

ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

News: "Is private investment expected to rise?"

Context: Govt. providing a tax stimulus through income tax breaks to boost consumer spending and the RBI cutting interest rates for the first time in nearly five years, Finance Minister on Saturday said Minister was quite optimistic of the tide turning on private investments in the months to come.

About Private Investments:

- Private investment is the **expenditure made by individuals, businesses, and corporations** to generate profits and expand business operations.
- **What determines the private investment:**
 - Money deposited as **savings in banks by ordinary citizens** is **loaned out by banks to fund large-scale investments and rate at which loans are created by the banking system.**
 - **Heathy bank credit growth drives private sector investment higher.**
- Bank credit growth averaged about **22%** between 2005 and 2014 when economic growth was high, and **dropped around 9%** between 2014 and 2021 when the economy began to slow down— **RBI Report 2023.**
- **This resulted as downward trajectory of private investment for more than a decade,** showed further signs of weakening in the latest quarter.

Factors to attract Private Investments:

- **Rising Incomes:** Boosts demand for housing, retail, and services. Budget 2025-26 Tax free income up to Rs.12 lakhs.
- **Corporate Tax Cuts:** Slashed to 22% for domestic firms and 15% for new manufacturing units.
- **Stable Government Policies:** Predictable taxation, labor laws, and land acquisition policies.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Faster clearances, reduced bureaucratic delays.
- **FDI Reforms:** 100% FDI in sectors like telecom, defence manufacturing (under automatic route).

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ART & CULTURE

PRE-CONTEXT

NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 7.

News: "₹500-crore fund gives autonomy for National Mission on Manuscripts".

National Mission for Manuscripts

- Est. in February 2003, by the **Ministry of Tourism and Culture.**
- **Central Sector Scheme** (wholly sponsored and implemented by the Central agencies.).
- Mission seeks to **unearth and preserve** the vast manuscript wealth of India. **India possesses an estimate of ten million manuscripts,** probably the **largest collection in the world.**
- These cover a **variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations and illustrations.**
- Under NMM stated that till date, **metadata for 52 lakh manuscripts has been prepared** and **roughly over 3 lakh titles have been digitised.**

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PRE-CONTEXT

CHABAHAR PORT

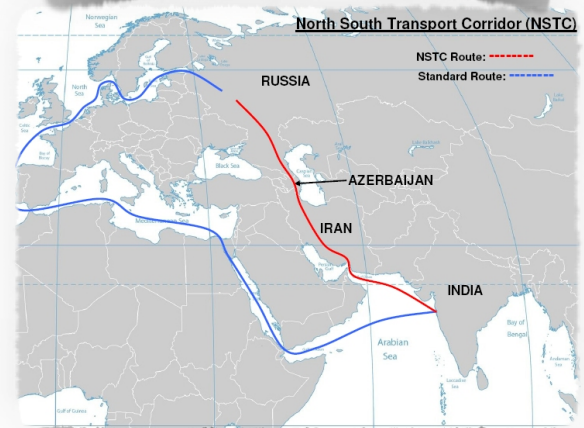
THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Port of contention."

About Chabahar Port:

- **Located in southeastern Iran** (Sistan and Baluchestan province).
- Tiny warm-water port Chabahar is Iran's **only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman.**
- **Provides direct access to the Indian Ocean, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz** a crucial chokepoint in global energy trade.
- India's first international port, Chabahar is seen as a **gateway for India to reach Afghanistan and Central Asia.**
 - **Connecting Afghanistan:**
 - Port development plan includes invest in a rail line connecting Chabahar to the Afghan border, construction of the **Zaranj-Delaram highway in 2009,** that could take Indian goods around the country.
 - **Connecting Central Asia:**
 - India wanted to connect its Chabahar Port to the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** so as to trade with Central Asia and Russia.
- **Counterbalance to Gwadar** (developed by Chinese assistance in Pakistan).

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PRE-CONTEXT

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Tribunal at the receiving end"

Context: February 6, 2025, U.S. President signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC).

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- **Establishment:** by Rome Statute in 2002.
- **Headquarters:** Hague, Netherlands.
- World leaders had increasingly pushed for its creation in the wake of the **Yugoslav wars and the Rwandan Genocide**.
- **It can only deal with crimes committed after 1 July 2002**, when the Rome Statute - which established the court - came into force.
- The **ICC has no police force of its own** to track down and arrest suspects. It must rely on national police services.
- **Jurisdiction (4 major crimes):** Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes, Crimes of Aggression.
- **Cannot try cases of non members of ICC unless case is referred by United Nations Security Council (UNSC).**
- **It didn't recognize nuclear weapons** and other mass destruction weapons as crimes.
- **It also didn't recognize terrorism** as a punishable crime against humanity.
- **India is "not" a member of ICC, Israel, US, China, Pakistan are non members too.**

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Thank you!