



PadhAI



Kurukshetra

May 2026

Edition



Welcome to PadhAI

KURUKSHETRA MONTHLY COVERAGE

You are here because you understand a fundamental truth of UPSC preparation: ***it's not about reading everything – it's about reading what truly matters, in the right way, at the right time.***

Magazines like Kurukshetra offer deep insights into rural development, governance, social schemes, and grassroots policy implementation. Yet for many aspirants, the challenge lies in separating exam-relevant content from general narratives.

PadhAI's Kurukshetra coverage is designed to do exactly that - ***filter, structure, and align policy discussions with UPSC requirements.***

Why This Kurukshetra Coverage Matters

At PadhAI, we don't reproduce articles. We ***extract core themes***, map them with the syllabus, and connect them with ***Prelims and Mains PYQs***.

Every topic included here:

- carries relevance for ***GS Papers or Essay***,
- strengthens understanding of ***developmental and governance issues, and***
- builds ***analytical depth*** rather than surface-level knowledge.

Nothing is added for volume.

Everything is added for value.

Part of the PadhAI Preparation Ecosystem

This Kurukshetra coverage forms part of a larger, integrated learning system that includes:

- early and concise ***monthly magazines***,
- ***daily PIB summaries*** with exam-focused clarity,
- ***monthly compliance tracking***,
- complete ***Prelims & Mains PYQs with structured answers***,
- relevant ***news article summaries***, and
- ***personal tutor chat support*** for continuous guidance.

The aim is simple:

one trusted ecosystem instead of multiple scattered sources.

Our Guiding Philosophy

At PadhAI, everything is built around one belief:

- *Learn only what matters.*
- *Learn it the right way.*
- *Learn it at the right time.*

We don't believe in shortcuts.

We believe in clarity, consistency, and cumulative preparation.

A Final Note

UPSC preparation is demanding and often overwhelming.

PadhAI exists to ensure you prepare with ***direction, relevance, and confidence*** — never blindly, never alone.

If this [Kurukshetra](#) coverage helps you save time, connect policy with practice, and strengthen your answers, then it has served its purpose.

Welcome to PadhAI.

A community built to prepare — not to overwhelm.

Topic 1: Nurturing Young Minds for India's Future



Summary: Advancing a sustainable "Viksit Bharat" requires fostering environmental awareness and responsibility in children from an early age. Through experiential learning and the support of schools and families, young minds can evolve into active leaders of environmental conservation.

Background: The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) emphasize integrating sustainability into the education system to cultivate responsible global citizens.

Key Points:

- **Early Awareness:** Habits formed in childhood, such as water conservation and waste minimization, persist through life.
- **Role of Schools:** Integrating sustainability into the curriculum and promoting experiential learning through Eco-Clubs and green campus initiatives like rainwater harvesting.
- **Youth-Led Initiatives:** Platforms like the "Green Rising Initiative" and "Fridays for Future India" empower youth to advocate for climate policy and lead grassroots actions like afforestation.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

- The **Green Rising Initiative** is a global youth-led platform supported by UNICEF and India's Ministry of Environment.
- **Article 51A(h)** of the Constitution (implied via scientific temper context) and the **National Environment Policy 2006** underline the necessity of using ecological resources judiciously.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which national policy envisions integrating traditional Indian knowledge systems and experiential learning to foster environmental consciousness? A) National Environment Policy 2006 B) National Education Policy 2020 C) NAPCC 2021 D) Samagra Shiksha Guidelines **Answer: B**

Topic 2: Empowering SHGs for Green Action

WOMEN-LED CLIMATE ACTION: DRIVING INDIA'S GREEN LIVELIHOODS

THE SCALE OF EMPOWERMENT

A 100-MILLION-STRONG GREEN WORKFORCE
Over 13.4 million SHGs form a massive grassroots network for climate action.

9 LAKH COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS

- KRISHI SAKHIS** (Illustrated with a woman reading a book)
- PASHU SAKHIS** (Illustrated with a woman and a cow)

QUICK-REFERENCE SHG MILESTONES	
FEATURE	DETAIL
MEMBERSHIP	100 Million+ Women
EXPERT NETWORK	900,000 Krishi & Pashu Sakhis

THE DAY-NRLM CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION
Shifting traditional livelihoods toward sustainable, closed-loop systems for long-term environmental impact.

GREEN LIVELIHOODS IN ACTION

WASTE TO WEALTH: THE ODISHA MODEL
Leaders like Kamala Moharana and Ma Thanapati SHG convert plastic into handicrafts.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE
Scaling organic farming techniques and the use of climate resilient seed varieties.

CLEAN ENERGY & TECH MANAGEMENT
SHG members are increasingly managing solar mini-grids and high-tech green infrastructure.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q: Which framework is Kerala's SHG model?
A: Kudumbashree

NotebookLM

Summary: With over 100 million members, SHGs are uniquely positioned as effective platforms for community-led climate action and green livelihoods. They bridge the gap between financial access and women-led entrepreneurship in areas like organic farming and waste-to-wealth initiatives.

Background: Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), SHGs have transitioned from simple savings groups to drivers of a circular economy and local climate resilience.

Key Points:

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** SHGs promote organic farming, integrated farming systems (IFS), and the use of climate-resilient seeds.
- **Waste to Wealth:** Successful models like Odisha's **Ma Thanapati SHG** recycle plastic waste into value-added products like baskets and decorative items.
- **Community Cadres:** A network of over 9 lakh Community Resource Persons (CRPs), including **Krishi Sakhis** and **Pashu Sakhis**, provides technical mentoring for green livelihoods.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

- There are currently over **13.4 million SHGs** with nearly 100 million active members in India.
- **Ms. Kamala Moharana**, leader of Ma Thanapati SHG, received national recognition in 'Mann Ki Baat' for plastic recycling.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which state model is specifically recognized for women-led waste management enterprises and organic farming through the "Kudumbashree" framework? A) Odisha B) Jharkhand C) Kerala D) Andhra Pradesh **Answer: C**

Topic 3: Green Growth in Villages: Turning Policies into Realities



Summary: India's green transition is increasingly anchored in rural transformation through the convergence of schemes like VB-GRAM-G, JJM, and PM-KUSUM. Effective implementation depends on strong local institutions (Panchayats) and community ownership of sustainable infrastructure.

Background: India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets a 45% reduction in GHG emission intensity by 2030, requiring rural sectors to achieve energy and agricultural shifts.

Key Points:

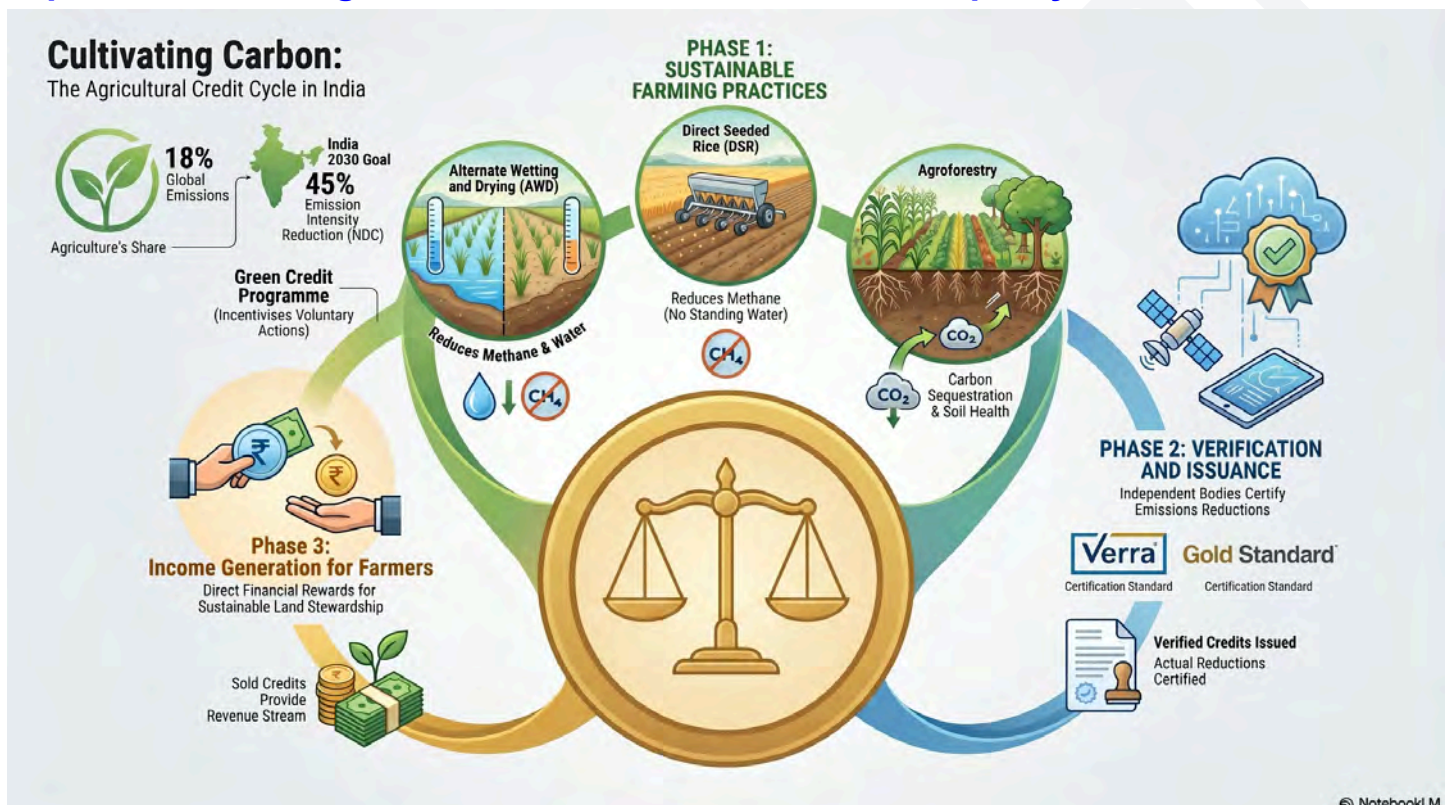
- **Institutional Innovation:** Tamil Nadu's **Green Fellowship Programme** deploys trained fellows at the district level to translate climate policies into local action.
- **Organic Landmark:** Sikkim became the world's first fully organic state in 2016, providing a roadmap for the **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**.
- **Decentralized Energy:** The **PM-KUSUM** scheme in states like Gujarat allows farmers to use solar pumps for irrigation and sell surplus power to the grid.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

- India reached **51.93% non-fossil installed capacity** in 2025, ahead of its 2030 NDC objective.
- The **Sikkim Organic Mission** was recognized with the UN Future Policy Gold Award in 2018.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which mission focuses on achieving a "Clean and Green Village" through integrated planning at the Gram Panchayat level? A) Jal Jeevan Mission B) GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) C) GOBARdhan D) NMNF **Answer: B**

Topic 4: Harnessing Carbon Markets for Farmer's Prosperity



Summary: The global Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) offers Indian farmers financial incentives for adopting climate-smart practices like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) and agroforestry. Integrating farmers into these markets promotes rural income generation while mitigating GHG emissions.

Background: Agriculture contributes ~18% of global carbon emissions, primarily from enteric fermentation in livestock (53%) and traditional rice cultivation (17%).

Key Points:

- **Climate-Smart Rice:** Techniques like **Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)** and **DSR** reduce methane emissions and cut water usage by 15-20%.
- **Agroforestry Potential:** Integrating trees with crops enhances carbon sequestration; poplar-based systems in Punjab and Haryana have stored millions of tonnes of CO2 equivalent.
- **Policy Support:** The **Green Credit Programme** issues credits for environmentally positive actions like tree plantation on degraded lands.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

- **One Carbon Credit** represents the removal or avoidance of **one metric tonne of CO2** equivalent.
- **Verra (VCS)** and **Gold Standard** are the leading global verification standards for carbon offset projects.

MCQ Practice: Q. What is the primary source of carbon emissions within the agricultural sector, accounting for nearly 53% of its total emissions? A) Rice cultivation B) Use of chemical fertilizers C) Enteric fermentation in livestock D) Burning agricultural residues **Answer: C**

Topic 5: Community-led Water Management

Empowering Rural India: Navigating the Water-Energy Nexus through Local Governance

EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

REDUCED POWER SUBSIDY

SURPLUS FOR PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT

THE WATER-ENERGY NEXUS & INFRASTRUCTURE

94.7% GROUNDWATER DEPENDENCY
 Nearly all Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes are groundwater-based, driving significant agricultural electricity consumption.

23.14 MILLION MI SCHEMES
 The Sixth Minor Irrigation Census confirms the massive scale of decentralized water infrastructure.

~70,000 REJUVENATED PONDS
 Approximately 70,000 ponds have been rejuvenated to sustain vital rural water storage across India.

MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

THE NEXUS LOGIC:
 Efficient irrigation reduces power subsidies, creating a surplus for productive community investments.

GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL EMPOWERMENT

THE 73RD AMENDMENT
 This constitutional landmark empowered PRIs to manage watershed development and minor irrigation responsibilities.

60% EARMARKED GRANTS
 The 15th Finance Commission dedicated 60% of PRI grants to drinking water and rainwater harvesting.

NotebookLM

Summary: Conventional top-down water governance is shifting toward resilient community-led models through PRIs and **Water Users Associations (WUAs)**. By linking water with energy and livelihoods, villages can ensure long-term resource security.

Background: Minor irrigation and water management are included in the **Eleventh Schedule** of the Constitution as responsibilities of PRIs.

Key Points:

- **Infrastructure Rejuvenation: Mission Amrit Sarovar** has successfully rejuvenated ~70,000 ponds across India to sustain rural water storage.
- **Water-Energy Nexus:** 94.7% of Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes are groundwater-based, leading to rising electricity consumption in the agricultural sector.
- **Institutional Framework:** The **Fifteenth Finance Commission** earmarked 60% of grants to PRIs for priorities like drinking water and rainwater harvesting.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

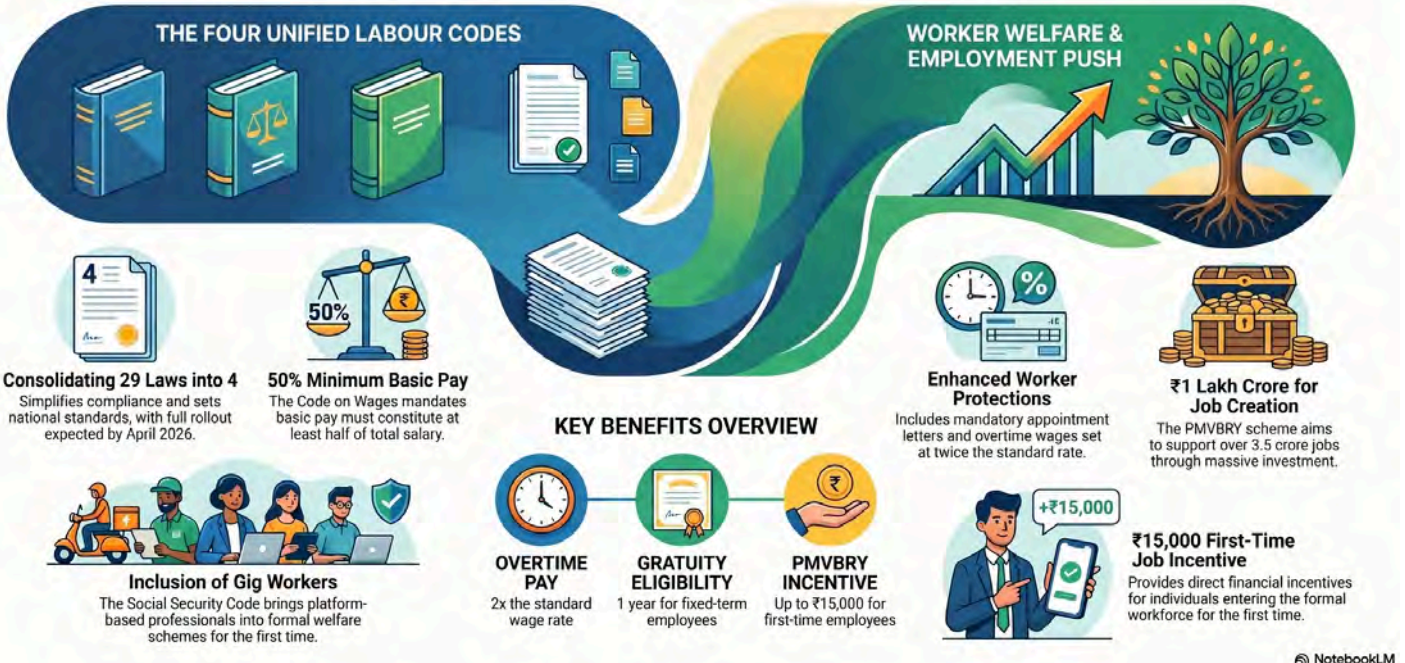
- Approximately **73% of India's large dams** were constructed before 1990, leading to significant siltation concerns.
- The **Sixth Minor Irrigation Census** recorded 23.14 million MI schemes in India.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which constitutional amendment empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to manage subjects like watershed development and minor irrigation? A) 42nd Amendment B) 73rd Amendment C) 86th Amendment D) 91st Amendment **Answer: B**

Topic 6: India's Comprehensive Empowerment Model for Workers

India's Labour Revolution: Unified Codes & Employment Growth

Consolidating India's labor laws and the PMVBRY scheme for workforce formalization and job creation



Summary: India is transforming its labour landscape by consolidating 29 laws into four unified **Labour Codes** to bring informal and gig workers into the formal economic framework. The **PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana** further incentivizes job creation and youth employability.

Background: The new reforms, fully rolling out by April 2026, aim to simplify compliance and ensure minimum national standards for all workers.

Key Points:

- **Unified Framework:** The **Code on Wages (2019)** ensures a statutory minimum wage for all sectors, and the **Code on Social Security (2020)** expands benefits to gig workers.
- **Worker Welfare:** Mandatory appointment letters, overtime wages at twice the standard rate, and gratuity eligibility after one year for fixed-term employees.
- **Employment Push:** The **PMVBRY (2025)** aims to support over 3.5 crore jobs with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

- The **Code on Wages 2019** mandates that basic pay must constitute at least **50% of total salary**.
- The **PMVBRY** provides incentives of up to **₹15,000** for first-time employees.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which new code for the first time brings gig workers and platform-based professionals within the ambit of social security schemes? A) Code on Wages B) Industrial Relations Code C) Code on Social Security D) OSH Code **Answer: C**

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