

## Today's Prelims Topics

### Valmik Thapar (1952–2025)

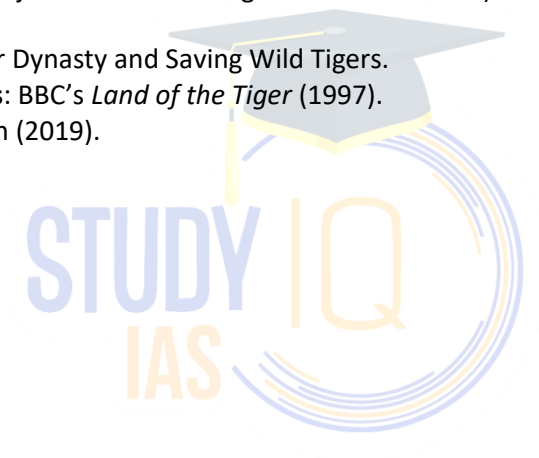
#### Context

Valmik Thapar passed away due to digestive tract cancer.

#### About Him

- Renowned Indian **naturalist, conservationist, and author.**
- **Contribution:**
  - Strong advocate of **Project Tiger** and the enforcement of stricter wildlife protection laws.
  - Served on key apex bodies such as the **National Board for Wildlife** and the **Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee.**
  - A member of the **Tiger Task Force** (constituted to recommend reforms following the disappearance of tigers from Rajasthan's Sariska Tiger Reserve in 2005.).
- **Authored:**
  - **Book:** The Tiger Dynasty and Saving Wild Tigers.
  - **Documentaries:** BBC's *Land of the Tiger* (1997).
- **Award:** Padma Bhushan (2019).

Source: [Indian Express](#)



## Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

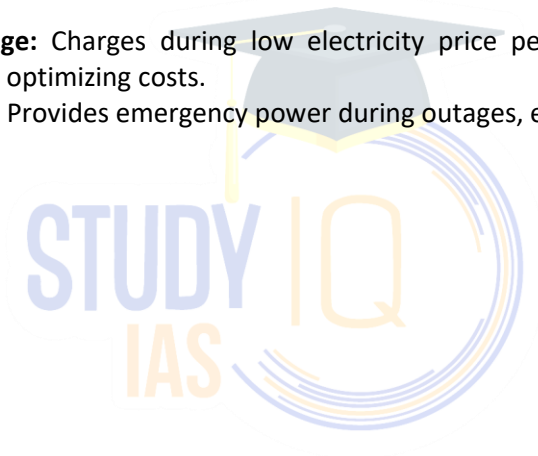
### Context

India inaugurated South Asia's largest 20-MW BESS to boost power reliability.

### About BESS

- They are technologies that **store electrical energy using batteries for later use.**
- **Key Components:**
  - **Battery Packs:** Store electrical energy.
  - **Power Conversion System (PCS):** Manages the charging and discharging processes.
  - **Energy Management System (EMS):** Controls and optimizes BESS operations.
- **Working:** Batteries **receive electricity from the power grid**, straight from the power station, or from a renewable energy source like solar panels or other energy source, and subsequently **store it as current to then release** it when it is needed.
- **Benefits:**
  - **Grid Stabilization:** Balances supply and demand, reducing fluctuations.
  - **Renewable Integration:** Stores surplus energy from sources like solar and wind for use during low production periods.
  - **Peak Load Management:** Supplies stored energy during peak demand, reducing strain on the grid.
  - **Energy Arbitrage:** Charges during low electricity price periods and discharges when prices are high, optimizing costs.
  - **Backup Power:** Provides emergency power during outages, enhancing reliability.

Source: [CNBCTV18](#)



## Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916-1968)

### Context

On **June 1, 2025**, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed a symposium marking 60 years of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism.

### About Him

- He was best known for formulating the **philosophy of Integral Humanism** (*Ekatma Manavvad*).
  - Humans are seen as a **four-dimensional being**: Body (Sharir), Mind (Manas), Intellect (Buddhi), and Soul (Atma).
  - True progress respects and nourishes **all these dimensions**, not just material needs.



### Key Features of Integral humanism

- **Cultural Nationalism** – Nation as a spiritual and cultural entity, not just territory.
- **Antyodaya** – Upliftment of the poorest and the last person in society.
- **Swadeshi & Decentralization** – Self-reliant, local economies rooted in Indian ethos.
- **Harmony of Individual & Society** – Balancing rights and duties for collective welfare.
- **Rejection of Capitalism & Socialism** – Both seen as materialistic and incompatible with Indian values.

### Literary Works:

- **Rashtra Dharma**: Monthly magazine.
- **Panchjanya**: Weekly newspaper.
- **Swadesh**: Daily newspaper.
- Authored a drama on Chandragupta Maurya and a biography of Adi Shankaracharya.
- **Legacy**: Mughalsarai Junction named after Deendayal Upadhyay

### National Schemes Named After Him

Scheme Name	Focus Area	Key Objective
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NULM & NRLM)	Urban & Rural Poverty Alleviation	Skill development and livelihood support for the poor
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)	Rural Employment	Skill training for rural youth (15–35 years)
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)	Rural Electrification	Continuous power supply and feeder separation
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)	Disability Welfare	Grants to NGOs for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Shramev Jayate Karyakram	Labor Reforms & Skill Development	Improving industrial environment and vocational training
Deendayal Upadhyaya Swaniyojan Yojana (DUSY)	Entrepreneurship	Promoting rural self-employment through training and support

Source: [PIB](#)

## DHRUVA (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address)

### Context

The Department of Posts (DoP) has released a comprehensive policy document outlining the framework for DHRUVA.

### About DHRUVA

- **Developed by:** Department of Posts (DoP), Government of India
- **Purpose:** To assign a **unique digital address** to every household across India
- **Technology Used:** Based on a **geo-coded framework** for precise address mapping.
- **Objectives:**
  - To establish **address information management** as a critical **public infrastructure**
  - To support **effective governance, inclusive service delivery**, and a **better user experience**.
- **Two Core Layers of DHRUVA:**
  - **Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN)**
    - A **10-character alphanumeric code**
    - Encodes the **latitude-longitude** of a location
    - Based on a **uniform 4x4 meter grid** mapped over India's geography
    - Ensures **unique geospatial identification** of addresses
  - **Digital Address Layer**
    - A **user-focused, consent-driven system**
    - Built on DIGIPIN
    - Allows users to add **custom labels** and **descriptive address details**
    - Enables **easy sharing and interpretation** of digital addresses.

Source: [PIB](#)

## News in Shorts

### Newly Discovered Star-like Object: ASKAP J1832-0911

**News?** Astronomers have discovered a unique star-like object in the Milky Way, surprising scientists with its unusual radio and X-ray emissions.

#### What is ASKAP J1832-0911?

- A star-like object in the **Milky Way Galaxy**, about **15,000 light-years** away.
- Detected using the **Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP)** and **NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory**.
- Emits **radio waves and X-rays** every **44 minutes**, unlike known pulsars or magnetars.
  - Most known radio-emitting objects (like pulsars) blink at intervals of **milliseconds to seconds**, not minutes.
- Belongs to a new class called **"Long-Period Radio Transients"** (which emit intense radio waves over tens of minutes).

#### What are Pulsars?

They are **fast-spinning neutron stars** with **strong magnetic fields** that emit regular pulses of radiation, usually every few milliseconds.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

### ELIZA

**News?** ELIZA was recently revisited for its historical significance amid current debates on AI and human-computer interaction.

#### What is ELIZA?

- It is **one of the first known chatbots**.
- Developed by **Joseph Weizenbaum** (also developed SLIP or "Symmetric Lisp Processor") at **MIT** between **1964 and 1966**.
- Simulated conversation using **pattern matching and substitution**, without real understanding.
- Its most famous script was called **DOCTOR**, which emulated a therapist.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

## Places in News

### Paraguay



**News?** The President of Paraguay, Santiago Peña Palacios recently visited India.

#### About Paraguay

- Landlocked nation in south-central South America.
- **Capital:** Asunción.
- The **Tropic of Capricorn** passes through it.
- **Bordering Nations:** Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina.
- **Major Geographical Features:**
  - **Major Rivers:** Paraguay (divided country into two), Paraná, Pilcomayo, and Apa
  - **Mountains and Plateaus:**
    - Amambay Mountains
    - Mbaracayú Mountains
    - Cordillera de San Rafael.
  - **Lakes:** Lake Ypoá and Lake Ypacaraí.

**Source:** [DD News](#)

## Editorial Summary

### GDP figures show India is back on the road to growth

#### Context

- India's economy, projected to grow at 6.5% in FY 2024–25, reflects resilience amid global uncertainties.
  - However, challenges persist, requiring reforms and strategic investments to sustain inclusive and robust growth.

#### Recent Estimates: Indian Economy (2024–25)

- India's **GDP growth is estimated at 6.5%**, with **Q4 growing at 7.4%**, indicating robust momentum.
- **Nominal GDP** grew by **9.8%**, increasing the economy's size to **\$3.91 trillion**.
- **Private consumption** rose **7.2%**, supported by rural demand, but urban demand remained weak.
- **Government consumption** grew by just **2.3%** for the full year and **contracted -1.8% in Q4**.
- **Manufacturing** underperformed with only **4.5% growth**, lower than the agriculture sector.
- **Construction** grew by **9.4%**, supporting employment and labour-intensive sectors.
- **Merchandise exports** were nearly flat (~\$437 billion), while **services exports** remained resilient.
- **Forex reserves** remain strong at **\$686 billion**.
- **Capital expenditure** touched ₹1.59 lakh crore in April 2025 (14.3% of full-year budgeted capex).

#### Challenges Ahead

- **Global tariff tensions** (e.g., US-China, US-India) threaten India's export competitiveness.
- **Slowing global economy** (S&P forecasts 2.7% global growth in 2025 vs 3.3% in 2024).
- **Export market risks**, including reduced demand from the US, EU, and Asia.
- **Private investment delays** due to policy and global uncertainties.
- **Urban consumption remains weak**, limiting overall demand growth.
- **Volatility in capital flows and currency rates** may continue.
- **Structural bottlenecks** still hamper ease of doing business and logistics efficiency.

#### Opportunities

- **Services exports** (nearly 50% of total exports) are less sensitive to global trade shocks.
- **Record agricultural output** and good monsoon prospects may boost rural incomes and control food inflation.
- **Crude oil prices** expected to average **\$65/barrel**, reducing import bill and inflation.
- **RBI may cut rates** (expected two rate cuts of 25 basis points) to support growth.
- **Foreign investments increasing**: Apple and Vietnamese EV firms expanding in India.
- **Strong corporate balance sheets** enhance India Inc.'s ability to leverage new opportunities.
- **Early push in capital expenditure** suggests government prioritizes growth through infrastructure.

#### Way Forward

- **Undertake structural reforms** in land, labour, and logistics to attract long-term investments.
- **Improve investment climate** through stable policies and reduced compliance burden.
- **Diversify exports**, especially in digital and green sectors, to reduce global trade dependency.
- **Enhance rural demand** via targeted welfare and support for agri-value chains.
- **Ensure fiscal prudence** while maintaining productive government spending.
- **Promote employment-intensive sectors** such as construction, MSMEs, and manufacturing.

Source: [Indian Express: Back on the road to growth](#)