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Dear Students,

In the competitive landscape of the UPSC Mains examination, the significance of integrating data, facts, and examples into your answers cannot be overstated.

These elements serve as the backbone of a compelling and persuasive response, **elevating your answer from a generic narrative to a well-substantiated argument.**

To support you, we have **distilled essential information from the VisionIAS Mains 365 resources** which are renowned for their comprehensive coverage of current affairs. This document **provides a concentrated source of high-quality data, facts, and examples.**

The layout of this document is designed for **quick reference and easy integration into your answer.**

Leveraging this distilled information will help you **craft comprehensive, informative, and compelling answers** essential for securing higher marks.

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Indian Economy at a Glance

- At current prices, **India's GDP** is estimated at **₹331.03 lakh crore** in 2024-25.
- Currently its **world's fourth-largest economy.**
- **India's exports** reached **USD 778.21 billion** in 2023-24.
- The **external debt to GDP ratio** stood at **19.1%.**
- **India's extreme poverty,** fell sharply from 16.2 % in 2011-12 to **just 2.3 % in 2022-23.**

India's Structural Transformation

- **Sectorial Imbalance:** Agriculture still accounts for 42% of employment.
- **Construction sector** rises with about **12 percent** of workers in 2019.
- India needs **at least 143-324 million jobs** for its growing population by 2050
- **India's labor force** still has **fewer years of formal education** than peers and quality of its education remains low (ASER, 2023)

Employment

- **India's Unemployment Rate is 4.9%** with Urban unemployment at 6.5% and rural at 4.5% (PLFS 2024).
- **Labour Force Participation Rate is 59.6%** (PLFS 2024).
- **About 45.76%** of the total workforce is **engaged in agriculture (Seasonal Employment).**

Skill Development

- **65% of India's population** is **under 35.**
- **Only 4.4% of youth** aged 15-29 have **received formal vocational training** (Economic Survey, 2023-24).
- In the next 5 years, **23% of the jobs are expected to change globally** (WEF's Future of Jobs report, 2023).
- **Over 90% of India's workforce** continues to be **employed in the informal sector**, primarily due to inadequate skill.

Inclusive Growth

- Significant fall in Indians living in **extreme poverty** from 431 million (1990) to **129 million (2024)** (World Bank).
- By the end of 2023, India's **richest citizens owned 40.1 percent** of the country's wealth (World Inequality Lab study 2024).
- **Unemployment Rate** saw a minor drop (**5.0% to 4.9%)** (PLFS data)

Poverty

- **Poverty Headcount Ratio** has decreased from 29.17% (2013-14) to 11.28% (2022-23). **24.82 crore Indians escaped multidimensional poverty** in last 9 years. (NITI Aayog).
- Significant fall in Indians living in **extreme poverty** from 431 million (1990) to 129 million (2024) (World Bank).
- India has **53% of women outside the labour force** due to care responsibilities (ILO).

Economic Indicators

- At current prices, **India's GDP is estimated at ₹331.03 lakh crore** in 2024-25.
- India's external debt is $ 717.9 Bn in December 2024. The **external debt to GDP ratio stood at 19.1%.**
- India needs to **grow by 7.8% on average** over the next 22 years to become High-Income Country (HIC) by 2047 (World Bank).
- **Average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE)** is ₹4,122 in rural areas and ₹6,996 in urban areas (HCES 2023-24).
- **India's R&D investment** as a **percentage of GDP stands at just 0.64%** against **2.4% by China** and **3.47% by US.**

Financial Inclusion

- About **78% of Adult population** is estimated to have a **bank account in India** (World Bank Global Findex Database, 2021).
- **RBI's Financial Inclusion Index** for March 2024 **stands at 64.2** vis-à-vis 60.1 in March 2023.
- NABARD through **SHG Bank Linkage Programme** which is the largest microfinance programme in the world, **empowers 17.8 crore households** through more than **144 lakh SHGs.**
- Since 2016, **DBT has delivered over 450 schemes** to 900 million people.
- By August 2024, **53.13 crore Jan Dhan accounts** were opened.

Inequality

- **India's top 1% own 22.6% of income** (World Inequality Lab, 2022-23).
- The **top 5% of Indians** own more than 60 % of the country's wealth.
- **Rural-Urban Divide: Avg. Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure** is Rs. 3,773 in rural and Rs. 6,459 in urban India.
- **Gender Pay Gap:** In India, **men earn 82 % of the labour income**, whereas women earn 18 % of it (World Inequality Report 2022).

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Agricultural exports fell to $48.9 billion in 2023-24 from $53.2 billion in 2022–23, while imports declined by 8% to $32.8 billion (2023-24).
- India held a **2.4% share in global agri-exports** and 1.9% in imports in 2022**, ranking 9th** among global agri-exporters (WTO's Trade Statistical Review 2023).

Land Reform

- **1.15 ha was the average farm size** in 2010-11
- **<10%** of the land is under non-agricultural uses
- **25%** of the total geographical area is forest

State Finances

- **Decline in consolidated Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD):** From an average of 4.3% of GDP during 1998-99 to 2003-04 to 2.7% of GDP during 2004-05 to 2023-24.
- **Revenue Deficit:** States maintained the revenue deficit at 0.2% of GDP during 2021-22 to 2023-24.
- **Expenditure Quality Improved:** Capital outlay, to 2.6% of GDP in 2023-24 from 2.2% in 2022-23.
- **Debt of States:** Declined from **31.8% of GDP** in March 2004 to 28.5% of GDP in March 2024

Direct Taxation

- **11.7% tax-GDP ratio** in FY 2024-25 (6.7% for direct taxes and 5.0% for indirect taxes).
- **Corporate Tax and Personal Income Tax** as the main contributors to Direct Tax.
- **Direct tax buoyancy** at 2.52 in 2021-22 was the highest in the last 15 years but declined to 1.18 in 2022-23.
- **India's direct tax collections** have grown by **16.15% year-on-year,** reaching Rs 25.86 lakh crore in FY 2024-25

Banking

- There are **12 public sector banks (PSBs), 21 private sector banks, 45 foreign banks etc. in India.**
- **Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio** fell to its lowest in 13 years at **2.7 %.**
- **GNPA** ratio remained **highest for agricultural sector (6.2 %)** & lowest for **retail loans (1.2 %)**
- In 2022-23, **RRBs** accounted for **11.2% of total agricultural ground level credit.**

Payment System

- **Cash accounts for nearly 50%** of all transactions in India. (RBI)
- **More than 40% of all payments** done in India are **digital (highest in the world).**
- **50% volume of India's digital payments** is dominated by **Debit Cards, PPIs, and IMPS.**
- **53% value of India's digital payments** is dominated by **RTGS and NEFT.**
- **22.4 digital transactions per capita** in 2019 (up from 2.4 in 2014).

Export Sector

- **US$ 824.9** billion was India's overall exports (merchandise and services combined) in 2024-25.
- In 2023, India accounted for **4.3% of global services exports and 1.8% of merchandise exports** (Eco Survey 2024-25).
- India's exports are about **23% of its GDP** (UNCTAD)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- **2000-2024:** Cumulative amount of FDI inflows **crossed the $1 trillion milestone** in Sept 2024.
- **Maharashtra received highest FDI** followed by **Gujarat and Karnataka** in FY 2023-24.
- **Singapore was the top source of foreign inflows** followed by **Mauritius and USA** in FY 2023-24.
- **Computer software & Hardware,** followed by **Service sector** received **highest FDI** (FY 2023-24).

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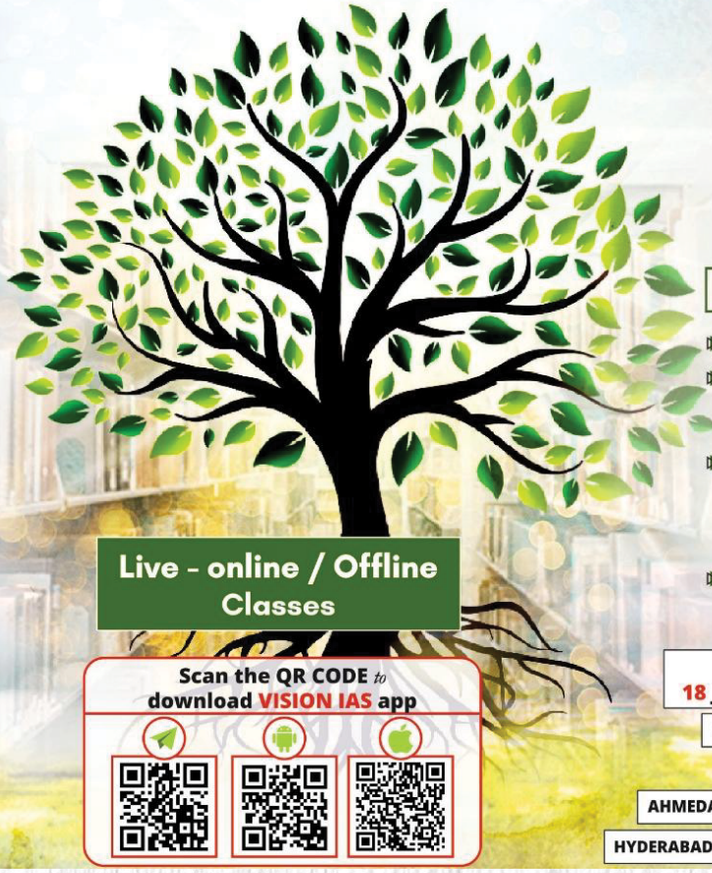

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Performance and Progress Analysis

Remittances to India

- Secured **14.3% ($129 billion)** of Global Remittances in 2024, **highest ever** (World Bank).
- **Top 3 source countries (2023-24):** US (27.7%) >UAE>UK.
- **Gulf nations' share** in remittances **fell to 38%,** now behind advanced economies (>50%).
- **Top 3 recipient states (2023-24):** Maharashtra (20.5%)>Kerala >Tamil Nadu.

Agriculture credit

- Over the past decade (2014-15 to 2023-24), **agricultural credit disbursement** has witnessed an **average annual growth rate of over 13%.**
- In the FY 2023-24, **agricultural credit disbursement** reached **₹25.48 lakh crore.**
- For FY 2024-25 the Government set **target of ₹27.5 lakh crore** with a dedicated **sub-target of ₹4.20 lakh crore for allied activities.**
- **Only 41% of small & marginal farmers,** who hold 86% of operational land, have access to **bank credit.**

Allied Sectors

- India has **world's largest population of livestock.**
- India is **largest producer of buffalo meat** and **2nd largest producer of goat meat.**
- **Livestock sector** contribute **30.19%** to Agricultural and Allied Sector GVA and **5.73%** of Total GVA in 2021-22.
- **Livestock sector** is major source of livelihood for over **70% of rural households** in India.
- **Horticulture Sector contributes 33%** to Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA).
- India **ranks 2nd in fruits & vegetable production** in the world after China.
- India is **world's second-largest fish producer,** contributing **8% to global output.**
- With 1.9 million tonnes, India ranked **first in Inland fisheries production.**

Food Processing Sector

- **Sunrise sector** grew 7.3% annually (2015-2022), **contributing 10.54% to manufacturing GVA** & **11.57% to agriculture GVA** in 2020-21.
- **20.68 lakh employees engaged** in the food processing industry in 2021-22.
- **24 Operational Mega Food** Parks out of 41 approved across the country.
- **Share of processed food** exports in agri-exports has **increased to 23.4%** in 2023-24.

MSME Sector

- **Contribution: 30%** of **GDP** and **~45%** of **total exports.**
- **Contribution to Manufacturing: 36 %**
- **Employment:** ~ 7.5 crore people

Electronic Components Sector

- **Economic Potential: $500 billion by 2030.**
- **Exports Growth: 20% CAGR since FY15.**
- India's Electronics Sector is **4% of the global electronics market.**
- Electronics domestic production is **₹9.52 lakh crore** (FY24).

India's Bioeconomy

- **Economic Growth:** By 2050, the global BioEconomy expected to represent **~12% of projected global GDP.**
- **Food Security:** GM technology increased crop yields **by 21%.**
- **Employment:** Projected to **create 35 million jobs by 2030.**

Digital Economy

- **Third largest digitalized country** (as per State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024)
- Contributes **11.74% of the national income.**
- Accounted for **7.83% of Gross value added (GVA) (highest contributor).**

Creative Economy

- **Contribution to GDP:** About **20% contributions** by creative occupation to Nation's overall GVA.
- **Export: 1.5 times increase in export** of creative goods from 2010 to 2019.
- **Employment: $30 billion industry** and responsible for **employment of nearly 8%** of India's working population.

Tourism Sector

- **18.89 million** International Tourist Arrivals in 2023**.**
- **9.52 Million** Foreign Tourist Arrivals during 2023.
- **24th rank** in International Tourist Arrivals in 2023 (UN World Tourism Barometer).
- **39th rank** in Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 published by World Economic Forum.

Insurance Sector

- **10th largest Insurance sector** globally.
- **Life Insurance segment:** 76% share.
- **Potential: 6th largest Insurance market** by 2032 (Swiss Re report)
- **Insurance Penetration:** >4.2% (2021), (Global Average: 7%).
- **Insurance Density:** $91 (2021), (Global average: $874).

Space Economy

- India's space sector **ranks 5th globally**
- **Growth Potential: $44 billion by 2033**
- **Private Sector:** >200 space-based start-ups

Road

- India recorded a **15% rise in fatalities** between 2010 and 2021 (WHO's Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023)
- In 2024 alone, **India reported 1.8 lakh deaths** due to road accidents
- **66% of the accidents** involved individuals aged between 18 and 34
- **National Road Safety Policy (2010):** Promotes awareness campaigns, enforcement, and safer road infrastructure.

Coal Sector

- India holds the **world's 5th largest coal reserves.**
- India is **2nd largest coal consumer** and importer globally.
- Over **50.7% of India's power (2023)** comes from coal and lignite.

Steel Sector

- **Production Target:** 500 million tonnes by 2034
- **Economic Contribution:** ~2% of GDP.
- **Employment opportunities:** Employment multiplier effect of **6.8X** and an output Multiplier effects of **1.4X.**

Deep Tech

- **Deep tech startup ecosystem:** Currently at around **4,000 start-ups,** is expected to reach **10,000** by 2030 (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).
- **Global Standing: India ranked 6th** among the top 9 Deep Tech ecosystems in the world in 2023 (Nasscom).
- India's 4,000 deep-tech startups attracted **$1.6 billion in 2024**, a 78 per cent increase year-on-year (Nasscom).

Global Innovation Index 2024 and Social Entrepreneurship

- **India ranked 39th** among 133 nations, improving ranking by one position from 40th in 2023.
- India holds the **top** rank in both **lower middle-income economies** as well as the **Central and Southern Asia region** for Knowledge and technology outputs etc.
- **Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai are among the top 100 S&T clusters.**
- **Potential for social enterprises in India** is estimated to be **US$ 8 billion by 2025**.

Global Capability Centres

- **Less than 25%** of business leaders are considering relocating their GCC operations from India (PwC report).
- India hosts over **1,700 GCCs,** representing the **highest concentration globally**
- GCC sector is projected to expand to **$105 billion by 2030**

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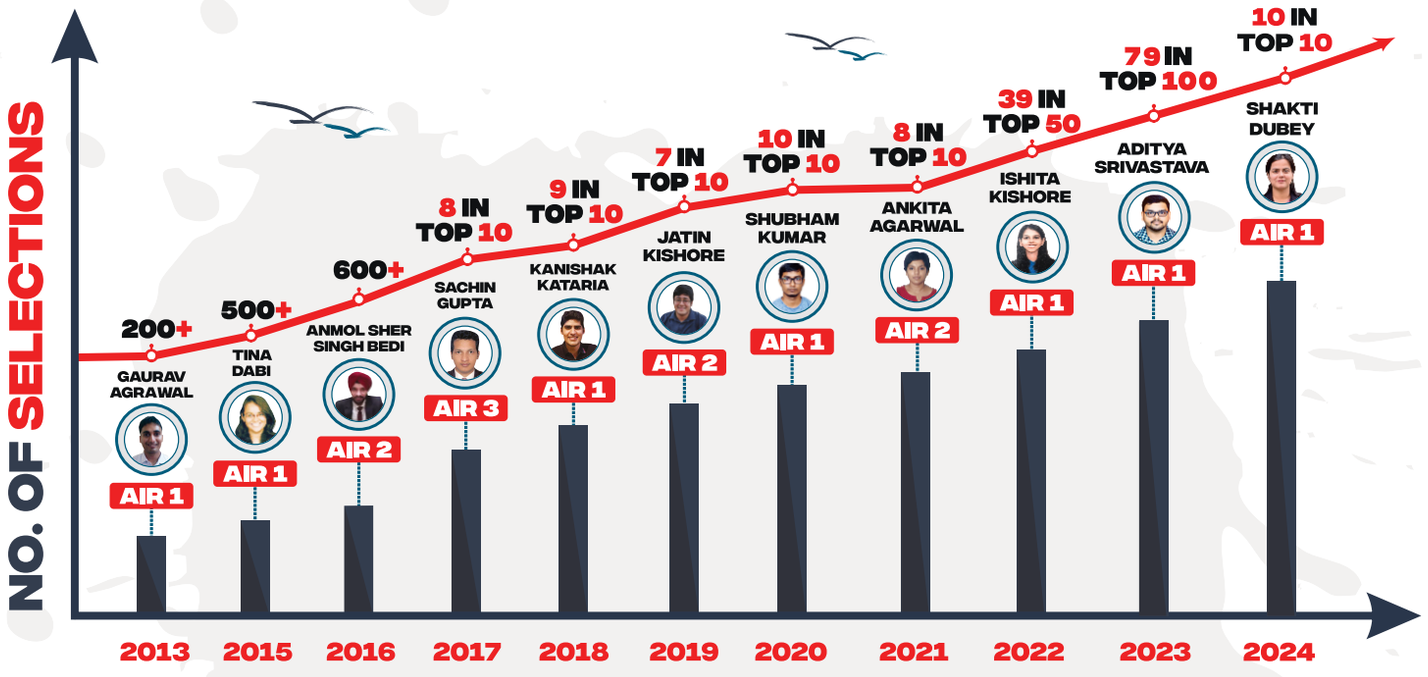

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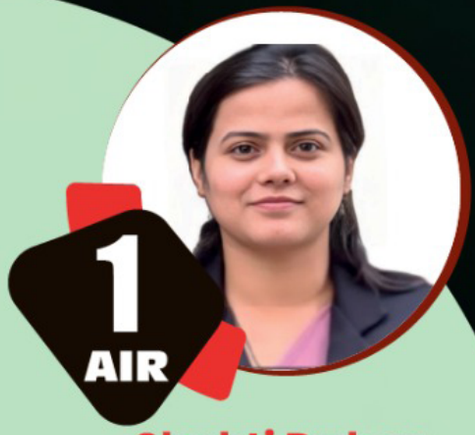

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