1. **Economic Survey 2024-25:** India's GDP growth estimated at **6.4% in 2024-25**, projected to grow between **6.3%-6.8% in 2025-26**, according to the ES 2024-25.
   - **About the Key Highlights of the ES:** Prepared by the **Department of Economic Affairs**, under the guidance of the **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)**.
   - **Real GDP Growth**: Estimated at **6.4%** (**FY25**) and expected between **6.3% - 6.8%** (**FY26**)
   - **Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)**: Share in GDP (current prices) is **set to increase from 60.3% (FY24) to 61.8% (FY25)**, the **highest since FY03**.
   - **Gross Value Added (GVA)**: Growth remains close to the decadal average, and Aggregate GVA has surpassed pre-pandemic trends.
   - **Inflation**: Headline inflation is moderating due to **core inflation decline**.
     - Food inflation increased from 7.5% (FY24) to 8.4% (FY25) due to supply chain disruptions and weather conditions.
     - If vegetables and pulses are excluded, inflation is close to the **4%** target.
   - **Employment**: Labour market growth supported by post-pandemic recovery and increased formalization.
     - LFS report (2023-24) shows improvement in Unemployment rate, Labour force participation rate, and Worker-to-population ratio (WPR).
   - **Survey's Recommendations: Deregulation** of the economy is essential to unleash growth.
     - Boosting employment and income generation will lead to higher consumption.
     - Simplification of regulations will reduce business costs and improve hiring.
   - **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)** highlights a positive link between business reforms and industrial activity.
   - **Constitutional Mandates:** The term Economic Survey is **not mentioned in the Constitution**.
     - The Economic Survey is **not** binding on the government. **Article 112** of the Constitution refers to the budget.
     - The term "budget" is not used in the Constitution; instead, it is called the "**Annual Financial Statement**".
2. **Tiger population in India:** According to the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) survey the **tiger population** in India **increased by 30%** over the past **two decades**.

- **About the key findings: 85%** of breeding populations are sustained in **protected areas devoid of humans** through **land sparing**.
  - **Source populations** supported by **corridors** and **sustainable land-use practices** helped **tiger dispersal** into **multi-use forests**.
  - Tigers now coexist with over 66 million people, proving coexistence is possible.
  - **Strong legislative support** has aided tiger recovery, including - Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
  - **Economic prosperity and cultural values** have influenced tiger persistence, recovery, and colonisation.
  - **Higher tiger recolonisation** observed in regions with lower forest dependence and better socio-economic conditions.
  - **Tiger decline seen in areas** with high poverty and armed conflict (e.g., Naxal-affected regions of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand).
- **Key recommendations for future conservation:** Expand protected areas and habitat corridors.
  - Strengthen anti-poaching measures.
  - Promote sustainable livelihoods for communities near tiger habitats.
  - Enhance human-wildlife conflict mitigation through early warning systems and rapid response teams.
- **About:** The tiger is a large cat and a member of the genus Panthera native to Asia.
  - **Subspecies of tiger:** the continental (Panthera tigris tigris) and the Sunda (Panthera tigris sondaica)
  - **Habitats:** Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas
  - **Status:** IUCN Red list – Endangered, CITES Status - Appendix 1, and Wild life protection Act Tiger Range Countries: **Schedule 1**
  - **Found:** 13 countries which include India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR (People's Democratic Republic), Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam, China and Indonesia.

3. **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 shows **improvement in foundational learning outcomes**, especially in **Grade III** across Indian states.
   - **About:** The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) is a scheme under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
     - **NIPUN Bharat Mission** transformed **early-grade classrooms** by focusing on **literacy and numeracy**.
   - **Real-Life Impact:**
     - **Uttar Pradesh:** Ravi Sharma, a primary teacher, uses **songs** to teach **math**.
     - **Odisha:** Second-grader Shragatika Ghosh confidently reads **Odia stories aloud**.
   - **ASER 2024 Data on Learning Gains:**
     - **UP:** Grade III students' ability to **read Grade II texts** rose from **24% to 34%** (2022-2024).
     - **Subtraction skills improved** from **29% to 41%**.
     - **Odisha: Colourful, contextualized workbooks** contributed to similar gains.
     - **Nationally:** Millions more children can **read and solve basic math problems**.
   - **Need for NIPUN 2.0:** Extend **NIPUN Bharat to 2030** (NIPUN 2.0) to sustain and expand gains.
     - **Focus on: Grades III–V** to bridge **early learning & higher-order skills**, and **early Childhood Education (ECE)** for **preschool readiness**.
   - **About the evolution of India's Education Policies:**
     - **NNPE 1986**: Focused on **education for all**, **primary education**, and **open universities**.
     - **POA PE 1968**: Based on **Kothari Commission's recommendations**.
     - **1992**: Emphasized **early childhood care** and **universal elementary education**.
4. **Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) System:** Breakthrough in Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) System achieved at DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE), IIT Hyderabad.
   - **About:** LAAM System is based on Powder-based Directed Energy Deposition technology for fabricating rocket components.
     - Collaboration between IIT Hyderabad, DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory, and industry partners contributed to the success.
   - **Key Features of the LAAM System:** Indigenously designed with a build volume of 1m x 1m x

- -3m—one of the largest metal additive manufacturing machines in India.
- Based on Laser and Blown-Powder-based Direct Energy Deposition technology.
- Employs dual heads for thermal balancing and speed.

- **Recent Achievement:** Successfully **fabricated a one-meter-high component**, marking progress in large-sized additive manufacturing.
- **Future Implications:** It opens new possibilities for large-scale metal parts production and promotes growth and innovation in additive manufacturing in India.

5. **India Honey Alliance (IHA):** Recently, the **India Honey Alliance (IHA)**, in collaboration with **NIFTEM-K**, successfully hosted the **'Hive to Home: Vision2030 - Building a Scientific & Sustainable Honey Industry'** seminar at the India International Centre.
   - **About IHA:** It is a platform that brings together all stakeholders in the Indian honey industry, including beekeepers, honey companies, exporters, processors, farmers, and scientific experts.
   - **Objective:** To **strengthen India's honey value chain** through **scientific advancements & sustainable practices**.
     - Brought together **policymakers, scientists, and industry leaders** to discuss **quality assurance, sustainability, and global competitiveness** in India's honey industry.
   - **Key Highlights:** Urged **FSSAI to collaborate with NIFTEM & other institutes** to set **India-specific honey standards**.
     - Called upon **IHA to expand & strengthen India's position as a leading honey producer & exporter**.
     - Stressed the **importance of scientific advancements in testing** to **uphold global benchmarks & enhance credibility**.
   - **Key Recommendations from the Seminar:** Conduct scientific studies on Indian honey to revise quality standards & thresholds.
     - Enhance regulatory compliance & consumer awareness.
     - Develop advanced training systems for beekeepers to improve productivity & sustainability.
     - Promote innovation in beekeeping practices.

6. **Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA):** COP29 held in Azerbaijan, failed to secure a fair deal on **climate finance** for developing nations, within **three months**, **six major American banks** exited the **Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)**.
   - **About NZBA:** Bank-led & UN-convened initiative aligning global banks' lending, investment, and capital markets with Net-Zero GHG emissions by 2050.
     - Climate accelerator for UNEP Financial Initiative's Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB).
     - India Position: There is no Indian bank is a member of this alliance.
   - **Governance:** Steering Group & Chair govern the alliance, representing diverse geographies and business models.
     - Selected by member banks, supported by the UNEP FI Secretariat.
     - United Nations holds a seat on the Steering Group.
     - Operates under NZBA governance documents (adopted in Oct 2021, updated in Aug 2023 & Mar 2024).
   - **Commitments for Member Banks:** Align operational & attributable GHG emissions from lending & investment with Net-Zero pathways by 2050 or sooner.
     - Set targets within 18 months of joining for 2030 or sooner, with 2050 target and intermediary targets every 5 years.
     - First 2030 targets focus on GHG-intensive sectors, with further targets within 36 months.
     - Annually publish absolute emissions & emissions intensity in line with best practices within a year of setting targets.