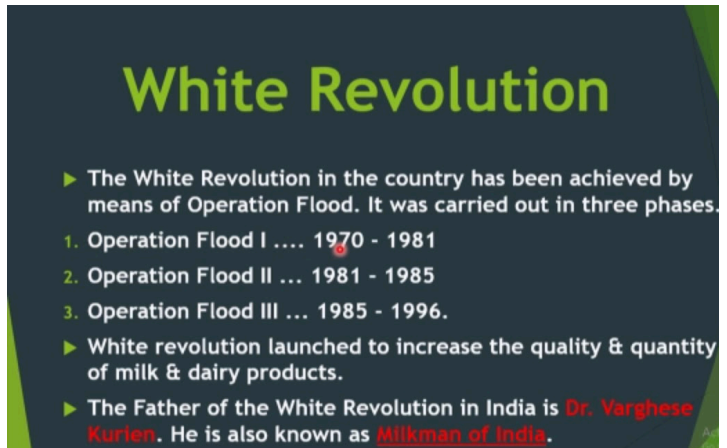
- Highlights the link between increased milk production and reduced malnutrition, benefiting poor and malnourished children.
- Women's contributions in the dairy sector are expected to more effectively address malnutrition than government interventions.

### Challenges and Government Commitment

- **Budgetary Concerns:**
  - While there are concerns about budget support, the government prioritizes the initiative and promises full financial backing.
- **Implementation and Financial Inclusion:**
  - Pilot projects in Gujarat show success with cooperative bank accounts, yielding ₹550 crore in deposits and the distribution of 20,000 credit cards.
  - Plans are in place to scale these results nationally, with over ₹4,000 crore deposited in Gujarat.

### Conclusion

- White Revolution 2.0 aims to transform India's dairy sector by empowering women through formal employment and financial inclusion while addressing malnutrition.
- The expansion of cooperatives and increased milk production are crucial to enhancing India's dairy infrastructure and combating child malnutrition.



## GS-II

# 2. New Criminal Codes, Same Old Challenges of the Justice System

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)

**Mains:** Challenges in Criminal Justice System, Bail Reforms, Judicial Infrastructure, Role of Forensics in Law Enforcement

**Context:** The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) aim to reform India's criminal justice system by replacing the IPC, CrPC, and Evidence Act. However, structural challenges persist.

### Key Features and Concerns:

#### Speeding Up Trials:

- Judgments must be delivered within 45 days post-trial; charges framed within 60 days.
- **Concern:** With 5.1 crore pending cases and heavy judicial workload, meeting deadlines is tough.

#### Bail Reforms:

- First-time offenders can apply for bail after serving one-third of their sentence.
- **Concern:** Undertrial prisoners have increased, and legal safeguards remain underused.

#### Judicial Vacancies & Infrastructure:

- Vacancy rates: 21% in lower courts, 30% in high courts.
- **Concern:** Budget growth is insufficient to expand infrastructure and manpower.

#### Gender-Based Reforms:

- Safeguards for Sexual Violence Victims: Statements must be recorded by female officers and videographed.
- **Concern:** Only 20% of women officers are qualified, causing logistical challenges.

#### Forensic Reforms:

- Forensic investigations are mandatory for serious crimes (7+ years of punishment).
- **Concern:** India's forensic infrastructure is lacking in labs, personnel, and funding.

#### Handling Electronic Evidence:

- Judges need training to assess the authenticity of electronic evidence.

#### Conclusion:

- The new criminal codes introduce important reforms, but their success depends on addressing vacancies, infrastructure, and training for effective implementation.

## Changes proposed in criminal laws

Union home minister Amit Shah has introduced three key bills in the Lok Sabha that, if approved, will overhaul India's criminal justice system. A look at key aspects of the bills



**THE BHARATIYA NYAYA  
SANHITA (BNS) BILL, 2023**  
Proposed to replace **Indian  
Penal Code (IPC), 1860**

The IPC, which was framed by the British, is the official criminal code of India that lists various crimes and its punishments

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sedition deleted, but another provision penalising secessionism, separatism, rebellion and acts against sovereignty, unity and integrity of India brought in
- Provision of **death penalty** for gang rape of minors and for mob lynching
- **Community service introduced** as one of the punishments for the first time



**THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK  
SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023**  
Proposed to replace **Code of  
Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**

The CrPC lays down the procedure for investigation, arrest, court hearing, bail and punishment in criminal cases

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Time-bound investigation**, trial and judgment within 30 days of the completion of arguments
- **Video-recording** of the statement of sexual assault victims to be made mandatory
- New provision for **attachment of property and proceeds** of crime



**THE BHARATIYA  
SAKSHYA BILL, 2023**  
Proposed to replace the  
**Indian Evidence Act, 1872**

The IEA applies to all judicial proceedings in the country and defines the particulars of evidence produced and admissible in courts

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Documents to also include** electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices
- **Digitisation of all records** including case diary, FIR, charge sheet and judgement
- Electronic or digital record shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as paper records



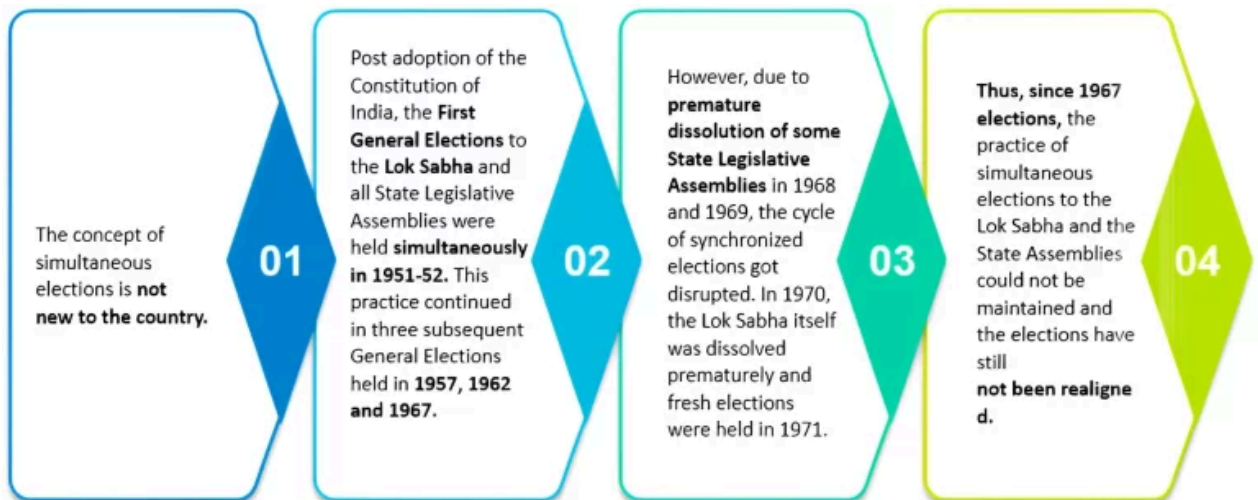
## 3. Why One Nation, One Election Must Be Challenged

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** One Nation, One Election Proposal, Election Commission of India (ECI), High-Level Committee

**Mains:** Challenges to Federalism, Constitutional Concerns, Role of ECI, Impact on Democracy

**Context:** The Union government has pushed the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) proposal, raising concerns about its constitutionality, the Election Commission's role, and its impact on federal democracy.



### Constitutionality & Federalism:

- ONOE contradicts India's constitutional framework, undermining the federal structure by enforcing uniform election schedules for states and the Union, which bypasses state autonomy.

### Undermining ECI:

- The High-Level Committee, bypassing the Election Commission, risks weakening the ECI's role, concentrating power in the executive and challenging the constitutional separation of powers.

### Representation in the Committee:

- The committee lacks regional and constitutional expertise, undermining its credibility and ignoring state interests in shaping electoral reforms.

### Logistical Challenges:

- ONOE proposes two-stage elections (Lok Sabha & state assemblies, followed by local bodies), raising practical concerns, especially in managing mid-term elections if assemblies dissolve prematurely.

### Legal Concerns:

- Proposed amendments to Article 172, extending state assembly terms without state approval, violate federal principles.
- Past delays in elections (e.g., Jammu & Kashmir) raise doubts about the government's commitment to timely polls.

### Conclusion:

- Though ONOE offers logistical advantages, it poses serious threats to federalism, the ECI's independence, and the integrity of the democratic process.
- Legal scrutiny and public debate are essential to preserve electoral fairness.



## GS III

### 4. How FATF Evaluates India's Anti-Money Laundering and Terror Financing Measures

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** Economy, Governance, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Money Laundering

**Mains:** Anti-Money Laundering System, FATF Recommendations, Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Prosecution Delays, Terror Financing

**Context:** The FATF has categorized India as "regular follow-up" for anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terror financing (CTF) compliance, acknowledging the system's effectiveness but highlighting the need for improvements, particularly in prosecution rates.

#### AML System:

- The FATF highlighted a gap between investigations and prosecutions for money laundering in India.
- Challenges remain with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), particularly in fast-tracking trials.

#### Major Risks Identified:

- India faces terror threats from insurgent groups in the Northeast, Left-Wing Extremists, and international groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Money laundering threats primarily originate from fraud (including cyber-enabled fraud), corruption, and drug trafficking.

#### Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs):

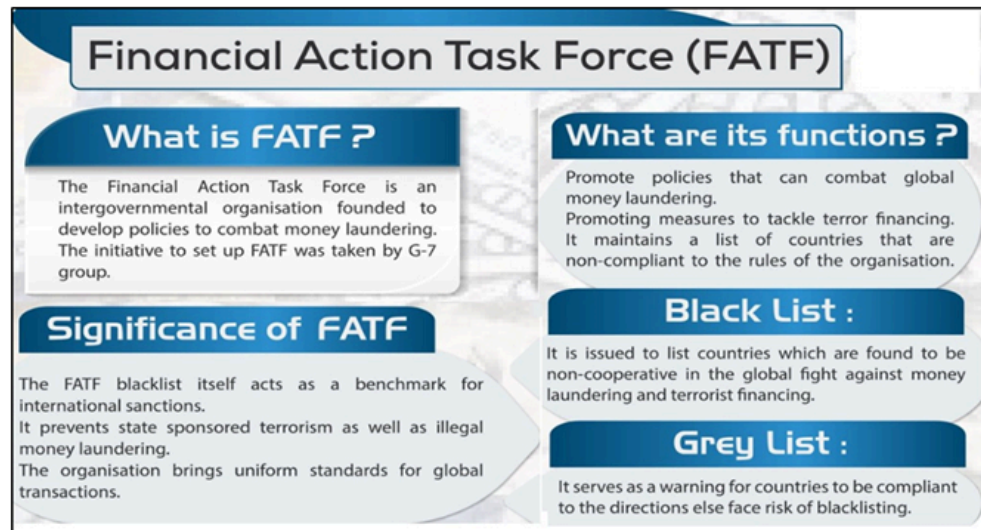
- FATF stressed India must improve measures to prevent NPOs from being abused for terror financing.

#### Key Recommendations from FATF:

- **Improving Prosecutions:** Fast-track prosecution of money laundering and terror financing cases, especially under PMLA, to strengthen the legal framework.
- **Enhanced Financial Monitoring:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) should ensure accurate disclosure of beneficial ownership to prevent financial crimes.
- **Defining Domestic PEPs (Politically Exposed Persons):** India must clearly define domestic PEPs under its AML laws and introduce stricter risk-based measures for them.
- **Targeted Financial Sanctions:** The framework for freezing funds and assets related to terror financing should be streamlined to prevent delays in action.

#### Challenges and Requirements:

- **Addressing Prosecution Gaps:** India needs to prioritize increasing its prosecution rates and ensuring efficient trials in AML and CTF cases.
- **NPO Sector Regulation:** Strengthening regulations and monitoring of NPOs to avoid misuse for financing terrorism is essential.



**Conclusion:**

- While the FATF recognizes India's progress in financial intelligence and regulatory measures, significant gaps remain in prosecuting money laundering and terror financing cases.
- Addressing these challenges will be crucial for India to enhance its standing and compliance with international standards.

## 5. Snow Leopard Kajju's Battle with Cancer at Shimla Zoo

**Source:** The Indian Express

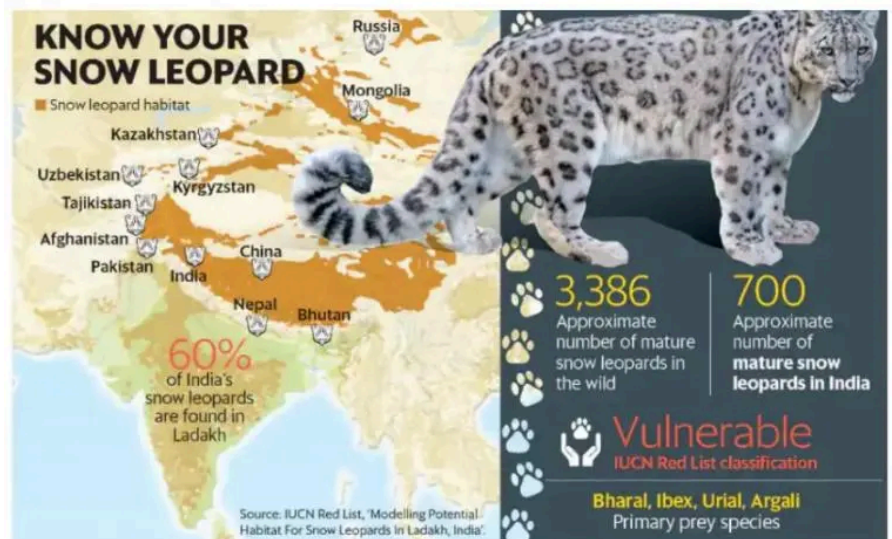
**Prelims:** Environment, Conservation, Wildlife Protection, Schedule I Species

**Mains:** Wildlife Conservation in India, Snow Leopards, Zoo Management, Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation

**Context:** Kajju, the only captive snow leopard in Himachal Pradesh, was rescued from Kaza in November 2023. Now at the Himalayan Nature Park in Kufri, suffering from osteosarcoma.

**Key Facts about Kajju's Condition:**

- **Cancer Diagnosis:** Kajju has osteosarcoma (a type of bone cancer that usually affects the large bones of the arms or legs)
- **Challenges to Further Treatment:** Wildlife authorities considered amputation of the affected limb, but complications arise due to:
  - Kajju's age making recovery from anaesthesia risky.
  - The spread of malignant cancer (the presence of cancerous cells that have the ability to spread to other sites in the body (metastasize) or to invade nearby (locally) and destroy tissues. ), which may result in infection post-amputation.



**Wildlife Management and Conservation Issues:**

- **Limited Snow Leopard Population in Captivity:**
  - Besides Kufri Zoo, snow leopards in captivity are found only at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZZP) in Darjeeling.
  - A previous plan to bring more snow leopards to Kufri from Darjeeling never materialized, making Kajju a rare and significant case for conservation efforts.
- **Veterinary Care Facilities:**
  - Shimla lacks advanced gas anesthesia facilities, which are crucial for safe surgeries on older animals like Kajju.
  - A recommendation has been made to move Kajju to Palampur Veterinary College, where better care could be provided.

**Conservation of Snow Leopards in India:**

- **Snow Leopard Population in India:**



- According to a January 2024 report by the Wildlife Institute of India, there are 718 snow leopards in India, with the largest population in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and other states.
- **Legal Protection:**
  - Snow leopards are listed as Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which grants them the highest protection against poaching and habitat destruction.

**Conclusion:**

- The case of Kajju highlights the complexities of wildlife conservation, especially for species like snow leopards, which are both endangered and difficult to rehabilitate in captivity.
- The decision on Kajju's treatment will set a precedent for managing similar cases in the future, but either way, the prognosis remains challenging for this rare mountain ghost.

## 6. Two Years of Project Cheetah: Government Outlines Next Steps for Growing Big Cat Population

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** Biodiversity Conservation, Cheetah Reintroduction, Protected Areas, Kuno National Park

**Mains:** Wildlife Conservation Challenges, Habitat Restoration, Project Cheetah's Role in India's Biodiversity Conservation

**Context:** Project Cheetah, launched in 2022, aims to create a metapopulation of 60-70 cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. While the project has made significant progress in reintroducing cheetahs, challenges persist in habitat management and prey augmentation.

**Key Facts about Project Cheetah's Progress:**

- **Metapopulation Goal:**
  - The government's long-term goal is to establish a cheetah metapopulation in the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape, spanning Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, aiming for 60-70 interconnected cheetahs within 25 years.
- **Landscape Conservation:**
  - The Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape spans over 6,800 sq km of contiguous forest, savannah grasslands, and open woodlands, with 3,200 sq km suitable for cheetah occupancy in Madhya Pradesh.
  - It includes areas in MP (Sheopur, Gwalior, Morena) and Rajasthan (Kota, Sawai Madhopur).
- **Importance of Large Habitats:**
  - Cheetahs are a "landscape species" needing large areas to thrive.
  - The conservation plan for this landscape will take at least 10 years to ensure sufficient space for their natural roaming behavior.





### Major Challenges and Solutions:

- **Prey Population Deficit:** Kuno National Park's insufficient prey population, especially chital, is causing cheetah-leopard competition. Immediate measures include:
  - Introducing more chital and blackbuck.
  - Starting captive herbivore breeding in predator-proof enclosures.
- **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary Issues:**
  - Gandhi Sagar, the next site for cheetah reintroduction, faces a prey deficit of nearly 1,500 chitals.
  - Adjacent districts (Bhind and Datia in MP, Dholpur in Rajasthan) may be included in the cheetah habitat based on movement patterns.

### Project Achievements and Future Developments:

- **Cheetah Translocation:**
  - A total of 20 cheetahs were translocated to India in two batches between 2022-2023.
  - At present, 24 animals survive, including 12 adults and 12 cubs, although 13 deaths have been reported.
- **Next Steps:**
  - A few cheetahs will be released from enclosures into the larger unfenced areas of Kuno National Park.
  - A new batch of 6-8 cheetahs is expected to be brought to Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in the coming months.

### Conclusion:

- Project Cheetah is a significant step toward restoring India's biodiversity, but habitat management and prey augmentation are critical to its success.
- With a long-term vision and focus on creating contiguous landscapes, the project aims to establish a self-sustaining cheetah population in India, revitalizing the nation's conservation efforts.

## 7.Ahead of Amur Falcon's Arrival, Manipur District Bans Hunting

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** Wildlife Protection Act, Migratory Birds, Amur Falcon Conservation

**Mains:** Wildlife Conservation Challenges, Community Participation in Conservation, Role of District Administration in Protecting Migratory Birds

**Context:** Manipur's Tamenglong district has implemented strict measures to protect the migratory Amur falcon, in line with India's wildlife conservation commitments under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

### Amur Falcon Conservation:

- **Legal Framework:** Harming Amur falcons violates sections 50 and 51 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, with legal consequences for violators.

### Conservation Initiatives:

- Began in 2016 with radio-tagging of falcons for migration tracking.
- Awareness programs and patrolling involve local communities.

### About

- It (*Falco amurensis*) belongs to the falcon family and is a tiny raptor.
- It breeds in southern Siberia and northern China before travelling in big flocks across India



### Why in news?

The arrival of migratory Amur falcons to Manipur's Tamenglong region Environment Minister to appeal to the public not to hunt the seasonal visitors.

### Migratory Features

- Millions of Amur Falcons migrate across India, then over the Indian Ocean to southern Africa before returning to Mongolia and Siberia.
- Their migratory journey, which stretches about 22,000 kilometres.



### Habitat during migration

- Doyang Lake in Nagaland is well known for being a stopover for Amur falcons.
- Every year, these falcons migrate from their nesting sites in China and Russia to the Tamenglong area of Manipur.

### IUCN Red List status

Listed as having the least concern on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.



- The Amur Falcon Festival promotes conservation efforts.

**Future Plans:** Authorities plan to tag two more falcons and continue integrating scientific tracking with community involvement.

**Conclusion:**

- Tamenglong's proactive efforts highlight the importance of legal enforcement, public awareness, and community involvement in wildlife conservation.

## 8. Why US Fed Cut Interest Rates, How India Could Be Impacted

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** US Federal Reserve, Interest Rate Cuts, RBI, Inflation, Impact on India

**Mains:** Impact of US Monetary Policy on India, Foreign Investment, Exchange Rate Dynamics, RBI Policy Stance

**Context:** The US Federal Reserve recently cut its benchmark interest rate by 50 basis points to support economic growth and manage inflation. This decision has global implications, particularly for economies like India.

**Why Did the Fed Cut Interest Rates?**

- **Post-COVID Economic Recovery:**
  - The Fed initially reduced rates to near zero during the pandemic.
  - Rising inflation, exacerbated by supply chain issues and the Russia-Ukraine war, prompted rate hikes to 5.5% by March 2022.
  - Recent inflation moderation and increased unemployment led the Fed to prioritize job creation, resulting in the rate cut.
- **The Fed's Dual Mandate:**
  - Aims for price stability (2% inflation target) and maximum employment.
  - With easing inflation and rising unemployment, the focus has shifted to achieving a "soft landing."
- **Future Rate Cuts:**
  - Projected cuts include another 50 basis points in 2024, 100 in 2025, and 50 in 2026.

**Potential Impact on the US Economy**

- **Soft-Landing Possibility:** The US economy is projected to grow around 2% over the next 2-3 years, despite higher unemployment (4.4%).
- **Political Uncertainty:** Upcoming elections may shift economic policies, potentially impacting inflation through tariffs.

**How Will India Be Affected?**

- **Foreign Investment Boost:** Lower US rates may attract foreign investment to India, as borrowing costs decrease for global investors.
- **Exchange Rate Dynamics:** A weaker US dollar could strengthen the rupee, impacting trade.
- **Impact on Trade:** A stronger rupee may hurt exporters by raising prices but benefit importers by lowering costs.
- **RBI's Monetary Policy Response:** The RBI will consider domestic inflation and growth rather than solely mirroring the Fed's actions, given differing inflation targets.

**Conclusion**

- The US Fed's rate cut aims to stimulate growth while managing inflation, impacting India through foreign investment and exchange rates.
- However, the RBI is likely to prioritize domestic economic conditions in its policy decisions.



## 9. India's GDP Set to Double to \$7 Trillion by FY30-31, Becoming the Third Largest Economy

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** India's GDP Forecast, S&P Global Projections, Economic Reforms, Inflation, RBI

**Mains:** India's Economic Growth, Structural Reforms, Upper-Middle-Income Transition, Investment in Infrastructure and Trade

**Context:** India's nominal GDP is projected to double to over \$7 trillion by FY30-31, driven by sustained economic reforms and robust growth. S&P Global projects India will become the world's third-largest economy, with growth exceeding government estimates.

### Key Highlights

- **India's GDP Projections:**
  - GDP to rise from \$3.6 trillion in FY24 to \$7 trillion by FY30-31.
  - Global GDP share expected to grow from 3.6% to 4.5%, with India entering the upper-middle-income group.
- **Impressive Growth in FY24:**
  - India saw 8.2% GDP growth in FY24, outpacing the government's 7.3% estimate.
  - Real GDP growth for FY25 is forecasted at 6.8%, reflecting moderated growth but a strong economic foundation.

### Factors Driving Economic Growth

- **Structural Reforms:**
  - Key reforms enhancing business logistics and the investment environment continue to drive growth, reducing reliance on public capital expenditure and encouraging private sector expansion.
- **Private Sector Expansion:**
  - Inclusion in major emerging market indexes boosts foreign investment in Indian bonds, fostering long-term capital inflows.
- **PMI Data and GST Collections:**
  - Consistently strong PMI data in both manufacturing and services reflects India's robust domestic demand.
  - Record-high GST collections of ₹2.1 trillion in April 2024 underline healthy fiscal momentum.

### Challenges and Risks

- **Inflationary Pressures:**
  - Rising food inflation, linked to climate impacts, could challenge monetary stability and increase investment costs.
  - Strengthening climate risk adaptation and investing in agriculture infrastructure are vital to counter these pressures.
- **Impact of RBI Rate Hikes:**
  - Rate hikes from May 2022 to February 2023 are likely to slow demand, with regulatory actions on unsecured lending further tempering credit growth.
- **Fiscal Consolidation:**
  - As the government focuses on fiscal consolidation, the private sector will play a larger role in sustaining growth.

### Infrastructure and Geopolitical Strategies

#### Port Infrastructure:

- Enhancing port infrastructure and crafting effective geopolitical strategies are critical, with 90% of India's trade reliant on seaborne routes.

#### Conclusion

- India is on track to become the third-largest economy by FY30-31, driven by structural reforms and private sector growth.
- However, challenges like inflation and monetary tightening must be navigated to sustain this growth trajectory.



## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

### 10. Acclamation for Enduring Indian Leadership

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** Global South, India-Malaysia Relations, Leadership, Nehru, International Relations

**Mains:** Role of India in Global South, Historical Leadership Impact, Cultural Diplomacy

**Context:** During the Malaysian Prime Minister visit to India (August 19-21, 2024), delivered a lecture on "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties," emphasising unity in the Global South and cooperation with the Global North.

#### India's Role in the Global South:

- India for its proactive role in shaping the Global South agenda, highlighting its effective G20 chairmanship and the inaugural Voice of Global South Summits.
- India's approach as cooperative and equitable, reflecting its historical leadership in international diplomacy.

#### Enduring Legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru:

- Nehru's global reputation and his vision of freedom and opportunity, quoting his iconic "A Tryst With Destiny" speech.
- Nehru's ideals of social justice and progress remain relevant today, underscoring the need for commitment to these values.

#### Philosophical References

- Indian figures like Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, and Rabindranath Tagore to emphasize principles of inclusivity and multiculturalism.
- Gandhi's call for compassion and Tagore's advocacy for courage in adversity, showcasing the timeless nature of their philosophies.

#### Challenges for Right-Wing Ideologies

- Efforts by the Sangh Parivar to diminish Nehru's legacy face obstacles as global respect for figures like Nehru and Gandhi endures.
- The universal messages of Gandhi, Tagore, and Nehru continue to resonate, countering claims of cultural exclusivity by right-wing ideologues.

#### Current Relevance

- India's initiatives in leveraging digital technologies for governance and welfare are gaining admiration from the Global South, reflecting its commitment to inclusive development.
- However, contemporary leaders' ideological narratives may not inspire the same respect as historical figures, indicating a gap in global perception.

#### Conclusion

- It highlights a deep appreciation for India's enduring leadership and its foundational figures.
- The ideals of inclusivity, cooperation, and social justice articulated by leaders like Nehru remain vital, presenting a compelling narrative for India's role on the global stage amidst contemporary challenges.



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the White Revolution 2.0 initiative launched in India:**

1. The initiative aims to increase daily milk procurement from cooperatives from 660 lakh liters to 1,000 lakh liters.
2. White Revolution 2.0 exclusively targets male farmers to enhance milk production and financial support.
3. The initiative seeks to empower women by providing them with formal employment in the dairy sector and enhancing their financial autonomy through bank accounts.
4. The program plans to establish 200,000 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) across India to strengthen grassroots economic development.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the New Criminal Codes in India:**

1. Statement 1: The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) allows first-time offenders to apply for bail after serving one-third of their sentence, aiming to alleviate the issue of undertrial prisoners.
2. Statement 2: Despite these reforms, systemic inefficiencies and underutilization of legal safeguards contribute to the continued high number of undertrial prisoners.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1.
- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is independent of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

incorrect.

**Q3. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding One Nation, One Election Proposal :**

1. **Assertion (A):** The One Nation, One Election (ONOE) proposal undermines India's constitutional framework and federal structure by enforcing uniform election schedules for states and the Union, which bypasses state autonomy.
2. **Reason (R):** The High-Level Committee formed to implement ONOE lacks regional and constitutional expertise, which compromises its credibility and ignores important state interests in electoral reforms.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding how the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) evaluates India's anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terror financing (CTF) measures:**

1. **Statement 1:** The FATF has placed India under "regular follow-up," recognizing its AML and CTF systems as effective but indicating a need for improvements, especially in prosecution rates.
2. **Statement 2:** The FATF has concluded that India has fully addressed all risks associated with money laundering and terror financing, and no further action is required.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- B. Both statements are correct.
- C. Statement 1 is incorrect, and Statement 2 is correct.
- D. Both statements are incorrect.



**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Kajju, the captive snow leopard at the Himalayan Nature Park in Kufri:**

1. Kajju was rescued from Kaza in November 2023 and is currently the only captive snow leopard in Himachal Pradesh.
2. Kajju has been diagnosed with osteosarcoma, and wildlife authorities have deemed amputation a viable treatment option without complications.
3. The limited population of snow leopards in captivity poses challenges for conservation efforts, with notable veterinary care facilities lacking in Shimla.
4. Snow leopards are protected as Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, ensuring their highest level of legal protection.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Q6. The main goals of Project Cheetah launched in 2022 by the Indian government are :**

1. To establish a metapopulation of 60-70 cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
2. To create a network of protected areas across India for all big cats.
3. To enhance prey populations in Kuno National Park.
4. To restore India's biodiversity through various conservation strategies.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. All of the above

**Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the conservation efforts for the Amur falcon in Manipur's Tamenglong district:**

1. A complete ban on hunting, catching, or selling Amur falcons has been implemented, requiring air gun owners to deposit their weapons by September 30, 2024.
2. Amur falcons migrate to Tamenglong from Southern Africa, arriving in October and staying until November before returning.
3. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, prohibits harming Amur falcons, with

violators facing legal consequences under sections 50 and 51.

4. Conservation initiatives for the Amur falcon began in 2016 and include community involvement, awareness programs, and a festival to promote conservation.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Q8. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding US Federal Reserve Interest Rate Cuts and Their Impact on India**

1. Assertion (A): The US Federal Reserve cut its interest rate to stimulate economic growth and manage inflation, which is likely to boost foreign investment in India.
2. Reason (R): Lower interest rates in the US can lead to a weaker US dollar, which may strengthen the Indian rupee and affect trade dynamics between the two countries.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

**Q9. According to projections by S&P Global, what is India's nominal GDP expected to reach by FY30-31, and what are the primary factors driving this growth?**

- A. \$5 trillion; Increased public capital expenditure
- B. \$7 trillion; Structural reforms and private sector expansion
- C. \$6 trillion; Decreased foreign investment
- D. \$8 trillion; High inflation rates

**Q10. What aspect of India's foreign policy was highlighted by the Malaysian Prime Minister during his visit, particularly in the context of the Global South?**

- A. India's military alliances with Western nations
- B. India's focus on bilateral trade agreements exclusively
- C. India's historical isolation from global diplomatic efforts
- D. India's commitment to digital governance and welfare initiatives



## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The White Revolution 2.0 initiative aims to increase milk procurement from cooperatives significantly, from 660 lakh liters to 1,000 lakh liters per day.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The initiative focuses on empowering women in the dairy sector, not exclusively targeting male farmers. It recognizes women's crucial role in milk production.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** One of the primary objectives of the initiative is to empower women by providing formal employment in the dairy sector and enhancing their financial autonomy through direct bank payments and bank accounts.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The program includes plans to register 200,000 PACS across India, which aims to strengthen cooperative institutions and promote grassroots economic development.

### 2. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is accurate** as the BNS introduces a provision for first-time offenders to seek bail after serving a portion of their sentence, which is intended to reduce the number of individuals held as undertrials.
- **Statement 2 also holds true**, indicating that despite this reform, the actual situation remains problematic due to various systemic issues, such as inadequate application of legal safeguards.
- **Thus, Statement 2 elaborates** on the limitations of the reform described in Statement 1, making Option A the correct choice.

### 3. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is correct** because the ONOE proposal does indeed contradict India's constitutional framework and federal structure by imposing a uniform election schedule, thereby infringing on state autonomy and undermining

the decentralized nature of Indian governance.

- **Reason (R) is also correct** as the committee established to oversee the implementation of ONOE lacks adequate regional representation and constitutional expertise, which weakens its credibility and fails to address significant state interests that are essential for fair electoral reforms.
- **R explains A** because the lack of regional and constitutional expertise in the committee indicates that the ONOE proposal is not being shaped by an understanding of federal principles, thus reinforcing the assertion that it undermines the federal structure. Therefore, R effectively supports and explains A.

### 4. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The FATF categorizes India as being under "regular follow-up," acknowledging its efforts in AML and CTF while highlighting the need for improvements, particularly in prosecution rates.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The FATF has not concluded that India has fully addressed all risks related to money laundering and terror financing. In fact, it emphasizes that significant gaps remain, and further action is required to enhance India's compliance with international standards.

### 5. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kajju is indeed the only captive snow leopard in Himachal Pradesh, having been rescued from Kaza in November 2023.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While Kajju has osteosarcoma, authorities face complications regarding amputation, particularly due to Kajju's age and the spread of cancer, making this treatment option risky.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The limited population of snow leopards in



captivity presents significant challenges for conservation, and Shimla lacks advanced veterinary facilities necessary for safe surgical procedures on older animals like Kajju.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Snow leopards are listed as Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, granting them the highest level of legal protection against poaching and habitat destruction.

**6. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- The main goals of Project Cheetah include establishing a metapopulation of 60-70 cheetahs specifically in the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape and enhancing prey populations in Kuno National Park.
- Options 2 and 4, while related to broader conservation efforts, are not specific goals of Project Cheetah.

**7. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** There is a complete ban on hunting, catching, or selling Amur falcons, and air gun owners are required to deposit their weapons by September 30, 2024.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Amur falcons migrate from Northern China, Mongolia, and Russia to Tamenglong, not from Southern Africa. They arrive in October and stay until November before continuing their migration to South Africa.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, does prohibit harming Amur falcons, and violators face legal consequences under sections 50 and 51.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Conservation initiatives for the Amur falcon started in 2016 and involve local community participation, awareness programs, and a festival aimed at promoting conservation efforts.

**8. Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

- Assertion (A) is correct because

the US Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates is aimed at stimulating economic growth and managing inflation, which can make investment in emerging markets like India more attractive, thus boosting foreign investment.

- **Reason (R) is also correct,** as lower interest rates in the US can indeed lead to a weaker US dollar. A weaker dollar can strengthen the Indian rupee, which affects trade dynamics—potentially making Indian exports more expensive and imports cheaper.

**9. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- India's nominal GDP is projected to double from \$3.6 trillion in FY24 to over \$7 trillion by FY30-31, as reported by S&P Global.
- The key drivers of this growth include sustained economic reforms that enhance the business environment and logistics, alongside a significant expansion of the private sector fueled by increased foreign investment.
- This is also supported by strong domestic demand, as evidenced by record-high GST collections and positive PMI data in both manufacturing and services.
- Challenges such as inflation and monetary tightening must be managed to sustain this growth trajectory.

**10. Correct Answer is D**

**Explanation:**

- The Malaysian Prime Minister praised India's use of digital technologies for governance and welfare, emphasizing its commitment to inclusive development and leadership in the Global South.
- This reflects India's broader strategy of using technology to enhance cooperation and progress within developing nations.







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