

# JULY 1ST WEEK VITALS COMPILATION

**Explain how India can redefine itself from NITI Aayog's report of being 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy to overcome the challenges and become a responsible global economy. (250 Words)**

- » **India's economic growth** over the past few decades, has now secured its place as the **world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP**.
- » Now India embarks on its journey to secure **global economic prominence**, the country must make a **significant transition**.
- » This transformation requires India to evolve from **economic action, policy decision, and fiscal approach** is closely tied to the larger **social, environmental, and ethical considerations**.

## India's Current Position

India's global economic growth is because of :

- » **Growing consumer market & increased FDI**
- » **Developed IT services sector**
- » **Demographic dividend.**
- » **Increased domestic consumption and international trade.**

However, this growth has not been without challenges. While the country's economic scale has expanded, the **distribution of wealth remains uneven, and the sustainability of India's growth model is increasingly under question.**

## Economic Growth with Sustainability

As India looking to become a **\$5 trillion economy** the focus should shift from merely achieving growth metrics to ensuring that growth is sustainable. The focus should be on :-

- » India's commitment to **reaching net-zero carbon emissions** it must adopt **greener technologies, invest in renewable energy sources, and create policies that promote circular economies and carbon-neutral industries.**
- » **Technology and digitization** are transforming economies worldwide & by having **equal access to digital tools** and education India's digital economy will develop.



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- » Institutional Reforms and Governance by **strengthening and enforcing environmental regulations, data-driven policymaking** that evaluates the long-term impact of its decisions.
- » Integration of holistic measures into national development goals which places **equal weight on economic, environmental, and social well-being**.



## Conclusion

- » India's economic development is commendable **but lacks comprehensive and responsible model of growth**.
- » By prioritizing **sustainability, equity, and long-term prosperity**, India can not only sustain its economic rise but also create an **inclusive, just, and globally responsible economy**.



## Why did India's Defence Minister refused to sign the SCO draft & what it means regional diplomacy. Explain (150 Words)

- » India's Defence minister declined to sign the joint statement at the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** meeting in **Qingdao, China**.
- » This decision, grounded in **national interest** and **principles**, underscores **India's unwavering stance** on counter terrorism and highlights **growing strategic** complexities within regional alliances.



## What is SCO?

The **SCO** is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising countries like **China, Russia, India, Pakistan**, and several Central **Asian nations** with the aims to **foster political, economic, and military cooperation** among **Eurasian nations**.



## Reasons Behind India's Refusal

- India objected to the **exclusion of the Pahalgam terror attack** from the draft where civilians were reportedly targeted based on their religious identity. The draft, however, **did include a reference to Pakistan's Jaffar Express hijacking**, prompting India to view the document as biased and lacking balance.

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By withholding consent, India communicated cleared stance **terrorism cannot be selectively condemned**. India reiterated that **"there can be no double standards"** in the fight against terrorism and emphasized that **countries nurturing terrorists must be held accountable**.

## India Acknowledging the role of RATS

India called for proactive steps to check the spread of radicalisation among the youth, acknowledging the significant role of RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure—a body under the SCO) in tackling the challenge of terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism by facilitating intelligence sharing, joint operations, and legal cooperation among member states.

## State of regional diplomacy

- » The failure to finalize a joint statement exposed internal disagreements and cast doubt on the SCO's ability to present a unified front.
- » India's move indirectly criticized Pakistan's alleged role in sheltering terrorist groups.
- » Reinforcing India's global image as a resolute anti-terrorism advocate.
- » It shows India's growing confidence in global forums, where it increasingly prioritizes its national interest.



**Describe the status of India's ranking in Sustainable Development Goals but also speaks the volume of shortfalls of governance. (250 words)**

- India's entry into the **top 100 of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025** marks a significant milestone in its development journey.
- This marks the first time India has broken into the top 100 since the index was launched by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.
- While this progress is commendable but it also asks question that are yet to be addressed





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## India's Success

**India's improved ranking** reflects notable strides in several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- » **SDG 1 – No Poverty** as Proxy data suggests **poverty has nearly halved** from 22% in 2012 to around 12% in 2023.
- » **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy** with Near-universal household electrification and India's emergence as the **fourth-largest renewable energy deployer** are major achievements.
- » **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** by Rapid mobile penetration and **digital financial inclusion** through platforms like UPI have transformed access to services.



## India's Challenges

Several **critical areas remain underwhelming** which calls out the **shortfall of governance**

- » **SDG 2 – Zero Hunger Malnutrition continues to plague India.** As, 35.5% of children under five are stunted, only a marginal improvement from 38.4%.
- » **SDG 4 – Quality Education lacks as the digital divide**, especially exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, has widened learning **gaps between rural and urban students.**
- » **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions** lags in governance, rule of law, and press freedom—areas that are **foundational for sustainable development.**



## Interpretation of Rankings

India's capacity for **large-scale transformation** when policy, technology, and political **will align with deeper systemic reforms** are needed **to ensure equity and justice.**



## Way Forward

In order to sustain and accelerate progress, India must:

- Update **poverty metrics** and improve data transparency.
- Invest in **nutrition-sensitive agriculture** and public health.
- **Bridge the digital divide** through rural internet infrastructure.
- Strengthen **democratic institutions and uphold civil liberties.**

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**An emerging issue in the research of plastic pollution highlighted the concern of Endocrine Disruptors affecting human health. Explain the statement (250 Words).**

- » **Plastic pollution** has been recognized as **an environmental issue**, but emerging research highlights the **endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)** leaching from plastic waste.
- » These substances interfere with **hormonal systems**, leading to serious health outcomes.
- » From **food containers to microplastics in water**, everyday exposure to EDCs represents a growing threat that demands both scientific attention and public policy intervention.



## What are Endocrine Disruptors

- » Endocrine disruptors are **synthetic or natural compounds** that **mimic, block, or alter hormone signals** in the body.
- » EDCs include **bisphenol A (BPA)**, **phthalates**, and **flame retardants**—chemicals widely used in plastic manufacturing.



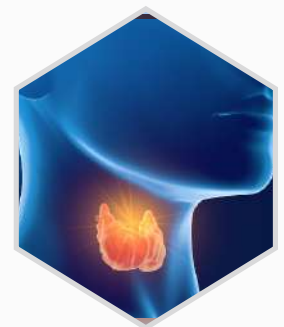
## Plastic Waste as a Source of EDCs

- » Plastic waste is a significant source of **EDCs** when **plastics degrade** they **release toxic chemicals** that contaminate soil, air, and water.
- » **Microplastics** act as **carriers for EDCs**, making their way into **food chains and drinking water supplies**.
- » The widespread use of **plastic packaging**, particularly in the **food and beverage industries**, increases human exposure to these harmful substances.



## Public Health Implications

- » Scientific studies have linked EDC exposure to a variety of health issues, including **early puberty, reduced fertility, obesity, diabetes, thyroid disorders, and certain cancers**.
- » Children and pregnant women are especially **vulnerable** due to the **critical roles hormones** play in development.



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## Challenges and Policy Gaps

- » Despite mounting evidence, **regulatory responses** have been **slow** and fragmented.
- » Many countries still permit the use of **BPA and phthalates in consumer goods**.
- » Additionally, the **recycling of plastics can inadvertently reintroduce EDCs into new products**, undermining sustainability efforts.
- » The need for **international standards, better testing methods, and stronger enforcement** to address the threat of endocrine disruptors.



## Solutions and Future Directions

- » **Policy reform** to phase out harmful chemicals in plastic manufacturing.
- » **Investment in safer alternatives** and green chemistry.
- » **Public education** on reducing exposure, such as avoiding microwaving food in plastic.
- » **Research** to better understand long-term impacts and effective interventions.

