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# Quarterly

Current Affairs 2024

**Vol. 4** | October to December

for Competitive Exams

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- G20 Summit
- BRICS + Summit

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**State | Sectoral**

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- Mindmap & SWOT Analysis
- Emerging Trends
- Game Changers
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- Timeline Events
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- Burning Issues
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This sample book is prepared from the book "**Quarterly Current Affairs 2024 Vol. 4 - October to December for Competitive Exams 8th Edition | Civil Services, UPSC, State PSC, CUET, SSC, Banking, Railways, CDS, NDA, CAPF & AFCAT**".



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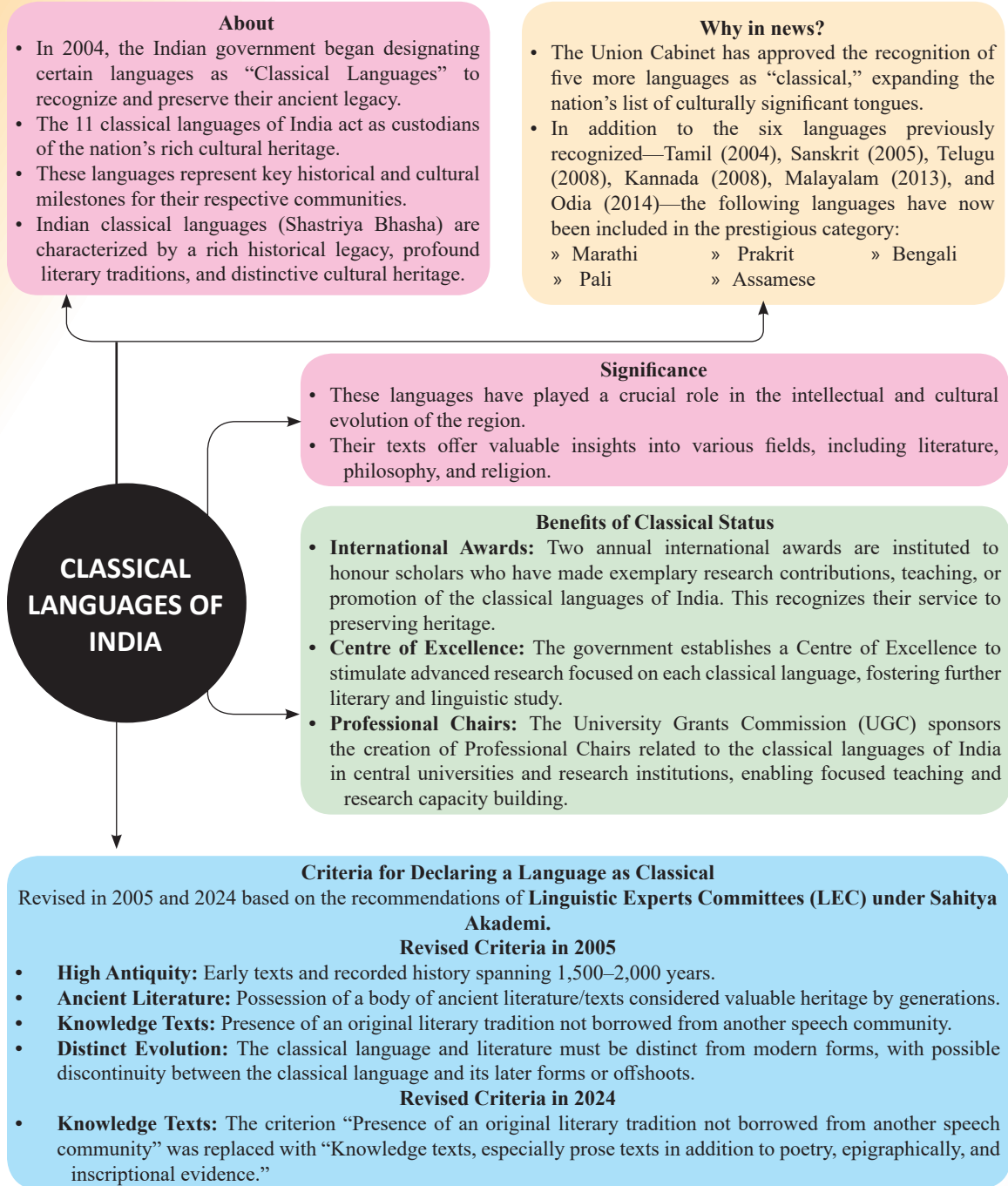
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# MIND MAP

## Classical Languages of India



# MIND MAP

## Noble Prize

### About Nobel Prize

- The Nobel Prize, founded in 1895 by **Alfred Nobel**, is the most prestigious award for significant contributions to humankind.
- Prizes are awarded in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Economics, and Peace.
- The **Swedish Academy** awards Literature, the **Karolinska Institute** awards Medicine, the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** awards Physics, Chemistry, and Economics, and the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** awards Peace.
- First awarded in 1901, the prizes have been given annually, except during WWI (1914-1918) and WWII (1939-1945).
- Nobel Day, on December 10, marks Alfred Nobel's death and the presentation of the prizes.

### Nobel Prize 2024 Physiology or Medicine

- **Awarded to:** Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation.
- **Major Findings:**
  - » MicroRNAs are small molecules crucial for gene regulation in cells.
  - » They bind to messenger RNA, influencing protein production critical for cellular functions.
  - » Their discovery has implications for diseases like cancer and heart disease.

### Nobel Prize 2024 Physics

- **Awarded to:** **John J. Hopfield** and **Geoffrey E. Hinton** for applying statistical physics concepts to the development of artificial neural networks.
- **Significance:**
  - » Artificial neural networks are essential in machine learning and AI, enabling pattern recognition in large datasets.
  - » They have advanced research in physics, such as particle physics, material science, and astrophysics.
  - » Neural networks are used in facial recognition, language translation, and more.

### Nobel Prize 2024 Chemistry

- **Awarded to:** **David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John M. Jumper** for their contributions to protein science.
- **Major Discoveries:**
  - » David Baker's work on computational protein design.
  - » Demis Hassabis and John Jumper developed AlphaFold2, an AI model for predicting protein structures.

## NOBLE PRIZE

### Nobel Prize 2024 Literature

- **Awarded to:** **Han Kang**, for her poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and explores the fragility of human life.
- **Literary Works:**
  - » Han Kang's debut in 1995 with *Love of Yeosu* and the internationally acclaimed *The Vegetarian* (2007).
  - » Her works explore the consequences of rejecting societal norms.

### Nobel Prize 2024 Peace

- **Awarded to:** **Nihon Hidankyo** (Japanese organization) for efforts towards a nuclear-free world.
- **Significance:**
  - » Grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors opposing nuclear weapons.
  - » Hibakusha's personal accounts raise awareness of nuclear warfare's humanitarian impact.

### Nobel Prize 2024 Economic Sciences

- **Awarded to:** **Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson** for research on colonization and global inequality.
- **Significance:**
  - » Study of societal institutions' role in prosperity.
  - » Developed a model on resource conflict, mass mobilization, and elite power dynamics.
  - » Links historical institutions to modern inequality, explaining ongoing poverty in certain nations.

# MIND MAP

## Supreme Court's Judicial Reforms

### Why in the News?

- The Supreme Court of India, established on January 28, 1950, has completed 75 years, marking a significant milestone in the country's judicial history.
- Over the years, the Supreme Court has played a crucial role in shaping India's legal and constitutional landscape.
- On 28th January, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.
- During the event, the need for judicial reforms was highlighted, and the Prime Minister made several important announcements.

### Need for Reforms

- **Backlog of Cases:** Over 30 million cases are pending across all courts in India, leading to delays in justice delivery and denying people their right to timely resolution of disputes.
- **Lack of Access to Justice:** Marginalized and vulnerable groups face difficulties in accessing justice due to factors such as distance, cost, and the complexity of legal procedures, perpetuating social inequality.
- **Quality of Judgments:** Concerns exist regarding the quality of judgments, with some being criticized for lack of reasoning, coherence, and consistency.
- **Infrastructure and Technology:** Many courts suffer from inadequate infrastructure and outdated technology, resulting in inefficiencies and delays in the judicial process.
- **Appointment and Accountability of Judges:** There are concerns about the transparency and accountability in the judicial appointment process, as well as issues related to the performance and conduct of judges.

### Key Announcements

On the occasion, the Prime Minister launched multiple technology initiatives for the Supreme Court:

- **Digital Supreme Court Reports:** This initiative will provide free, electronic access to Supreme Court judgments for citizens.
- **Digital Courts 2.0:** A recent initiative under the e-Courts project, aiming to make court records available electronically to district court judges.
- The **e-Courts Mission**, launched in 2013, seeks to modernize India's court system by digitizing it and improving access to justice.
- **New Supreme Court Website:** The redesigned website will be bilingual (English and Hindi) and feature a user-friendly interface.

## Supreme Court's Judicial Reforms

### Recent Events

- On August 31, 2024, the Prime Minister unveiled a stamp and coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court.
- The President unveiled a new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court to mark its 75th year.
- The new flag features the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building, and the book of the Constitution of India.

### Way Forward

- **Increase in the Number of Judges:** To address judicial pendency, the number of judges in courts should be increased in proportion to the backlog of cases. The government should fill existing vacancies and appoint additional judges to reduce delays.
- **Use of Technology:** Leveraging technology can streamline court procedures, reduce paperwork, and enhance judicial efficiency. Digitizing court records, enabling online case filing, and conducting virtual hearings can help speed up case disposal.
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms:** Encouraging mediation and arbitration can reduce court congestion and expedite case resolution. Promoting out-of-court settlements can significantly alleviate the backlog.
- **Case Management:** Establishing an effective case management system will help track cases, prioritize urgent matters, and set realistic deadlines, reducing delays in case disposal.
- **Increase in the Number of Courts:** The establishment of more courts will enable the judicial system to handle the volume of cases efficiently. Additional courts can reduce backlogs and enhance the system's capacity.
- **Time-Bound Disposal of Cases:** Setting and adhering to realistic timelines for case disposal will help reduce delays. The government should ensure that courts comply with these deadlines to expedite justice delivery.



# MIND MAP

## Swachh Bharat Mission

### Why in news?

- Swachh Bharat Mission completed the 10 years of implementation on 2nd October 2024
- Theme for 2024: 'Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata' – Emphasizes the importance of cleanliness and environmental well-being.

### Overview

- **Launched:** 2014, aiming for universal sanitation coverage by 2019, as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- **Primary Goal:** To make India Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- **Toilet Infrastructure:** Financial incentives for building household and community toilets, especially for slums and migrant populations.
- **Behavioural Change:** Programs to educate the population on the benefits of ODF and change perceptions about toilets in homes being unclean.
- **Two Sub-missions:**
  - » SBM (Rural/Gramin): Focuses on improving cleanliness, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), and making Gram Panchayats ODF, clean, and sanitized.
  - » SBM (Urban): Focuses on urban sanitation and waste management.

### Key Phases and Targets

- **Phase 1:** Ended in 2019, focused on constructing toilets and achieving ODF status.
- **Phase 2 (2020-2021 onwards):** Focuses on solid and liquid waste management, ODF sustainability, and environmental impact.
- **SBM (Urban) 2.0:** Commenced in 2021, running until 2026, focusing on sustaining achievements and ensuring treatment of solid and liquid waste using technology and private sector support.

## Swachh Bharat Mission

### Challenges

- **Lack of Awareness:** Many communities still lack awareness about hygiene and sanitation practices.
- **Behavioural Change:** Difficult to change long-standing cultural and sanitation habits.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Inadequate infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, hampers effective implementation.
- **Maintenance and Sustainability:** Ensuring long-term maintenance of toilets and sanitation facilities is crucial.
- **Funding and Resources:** While government support exists, sustained funding is necessary for ongoing initiatives.
- **Waste Management:** Effective waste management systems are still lacking in many areas, leading to littering and pollution.
- **Lack of Region-Specific Strategy:** Solutions effective in one region may not work in others; tailored approaches are necessary.
- **Monitoring:** Effective monitoring of progress and impact remains challenging.

### Way Forward

- **Transformational Impact:** SBM is driving societal transformation, contributing to better human capital and economic growth in India.
- **Skilling and Community Development:** Focus on skilling ensures program success and creates a blueprint for sustainable community development.
- **Continued Government Support:** Ongoing funding and support will help maintain progress and prevent regression to old sanitation practices.

## MIND MAP

# BharatGen

### Why in News?

- Bharat Gen is the world's first government-funded multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) initiative launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology.

### Overview

- **Developed by:** Led by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).
- **Aim:** To develop generative AI models that support India's linguistic diversity and cultural context, while also enhancing public service delivery and promoting inclusivity in Indian languages.
- **Significance:** Marks the world's first government-funded multimodal LLM project.



### Features

- **Multilingual & Multimodal:** Supports both text and speech in a wide range of Indian languages.
- **India-Centric Data:** Uses curated datasets reflecting India's linguistic diversity and cultural contexts.
- **Open-Source Platform:** Provides democratized access to AI, allowing start-ups, researchers, and innovators to build on foundational models.
- **Data-Efficient Learning:** Trains AI models effectively for languages with limited digital presence, making it suitable for low-resource languages.

### Significance

- **Cultural Preservation:** Ensures India's diverse languages and cultural heritage are represented in AI systems.
- **Digital Sovereignty:** Reduces reliance on foreign technologies by developing indigenous AI solutions.
- **Inclusive Development:** Aims to make AI accessible to all citizens, particularly in underserved regions.
- **Strengthening AI Ecosystem:** Encourages innovation in India's AI research community, fostering global collaborations, and boosting AI start-ups.

# SWOT ANALYSIS

## India's Military Diplomacy

### Strengths

- **Expanding Global Influence:** Active engagement in 75 combined military exercises with various countries in 2023 showcases India's growing global defence presence.
- **Strong Regional Role:** Establishing itself as a key player in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions through strategic partnerships and maritime cooperation.
- **Comprehensive Defense Cooperation:** Diverse activities, including joint exercises, HADR operations, peacekeeping, and emerging technology collaborations (e.g., iCET with the US).
- **Technological Advancement:** Collaboration on cutting-edge technology through Quad and bilateral initiatives with the US and other nations.
- **Defense Export and Indigenization:** Initiatives like "Make in India" and defense expos boost India's domestic manufacturing and global defense trade prospects.
- **Humanitarian Assistance Capabilities:** Proven track record in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, such as responses to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2023 Turkey-Syria earthquake.

### Weaknesses

- **Dependency on Imports:** Significant reliance on foreign defense procurement due to a limited domestic technological and industrial base.
- **Capacity Gaps:** Lack of institutionalized mechanisms to maximize the potential of defense diplomacy in achieving foreign policy goals.
- **Perception Issues:** South Asian neighbors perceive India as a "big brother," affecting trust and cooperation.
- **Inconsistent Prioritization:** Reduction of Defense Attachés in key locations like Moscow despite critical ties with Russia.
- **Overextension Risks:** Challenges in sustaining military engagements in new regions with limited resources.
- **Reduced Diplomatic Presence:** Potential reduction in Defense Attachés in critical locations like Moscow, which could impact strategic relationships.

### Opportunities

- **Countering China:** Leveraging partnerships like Quad and AUKUS to balance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific and South China Sea.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Expanding ties with countries like France, Japan, and ASEAN, and exploring deeper defense cooperation with European Union members.
- **Regional Leadership:** Strengthening its role as a regional security provider in South Asia, Africa, and Central Asia.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Expanding technological collaboration with global powers to modernize and diversify defense capabilities.
- **Humanitarian Leadership:** Enhanced focus on HADR operations, solidifying its role as a net security provider in the region.
- **Global Engagement Platforms:** Leveraging defense expos, joint drills, and training programs to build a robust international defense ecosystem.

### Threats

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Increasing competition with China may escalate conflicts in geopolitically sensitive areas.
- **Strategic Dilemmas:** Balancing partnerships with rival nations like the US and Russia could complicate India's strategic objectives.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited logistical and expeditionary capacities might restrict comprehensive engagement.
- **Sanctions Risk:** Geopolitical developments could expose India to sanctions or diplomatic backlash from major powers.
- **Perception Challenges:** 'Big Brother' perception among South Asian nations could limit diplomatic effectiveness.
- **Policy Uncertainties:** Potential regulatory changes and international political shifts could impact defense cooperation strategies.

# SWOT ANALYSIS

## AI Washing

### Strengths

- **Market Attractiveness:** Startups mentioning AI in pitches increased from 10% in 2022 to over 25% in 2023.
- **Investor Interest:** Over 50% of S&P 500 companies referenced AI in their earnings calls last year.
- **Funding Potential:** Provides a quick mechanism for startups to attract investor attention and secure funding.
- **Hype Capitalization:** Follows a long-standing pattern of leveraging emerging technology trends.
- **Competitive Positioning:** Enables companies to seem cutting-edge in a rapidly evolving tech landscape.
- **Brand Perception:** Creates an illusion of technological sophistication without significant investment.

### Opportunities

- **Regulatory Frameworks:** Emerging guidelines from FTC and SEBI to promote transparency in AI claims.
- **Market Education:** Growing awareness about AI washing creates opportunities for genuine AI innovators.
- **Investor Scrutiny:** Increasing investor awareness leads to more rigorous evaluation of AI claims.
- **Compliance Development:** Potential for creating robust verification mechanisms for AI technologies.
- **Transparency Initiatives:** Growing demand for clear, honest technological representations.
- **Professional Standards:** Potential development of industry-wide AI verification standards.

### Weaknesses

- **Limited Actual Implementation:** A US Census Bureau survey found only 4.4% of American businesses actually use AI to produce goods and services.
- **Technological Limitations:** Many businesses struggle to fully implement or effectively utilize AI technologies.
- **Lack of Genuine Innovation:** Companies often prioritize superficial AI enhancements over developing meaningful capabilities.
- **Verification Challenges:** Difficulty in substantiating AI claims due to the complex nature of AI technologies.
- **Resource Misallocation:** Diverts management attention from genuine technological development.
- **Operational Inefficiencies:** Creates a gap between marketed capabilities and actual product performance.
- **Skill Gap:** Exposes lack of genuine AI expertise within organizations.

### Threats

- **Trust Erosion:** Misleading AI claims can lead to consumer disillusionment and distrust.
- **Regulatory Risks:** Potential fines and legal action from regulators (e.g., SEC fining investment firms in March 2024).
- **Market Distortion:** AI washing undermines the credibility of the tech industry's AI development.
- **Data Security Concerns:** Subpar AI technology could pose significant data privacy and security risks.
- **Financial Risks:** Potential for misleading investors and creating market bubbles.
- **Legal Complications:** Increasing risk of lawsuits and regulatory penalties.
- **Global Reputation Damage:** Potential long-term harm to the credibility of AI technologies.

# SWOT ANALYSIS

## Free Legal Aid in India

### Strengths

- **Legal Framework:** The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, provides a solid foundation for free legal aid.
- **Constitutional Mandate:** Article 39A directs the state to ensure justice and legal aid for all.
- **Innovative Programs:** Initiatives like Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu leverage technology to enhance access.
- **Massive Outreach:** Lok Adalats have resolved millions of cases cost-effectively.
- **Focused Assistance:** Eligibility criteria prioritize marginalized groups like women and SC/ST communities.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** NALSA reviews programs to improve efficiency and impact.

### Weaknesses

- **Insufficient Funding:** Per capita spending on legal aid is minimal compared to global benchmarks.
- **Limited Awareness:** Many eligible individuals are unaware of free legal aid services.
- **Professional Shortages:** Rural areas face a scarcity of qualified legal professionals.
- **Social Stigma:** Societal biases deter many from seeking legal assistance.
- **Regional Disparities:** Unequal implementation leads to inconsistent access across states.
- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Complex procedures discourage people from availing of services.

### Opportunities

- **Digital Expansion:** Platforms like Tele-Law can address service delivery gaps in rural areas.
- **Awareness Drives:** Campaigns targeting marginalized groups can improve access and uptake.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Improved funding and facilities can enhance service quality.
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** Promoting mediation can reduce court backlogs and improve outcomes.
- **Collaborations with NGOs:** Partnering with civil society can extend outreach and efficiency.
- **Legal Education:** Programs in schools and colleges can foster a legally informed population.

### Threats

- **Bias and Discrimination:** Social prejudices can restrict access to justice for vulnerable groups.
- **Resource Overload:** Increasing caseloads strain the existing legal aid infrastructure.
- **Geographical Barriers:** Delivering services to remote areas remains a logistical challenge.
- **Technological Divide:** Digital tools may not be accessible to all due to literacy or connectivity issues.
- **Weak Monitoring:** Lack of accountability reduces program efficiency.
- **Public Distrust:** Perceived inefficiencies may erode confidence in free legal aid systems.

Know Your Legend

# Ratan Tata

Pioneering Excellence in Indian Industry



## Introduction: The Legacy of a Visionary

Ratan Naval Tata, one of India's most revered business leaders, transformed the Tata Group into a global industrial powerhouse. Taking charge at a time of economic change, he propelled the group from a traditional conglomerate to a modern multinational enterprise. His leadership, vision, and ethical values have left an indelible mark on Indian business. Born into the illustrious Tata family, Ratan Tata's upbringing instilled in him a sense of responsibility, innovation, and service, shaping him into the transformational leader he became.

## Early Life and Education

Born on December 28, 1937, Ratan Tata hailed from a prominent industrialist family that shaped India's economy. The Tata family legacy, dating back to Jamsetji Tata, laid the foundation of industrialization in India. Ratan Tata's early life was shaped by his upbringing under the care of his grandmother, Navajbai Tata. Ratan Tata pursued his education in architecture at Cornell University in the United States. Although initially inclined towards architecture, he later attended Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program, which equipped him with the skills needed to manage and grow large enterprises. His early exposure to the Tata family businesses during his formative years laid the groundwork for his understanding of industry and leadership.

## Ascending the Corporate Ladder

Ratan Tata's defining moment came in 1991 when he succeeded J.R.D. Tata as the Chairman of Tata Sons. At the time, the Tata Group faced significant challenges, including a decentralized structure and stagnant growth. Ratan Tata introduced a clear strategic vision, focusing on streamlining operations and fostering innovation. His leadership was marked by a willingness to break away from traditional business practices and modernize the group's operations. Under his stewardship, the Tata Group embraced globalization and ventured into international markets, establishing Indian excellence on a global scale. This transformation was marked by bold acquisitions that redefined the conglomerate's international standing, including the purchase of Tetley Tea in 2000, which marked Tata's foray into the global consumer goods market, and the acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover in 2008, rescuing the iconic British brand and enhancing Tata Motors' global presence. These moves reflected Ratan Tata's strategic acumen and his commitment to turning the Tata Group into a world-class enterprise.

## Business Philosophy and Leadership Style

Ratan Tata believed in fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the Tata Group. His leadership encouraged pioneering products, including the Tata Nano, designed to provide affordable mobility to middle-class Indians. Beyond his enterprises, Ratan Tata played a crucial role in India's entrepreneurial ecosystem, supporting startups and emerging businesses through Tata Capital and his personal investments. His

leadership was also defined by ethical business practices and a strong focus on corporate social responsibility. Under his guidance, the Tata Group invested significantly in education, healthcare, and rural development, demonstrating its commitment to inclusive growth. Ratan Tata's philanthropic efforts, including substantial contributions to scientific research and higher education, underscored his belief that businesses have a responsibility toward society.

### Major Achievements and Contributions

Ratan Tata expanded the Tata Group's influence across diverse industries. In the automotive sector, Tata Motors revolutionized the market with the Tata Nano and redefined luxury with Jaguar Land Rover. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) emerged as India's largest IT services company, positioning India as a global technology leader. In steel, Tata Steel's acquisition of Corus cemented its global dominance, while Tata's foray into telecommunications through Tata Docomo democratized telecom services in India. The Taj Group of Hotels also grew under his leadership, establishing itself as a global hospitality brand. His commitment to innovation spurred technological advancements, particularly through frugal engineering, digital transformation initiatives, and investments in emerging technologies.

### Personal Traits and Leadership Qualities

Ratan Tata's leadership was characterized by visionary thinking and strategic adaptability. He approached challenges with a long-term perspective, ensuring the Tata Group remained resilient during periods of economic uncertainty. His ability to anticipate market trends and embrace change set him apart as a leader. Ratan Tata also excelled as a mentor, nurturing leadership talent within the Tata Group and inspiring young entrepreneurs across India. His insights on ethical leadership, innovation, and perseverance continue to resonate with business leaders globally, making him a role model for future generations.

### Challenges and Resilience

Ratan Tata's tenure was not without challenges. He navigated economic downturns, global competition, and initial skepticism surrounding key acquisitions. The turnaround of Jaguar Land Rover, which many doubted at the outset, emerged as a testament to his strategic foresight. His ability to lead the Tata Group through critical transitions while maintaining its core values highlighted his resilience and decision-making acumen.

### Legacy and Future Impact

Even after stepping down as Chairman in 2012, Ratan Tata continues to influence the Tata Group as Chairman Emeritus. He remains deeply involved in supporting startups, technological innovation, and India's industrial growth. His vision for sustainable and inclusive business practices continues to inspire leaders across the world, while his mentorship and advisory roles ensure his enduring influence on India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

### Conclusion: A Transformative Business Leader

Ratan Tata's visionary leadership transformed the Tata Group into a global conglomerate synonymous with excellence and ethical business practices. His contributions across industries, combined with his humility, resilience, and innovative spirit, have left a lasting legacy. Ratan Tata's journey stands as an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs, symbolizing the transformative power of vision, perseverance, and responsible leadership in shaping India's industrial future.



# Upcoming Exams Calendar

EXAMS	DATE
XAT 2025	5 January 2025
Sainik Class 6 & 9	28 January 2025
JNVST Class 6	18 January 2025
RPSC Prelims 2024	2 February 2025
JNVST Class 9	8 February 2025
SSC CGL Tier 2 2024	18-20 January 2025
BPSC Mains 2024	3-7 January 2025
MPPSC Prelims 2025	16 January 2025
UGC NET Dec 2024	1-19 January 2025
JEE Mains 2025	22-31 January 2025
SBI Clerk Prelims 2025	February 2025
CMAT 2025	25 January 2025
NIFT 2025	9 February 2025
SRCC GBO 2025	22 February 2025
JNVST Class 9	8 February 2025
GATE 2025	1, 2, 15, 16 February 2025
SSC GD Constable 2024	4-25 February 2025
AFCAT (I) 2025	22-23 February 2025
CUET PG 2025	Second week of Mar 2025