

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 26-09-2024

### Forecasting GDP growth of India

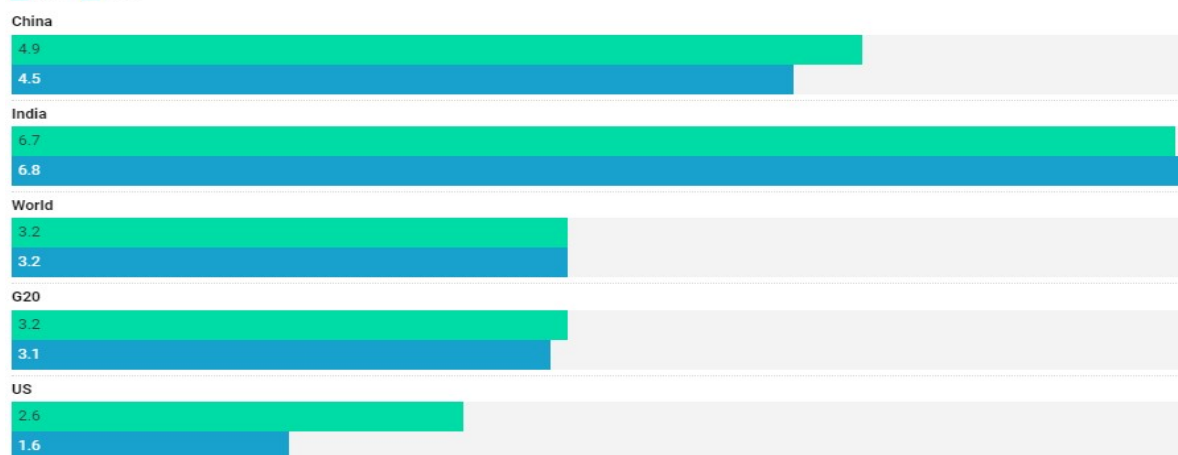
OECD recently revises India's FY25 growth forecast upward to 6.7% in its Interim Economic Outlook.

### Analysis

- **OECD** - It revises growth upward to 6.7% in FY25 and noted that growth is expected to increase to 6.8% in FY26.
- **Asian Development Bank** - It retained India's growth at 7% for FY25, projecting a pick up to 7.2% in FY26.
- **World Bank** - It has raised its growth forecast for India's economy to 7 per cent for the current financial year (FY25), up from an earlier projection of 6.6 per cent
- **Nomura** - Lowered its FY25 economic growth forecast for India to 6.7% from 6.9%.
- **RBI** - Upgraded its GDP growth projection for FY25 to 7.2%.
- **Morgan Stanley** - Raised its India GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.8%.

(GDP, % change, y-o-y)

2024 2025



Source: OECD - Created with Datawrapper

### Trends

- **Inflation** - Inflation is also projected to be higher at 4.5% compared with 4.3% projected in May.
- Prices would likely inch towards the RBI's mid-point target of 4% in FY26.
- **Consumer inflation** - It remained below 4% in July and August and economists expect it to rise to 5% in the coming months.
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** - It reflects demand in the economy, grew by 6.7% in the quarter under consideration, compared to 8.2% during the same period of the last fiscal and 7.8% in the previous quarter.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA)** - It reflects supply in the economy, rose to 6.8% during Q1

of FY25 compared to 8.3% in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal and 6.3% of the previous quarter.

- **Manufacturing** - Accounts for about 17% of India's GDP, grew by 7% year-on-year in the April-June quarter, compared to an 8.9% expansion in the previous quarter.
- **Agricultural output** - Grew 2% year-on-year in the same period, up from 1.1% in the previous quarter.

*Global GDP growth is projected to stabilize at 3.2% in 2024 and 2025.*

## References

1. [Money Control | OECD revises India's FY25 growth](#)
2. [The Hindu Business Line | India's GDP Growth](#)

## World Gorilla Day

*Uganda Celebrates Conservation Success on World Gorilla Day titled Over 30 Years of Impact in Mountain Gorilla Conservation.*

- World Gorilla Day is an annual event held on **September 24**.
- **Established on** - World Gorilla Day dates back to 2017 when the Karisoke Research Centre celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Dr. Dian Fossey, a renowned primatologist, founded the centre in 1967 to conserve and research gorillas in **Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park**.
- Fossey's revolutionary work with mountain gorillas has significantly impacted their survival and spurred global efforts to safeguard all gorilla species.
- The day celebrates gorillas and empowers global communities to take action to protect this critically endangered species.
- The day also provides an opportunity for people to safeguard their future in alignment with the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**.

## Gorillas

- Gorillas are the **largest living primates**.
- **Weight** - Males weighing up to 485 pounds and reaching heights of 5.5 feet.
- **Appearance** - Gorillas have black hair and skin, large nostrils, and prominent brow ridges. They have small eyes and lack hair on their face, hands, and feet.
- **Species** - There are 2 gorilla species
  - The eastern gorilla(*G. beringei*) - (The mountain gorilla(*G. beringei beringei*) is a subspecies of the eastern gorilla) and
  - The western gorilla(*Gorilla gorilla*).
- **Habitat** - Gorillas live in the tropical forests of equatorial Africa.
- **Distribution** - The two types of gorillas live on opposite sides of the Republic of the Congo, separated by the Congo basin forest.
  - The eastern gorillas are found in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Republic of the

Congo.

- Western gorillas live in Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Nigeria.
- **Closest relatives** - Gorillas share 98.3% of their genetic code with humans, making them our closest cousins after chimpanzees and bonobos.
- **Structure** - Gorillas are social animals and live in family groups called troops.
- Gorillas are polygamous a single adult male gorilla, called a silverback, leads a troop and mates with multiple females.
- **Diet** - Vegetarians.
- **Conservation status - IUCN** - Both the eastern and western gorilla are classified as "Critically Endangered".
- **Threats** - Habitat loss and fragmentation, disease, hunting, illegal logging, palm oil plantations, and forest fires.

## Reference

[Down to Earth | World Gorilla Day 2024](#)

## Asia Power Index, 2024

*Ministry of Information and Broadcasting recently says that India surpasses Japan to become 3<sup>rd</sup> largest power in Asia power index.*

- **Asia power Index** - The Asia Power Index measures resources and influence to rank the ***relative power of states in Asia***.
- **Launched by** - The Lowy Institute in 2018.
- **Evaluation** - It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on their ability to shape and respond to external geopolitical challenges.
- The index is an analytical tool that helps sharpen debate on power in Asia and track shifts in the distribution of power over time.
- **Theme-** The project evaluates international power in Asia through ***131 indicators*** across ***8 thematic measures***
  - Military capability and defence networks,
  - Economic capability and relationships,
  - Diplomatic and cultural influence,
  - Resilience and future resources.
- The 2024 edition includes Timor-Leste for the first time, reflecting its growing importance as a result of likely accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in coming years.

## Status of India, 2024

- **Factors for growth** - India surpasses Russia and Japan due to its rise in dynamic growth, youthful population, and its expanding economy.
- **PPP** - India experienced a 4.2-point boost in Economic Capability, primarily driven by its strong GDP growth and status as the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in Purchasing











Power Parity (PPP) terms.

- **Resources** - India's Future Resources score also saw a notable increase of 8.2 points, highlighting its potential demographic advantage.
- **Youth population** - Unlike aging populations in China and Japan, India's youthful demographic is expected to fuel continued economic expansion and workforce growth in the coming years.
- **Diplomacy** - The report further noted India's growing influence in multilateral diplomacy and regional security.
- India's active participation in groups like the Quad and its leadership in regional dialogues have bolstered its position in regional security without the need for formal military alliances.
- **Geopolitics** - Additionally, defense deals such as the BrahMos missile agreement with the Philippines point to India's expanding geopolitical ambitions.
- The report also finds that India's ability to project power east of the Malacca Strait is limited.

## India Overtakes Japan, 3rd in Asia Power Index



India's score surged by 2.8 points in 2024

Country	Power score 2024	Change from 2023
U.S. 	81.7	1.0
China 	72.7	0.2
<b>India</b> 	<b>39.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Japan 	38.9	1.7
Australia 	31.9	1.0
Russia 	31.1	-0.5
South Korea 	31.0	1.5
Singapore 	26.4	1.3
Indonesia 	22.3	2.9
Thailand 	19.8	1.1

Source: Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index 2024  
Graphic: Samrat Sharma, Jaipal Sharma



## References

1. [Economic Times | India surpasses Japan in Asia Power Index](#)
2. [Lowy Institute | About](#)

## Doctrine of Constructive Possession

*The Supreme Court called for the need to have sex education programs in schools in an effort to mitigate the menace of child pornography.*

- **Constructive possession** - Constructive possession refers to a legal theory whereby an individual can be considered in possession of an item without having physical control over it.
- In essence, it is the ability and intent to exercise control over an object, even if it is not physically on one's person.
- Courts use this doctrine to extend liability and responsibility to individuals who, while not directly holding an item, have dominion and control over it.
- Constructive possession legally functions as actual possession in a variety of ways.
  - In criminal law, establishing constructive possession is often done to further prosecutions for possession crimes, such as possession of illegal drugs.
  - In property law, establishing constructive possession grants the owner the right to obtain physical control and/or a variety of rights over someone else's physical control of that property.
- Generally, for a court to find that a person had constructive possession of an object, the person must have had knowledge of the object, and as well as the ability to control it.
- **Legal Criteria-** For a successful prosecution of constructive possession, certain criteria must be met.
  - **Knowledge of the Item's Presence** - The individual must be aware that the item exists. Mere proximity to an item without knowledge does not constitute constructive possession.
  - **Ability to Exercise Control** - The person must have the capability to maintain dominion over the item. This means having the power and intention to control its use.
  - **Intent to Possess** - There must be an intent to possess the item. This can often be inferred from circumstances, such as the location of the item and the individual's actions or statements.

## References

1. [The Hindu | SC clarification on online content on child sex abuse](#)
2. [India Today | Supreme Court bats for sex education in schools](#)

## Pact for the Future

*United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Global leaders recently embraced the Pact for the Future.*

- It is a significant declaration promising tangible actions aimed at fostering a safer, more peaceful, sustainable, and inclusive world for future generations.
- **Focus areas**
  - Sustainable development
  - International peace and security
  - Science and technology
  - Youth and future generations and
  - Transforming global governance.
- Multilateral financial institutions and the United Nations have come up short seeking solutions to 21<sup>st</sup> century problems, the pact lays out.
- By endorsing the Pact, UN Member States pledged, among other things includes
  - Turbocharge the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change, 2 landmark 2015 agreements that have seen halting progress and missed milestones
  - Listen to young people and include them in decision-making, at the national and global levels
  - Build stronger partnerships with civil society, the private sector, local and regional authorities and more
  - Redouble efforts to build and sustain peaceful, inclusive and just societies and address the root causes of conflicts
  - Protect all civilians in armed conflict
  - Accelerate the implementation of our commitments on women, peace and security
- In annex Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations was also adopted unanimously.

## Global Digital Compact

- The Global Digital Compact marks the first truly worldwide agreement on the ***international regulation of artificial intelligence (AI)***.
- It outlines commitments to ensure that digital technologies contribute to sustainable development and human rights, while addressing risks like digital divides, cybersecurity, and misuse of technology.
- The Compact aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure AI technologies are used responsibly, fostering global cooperation on both AI capabilities and security threats.
- Governments are also obligated to form an impartial worldwide Scientific Panel on AI and start an international conversation about AI governance inside the UN.

## Declaration on Future Generations

- The Declaration on Future Generations focuses on securing the well-being of future generations, also highlighting the need to include their interests in decision-making processes.

- It also underlines the importance of protecting the environment, promoting intergenerational equity, and ensuring that long-term consequences of today's actions are considered.

## **Reference**

[United Nations | Pact for the Future](#)

