

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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—It's about quality—

A study suggests that iron deficiency may not be the only cause of anaemia in India. Other factors like Vitamin B12 deficiency and air pollution could also play a role.

Research questions ‘iron deficiency’ as key cause of anaemia in India

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The conventional wisdom that iron deficiency is the primary cause of anaemia in India may be outdated, with a host of other factors, ranging from Vitamin B12 deficiency to air pollution, influencing anaemia, says a study involving researchers from multiple institutions that was published earlier this week. Moreover, the manner in which blood is drawn for testing anaemia under public health programmes can dramatically alter estimates of the condition.

The study has appeared in the peer-reviewed *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

Anaemia is caused due to a lack of enough red blood cells (RBC) or haemoglobin. The common wisdom is that insufficient iron is the culprit and is the



The NFHS relied on drawing capillary blood, or from a pinprick, compared with the venous-blood draw.

driving force behind public policy interventions such as iron supplementation or mixing iron into staple foods (bio-fortification).

The latest official assessment of anaemia in the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), in 2019-2021, suggests that despite decades of policy intervention, anaemia has only gotten worse.

The latest study, funded

by the Department of Biotechnology, measured venous blood haemoglobin concentrations from about 4,500 people in eight States. Overall, 34.9% of those tested were anaemic. However, only 9% of them had what could be medically characterised as iron-deficiency anaemia; 22% of them were characterised as having anaemia from “unknown” causes.

“The major proportion of anaemia in all groups studied, was due to... unknown (and unmeasured) causes of anaemia. This could be due to deficiencies in other erythropoietic (blood-producing) nutrients like B12 or folate, or due to hemoglobinopathies, undetected blood loss, an unhygienic environment [20] or other causes like air pollution,” the authors said in their report.

The team of scientists

and doctors spanned institutions such as St. John’s Medical College, Bengaluru; National Institute of Nutrition; Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology; and Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology.

For women aged between 15 and 49, anaemia prevalence was 41.1% in comparison with 60.8% in the NFHS-5. The prevalence of anaemia in adolescent girls (15-19 years) was 44.3% compared with 62.6% in NFHS-5.

The percentage drop in anaemia in this study compared with the NFHS could be explained by the method of blood collection, said Anura Kurpad, professor, St. John’s Medical College, and one of the authors of the study.

The NFHS relied on drawing capillary blood, or from a pinprick, compared with the more involved venous-blood draw.

Anaemia in Women and Adolescents

- Anaemia prevalence in women aged 15-49 was 41.1%, lower than the 60.8% recorded in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).
- Among adolescent girls aged 15-19, 44.3% were anaemic, compared to 62.6% in NFHS-5.

Study Overview

- Researchers from institutions like St. John's Medical College and the National Institute of Nutrition conducted the study.
- Published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, the study tested 4,500 individuals across eight states.

Possible Causes of Anaemia

- In addition to iron deficiency, the study suggests other potential causes of anaemia, including:
 - Vitamin B12 or folate deficiencies.
 - Blood loss.
 - Environmental factors such as air pollution.

Difference in Testing Methods

- The study used venous blood draws for testing, which may have led to lower estimates of anaemia compared to the NFHS, which used capillary blood (from a pinprick).
- This study provides valuable insights into anaemia prevalence and its potential causes, particularly among women and adolescents.

Anaemia in India

- **Reasons for High Prevalence:** Nutritional Deficiencies: A lack of iron-rich foods such as meat, green leafy vegetables, and legumes contributes significantly.
 - **Infections:** Parasitic infections like hookworm, malaria, and tuberculosis deplete iron levels, worsening anaemia.
 - **Malnutrition:** Poor maternal nutrition and inadequate complementary feeding practices for infants and young children lead to higher susceptibility to anaemia.
 - **Economic and Social Factors:** Low socioeconomic status and food insecurity, particularly in rural areas, limit access to diverse and nutritious diets.
 - **Cultural Beliefs:** In some regions, socio-cultural practices limit the consumption of iron-rich foods, particularly for women and children.
- Challenges in Combatting Anaemia:

Daily News Analysis

- ➔ **Inadequate Healthcare Access:** Many rural areas face a lack of proper healthcare infrastructure for diagnosing and treating anaemia.
- ➔ **Limited Awareness:** There is low public awareness regarding the importance of iron-rich diets and the causes of anaemia.
- ➔ **Economic Constraints:** Cost barriers to nutritious food and supplements hinder the efforts to reduce anaemia.

Way Forward

- ➔ **Nutrition Education:** Public awareness campaigns focusing on the importance of a balanced diet and the inclusion of iron-rich foods are essential.
- ➔ **Iron Supplementation:** Expanding government initiatives like iron supplementation and fortification programs in schools and communities can help mitigate deficiencies.
- ➔ **Improving Healthcare Infrastructure:** Strengthening healthcare access, especially in rural areas, and conducting regular screenings can aid early detection and treatment.
- ➔ **Promoting Socio-economic Development:** Efforts to combat poverty, improve sanitation, and provide access to nutritious food are crucial for addressing the root causes of anaemia.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques : Analyse the prevalence of anaemia in India, highlighting the key factors contributing to its high rates. Discuss the challenges faced in combating anaemia and suggest a way forward to address this public health issue. **(250 Words /15 marks)**

Russia and Iran signed a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty to enhance cooperation in trade, military, science, and culture – amidst growing Western sanctions and geopolitical challenges.

Russia, Iran sign treaty to deepen ties in the face of Western curbs

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, signed a broad cooperation pact on Friday as their countries deepened their partnership in the face of stinging Western sanctions.

Russian and Iranian officials say the “comprehensive strategic partnership treaty” covers all areas – from trade and military cooperation to science, education and culture.

Mr. Putin praised the deal as a “real breakthrough, creating conditions for the stable and sustainable development of Russia, Iran and the entire region.”

He said the amount of trade and economic cooperation was still insufficient, voicing hope the new treaty will help expand them. He said the countries are trying to re-

solve technical obstacles to advance planned projects to ship Russian natural gas to Iran and build transport corridors to Iranian ports in the Gulf.

Mr. Pezeshkian said the projects are feasible, adding that experts were working to resolve the remaining obstacles.

His visit came ahead of Monday’s inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, who has pledged to broker peace in Ukraine and take a tougher stance on Iran, which is grappling with growing economic problems and other challenges, including military setbacks in its sphere of influence across West Asia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed any link with Trump’s inauguration, saying the signing had been planned long ago.

Welcoming Mr. Pezeshkian as they sat down for talks, Mr. Putin said the new treaty will “give an ad-



Common interests: Vladimir Putin, right, and Masoud Pezeshkian at the Kremlin on Friday. AP

ditional impulse to practically all areas of our cooperation.”

Mr. Pezeshkian, who met Mr. Putin for the third time since coming to power in July, said the documents form a “solid foundation for our forward movement.”

“We do consider our relations with you as vital, sensitive and strategic, and we are on this path strongly,” he said.

The Iranian President emphasised that countries in the region should resolve their own problems themselves, adding in an apparent reference to the U.S. that the presence of outside forces will only exacerbate tensions and destabilize the situation.

“They come from another side of the world to make chaos in the region,” he said. “These ties will defuse their plot,

definitely.”

Russia’s ties with Iran have grown closer after Mr. Putin sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. Ukraine and the West have accused Tehran of providing Moscow with hundreds of drones for use to attack Ukraine, which Moscow and Tehran have denied.

Last year, Iran joined the BRICS bloc of developing economies and Mr. Pezeshkian attended its summit, which was hosted by Russia in Kazan.

Russia and Iran, which had troubled relations in the past, developed cordial ties after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, with Moscow emerging as a key trade partner and supplier of weapons and technologies for Tehran, which has faced bruising international sanctions.

Russia built Iran’s first nuclear plant that was launched in 2013 and is building two more nuclear reactors there.

Russia was part of the 2015 deal between Iran and six nuclear powers offering sanctions relief for Tehran in exchange for curbing its atomic program, and the Kremlin offered political support to Iran when the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the agreement during Trump’s first term.

Russia and Iran also pooled their efforts to shore up Bashar al-Assad’s government during Syria’s civil war, but failed to prevent his downfall last month after a lightning offensive by the opposition. Mr. Assad and his family fled to Russia.

Tehran increasingly needs Moscow’s assistance as it faces economic woes and stinging setbacks across its sphere of influence in West Asia. The troubles could deepen after Mr. Trump returns to the White House with his policy of “maximum pressure” on Iran.

Key Objectives:

- Strengthen economic and trade relations, addressing technical obstacles for gas shipments and transport corridors.
- Enhance military and technological collaboration, particularly in response to Western sanctions.
- Foster regional stability through mutual cooperation, countering external interference (especially the U.S.).

Context and Necessity:

- **Sanctions:** Both Russia and Iran are facing severe Western sanctions, prompting the need for closer ties.
- **Geopolitical Alignment:** Russia and Iran share common interests in countering U.S. influence in the region, particularly in West Asia.

- ▶ **Past Cooperation:** Historical ties include nuclear energy projects and mutual support in Syria and Ukraine.

Significance:

- ▶ The treaty is seen as a strategic move to secure economic and military support amid growing external pressures, especially from the U.S.



Human Rights Watch condemned the worsening human rights situation in Central Asia, highlighting increased repression of activists and journalists in 2024.

- HRW suggests Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have authoritarian governments.
- Turkmenistan is the most reclusive and is one of the most closed countries in the world.

Human Rights Watch:

- Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that works to defend human rights around the world.
- It was founded in 1978 and is headquartered in New York City.
- The organization conducts research and advocacy on human rights issues, exposing abuses and pressuring those in power to respect human rights.
- Human Rights Watch works on behalf of a wide range of people whose rights are violated, including refugees, children, migrants, and political prisoners.
- It publishes reports and briefings on human rights conditions in some 70 countries each year.
- Human Rights Watch advocates for policies to prevent human rights abuses and regularly meets with government officials and international organizations to press for change.
- The organization is a founding member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange and co-chair of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.



Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty editor Alsu Kurmasheva sits in a courtroom in Kazan, Russia. FILE PHOTO

Rights situation is 'worsening' in Central Asia: HRW

Associated Press
ALMATY

Human Rights Watch criticised the “worsening” rights situation in Central Asia in a report published this week, saying the region’s five ex-Soviet countries had all jailed dissenters and ramped up control on presspersons in 2024.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan all have authoritarian governments.

Turkmenistan is the most reclusive and is one of the most closed countries in the world.

“In 2024, authorities across Central Asia ramped up intimidation, harassment, and prosecution of critical activists and journalists,” Human Rights Watch quoted its Europe and Central Asia director, Hugh Williamson, as saying.

“As more and more Central Asian activists are thrown in jail for simply exercising their right to freedom of speech or peaceful opposition activism, it is increasingly important to call attention to their plight and press for their release,” he added.

Increased repressive practices

In a more than 500-page long report published Thursday, the rights group said all five Central Asian states had increased repressive practises in 2024.

It called on the countries to “release wrongfully imprisoned activists and journalists”.

All the five countries are at the bottom of a press freedom ranking by Reporters Without Borders.

In News : GS 2 : Social Justice

The UNICEF report highlights the multifaceted challenges children face globally.



Analysis of the news:

About UNICEF

- The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II.
- **Mandate:** To help children and young people whose lives and futures were at risk – no matter what role their country had played in the war.
 - It works in over 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child.
- **Funding:** UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector.
- **Awards:** It has received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965, the Indira Gandhi Prize in 1989, and the Princess of Asturias Award in 2006.
- **It publishes important Reports:** The State of the World's Children, The State of the World's Children reports.
- **Global Initiatives:**
 - In 2012, UNICEF worked with Save the Children and The United Nations Global Compact to develop the Children's Rights and Business Principles, and now these guidelines form the basis of UNICEF's advice to companies.
 - UNICEF's Data Must Speak Initiative (DMS) helps countries unlock existing data to expand access to education and improve learning for all.

➔ **Headquarters:** It is headquartered in New York City.

Key Highlights of the UNICEF Report on Children's Challenges

➔ **Impact of Conflict on Children**

- In 2023, over 473 million children—one in six globally—lived in conflict zones, marking a rise from 10% in the 1990s to 19% today.
- These children face severe risks, including displacement, starvation, disease, and psychological trauma, highlighting the urgent need for protective interventions.

➔ **Debt Crisis and Its Impact on Children**

- Nearly 400 million children live in countries struggling with heavy debt burdens, which restrict investments in essential sectors like education, healthcare, and social services.
- A 5% increase in external debt for low- and middle-income countries could slash education budgets by \$12.8 billion.
- In several low-income nations, debt servicing far exceeds spending on health and education, leaving 1.8 billion children vulnerable to poverty and economic shocks.

➔ **Climate Change Impact**

- Only 2.4% of global climate finance is allocated to child-responsive initiatives, weakening crucial social services such as healthcare and education.
- This underinvestment in children during climate crises underscores the need for targeted financing to protect their future.

➔ **Digital Inequality**

- While Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is transforming service delivery, a digital divide persists.
- In high-income countries, most youth (15-24 years) have internet access, but in Africa, only 53% of youth are connected, with adolescent girls and children with disabilities particularly disadvantaged.
- Nine out of ten adolescent girls in low-income countries remain offline, limiting their opportunities.

Way Forward

- ➔ The report calls for increased financing for climate recovery, focusing on child-responsive healthcare, education, and psychological well-being during crises.
- ➔ It urges the creation of inclusive systems that prioritize children's rights and the integration of child rights into digital initiatives to bridge inequality gaps.

Constitutional Provisions for Child Protection in India

- **Article 15(3) – Special Provisions for Children:** This article empowers the State to make special provisions for children.
- **Article 21A – Right to Education:** This article guarantees free and compulsory education for all children aged 6-14 years.
- **Article 23 – Prohibition of Trafficking and Forced Labor:** This article prohibits human trafficking, forced labour, and bonded labour.
- **Article 24 – Prohibition of Child Labor:** Article 24 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in hazardous occupations and industries.
- **Article 39(e) and (f) – Directive Principles for Child Welfare:**
 - Article 39(e) directs the State to ensure that children are not forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age or strength.
 - Article 39(f) directs the State to provide children with opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity, and to protect them against exploitation and moral and material abandonment.
- **Article 45 – Provision for Early Childhood Care and Education:** This article directs the State to endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
- **Article 47 – Duty of the State to Raise Nutrition Levels:** This article enjoins the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and improve public health, which directly benefits children by addressing issues like malnutrition, anemia, and health inequities.
- **Article 51A(k) – Fundamental Duty of Parents:** Under this provision, it is a fundamental duty of parents or guardians to provide opportunities for education to their children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

In News : Lokpal of India celebrates 1st Foundation Day on 16th January

The Foundation Day of India's Lokpal was celebrated on 16th January, marking the establishment of the institution under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

Introduction

- The Lokpal of India is an anti-corruption ombudsman established to investigate and prosecute corruption cases against public officials.

Establishment

- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act was passed in 2013 after a long struggle by anti-corruption activists.
- The Lokpal institution was finally established in March 2019.

Composition

- It is comprised of a Chairperson and a maximum of eight members.
- The Chairperson should be either a former Chief Justice of India or a former Supreme Court judge.

Jurisdiction

- The Lokpal has jurisdiction over a wide range of public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Group A, B, C, and D officials of the Central Government.

Powers

- The Lokpal has the power to initiate investigations, conduct inquiries, and file cases in special courts against public servants accused of corruption.
- It can also recommend disciplinary action against corrupt officials.

Limitations

- The Lokpal's jurisdiction does not extend to the armed forces, judiciary, and intelligence agencies.
- It cannot inquire into complaints against the Prime Minister related to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy, and space.

Conclusion

- The Lokpal is an important institution in India's fight against corruption, providing a much-needed mechanism for holding public officials accountable.

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Ques : Despite the establishment of the Lokpal in India, corruption remains a persistent challenge. Critically analyze the limitations of the Lokpal in addressing corruption and suggest measures to enhance its effectiveness. **(250 Words /15 marks)**



India's real growth rate and the forecast

The First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Accounts for 2024-25 show a real GDP growth of 6.4% and a nominal GDP growth of 9.7%. These numbers have fallen short of the Reserve Bank of India's revised growth estimate of 6.6% for real GDP, as in its December 2024 monetary policy statement and 10.5% for nominal GDP growth as in the 2024-25 Union Budget presented in July 2024.

The annual growth of 6.4% can be seen as consisting of 6% growth in the first half and 6.7% growth in the second half. There is, thus, a clear improvement expected over the Q2 growth of 5.4%. The sharp fall in 2024-25 annual GDP growth from that of the previous year at 8.2% is seen only in the case of GDP. With respect to Gross Value Added (GVA), this difference, between 7.2% and 6.4%, is much less. On the GVA side, it was the manufacturing sector which suffered a sharp fall in sectoral growth from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% in 2024-25.

Growth prospects for 2025-26

The Gross Fixed Capital Formation rate at constant prices has ranged between 33.3% and 33.5% during 2021-22 to 2024-25. Thus, it appears to have stabilised around 33.4%. It is expected to continue at this level in 2025-26. The average Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) has been marginally higher than 5 in recent years. Assuming ICOR to be 5.1 in 2025-26, we may consider a 6.5% real GDP growth to be realistic.

There may not be much change in the global economy even though Donald Trump's assumption of office may create more uncertainty. India will have to largely depend on domestic demand.

In particular, the Government of India has to ensure that there is no relaxation in its investment expenditure. In fact, the slightly lower



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Over the next five years, the best that India may hope for is a steady real GDP growth rate of 6.5%

growth in 2024-25 is largely linked to the slowdown in the Government of India's investment growth which has remained negative at (-)12.3% even after eight months into the fiscal year.

With a lower nominal GDP growth in 2024-25 of 9.7% as compared to the budgeted nominal GDP growth of 10.5%, the budgeted Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) of ₹38.4 lakh crore may not be realised if the budgeted buoyancy of 1.03 is maintained. As per Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, GTR growth for the first eight months was 10.7%. If this growth is maintained for the remaining months also, the realised buoyancy would be about 1.1, which is higher than the budgeted buoyancy. In such a case, tax revenue shortfall will be minimal. In other words, any revenue constraint or likely pressure on fiscal deficit would not constrain the government's ability to achieve its capital expenditure target of ₹11.1 lakh crore.

Reason for the dip

However, after the first eight months, the level of the Government of India's capital expenditure has remained limited to ₹5.14 lakh crore, that is 46.2% of the Budget target. In the remaining four months, the Government of India's capital expenditure may be accelerated. It may still fall well short of the target. This has been the main reason for the dip in overall real GDP growth in 2024-25.

Going forward in 2025-26, the Government of India will have to continue to rely on an accelerated capital expenditure growth which can be kept at least at 20% on the revised estimates for 2024-25. Sustained government capital expenditures can have a favourable effect on private investment. The size and the pattern of investment expenditure of the government

should be designed to accelerate private investment as well.

Medium- to long-term growth prospects

Over a period of next five years, the best that India may hope for is a steady real GDP growth rate of 6.5%. This is in line with the International Monetary Fund's real GDP growth projection for the Indian economy, as in its October 2024 release, which is at 6.5% over the period 2025-26 to 2029-30. This real GDP growth may be accompanied by an implicit price deflator (IPD)-based inflation of about 4% which can give a nominal GDP growth in the range of 10.5%-11%. In years in which global conditions improve and the contribution of net exports to GDP growth becomes significant, real GDP growth may touch even 7%. If a real growth of around 6.5% and a nominal growth in the range of 10.5%-11% are maintained over the long run with an average exchange rate depreciation of 2.5% per annum, India should be able to reach a per capita GDP level consistent with a developed country status in the next two and half decades. But the task is not going to be easy. It will be hard to grow at 6.5% as the base keeps on increasing. In fact, in the earlier years, the growth rate will have to be higher. But, at present, the potential rate of growth appears to be 6.5%. However, it can change.

In the light of a potential growth rate of 6.5%, the achievement of 6.4% in 2024-25 should not be considered as disappointing. In fact, the achievement of 8.2% in 2023-24 should be considered as a flash in the pan. The current year's growth rate of 6.4% as in the first advance estimates should be seen in the context of India's potential growth rate.

The views expressed are personal

GS Paper 03 : Indian Economy

PYQ: (UPSC CSE (M) GS-3 2021) : Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced a V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(250 words/15m)

UPSC Mains Practice Question: Discuss the factors affecting India's GDP growth as per the 2024-25 estimates. Highlight the role of government capital expenditure in sustaining economic growth. **(250 Words /15 marks)**

Context :

- The First Advance Estimates for 2024-25 project India's real GDP growth at 6.4% and nominal GDP growth at 9.7%, below RBI's estimates of 6.6% and 10.5%, respectively.
- This highlights challenges in economic performance and investment growth during the fiscal year.

Real and Nominal GDP Growth Estimates for 2024-25

- The annual growth rate of 6.4% consists of 6% growth in the first half of the year and 6.7% growth in the second half, showing improvement over Q2 growth of 5.4%.
- Compared to 2023-24, the GDP growth rate fell sharply from 8.2%, while the Gross Value Added (GVA) growth decreased moderately from 7.2% to 6.4%.
- The manufacturing sector experienced a significant decline, with its growth falling from 9.9% in 2023-24 to 5.3% in 2024-25.

Growth Prospects for 2025-26

- Investment levels, as measured by the Gross Fixed Capital Formation rate, have remained stable at around 33.4% since 2021-22 and are expected to continue at this level.
- A realistic GDP growth projection for 2025-26 is 6.5%, supported by stable investment levels and improved capital efficiency.
- Global economic conditions are not expected to change significantly, meaning domestic demand will remain the main driver of growth.
- Government investment spending is critical for sustaining growth, as reduced public investment negatively impacted 2024-25 GDP growth.
- Accelerated capital expenditure, with a target growth rate of 20% in 2025-26, can stimulate private sector investment and economic activity.

Fiscal and Revenue Challenges

- Lower nominal GDP growth in 2024-25 could create challenges for achieving revenue targets, such as the Gross Tax Revenue (GTR).
- Tax collection growth in the first eight months was better than expected, which may reduce potential shortfalls.
- Government capital expenditure has been slower, with only 46.2% of the Budget target achieved by the eighth month of the fiscal year.

- Accelerating government capital expenditure in the remaining months is essential for meeting growth and development objectives.

Medium- to Long-Term Growth Prospects

- India's real GDP is projected to grow at 6.5% over the next five years, aligning with international projections.
- A combination of 6.5% real growth and moderate inflation of 4% can result in steady nominal GDP growth between 10.5% and 11%.
- Sustaining this growth trajectory could help India achieve developed country status in about 25 years.
- Achieving consistent high growth rates may become challenging due to the increasing economic base, requiring targeted efforts to enhance productivity and investment.
- The growth rate of 6.4% in 2024-25 reflects India's potential growth capacity, while the 8.2% growth in 2023-24 was an exceptional occurrence.

Conclusion

- - India's economic performance demonstrates resilience and aligns with its potential growth trajectory, despite recent challenges.
 - Consistent investment and focus on domestic demand will be key to sustaining long-term growth.
-