



Daily PIB Summary

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1. THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE INDIAN JUDICIARY



- The **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** has transformed India's paper-based judiciary into a digitally enabled justice system.
- Since **2014**, case filings and disposals have nearly tripled, with courts consistently disposing of more cases than those instituted.
- Over **753 crore pages** of court records have been digitised, improving efficiency and transparency.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

- **Launched:** 2007 under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
- **Implemented by:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, in association with the e-Committee of the Supreme Court.
- **Current Phase:** Phase III (2023–2027).

KEY FEATURES

Major Digital Initiatives

- **e-Filing** of cases.
- **Virtual Courts** for traffic challans and petty offences.

- **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** for real-time case statistics.
- **e-Sewa Kendras** to assist litigants.
- Video conferencing and digital case records.
- Paperless court ecosystem.

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

- Real-time dashboard of pending and disposed cases.
- Promotes transparency and evidence-based judicial administration.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Enhances **access to justice**.
- Reduces delays and improves case management.
- Promotes transparency and accountability.
- Supports the **Digital India** initiative.
- Reduces dependence on paper-based processes.

CHALLENGES

- Digital divide and uneven internet connectivity.
- Capacity building of judicial personnel.
- Cybersecurity and data privacy concerns.
- Infrastructure gaps in lower courts.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand digital infrastructure across all courts.
- Strengthen cybersecurity safeguards.
- Improve digital literacy among stakeholders.
- Integrate AI-based tools for judicial assistance while ensuring human oversight.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mission:** e-Courts Mission Mode Project.
- **Launch Year:** 2007.
- **Current Phase:** Phase III (2023–2027).
- **Digitised Records:** Over **753 crore pages**.
- **Key Platforms:** NJDG, e-Filing, Virtual Courts, e-Sewa Kendras.
- **Objective:** Faster, transparent, and accessible justice delivery.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

- A flagship project for digitising India's judiciary.
- Implemented by the **Department of Justice** with the **Supreme Court's e-Committee**.

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

- Provides real-time data on case pendency and disposal across courts.

e-Sewa Kendras

- Facilitate access to digital judicial services for litigants.

Virtual Courts

- Enable online adjudication of select categories of cases without physical court appearance.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Digital Transformation of the Indian Judiciary:

- The **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** was launched in 2007 under the National e-Governance Plan.
- The **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** provides real-time information on pending and disposed cases.
- e-Sewa Kendras** have been established to assist litigants in accessing digital court services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

2. PLI SCHEME FOR PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR



- The **PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals** was approved in **2021**.
- It aims to promote domestic manufacturing of **high-value medicines** and reduce import dependence.

- The scheme has attracted significant investment and generated employment in the pharmaceutical sector.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

Scheme for Pharmaceuticals

- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- Implementing Department:** Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- Launch Year:** 2021.
- Duration:** FY 2020–21 to FY 2028–29.

KEY FEATURES

- Incentivises production of:
 - Biopharmaceuticals.
 - Complex generic drugs.
 - Patented drugs/drugs nearing patent expiry.
 - Anti-cancer and autoimmune drugs.
- Promotes domestic manufacturing of **high-value pharmaceutical products**.
- Complements the **PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs**, which focuses on **APIs, Key Starting Materials (KSMs), and Drug Intermediates (DIs)**.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in pharmaceuticals.
- Reduces dependence on imported APIs and high-value medicines.
- Boosts investment, employment, and exports.
- Enhances India's position as the **"Pharmacy of the World."**

CHALLENGES

- Dependence on imported APIs for certain drugs.
- High capital investment requirements.
- Global competition and pricing pressures.
- Need for continuous R&D and innovation.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen domestic API manufacturing.
- Promote pharmaceutical R&D and innovation.
- Expand export competitiveness.



- Improve supply chain resilience through continued policy support.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scheme:** Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals.
- **Launch:** 2021.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- **Implementing Department:** Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- **Focus:** High-value medicines and domestic manufacturing.
- **Objective:** Investment, production, employment, and import substitution.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals

- Approved in **2021**.
- Promotes production of **high-value pharmaceutical products**.

PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs

- I. Focuses on domestic manufacturing of:
 - A. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).
 - B. Key Starting Materials (KSMs).
 - C. Drug Intermediates (DIs).

Department of Pharmaceuticals

- Functions under the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals**:

1. It aims to promote domestic manufacturing of high-value pharmaceutical products.
2. It is implemented by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
3. The scheme complements the PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs, which focuses on APIs, KSMs, and Drug Intermediates.

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)

3. HIGH ALTITUDE MEDICINAL PLANTS IN LADAKH



- Ladakh is rich in **high-altitude medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs)** used in traditional systems such as **Sowa-Rigpa** and Ayurveda.
- Government initiatives focus on **conservation, sustainable harvesting, cultivation, research, and livelihood generation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Medicinal Plants in Ladakh

- I. Grow in **cold desert and alpine ecosystems**.
- II. Adapted to extreme climatic conditions.
- III. Important for:
 - A. Traditional medicine.
 - B. Biodiversity conservation.
 - C. Local livelihoods.

Sowa-Rigpa

- Traditional system of medicine practised in the Himalayan region.
- Officially recognised under the **Ministry of AYUSH**.

KEY FEATURES

Major Medicinal Plants

- **Sea Buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides)**
- **Rhodiola**
- **Aconitum**
- **Arnebia euchroma**
- **Ephedra gerardiana**

Government Initiatives



- Conservation through **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)**.
- Promotion of cultivation and sustainable harvesting.
- Research and value addition under the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
- Capacity building and livelihood support for local communities.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Conserves Himalayan biodiversity.
- Supports traditional medicine systems.
- Generates livelihood opportunities for local communities.
- Promotes sustainable utilisation of biological resources.
- Strengthens India's medicinal plant sector.

CHALLENGES

- Climate change impacts.
- Overharvesting from the wild.
- Habitat degradation.
- Limited cultivation and processing infrastructure.

WAY FORWARD

- Promote scientific cultivation of medicinal plants.
- Strengthen community-based conservation.
- Enhance research and value addition.
- Develop sustainable market linkages.
- Improve documentation of traditional knowledge.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Region:** Ladakh.
- **Focus:** High-altitude medicinal and aromatic plants.
- **Traditional System:** Sowa-Rigpa.
- **Nodal Body:** National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).
- **Objectives:** Conservation, cultivation, sustainable utilisation, and livelihood generation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)

- **Established:** 2000.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of AYUSH.
- Promotes conservation, cultivation, and sustainable use of medicinal plants.

Sowa-Rigpa

- Traditional Tibetan system of medicine.
- Recognised under the **Ministry of AYUSH** in 2010.

Sea Buckthorn

- Rich in vitamins and antioxidants.
- Widely found in the cold desert regions of Ladakh.
- Used in food, nutraceuticals, and traditional medicine.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding high-altitude medicinal plants in Ladakh:

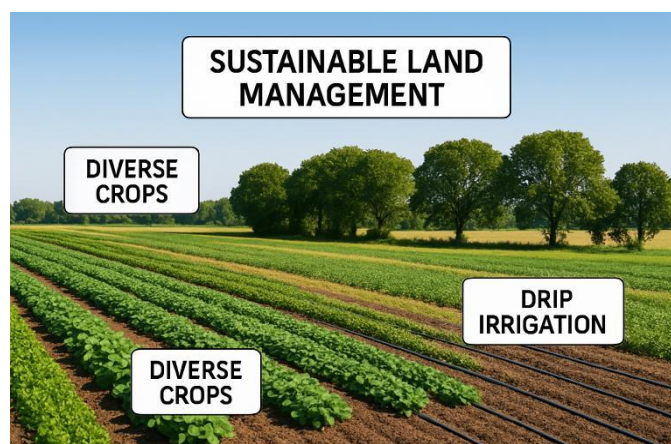
1. **Sowa-Rigpa** is a recognised traditional system of medicine under the Ministry of AYUSH.
2. The **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** functions under the Ministry of AYUSH.
3. **Sea Buckthorn** is one of the important medicinal plants found in Ladakh.

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)

4. AGRICULTURAL YIELD LOSSES DUE TO HUMAN-INDUCED LAND DEGRADATION





- India has **not conducted a direct assessment** of crop yield losses caused by land degradation.
- As per the **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (2021)**, **6.38 lakh hectares** were affected by **human-induced desertification and land degradation** (2018–19).

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Land Degradation

- I. Decline in the productive capacity of land due to:
 - A. Soil erosion
 - B. Salinisation
 - C. Waterlogging
 - D. Deforestation
 - E. Unsustainable agricultural practices
 - F. Mining and urbanisation

Desertification and Land Degradation

Atlas of India

- Published by the **Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO**.
- Maps the extent and status of land degradation across States and UTs.

KEY FEATURES

Major Causes

- Unsustainable farming practices.
- Overgrazing.
- Deforestation.
- Excessive use of chemicals.
- Improper irrigation leading to salinity.

Government Initiatives

- **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**.
- **Soil Health Card Scheme**.
- **Watershed Development Component (WDC-PMKSY)**.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Protects agricultural productivity.
- Ensures food security.
- Conserves soil and water resources.

- Supports climate-resilient agriculture.
- Enhances farmers' livelihoods.

CHALLENGES

- Soil erosion and nutrient depletion.
- Climate change impacts.
- Fragmented landholdings.
- Lack of sustainable land management practices.

WAY FORWARD

- Promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- Strengthen watershed management.
- Encourage soil conservation and afforestation.
- Improve monitoring using remote sensing and GIS.
- Expand scientific assessment of land degradation and its impact on crop productivity.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Atlas:** Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (2021).
- **Prepared by:** Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO.
- **Human-induced degraded land (2018–19):** **6.38 lakh hectares**.
- **Focus:** Sustainable land management and soil conservation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Desertification

- Land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions due to climatic variations and human activities.

Space Applications Centre (SAC)

- Constituent centre of **ISRO**.
- Headquarters: **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

Soil Health Card Scheme

- **Launched:** 2015.
- Provides farmers with soil nutrient status and fertilizer recommendations.

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

- One of the missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.

- Promotes climate-resilient and resource-efficient agriculture.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding land degradation in India:

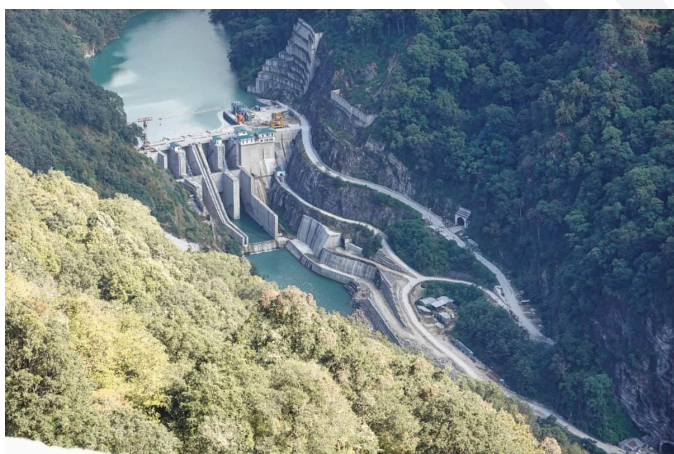
1. The **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India** is published by the **Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO**.
2. The **Soil Health Card Scheme** aims to improve soil fertility through scientific nutrient management.
3. **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** is a mission under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.

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. INDIA AND BHUTAN REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL POWER SECTOR COOPERATION



- Both countries reviewed progress in ongoing hydropower projects.
- Emphasis was laid on expanding **hydropower cooperation, cross-border power transmission**, and achieving the joint target of **20,000 MW hydropower capacity in Bhutan by 2040**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India–Bhutan Power Cooperation

- I. Hydropower is the cornerstone of India–Bhutan economic relations.
- II. India assists Bhutan in:
 - A. Hydropower project development.
 - B. Financing and technical support.
 - C. Power evacuation infrastructure.
- III. Bhutan exports surplus electricity to India.

KEY FEATURES

Areas of Cooperation

- Development of new hydropower projects.
- Cross-border electricity trade.
- Strengthening transmission connectivity.
- Cooperation in renewable energy and energy security.

Major Hydropower Projects

- Chukha Hydroelectric Project.
- Tala Hydroelectric Project.
- Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project.
- Punatsangchu-I & II Hydroelectric Projects.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Strengthens the India–Bhutan strategic partnership.
- Enhances regional energy security.
- Supports Bhutan's economy through hydropower exports.
- Promotes clean and renewable energy.
- Contributes to India's net-zero and clean energy goals.

CHALLENGES

- Delays in project implementation.
- High construction costs.
- Environmental and geological challenges.
- Climate-related risks to hydropower generation.

WAY FORWARD

- Fast-track ongoing hydropower projects.
- Expand cross-border transmission infrastructure.
- Diversify cooperation into solar and other renewable energy.



- Strengthen long-term energy partnership under regional connectivity initiatives.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Partner Countries:** India and Bhutan.
- **Focus:** Hydropower and power sector cooperation.
- **Joint Target:** **20,000 MW** hydropower capacity in Bhutan by **2040**.
- **Benefits:** Clean energy, regional connectivity, and economic cooperation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

India–Bhutan Hydropower

Cooperation

- Based on the **Inter-Governmental Model**.
- Bhutan exports surplus electricity to India.

Major India–Assisted Hydropower

Projects

- Chukha
- Tala
- Mangdechhu
- Punatsangchhu-I
- Punatsangchhu-II

Importance

- Hydropower is Bhutan's largest export sector.
- Supports India's renewable energy mix and regional power security.

PadhAI–GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding India–Bhutan power sector cooperation:

1. Hydropower forms the cornerstone of India–Bhutan economic cooperation.
2. Bhutan exports surplus hydropower to India.
3. India and Bhutan have set a joint target of developing **20,000 MW** of hydropower capacity in Bhutan by **2040**.

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)