



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 24-01-2026**

### **Mapping Perspective**

1. Jharkhand

### **Prelims Perspective**

2. Lambadi Tribe
3. Ammonia

### **Mains Perspective**

4. Hesaraghatta Grassland
5. RBI's 'State of the Economy' – Growth Resilience and Emerging Global Risks

## Jharkhand

Syllabus: GS-1; Mapping

Context:

Jharkhand: Gonda–Asansol Express crashes into truck at crossing in Deoghar.

### Introduction & Formation

- **State of Jharkhand** carved out of Bihar on **15 November 2000**
- Formed to address long-standing demands of **tribal communities** for autonomy and development
- Capital: **Ranchi**
- Nickname: **“The Land of Forests”** (Jharkhand = Jhar + Khand)

### Geographical Features



### Location & Boundaries

- Located in **eastern India**
- Borders:

- North – Bihar
- East – West Bengal
- South – Odisha
- West – Chhattisgarh

### Physiography

- Part of the **Chotanagpur Plateau**
- Dominated by:
  - Hills and plateaus
  - Rocky terrain and forests

### Rivers

- Major rivers:
  - Damodar – “Sorrow of Bengal”
  - Subarnarekha
  - Koel (North & South)
  - Barakar

### Climate

- Tropical monsoon type
- Hot summers, moderate winters, monsoon rainfall

### Natural Resources & Minerals

#### Mineral Richness

- One of India’s richest mineral states

Mineral	Importance
Coal	Jharia, Bokaro coalfields
Iron Ore	Noamundi, Gua
Copper	Singhbhum belt
Uranium	Jaduguda
Bauxite, Mica, Limestone	Widely distributed

- Known as “**Mineral Heartland of India**”

### Forest Resources

- Forest cover: ~30%
- Sal, teak, bamboo, lac, tendu leaves

### Tribal Population & Society

#### Demography

- One of the **highest tribal populations** in India (~26–28%)
- Major tribes:
  - Santhal
  - Munda
  - Oraon (Kurukh)
  - Ho, Kharia, Birhor

#### Social Structure

- Clan-based society
- Strong community institutions:
  - **Manjhi-Pargana system** (Santhals)
  - Village councils

### History & Tribal Movements (Very Important for Mains)

#### Colonial Period Resistance

- **Santhal Rebellion (1855–56)** – Sidhu & Kanhu
- **Birsa Munda Movement (Ulgulan)** – 1895–1900
  - Against forced labour, missionary influence, zamindari system

#### Post-Independence

- Long movement for separate state:
  - Jharkhand Party (Jaipal Singh Munda)
  - Resulted in statehood in 2000

#### Economy

##### Primary Sector

- Mining and forest produce dominant
- Agriculture:

- Rainfed, low productivity
- Main crops: Rice, maize, pulses

### Industrial Sector

- Major industrial belts:
  - **Jamshedpur** – Tata Steel
  - Bokaro Steel Plant
  - Heavy Engineering Corporation (Ranchi)

### Challenges

- Resource-rich but **development-poor paradox**
- Displacement due to mining and dams
- Informal labour dominance

### Forest Rights & Land Systems

#### Traditional Land Tenure

- **Khuntkatti system** – collective ownership
- Customary tribal land rights

### Biodiversity & Environment

#### Protected Areas

- Betla National Park
- Palamu Tiger Reserve

### Flora & Fauna

- Dry deciduous forests
- Elephants, leopards, sloth bears

## **Lambadi Tribe**

**Syllabus: GS Paper I – Indian Society / GS Paper II – Constitutional Provisions for STs**

### Context

The **Supreme Court** is again examining the **controversy over Scheduled Tribe (ST) status** granted to the **Lambadi community in Telangana**.



### About Lambadi Tribe

- **Also known as:** Lambadi / Sugali / Banjara
- **Geographical distribution:**
  - Telangana
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Karnataka
- **Language:**
  - **Gor Boli (Lambadi)**
  - Belongs to the **Indo-Aryan language family**
  - **No written script**
- **Religion and beliefs:**
  - Predominantly **Hindu**
  - Blend of Hindu practices with **animistic traditions**

### Culture of Lambadi Tribe

- **Festivals:**
  - Celebrate **Teej** during **Shravanam (August)**
  - Unmarried girls pray for a suitable groom

- **Dance forms:**
  - **Fire Dance**
  - **Chari**
- **Social customs:**
  - **Tattooing** is widespread
- **Traditional attire:**
  - Women wear **bright red dresses** with mirror work
  - Use **ivory bangles**, heavy jewellery, and ornaments

## **Ammonia**

### **Syllabus: GS Paper III – Environment, Pollution, Industrial Chemicals**

#### **Context**

Officials reported that **ammonia spikes in the Yamuna river** are a **chronic winter phenomenon**, occurring **15–22 times annually**, mainly affecting water treatment processes.

#### **About Ammonia**

- **Chemical nature:**
  - Colourless, pungent-smelling gas
  - Chemical formula: **NH<sub>3</sub>**
  - Simplest stable compound of **nitrogen and hydrogen**
- **Natural occurrence:**
  - Present naturally in the **human body and environment**
  - Integral part of the **nitrogen cycle**
  - Produced in soil through **bacterial processes**
  - Released during **decomposition of plants and animals**
- **Industrial production:**
  - Manufactured mainly through the **Haber–Bosch process**
- **Physical properties:**
  - Highly soluble in water forming **aqueous (liquid) ammonia**
  - Rapidly vaporises when exposed to air

#### **Uses of Ammonia**

- **Agriculture:**

- About **90% of global ammonia production** used in fertilizers
- Key input for **ammonium nitrate**, supplying nitrogen for crops
- **Other uses:**
  - Refrigerant
  - Neutralizer, stabilizer, purifier
  - Used in **water treatment, food transport**, and manufacture of plastics, explosives, dyes, fabrics, and pharmaceuticals

### Health and Safety

- High exposure can cause:
  - Irritation of **eyes, skin, throat, and lungs**
  - Coughing and chemical burns
- **Precaution:**
  - Should **never be mixed with chlorine bleach** due to toxic fumes

## Hesaraghatta Grassland

**Syllabus: GS-3: Environment - Protected Areas.**

### Context:

The Karnataka State Government, through the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL), recently notified approximately **5,678 acres** in Hesaraghatta (northwest of Bengaluru) as the **Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve**.

This decision follows a decade of legal battles, citizen activism, and environmental concerns over urban sprawl and proposed infrastructure projects (like a Film City).

### Ecological Profile

- **Ecosystem Type:** One of the last remaining **Tropical Savanna/Dry Grassland** and wetland complexes in the Deccan Plateau region.
- **Biogeographical Significance:** It is an **ecotone** (transition zone) between the terrestrial grassland and the Hesaraghatta Lake wetland.
- **Hydrological Role:** \* Serves as a critical catchment for the **Arkavathy River**.
  - Essential for recharging groundwater in the Bengaluru region.
  - Acts as a "natural sponge" to mitigate urban flooding and runoff.
- **Climate Role:** Functions as a **carbon sink** and local "lung space" to mitigate the urban heat island effect.



### Biodiversity: Flora & Fauna

- **Avifauna:** Host to over 285 bird species. It is a vital wintering ground for migratory raptors from Central Asia and Europe.
  - **Lesser Florican:** Critically Endangered (IUCN).
  - **Greater Spotted Eagle:** Vulnerable (IUCN).
- **Mammals:** Indian Leopard (Schedule I, WPA), Slender Loris, Indian Fox, Jackals, and Smooth-coated Otters.
- **Insects:** Includes the rare **Lilac Silverline butterfly**, once thought to be extinct but rediscovered here.

### Statutory Framework: Conservation Reserves

- **Legal Basis:** Declared under **Section 36A** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** (amended in 2002).
- **Definition:** Areas owned by the State Government (often adjacent to National Parks/Sanctuaries) that act as buffer zones or migration corridors.
- **Governance:** Declared by the **State Government** after consultation with local communities.
  - Managed by a **Conservation Reserve Management Committee**.
- **Distinction:** Unlike National Parks, a Conservation Reserve **does not alter the land rights** of local communities.
  - Existing livelihood activities (like grazing) can continue as long as they don't threaten conservation goals.

### Threats & Challenges

- **Urbanization:** Pressure from real estate and the expanding "tech city" footprint.
- **Invasive Species/Wrong Afforestation:** Previous "mindless" tree-planting drives (afforestation in grasslands) actually harmed the ecosystem, as grassland birds do not need tree cover.

- **Human Interference:** Unregulated photography, vehicle tracks, and film shooting (now restricted).
- **Misinformation:** Local opposition often arises from the fear that "Reserve" status leads to eviction; however, since the land is already government-owned (Animal Husbandry Dept), no private eviction is required.

## **RBI's 'State of the Economy' - Growth Resilience and Emerging Global Risks**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy - Growth and Development.**

**Context:**

- RBI's State of the Economy article assessed macroeconomic conditions using high-frequency indicators (Dec 2025).
- Highlights sustained growth momentum despite **global geopolitical and geo-economic uncertainties**.
- Views are **not official RBI stance** (authors' assessment).

### **Key Growth Signals - Domestic Economy**



### **Robust Demand Conditions**

- High-frequency indicators show:
  - Sustained buoyancy in growth impulses
  - Strong private consumption and economic activity

### **Revival of Rural Demand**

- Broad-based growth in **retail automobile sales**
- Drivers:

- GST rate cuts → improved affordability
- Year-end promotional offers
- Pre-buying before expected January price hikes

### Commercial Activity & Logistics

- Strong growth in **retail commercial vehicle sales**
- Indicates:
  - Improved goods movement
  - Expansion in trade and industrial activity

### Formal Economy Indicators

- **E-way bill generation** shows healthy growth
- Reasons:
  - GST rate rationalisation
  - Stock clearance
  - Year-end sales push by firms

### Macro-Economic Indicators

#### GDP Growth (NSO Advance Estimate)

- Real GDP growth (2025–26): **7.4%**
- Previous year: **6.5%**
  - → Indicates acceleration in growth trajectory

### Inflation Trends

- CPI inflation (December): **1.3%**
- Causes:
  - Lower food deflation
  - Increase in core inflation

*Implication:* Inflation remains benign but core pressures visible.

### Global Geopolitical & Geo-Economic Risks

#### Key Developments (Early 2026)

- US intervention in Venezuela
- Middle East conflict

- Uncertainty over Russia–Ukraine peace
- Escalation of Greenland dispute

### Implications

- Elevated geo-economic risks
- High policy uncertainty
- Possible spillovers to:
  - Trade flows
  - Energy prices
  - Capital movements

### Structural Reforms & Policy Environment (2025)

#### Major Reforms

- Rationalisation of tax structures
- Implementation of labour codes
- Financial sector deregulation

#### Expected Outcomes

- Higher productivity
- Improved growth prospects
- Stronger medium- and long-term fundamentals

### External Sector & Trade Strategy

#### Export Diversification

- Focus on:
  - Africa
  - Latin America
    - → Reducing dependence on traditional markets

#### Trade Negotiations

- Talks with **14 countries / groups**
- Coverage: nearly **50 nations**
- Key partners:
  - European Union (EU)

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- United States

## Challenges & Way Forward

### Global Instability

- Strategy:
  - Strengthen domestic demand
  - Enhance export competitiveness

### Risk of Imported Inflation

- Policy mix:
  - Monetary: calibrated interest rate policy
  - Fiscal: reducing import duties
  - Trade: strengthening domestic supply chains

### Growth–Inflation Trade-off

- Balance between:
  - Innovation and stability
  - Growth and consumer protection

### Inclusive & Sustainable Growth

- Deepen structural reforms
- Focus on productivity and resilience

### Policy Uncertainty Management

- Prudent regulation and supervision
- Institutional credibility

### Conclusion / Significance

- Indian economy shows:
  - Strong domestic demand
  - Revival in rural consumption
  - Robust GST and logistics indicators
  - Sustained reform momentum
- Despite global uncertainties, → **Macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong** → Reform-oriented framework supports **stable long-term growth**

**Practice Qs:**

Q. The RBI's State of the Economy assessment highlights resilience in India's macroeconomic fundamentals despite elevated global uncertainties. Examine the key growth drivers, external risks, and policy challenges facing the Indian economy. (15 marks, 250 words)