



Daily PIB Summary

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1. ETHANOL BLENDING IN INDIA



- The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme promotes blending ethanol with petrol to reduce dependence on imported crude oil.
- Ethanol blending lowers greenhouse gas emissions and supports India's clean energy transition.
- The programme provides an additional source of income for farmers by creating demand for agricultural feedstocks such as sugarcane and food grains.
- Expansion of ethanol production strengthens rural industries, employment, and biofuel infrastructure.
- The initiative improves energy security while reducing the country's import bill.
- It supports the objectives of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by encouraging domestic biofuel production.
- Ethanol blending also contributes to achieving India's climate and sustainable development commitments.
- Continued investments in feedstock diversification and second-generation biofuels will further strengthen the programme.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ethanol

- Ethanol (C_2H_5OH) is a renewable biofuel produced through the fermentation of sugar- and starch-rich feedstocks.

- Common feedstocks include:
 - Sugarcane juice.
 - Molasses.
 - Damaged food grains.
 - Maize.

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

- Launched in **2003**.
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.
- Objective:
 - Blend ethanol with petrol.
 - Reduce fossil fuel dependence.
 - Lower emissions.
 - Improve farmer incomes.

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

- Promotes production and use of biofuels.
- Encourages:
 - Feedstock diversification.
 - Advanced biofuels.
 - Second-Generation (2G) ethanol.
 - Circular economy.

Types of Ethanol

- **1G (First-Generation) Ethanol:** Produced from sugar and starch-based crops.
- **2G (Second-Generation) Ethanol:** Produced from agricultural residues and lignocellulosic biomass.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Programme:** Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP).
- **Launch Year:** 2003.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Objective:** Reduce crude oil imports through ethanol blending.
- **Economic Significance:** Enhances farmer income and reduces foreign exchange outflow.
- **Environmental Impact:** Reduces greenhouse gas and vehicular emissions.



- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthens energy security and domestic biofuel production.
- **Challenges:** Feedstock availability, water-intensive crops, logistics, storage infrastructure, and pricing.
- **Way Forward:** Promote second-generation ethanol, diversify feedstocks, improve bio-refinery infrastructure, encourage flex-fuel vehicles, and strengthen sustainable biofuel production.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ethanol:** Renewable biofuel with chemical formula C_2H_5OH .
- **EBP Programme:** Launched in **2003**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- **National Policy on Biofuels: 2018.**
- **1G Ethanol:** Produced from sugarcane, molasses, maize, and other food crops.
- **2G Ethanol:** Produced from agricultural residues such as rice straw and bagasse.
- **Flex-Fuel Vehicle (FFV):** Vehicle capable of operating on varying blends of petrol and ethanol.
- **Bagasse:** Fibrous residue left after extraction of juice from sugarcane.
- **Biofuel:** Fuel produced from biological materials such as plants and agricultural waste.
- **Energy Security:** Reliable, affordable, and sustainable availability of energy resources.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme was launched in 2003.
2. Second-generation (2G) ethanol is produced mainly from agricultural residues and lignocellulosic biomass.
3. The National Policy on Biofuels was notified in 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

2. INDIA TO CHAIR UNCTAD'S NINTH SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION



- India's chairmanship reflects international recognition of its consumer protection framework and regulatory experience.
- The Intergovernmental Group of Experts serves as a global platform for dialogue on consumer protection laws, policies, and best practices.
- Discussions are expected to focus on digital markets, e-commerce, cross-border consumer protection, and emerging technological challenges.
- India's leadership provides an opportunity to contribute to global norms on fair trade, consumer rights, and market transparency.
- The development strengthens India's role in international economic governance and multilateral cooperation.



- Effective consumer protection enhances market confidence, promotes fair competition, and safeguards consumer welfare.
- The chairmanship also supports India's vision of building transparent, inclusive, and digitally secure markets.
- It reinforces India's commitment to strengthening global cooperation in consumer protection.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

UNCTAD

- I. **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.**
- II. Established in **1964**.
- III. Headquarters: **Geneva**.
- IV. Promotes:
 - A. Inclusive trade.
 - B. Sustainable development.
 - C. Investment.
 - D. Technology.
 - E. Consumer protection.
 - F. Competition policy.

Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection

- I. Subsidiary body under UNCTAD.
- II. Provides a platform for:
 - A. Exchange of best practices.
 - B. Policy discussions.
 - C. Capacity building.
 - D. International cooperation on consumer protection.

Consumer Protection in India

- I. Governed by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- II. Key features:
 - A. Consumer rights protection.
 - B. Product liability.
 - C. Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions.

- D. Regulation of unfair trade practices.
- E. Consumer Protection Authority.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- I. Established under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- II. Functions:
 - A. Protect consumer rights.
 - B. Prevent unfair trade practices.
 - C. Regulate misleading advertisements.
 - D. Order product recalls where necessary.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** Ninth Session of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection.
- **Chair:** India.
- **Institution:** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- **Focus Areas:** Consumer protection, digital markets, e-commerce, and international cooperation.
- **Strategic Significance:** Enhances India's leadership in global economic governance.
- **Governance Impact:** Promotes transparent markets and stronger consumer rights.
- **Challenges:** Cross-border e-commerce disputes, digital fraud, misleading advertisements, and data privacy.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen international cooperation, improve digital consumer protection frameworks, enhance awareness, and promote fair and transparent markets.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **UNCTAD:** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- **Established:** 1964.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva.
- **Consumer Protection Act:** 2019.
- **CCPA:** Central Consumer Protection Authority.

- **Consumer Rights:** Right to safety, information, choice, hearing, redressal, and consumer education.
- **Product Liability:** Responsibility of manufacturers, sellers, or service providers for harm caused by defective products.
- **Unfair Trade Practice:** Deceptive or misleading business practice affecting consumers.
- **E-commerce:** Buying and selling of goods or services through electronic networks.
- **Competition Policy:** Framework to promote fair competition and prevent anti-competitive practices.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. UNCTAD was established in 1964 and is headquartered in Geneva.
2. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
3. Product liability under the Consumer Protection Act relates to the responsibility for harm caused by defective products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

3. GOVERNMENT SECURES FUTURE OF NEARLY 65,000 ERSTWHILE ORDNANCE FACTORY EMPLOYEES THROUGH REDEPLOYMENT INTO REGULAR GOVERNMENT SERVICE



- The redeployment is part of the Government's defence production reforms initiated through the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board.
- Employees have been absorbed into regular government service while supporting the functioning of the newly created Defence Public Sector Undertakings.
- Corporatisation aims to improve operational efficiency, competitiveness, accountability, and technological modernization of defence manufacturing.
- The reform is expected to enhance indigenous production of defence equipment and reduce import dependence.
- Protecting employee service conditions has facilitated a smoother transition during institutional restructuring.
- The initiative supports the objectives of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by strengthening India's domestic defence industrial base.
- Improved efficiency in defence manufacturing contributes to national security and export competitiveness.

- The reform represents a significant step towards transforming India's defence production ecosystem.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

- Established in **1979** under the **Department of Defence Production**, Ministry of Defence.
- Managed a network of ordnance factories manufacturing:
 - Weapons.
 - Ammunition.
 - Military vehicles.
 - Combat equipment.
 - Clothing and other defence stores.

Corporatisation of OFB

- Effective from **1 October 2021**.
- OFB was dissolved and its production units were reorganized into **seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**.
- Objectives:
 - Improve efficiency.
 - Enhance competitiveness.
 - Increase operational autonomy.
 - Promote innovation.
 - Strengthen defence exports.

Seven DPSUs

- **Munitions India Limited (MIL)**
- **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)**
- **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL)**
- **Troop Comforts Limited (TCL)**
- **Yantra India Limited (YIL)**
- **India Optel Limited (IOL)**
- **Gliders India Limited (GIL)**

Defence Indigenisation

- Focuses on:
 - Domestic defence manufacturing.
 - Import substitution.

- Technology development.
- Defence exports.
- Strategic self-reliance.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reform:** Redeployment of nearly 65,000 erstwhile OFB employees into Regular Government Service.
- **Institutional Change:** Corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board into seven DPSUs.
- **Objective:** Improve efficiency, competitiveness, and indigenous defence production.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens defence self-reliance and national security.
- **Economic Impact:** Promotes modernization, innovation, and defence exports.
- **Governance Impact:** Ensures employee welfare while implementing structural reforms.
- **Challenges:** Technology upgradation, global competition, modernization, and productivity enhancement.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen R&D, encourage private sector participation, expand defence exports, modernize production facilities, and enhance workforce skill development.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB):** Corporatised on **1 October 2021**.
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Defence.
- **Department:** Department of Defence Production.
- **Number of DPSUs Created: 7.**
- **Munitions India Limited (MIL):** Manufactures ammunition and explosives.
- **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL):** Manufactures armoured and combat vehicles.
- **Yantra India Limited (YIL):** Produces forgings, castings, and engineering components.
- **Defence Indigenisation:** Promotion of domestic production of defence equipment.

- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** Initiative to strengthen self-reliance across strategic sectors, including defence.
- **Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU):** Government-owned enterprise engaged in defence production.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was corporatised into seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings on 1 October 2021.
2. The Department of Defence Production functions under the Ministry of Defence.
3. Defence indigenisation aims to enhance domestic manufacturing capability and reduce dependence on imports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

4. INDIA TO HOST BRICS WOMEN WORKING GROUP MEETING IN KOCHI FROM 6–7 JULY 2026



- The BRICS Women Working Group serves as a platform for promoting gender-inclusive

development and women's economic participation.

- The meeting will facilitate exchange of best practices on women entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, financial inclusion, and skill development.
- It seeks to enhance cooperation among BRICS members in advancing women-led growth and sustainable development.
- Discussions are expected to focus on strengthening women's participation in emerging sectors, including technology and innovation.
- The initiative aligns with India's emphasis on women-led development as a driver of inclusive economic growth.
- International cooperation under BRICS enhances knowledge sharing and capacity building on gender-responsive policies.
- The meeting also strengthens India's role in shaping global discussions on gender equality and inclusive development.
- It reinforces the importance of women's empowerment in achieving sustainable and equitable growth.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

BRICS

- I. Intergovernmental grouping comprising:
 - A. Brazil.
 - B. Russia.
 - C. India.
 - D. China.
 - E. South Africa.
 - F. Egypt.
 - G. Ethiopia.
 - H. Iran.
 - I. Saudi Arabia.
 - J. United Arab Emirates.
 - K. Indonesia.
- II. Promotes cooperation in:

- A. Economic development.
- B. Trade.
- C. Finance.
- D. Innovation.
- E. Sustainable development.
- F. Global governance reforms.

BRICS Women Working Group (WWG)

- I. Platform for cooperation on:
 - A. Women entrepreneurship.
 - B. Financial inclusion.
 - C. Digital inclusion.
 - D. Leadership.
 - E. Skill development.
 - F. Innovation.

Women-Led Development

- I. Focuses on women as active contributors to economic growth and policymaking.
- II. Emphasizes:
 - A. Entrepreneurship.
 - B. Employment.
 - C. Education.
 - D. Leadership.
 - E. Digital empowerment.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5

- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** BRICS Women Working Group Meeting.
- **Host:** India.
- **Venue:** Kochi, Kerala.
- **Focus Areas:** Women entrepreneurship, innovation, digital inclusion, financial inclusion, and leadership.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens cooperation among BRICS members on women-led development.
- **Economic Impact:** Promotes inclusive growth, entrepreneurship, and workforce participation.

- **Governance Impact:** Encourages gender-responsive policymaking and international collaboration.
- **Way Forward:** Expand women's access to finance, strengthen digital and entrepreneurial skills, promote leadership opportunities, and deepen BRICS cooperation on gender-inclusive development.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **BRICS Members (2026):** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia.
- **BRICS:** Platform for cooperation among major emerging economies.
- **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Women-Led Development:** Development model where women are active drivers of economic and social transformation.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Access to affordable financial services for all sections of society.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Equitable access to digital technologies and digital literacy.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Creation and management of new business ventures.
- **Skill Development:** Enhancement of knowledge and competencies for employment and enterprise.
- **Gender Equality:** Equal rights, opportunities, and access to resources irrespective of gender.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Economic growth that benefits all sections of society.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 relates to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.
2. The BRICS Women Working Group promotes cooperation on women's entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and leadership.
3. India is one of the founding members of BRICS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

5. ICMR WINS GOLD AT NATIONAL AWARDS FOR E-GOVERNANCE 2026



- ICMR-MINDS is an AI-powered digital platform designed to assist frontline healthcare workers in screening and managing common mental health disorders.
- The platform enables standardized mental healthcare delivery, particularly in areas with limited access to mental health specialists.
- It leverages Artificial Intelligence to improve early identification, referral, and management of mental health conditions.
- The initiative strengthens digital health governance by integrating technology with primary healthcare services.
- Recognition under the National Awards for e-Governance highlights the growing role of AI in improving citizen-centric public service delivery.
- The platform supports India's efforts to bridge the mental healthcare treatment gap through technology-enabled interventions.

- It complements the objectives of Digital Health and technology-driven governance reforms.
- The initiative demonstrates the potential of AI in enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and quality of healthcare services.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

ICMR

- Apex body for biomedical research in India.
- Functions under the **Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Established in **1911**.

ICMR-MINDS

- National Health Research Priority project.
- AI-enabled platform supporting:
 - Mental health screening.
 - Risk assessment.
 - Standardized clinical decision support.
 - Referral and follow-up.
- Designed for use by frontline healthcare workers.

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- Instituted by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- Recognizes excellence in digital governance and citizen-centric public service delivery.
- Encourages innovation through emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and digital platforms.

Digital Health in India

- Promotes technology-enabled healthcare delivery.
- Focuses on:
 - Digital health records.
 - AI-assisted diagnosis.
 - Telemedicine.
 - Improved access to healthcare.
 - Efficient public health management.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Award:** Gold Award at National Awards for e-Governance 2026.
- **Awardee:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- **Project:** ICMR-MINDS.
- **Category:** Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services.
- **Technology:** Artificial Intelligence-enabled mental health screening and decision support.
- **Governance Impact:** Strengthens digital public healthcare delivery and citizen-centric services.
- **Health Significance:** Improves early detection and management of common mental health disorders.
- **Way Forward:** Expand AI-enabled mental healthcare, strengthen digital health infrastructure, enhance frontline worker capacity, and integrate technology with primary healthcare services.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ICMR:** Indian Council of Medical Research.
- **Established:** 1911.
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health Research).
- **ICMR-MINDS:** AI-enabled platform for screening and management of common mental health disorders.
- **NAeG:** National Awards for e-Governance.
- **Instituted By:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- **DARPG:** Functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Technology enabling machines to perform tasks requiring human intelligence.

- **Citizen-Centric Governance:** Public service delivery focused on accessibility, efficiency, and user needs.
- **Digital Health:** Use of digital technologies to improve healthcare delivery and public health outcomes.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) functions under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The National Awards for e-Governance are instituted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
3. ICMR-MINDS is an AI-enabled platform for screening and management of common mental health disorders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)