

DECODE UPSC

TOPIC - 14

Crack Prelims, Ace Mains, Impress in Interview

2025 ECONOMIC REFORMS

1. Overview of India's 2025 Economic Vision

- India's **2025 Economic Reforms** focus on simplifying systems, reducing compliance burdens, and enhancing predictability. The reforms emphasize **ease of living, ease of doing business, and inclusive growth**. Key sectors such as **taxation, GST, labour regulation, and business compliance** are being restructured to ensure smoother, faster, and more transparent economic interactions. These reforms are aligned with India's long-term growth and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision, improving trust in institutions and policy certainty.



2. Key Economic Reforms

Income Tax Reforms:

- Tax Exemption**: In a major relief for Indian families and individual taxpayers, the **Union Budget 2025-26 introduced substantial reforms in direct taxation**, ensuring that **annual incomes up to Rs. 12 lakh are exempt from income tax under the new regime**, with the effective exemption rising to **Rs. 12.75 lakh for salaried taxpayers** on account of the standard deduction. This change reaffirmed the Government's commitment and left millions of middle-class households with **higher disposable income, boosting consumption, savings, and investment**.
- In July 2024, the Government announced a comprehensive overhaul of the Income-tax Act, 1961 leading to New Income Tax Act, 2025 - a landmark development to simplify language, remove obsolete provisions and consolidate & restructure provisions. An internal Departmental Committee, constituted by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for comprehensive review of the existing Act, undertook the reform with three guiding principles:
 - Textual and structural simplification, improved clarity and coherence.
 - No major tax policy changes, ensuring continuity and certainty.
 - No modifications of tax rates, preserving predictability for taxpayers.
- New Income Tax Act (2025)**: The Income Tax Act, 2025 modernizes India's direct tax framework by simplifying and streamlining tax legislation, making it more accessible, transparent, and less prone to litigation. A key reform is the introduction of a unified "Tax Year

- the twelve-month period of the financial year commencing on the 1st April”, replaces the earlier concepts of Assessment Year and Previous Year. It not only improves clarity and makes it easier for taxpayers to understand the financial period their income and tax filings, but also reduces ambiguity in compliance and interpretation.

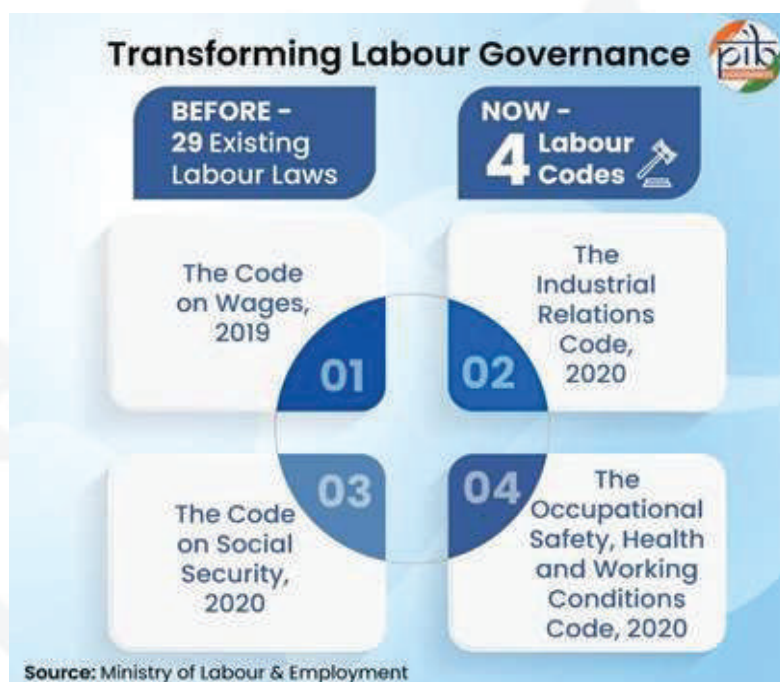
- **Faceless Tax Administration:** Strengthens digital-first enforcement and simplifies compliance, with clear tax filing timelines.
- **Taxpayer Security:** No major tax rate changes; preserves predictability for taxpayers.

Impact:

- These reforms improve **taxpayer clarity, transparency**, and reduce friction in **tax compliance**, encouraging **investment, savings**, and **economic growth**.

3. Labour Reforms

- In a landmark reform, the Government of India consolidated 29 existing labour laws into **four Labour Codes**- the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The new framework enhances ease of doing business while expanding wage security, social protection, and workplace safety for workers, including women, migrant, gig, and platform workers.



- **Consolidation into 4 Labour Codes:**
 - Code on Wages (2019)
 - Industrial Relations Code (2020)
 - Code on Social Security (2020)
 - Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code (2020)
- **Focus Areas:** Expands wage security, social protection, and workplace safety, especially for women, migrant, gig, and platform workers.
- **Outcome-Based Governance:** Simplifies compliance and introduces digital systems for increased efficiency.
- The reforms expand the safety net for India’s workforce, with **nearly 10 million Gig and Platform workers receiving annual social security support**. Women workers benefit from **assured leave provisions, maternity benefits and improved workplace safety**. Overall, the Labour Codes mark a decisive shift from rule-heavy regulation to outcome-based governance, creating **one unified framework for over 50 crore workers** across sectors. Additionally, the codes lay a strong foundation for a **future-ready workforce and resilient industries** aligned with India’s long-term growth aspirations.

Impact:

- **Expansion of social safety nets and improved welfare** for nearly **50 crore workers**.
- Shift from **rule-heavy regulation** to **outcome-based governance**, making India's workforce more **future-ready**.

4. Rural Employment Reforms

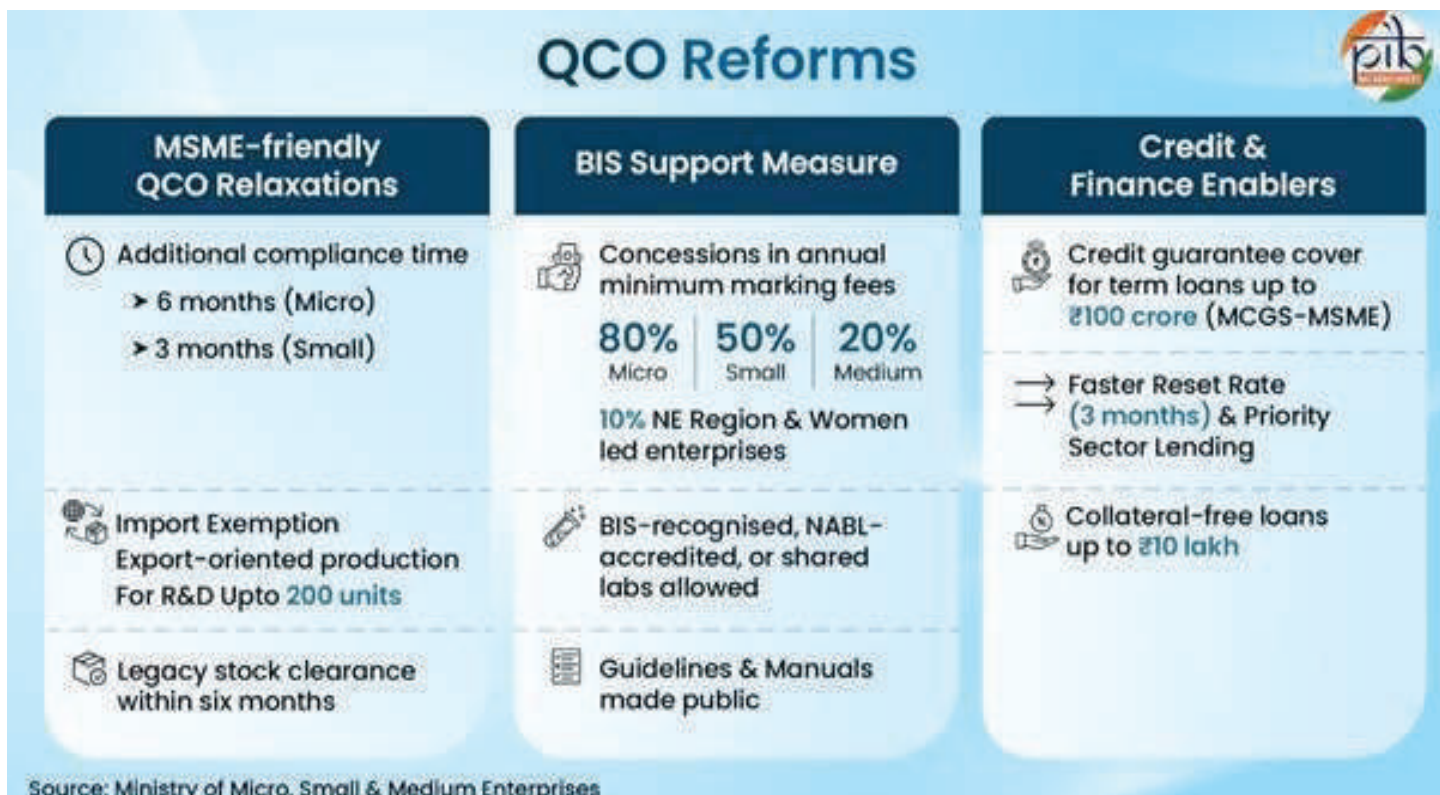
- Rural employment reforms anchored in the enactment of the **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025**, replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a modern statutory framework that **enhances livelihood security and integrates employment with community development**.
- **Extended Employment Guarantee:** 125 days of wage employment per rural household in a financial year.
- **Integrated Provision for Agriculture and Rural Employment:** facilitate adequate availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons while ensuring a calibrated balance that supports both agricultural productivity and worker security.
- **Timely Wage Payments:** timely payment of wages on a weekly basis or, in any case, within fifteen days of completion of work, reinforcing wage security and protecting workers from delays.
- **Asset Creation Focus:** Work contributes creation of durable public assets across four priority thematic domains - water security & related works, rural infrastructure, climate-resilient projects, and livelihood enhancement.
- **Decentralized Planning:** All works flow from Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs), prepared through participatory processes at the Gram Panchayat level and approved by the Gram Sabha. These plans are digitally integrated with national platforms including PM Gati Shakti, enabling convergence across Ministries while retaining decentralised decision-making.
- **Financial Architecture:** The Act is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, notified and operationalised by State Governments in accordance with its provisions.
- **Strengthened Administrative Capacity:** The administrative expenditure ceiling has been increased from 6% to 9%, strengthening staffing, training, technical capacity, and field-level support to improve institutional delivery and outcomes..

Impact:

- Enhanced **livelihood security** and **community development** in rural areas.
- Focus on **resilience-building** through **climate-resilient projects** and **integrated rural infrastructure**.

5. Ease of Doing Business Reforms

- **Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** Implemented in a **phased manner** to ensure domestic production is not disrupted.
 - Relaxations provided for **micro** and **small enterprises**.
 - **BIS Support Measures:** Flexible processes for **product certification, testing, and inspection**.



- **Credit Flow to MSMEs:**
 - **Collaterally-free loans** for micro and small enterprises, simplifying the credit process.
 - Under **Improving Credit Flow to MSMEs**, loans have been linked to **external benchmarks** with shorter reset periods (3 months), the **Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME)** now provides cover up to Rs. 100 crore for equipment and machinery, **Priority Sector Lending** targets are enforced, collateral-free loans up to Rs. 10 lakh are available for micro and small enterprises, and working capital requirements for MSEs are set at a minimum of **20% of projected annual turnover** for credit limits up to Rs. 5 crore.
- **Impact:**
 - Promotes **growth** and **competitiveness** among MSMEs.
 - Reduces **transaction costs**, and simplifies the regulatory environment for businesses.

6. MSME Reforms

- The **Budget 2025-26** expanded the **MSME definition**, raising investment and turnover limits to enhance confidence and generate employment for our youth, while **credit guarantee cover** for Micro and Small Enterprises doubled from **Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 10 crore**, improving access to formal finance for expansion and modernization, with higher limits and term loans for startups and exporters boosting growth and competitiveness.
- **Enhanced Definition of MSMEs:**
 - **Micro:** Investment up to Rs. 2.5 crore, turnover up to Rs. 10 crore.
 - **Small:** Investment up to Rs. 25 crore, turnover up to Rs. 100 crore.
 - **Medium:** Investment up to Rs. 125 crore, turnover up to Rs. 500 crore.

- **Financial Support:** Doubling credit guarantee cover for MSMEs to Rs. 10 crore, providing collateral-free loans, and facilitating easier access to finance for **startups** and **exporters**.
- **Simplified Taxation:** MSME-friendly GST reforms, including **faster refunds** and simplified registration.

Impact:

- Provides **financial support** for **expansion** and **modernization**.
- Encourages **entrepreneurship**, especially among **youth** and **women** in rural areas.

7. GST Reforms (GST 2.0)

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms**, represent another landmark step in reshaping India's indirect tax framework to align with the aspirations of a **young, entrepreneurial, and consumption-driven economy**. The latest **Next-Generation GST reforms**, mark a decisive step towards **simpler taxation, lower burden on citizens, and improved ease of doing business**. They significantly strengthen GST's role as a **citizen-centric, business-friendly, and growth-oriented tax system**.
- **Simplified Tax Structure:** Transition to a **two-slab** system (5% and 18%) to reduce complexity and ease compliance for MSMEs.
- **Lower Cost of Living:** Rate reductions on essential goods and services to alleviate inflationary pressures.
- **MSME Enablement:** Simplified registration, returns, and access to affordable trade finance for MSMEs and startups.
- **Increased Revenue Base:** Expanded taxpayer base, gross GST collections rose to Rs. 22.08 lakh crore in FY 2024-25.

Impact:

- **Simplifies tax compliance** and encourages business **growth**.
- **Enhances affordability** for **households**, fostering a **consumption-driven economy**.

8. Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

- In a major boost to India's trade competitiveness, the Union Cabinet approved the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** as a flagship structural reform with an outlay of **Rs. 25,060 crore for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31**. Announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, EPM marks a strategic shift from fragmented export support schemes to a **single, outcome-based and digitally driven framework**, aimed at empowering **MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors**. The Mission integrates **financial support (Niryat Protsahan)** including affordable trade finance and credit enhancement with **non-financial enablers (Niryat Disha)** such as quality compliance, branding, logistics, and market access.
- **Rs. 25,060 Crore Outlay:** The **Export Promotion Mission (2025-2031)** aims to boost exports from MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors.
- **Support Measures:** Provides affordable trade finance, compliance certification support, and improved access to global markets.

- **Employment Generation:** Targets the creation of **jobs** across manufacturing, logistics, and allied services, enhancing India's **global export competitiveness**.
- The Mission integrates **financial support (Niryat Protsahan)** including affordable trade finance and credit enhancement with **non-financial enablers (Niryat Disha)** such as quality compliance, branding, logistics, and market access.



Impact:

- Expands **India's global market presence**, boosts **exports**, and strengthens **employment** across sectors like **manufacturing, logistics, and services**.
- Aims to make India a **globally competitive exporter**.

9. Future-Ready Economic Reforms

- **Digital Payments:** Strengthened push for **cashless transactions** and **digital infrastructure** to enhance transparency and accountability in the economy.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Simplified regulatory processes for MSMEs and startups, including digital integration for trade procedures like the **National Single Window, e-Commerce Export Hubs, and ICEGATE**.
- **Labour Force Reforms:** Focus on **women's representation, safety net for gig workers**, and creating a resilient workforce for India's long-term growth.

Conclusion

- The **2025 Economic Reforms** represent a critical shift towards a **transparent, efficient, and inclusive** economic framework. The combination of tax simplification, modern labor laws, MSME support, and enhanced export promotion ensures that India can tap into its **youth potential, rural workforce, and entrepreneurial spirit** to drive **sustainable growth**. These reforms align with India's aspirations for a **future-ready economy**, empowering the next generation with access to opportunities, while strengthening India's position as a **global leader** in trade and innovation.

UPSC PRELIMS

GS CSAT



UPSC Prelims Multiple Choice Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding the "Income Tax Reforms" in India under the Union Budget 2025-26:
 1. Income up to Rs. 12 lakh is exempt from income tax under the new regime.
 2. The **New Income Tax Act, 2025** has no major tax policy changes but aims to simplify and streamline the tax framework.
 3. The Income Tax Act, 2025 introduces a **unified Tax Year** concept, replacing the previous **Assessment Year** and **Previous Year**.
 4. The main aim of the reforms is to increase tax rates and improve the overall **tax burden** on taxpayers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2, and 3 only

(c) 2, 3, and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

2. Consider the following statements about the "Labour Reforms" in India:

1. India consolidated 29 existing labour laws into **four Labour Codes**: the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code.
2. The reforms only focus on enhancing **wage security** and do not address **social protection** for workers.
3. The **Labour Codes** are designed to provide better **safety and welfare** for **gig and platform workers**.
4. The **Occupational Safety & Health Code** is specifically focused on creating a **business-friendly regulatory environment**.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 1, 3, and 4 only | (c) 2 and 4 only |
| (b) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2, and 3 only |

3. Consider the following statements regarding "Rural Employment Reforms" under the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025:

1. The Act replaces **MGNREGA** with a modern framework that guarantees **125 days of employment** per rural household per year.
2. The focus of the scheme is only on providing agricultural **labour**, without considering **rural infrastructure development**.
3. The Act ensures **timely wage payments** within **15 days** of completing work, reinforcing wage security.
4. The Act is implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, notified and operationalized by **State Governments**.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| (a) 1, 3, and 4 only | (c) 1 and 3 only |
| (b) 1, 2, and 3 only | (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4 |

4. Consider the following statements regarding "Ease of Doing Business Reforms" in India:

1. The **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** have been implemented in a phased manner with MSME-friendly exemptions.
2. MSMEs have been provided with **collateral-free loans up to Rs. 10 lakh** for expansion and modernization.
3. The **District Business Reform Action Plan (D-BRAP 2025)** is aimed at **decentralizing** approvals and inspections to ease business operations.

4. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has relaxed requirements for **in-house laboratories** for MSMEs.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only (c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(b) 1, 2, and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

5. Consider the following statements regarding "GST 2.0 Reforms":

1. The **GST 2.0** introduces a **two-slab** system with **5% and 18% tax rates**.
2. **MSMEs and startups** are incentivized with **lower input costs**, simplified registration, and returns.
3. **Next Generation GST** aims to expand **tax base** and improve compliance, targeting **small traders**.
4. **GST 2.0** also promotes **affordable trade finance** for **MSMEs** to enhance global competitiveness.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only (c) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(b) 1, 3, and 4 only (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) approved by the Union Cabinet:

1. The EPM integrates financial support and non-financial enablers aimed at empowering MSMEs and first-time exporters.
2. The mission is set to span from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 with an outlay of Rs. 25,060 crore.
3. EPM marks a shift from a digitally driven framework to fragmented export support schemes.
4. The mission focuses primarily on large enterprises and high-tech industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2, and 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answers

1. (b) 1, 2, and 3 only

- **Income up to Rs. 12 lakh** is indeed exempt, offering relief to middle-class taxpayers.
- The **New Income Tax Act, 2025** introduces simplifications but **does not change tax rates**.
- The **unified Tax Year** improves clarity and simplifies compliance.
- The reform does **not aim to increase tax burden** but to simplify the system and make it more transparent.

2. (a) 1, 3, and 4 only

- India has consolidated 29 labour laws into **four Labour Codes**, modernizing the legal framework.
- **Social protection** for workers is also a key focus, so statement 2 is incorrect.
- The Codes extend **social security** and **welfare benefits** to **gig and platform workers**.
- The **Occupational Safety & Health Code** is designed to improve **workplace safety** and align with **business growth**.

3. (a) 1, 3, and 4 only

- The **Viksit Bharat Act** replaces MGNREGA and guarantees **125 days** of employment for **rural households**.
- The Act covers **both agricultural labour** and **rural infrastructure**, so statement 2 is incorrect.
- **Timely wage payments** within 15 days enhance **wage security** for workers.
- The **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** is implemented with **State Government** involvement for effective delivery.

4. (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

- The **QCOs** have been implemented with **MSME exemptions** for easier compliance.
- MSMEs have access to **collateral-free loans** up to Rs. 10 lakh.
- The **D-BRAP 2025** promotes decentralization to improve the ease of doing business.
- The **BIS** has relaxed the **in-house laboratory** requirement for MSMEs to reduce compliance burdens.

5. (c) 1, 2, 3, and 4

- The **two-slab** system reduces complexity for businesses and **simplifies compliance**.
- **MSMEs and startups** are supported with **lower input costs** and simplified processes.
- **Next Generation GST** expands the **taxpayer base** and improves **compliance**.
- **Affordable trade finance** enables **MSMEs** to enhance **global competitiveness**, in line with the reforms.

6. (a) 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1** is correct because the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** integrates **financial support** (such as **trade finance** and **credit enhancement**) and **non-financial enablers** (like **quality compliance, branding, logistics, and market access**) aimed at empowering **MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors**.
- **Statement 2** is correct. The mission is backed by a substantial outlay of **Rs. 25,060 crore** and spans from **FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31**.
- **Statement 3** is incorrect because the EPM marks a shift **towards a single, outcome-based, digitally driven framework** rather than fragmented schemes.
- **Statement 4** is incorrect as the mission focuses on **MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors**, not large enterprises and high-tech industries. Thus, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

UPSC MAINS



UPSC Mains Basic Question

1. Discuss the significance of income tax reforms in India's 2025 economic vision.

✓ **Answer Framework:**

- **Introduction:**

India's income tax system has undergone substantial reforms, especially in 2025, with a focus on simplification, fairness, and predictability. These reforms are aimed at easing the financial burden on taxpayers while ensuring more streamlined processes and increased tax compliance.

- **Body:**

The **Income Tax Act, 2025** introduces key changes such as the **exemption of income up to Rs. 12 lakh** from income tax, offering a significant relief to middle-class households. The introduction of a **unified "Tax Year"** system further simplifies tax filing, reducing ambiguity between **Assessment Year** and **Previous Year**. Additionally, the reforms focus on **faceless tax administration** to reduce human interaction and increase transparency. The Government has also incorporated **digital-first enforcement** mechanisms, aiming for better monitoring and compliance.

These changes align with India's broader economic reforms designed to simplify processes, encourage savings and investments, and reduce the administrative burden on both the Government and taxpayers. Simplified tax laws increase taxpayer confidence and promote greater participation in the formal economy.

- **Conclusion:**

Income tax reforms play a crucial role in India's vision for a **simpler, transparent, and predictable** economic environment. By providing relief to individuals and businesses while improving tax administration, these reforms contribute to the nation's long-term economic resilience and growth.

Advanced UPSC Mains Question

2. Analyze the implications of labour law reforms, especially the consolidation of 29 laws into four labour codes, on India's workforce and business environment.

✓ Answer Framework:

- **Introduction:**

In 2020, India initiated a comprehensive reform of its labour laws by consolidating **29 laws** into **four Labour Codes**. These reforms are a critical step in improving India's business environment while ensuring the protection of workers' rights. They reflect the Government's commitment to **ease of doing business** while addressing long-standing labour issues.

- **Body:**

The four **Labour Codes**—the **Code on Wages**, **Industrial Relations Code**, **Code on Social Security**, and **Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code**—bring about significant changes. The **Code on Wages** simplifies the wage structure and ensures a uniform definition of wages across all sectors, benefiting workers with better income security. The **Industrial Relations Code** addresses **labour disputes**, simplifying the process for dispute resolution, which is expected to improve industrial harmony and productivity.

The **Social Security Code** extends coverage to the **gig and platform workers**, ensuring social security benefits for all workers, including those in the informal sector. The **Occupational Safety Code** ensures improved working conditions, with a focus on **women's rights, safety, and health** at the workplace. These reforms create a **business-friendly regulatory environment** that simplifies compliance and reduces the burden on employers, encouraging **investment and job creation**.

However, critics argue that these reforms could potentially weaken **workers' bargaining power**, especially in the case of informal sector workers, and may lead to **increased exploitation** if not implemented correctly.

- **Conclusion:**

The labour law reforms have far-reaching implications for India's workforce and business ecosystem. While they promise improved **workplace safety, wage security, and ease of compliance**, there is a need for careful implementation to balance the protection of

workers' rights with the need for **economic growth**. These reforms could act as a foundation for a more resilient and future-ready labour market, but it is crucial that they empower all workers, particularly those in vulnerable and informal sectors.

3. "The economic reforms introduced in India in 2025 mark a significant shift from regulatory expansion to delivering measurable outcomes. Analyze the key reforms in taxation, labour, and rural employment and evaluate their impact on India's economic resilience and long-term growth."

✓ **Answer Framework:**

- **Introduction:**

India's economic reforms in 2025 reflect a **maturing governance phase**, focusing on measurable **outcomes** rather than merely expanding regulatory frameworks. With a vision to ensure **inclusive growth** and **ease of doing business**, the government has streamlined **taxation, labour regulations, and rural employment**. These reforms aim to enhance **economic predictability, support MSMEs, and bolster India's global competitiveness**.

- **Body:**

The **income tax reforms** introduced in 2025 offer significant **relief** to taxpayers, with **income up to Rs. 12 lakh** exempted from taxes. This reform provides higher disposable income, boosting **consumption and investment**. The overhaul of the **Income Tax Act, 1961** aims to simplify taxation laws and reduce **ambiguity**, making them more accessible and transparent for taxpayers.

The **labour reforms**, particularly the consolidation of **29 labour laws into four Labour Codes**, promote a **simplified compliance structure**, while enhancing **wage security, social protection, and workplace safety**. These reforms expand the social safety net to include **gig workers, migrant workers, and women workers**, ensuring comprehensive **economic security** for the workforce. The **occupational safety and health codes** create a **business-friendly environment**, attracting more investment.

Rural employment reforms, encapsulated in the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission**, extend **125 days of wage employment** per rural household annually, replacing **MGNREGA** with a modern, **statutory framework**. This promotes **sustainable development** by focusing on **asset creation** like **water security, climate resilience, and rural infrastructure**.

- **Conclusion:**

India's 2025 economic reforms focus on **outcome-driven governance** that addresses **business growth and worker welfare** simultaneously. These reforms aim to **streamline compliance, improve transparency, and empower marginalized sectors**. The comprehensive changes in **taxation, labour laws, and rural employment** promise to strengthen India's **economic resilience**, positioning the country for **sustained growth**. By simplifying systems and ensuring **predictability**, these reforms create an environment conducive to **inclusive progress and global competitiveness**.

UPSC INTERVIEW



UPSC Interview-Based Questions

1. How do you view the impact of India's new income tax reforms on the middle class?

✓ **Answer:**

The **income tax reforms** in India, especially the **exemption of income up to Rs. 12 lakh**, will significantly benefit the **middle class**. This move increases their **disposable income**, boosting **consumption** and **savings**. It also simplifies the tax structure, making it more **transparent** and **predictable**, thus fostering greater **compliance**. Ultimately, it reflects the government's commitment to creating a **growth-oriented tax environment**.

2. What is the significance of the consolidation of 29 labour laws into four Labour Codes?

✓ **Answer:**

The consolidation of 29 labour laws into **four Labour Codes** simplifies and **streamlines compliance** for businesses while ensuring better **protection of workers' rights**. It provides a unified framework, enhancing **wage security**, **social protection**, and **workplace safety** for workers across all sectors, including **gig and platform workers**. These reforms make India's labour market more **business-friendly** and future-ready. Additionally, they ensure a **balanced approach** between **worker welfare** and **economic growth**.

3. How will rural employment reforms under the Viksit Bharat Act 2025 help rural India?

✓ **Answer:**

The **Viksit Bharat Act 2025** extends the **employment guarantee** to 125 days per rural household, providing **livelihood security**. It also integrates **agriculture** and **rural employment**, ensuring timely wages and creating **sustainable public assets** like **water security** and **rural infrastructure**. Through **decentralized planning**, the Act encourages **participatory governance**, empowering **Gram Panchayats** to drive local development. These reforms aim to **reduce rural poverty** and enhance **economic opportunities** for rural communities.

4. In your opinion, how do GST reforms contribute to India's business environment?

✓ **Answer:**

The **GST reforms** simplify the tax structure by reducing the number of tax slabs, making it **easier** for businesses to comply, especially for **MSMEs**. The introduction of a **two-slab system** and **simpler rates** enhances **efficiency** and **transparency**. These changes reduce **compliance costs** and provide **predictability** for businesses. Furthermore, the **wider tax base** helps improve **revenue stability**, ensuring a **growth-oriented business ecosystem**.

5. What role do export promotion reforms play in enhancing India's global competitiveness?

✓ **Answer:**

The **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**, with its focus on **affordable trade finance**, **market access**, and **compliance support**, empowers **MSMEs** and **first-time exporters**. By improving **export readiness** and integrating financial and non-financial enablers, the mission enhances India's **export ecosystem**. It will also improve **exports from non-traditional sectors**, creating **employment** and boosting **manufacturing**. Ultimately, these reforms position India for **sustained and globally competitive growth**.