

DATA/ FACTS

1. UP State government is expecting over 400 million devotees to visit **Maha Kumbh 2025**.
2. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its October review, pegged Q2 growth at 7%. But the actual number came in at just 5.4% — the slowest since the third quarter of 2022-23 — with the **Gross Value-Added (GVA)** in the economy rising at a marginally better 5.6%.
3. The data from the 2011 national Census of India indicate that **persons with disabilities** constitute 2.21 % of the total population.
4. According to the **2019 Brief Disability Model Survey** conducted by the World Health Organization across India, Tajikistan and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the prevalence of severe disability among Indian adults is 16%.
5. According to the latest report (2021-22) of the Chief Commissioner for **Persons with Disabilities**, only eight States have appointed commissioners who are not part of the mainstream civil service.
6. In 2023, the Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced the ‘Anganwadi Protocol for **Divyang Children**’, a national guideline for frontline community nutrition workers in India regarding disability inclusion.
7. Globally, the total spending power of 1 billion **persons with disabilities**, including their family and friends who are likely to make accessibility-based choices, is estimated at \$13 trillion.
8. In the year 2024, India’s Paralympians made history at the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games by bringing home 29 medals.
9. World Health Organization reports that globally, **90% of persons with disabilities lack access to AT** (assistive technology).
10. The number of **migrants** caught illegally crossing the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada fell in November which counts to **47000**.
11. For perspective, the Indian public and its academic institutions collectively spend around ₹1,500 crore every year on journal subscriptions.
12. Today, **more than 53% of all scientific papers** worldwide are open access in some way, according to data from Clarivate’s Web Of Science platform.
13. Mr. Modi became one of the few leaders in 2024 to visit both Moscow and Kyiv.
14. Mr. Putin’s visit is expected to take forward the new “economic road map” for 2030 that the leaders have agreed to in terms of doubling bilateral trade to \$100 billion.
15. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies.
16. Unsecured lending reported rapid growth in the past three fiscals at a CAGR of 45%
17. Nepal govt. **accepts \$20 million grant assistance** from China.
18. The Union government’s Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has removed data on reservation in Union government jobs and positions from its Annual Report (2023-24) released last month.
19. A common type is called gold OA, where the journal makes money by charging authors an article processing charge (APC) to publish papers in the journal. The APC for a single paper has been known to be thousands of dollars. For example, Nature Communications charges \$6,790 per paper.

EXAMPLES/ INITIATIVES

1. Centre has expanded health coverage for all aged 70 and above irrespective of their income status under the **PM-JAY**.
2. The **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** has made it compulsory for all shops, restaurants, and other commercial establishments in the city to display Bengali on their **signboards** alongside other languages.
3. Telangana chief minister inaugurated **33 transgender clinics**, the first comprehensive State-wide healthcare support system for transgender individuals through specialised transgender clinics. These clinics named “**Maitri Clinics**” aim to provide free health check-ups, diagnostic tests, and medicines for transgender individuals, ensuring accessible and inclusive healthcare across.
4. The Haryana government’s Department of Women and Child Development is committed to promoting disability inclusion using **Mission Vatsalya** and the **Integrated Child Development Scheme**. It has introduced the Divyang Protocol and a unique podcast initiative, ‘**Nanhe Farishtey**’, to educate communities about disabilities and enhance awareness at Anganwadi centres for the early detection and inclusion of children with disabilities.

- Recent **Needs Assessment Study** found that Anganwadi workers played an **essential** role in the early identification of children and referral for children and adults with disabilities.
- Star Sports and Disney+Hotstar incorporated features that made live cricket accessible to India's 63 million hearing impaired and five million **visually impaired citizens**.
- Films such as Margarita with a Straw (2014) and Srikanth (2024) lent great depth and sensitivity to the representation of **disability** in cinema.
- ICMR has developed life changing devices such as SmartCane, a mobility aid for the visually impaired, and TacRead, an affordable digital text reader.
- The U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy has mandated that from 2026, all publicly funded research articles must be freely accessible without any delay.
- PRAGATI infrastructure** monitoring system for accelerating 340 projects worth \$205 billion across the country and bringing about economic transformation. PRAGATI system, an acronym for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation of projects.

QUOTES/ PHRASES

- Justice should not only be done, but manifestly seen to be done.
- As we stride towards our vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**, inclusivity and empowerment must guide our development agenda.
- "Elections must not only be free and fair but also be seen to be free and fair and on the principles of equal participation of electors in the election process."
- Gaza situation is 'appalling, apocalyptic', says UN chief

JUDGEMENTS/COURT CASES

- Dismal functioning of the office of the State Commissioners (under RPWD Act) highlighted in the writ petition, **Seema Girija Lal vs. Union of India**, in which the delay in appointment of the state Commissioners has also been highlighted.

CASE STUDY

Karnataka: Mobile Adalats (mobile courts), as practised years ago by the Karnataka Commissioner's office, could be a good practice for other States to emulate in reaching out to **persons with disabilities** in remote areas and to look into a deprivation of their rights. Adalats were organised in the State with prior notice to persons with disabilities through the **nodal disability office** in the districts for aggrieved individuals or institutions to get their grievance redress. Often, these grievances would be resolved **on the spot** for persons with disabilities and their families. **Designating District Magistrates** as Deputy Commissioners for persons with disabilities — as done in the case of Karnataka — is a promising way to make **local governance** disability inclusive.

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