



Daily PIB Summary

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1. STRENGTHENING INDIA'S TOY ECOSYSTEM



- India is promoting indigenous toy manufacturing by encouraging innovation, skill development, and investment in the toy sector.
- Mandatory quality standards have improved product safety and enhanced consumer confidence.
- The toy ecosystem supports MSMEs, artisans, startups, and traditional toy clusters, generating employment and preserving cultural heritage.
- Domestic manufacturing reduces import dependence and strengthens global competitiveness.

- Promotion of educational and eco-friendly toys contributes to child development and sustainable production.
- The initiatives enhance export potential and integrate Indian manufacturers into global value chains.
- Strengthening the toy industry supports inclusive economic growth and rural livelihoods.
- The reforms contribute to building a resilient and globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India's Toy Industry

- I. Comprises:
 - A. MSMEs.
 - B. Traditional artisans.
 - C. Handicraft clusters.
 - D. Modern manufacturing units.
- II. Produces:
 - A. Educational toys.
 - B. Wooden toys.
 - C. Soft toys.
 - D. Plastic toys.
 - E. Electronic toys.

National Action Plan for Toys

- I. Focuses on:
 - A. Quality manufacturing.
 - B. Innovation.
 - C. Skill development.
 - D. Cluster development.
 - E. Export promotion.
 - F. Promotion of indigenous toys.

Quality Control

- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** prescribes quality and safety standards for toys.
- Mandatory certification ensures consumer safety and product reliability.

Economic Significance

- Generates employment.
- Supports MSMEs and artisans.
- Encourages exports.
- Promotes local manufacturing.
- Preserves traditional craftsmanship.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Focus:** Strengthening India's toy manufacturing ecosystem.
- **Objective:** Promote indigenous production, quality, innovation, and exports.
- **Institutional Support:** Quality standards, skill development, and cluster-based manufacturing.
- **Economic Significance:** Employment generation, MSME growth, and export promotion.
- **Cultural Significance:** Preservation of traditional toy-making heritage.
- **Governance Impact:** Supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.
- **Challenges:** Global competition, technology adoption, branding, and supply chain development.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen R&D, expand toy clusters, enhance export competitiveness, encourage sustainable manufacturing, and improve global market access.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **BIS:** Bureau of Indian Standards.
- **BIS Act: 2016.**
- **Quality Control Order (QCO):** Mandates compliance with prescribed quality standards.
- **MSME:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** Initiative promoting self-reliance in strategic and manufacturing sectors.
- **Make in India:** Launched in **2014** to boost manufacturing and investment.

- **Toy Cluster:** Geographic concentration of toy manufacturing units and artisans.
- **Value Chain:** Activities involved in designing, manufacturing, marketing, and distributing products.
- **Export Competitiveness:** Ability to compete effectively in international markets.
- **Eco-friendly Toys:** Toys manufactured using sustainable and environmentally friendly materials.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) prescribes quality and safety standards for toys in India.
2. The BIS Act was enacted in 2016.
3. Strengthening the toy ecosystem contributes to MSME growth, employment generation, and export promotion.

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'S CIVILISATIONAL VALUES CONTINUE TO GUIDE HUMANITY: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

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- The Speaker emphasized that India's civilisational ethos is rooted in tolerance, pluralism, dialogue, and respect for diversity.



- Indian philosophical traditions advocate peaceful coexistence, harmony, and collective welfare.
- These values continue to shape India's democratic institutions, foreign policy, and development approach.
- India's cultural heritage strengthens its soft power and enhances its role in global diplomacy.
- Civilisational principles such as inclusiveness and sustainability remain relevant in addressing modern global challenges.
- The statement reflects India's vision of fostering international cooperation through shared human values.
- Promotion of cultural heritage also contributes to national identity and social cohesion.
- The remarks reinforce India's image as a civilization that values peace, dialogue, and universal welfare.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Civilisational Values

- Based on principles of:
 - Peace.
 - Non-violence.
 - Tolerance.
 - Pluralism.
 - Compassion.
 - Respect for diversity.
 - Harmony with nature.

Key Philosophical Concepts

- **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** – "The World is One Family."
- **Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah** – "May all beings be happy."
- **Ahimsa** – Principle of non-violence.
- **Dharma** – Ethical duty and righteous conduct.

India's Soft Power

- Includes:

- Yoga.
- Ayurveda.
- Buddhism.
- Cultural heritage.
- Democratic traditions.
- Literature and philosophy.

Constitutional Reflection

- Constitutional values such as justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, secularism, and dignity resonate with India's long civilisational traditions.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Theme:** India's civilisational values and their global relevance.
- **Core Principles:** Peace, tolerance, pluralism, inclusivity, and coexistence.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens India's soft power and global engagement.
- **Governance Impact:** Reinforces democratic values, constitutional morality, and inclusive development.
- **Cultural Significance:** Preserves India's rich civilisational heritage and identity.
- **Global Relevance:** Encourages dialogue, cooperation, and sustainable peace.
- **Challenges:** Cultural preservation amid globalization and safeguarding heritage from degradation.
- **Way Forward:** Promote cultural diplomacy, preserve heritage, strengthen value-based education, and encourage intercultural dialogue.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam:** Phrase from the **Maha Upanishad** meaning "The World is One Family."
- **Ahimsa:** Principle of non-violence central to Jainism, Buddhism, and Hindu philosophy.
- **Dharma:** Concept of righteous conduct and moral duty.



- **Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah:** Ancient Sanskrit prayer emphasizing universal well-being.
- **Soft Power:** Ability of a country to influence others through culture, values, and diplomacy rather than coercion.
- **Fundamental Duties: Article 51A** encourages citizens to preserve India's rich heritage and composite culture.
- **Article 49:** Obligation of the State to protect monuments and objects of national importance.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Places recognized for outstanding universal cultural or natural value.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** Use of culture to strengthen international relations.
- **Pluralism:** Peaceful coexistence of diverse cultures, religions, and communities within a society.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The phrase *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* is found in the **Maha Upanishad**.
2. Article 51A of the Constitution includes the duty of citizens to preserve India's rich heritage and composite culture.
3. Soft power refers to a country's ability to influence others through culture, values, and diplomacy rather than coercion.

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. INDIA AND COSTA RICA HOLD THE FIRST JOINT ECONOMIC AND TRADE COMMITTEE (JETCO) MEETING



- The inaugural JETCO meeting provides an institutional mechanism to enhance bilateral trade and economic relations.
- Discussions covered trade facilitation, investment promotion, digital economy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, renewable energy, and innovation.
- Both countries explored opportunities to diversify trade and strengthen business-to-business engagement.
- The mechanism aims to identify and address barriers affecting bilateral commerce.
- Enhanced economic cooperation is expected to boost investment flows and technology transfer.
- The meeting reflects India's strategy of expanding partnerships with Latin American countries.
- Stronger bilateral relations contribute to resilient supply chains and sustainable economic growth.
- The initiative reinforces mutual commitment to long-term economic collaboration.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)

- I. Institutional bilateral mechanism for:
 - A. Trade promotion.
 - B. Investment cooperation.

- C. Economic dialogue.
- D. Resolution of trade-related issues.
- E. Business collaboration.

India–Costa Rica Relations

- I. Diplomatic relations established in **1970**.
- II. Areas of cooperation include:
 - A. Trade.
 - B. Pharmaceuticals.
 - C. Information Technology.
 - D. Renewable energy.
 - E. Agriculture.
 - F. Education.
 - G. Capacity building.

Costa Rica

- I. Capital: **San José**
- II. Currency: **Costa Rican Colón**.
- III. Known for:
 - A. Biodiversity.
 - B. Environmental conservation.
 - C. Renewable energy leadership.

India's Engagement with Latin America

- I. Focuses on:
 - A. Trade diversification.
 - B. Energy cooperation.
 - C. Pharmaceuticals.
 - D. Digital technologies.
 - E. Investment.
 - F. Food security.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** First India–Costa Rica Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) Meeting.
- **Objective:** Strengthen bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation.
- **Focus Areas:** Trade, pharmaceuticals, IT, agriculture, renewable energy, innovation, and digital economy.
- **Strategic Significance:** Deepens India's economic engagement with Latin America.

- **Economic Impact:** Promotes trade diversification, investment, and technology partnerships.
- **Governance Impact:** Establishes a structured mechanism for addressing trade-related issues.
- **Challenges:** Limited trade volume, geographical distance, logistics, and market access barriers.
- **Way Forward:** Expand business partnerships, improve connectivity, encourage private-sector engagement, and strengthen cooperation in emerging sectors.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **JETCO:** Joint Economic and Trade Committee.
- **Purpose:** Institutional mechanism for promoting bilateral trade and investment.
- **Costa Rica Capital:** **San José**.
- **Currency:** Costa Rican Colón.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** India and Costa Rica established diplomatic ties in **1970**.
- **Latin America:** Region comprising countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Measures that simplify and accelerate international trade procedures.
- **Technology Transfer:** Sharing of technological knowledge and innovations between countries.
- **Renewable Energy:** Energy generated from naturally replenishing sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Ability of supply chains to withstand and recover from disruptions.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) is an institutional mechanism to promote bilateral trade and investment.
2. The capital of Costa Rica is **San José**.

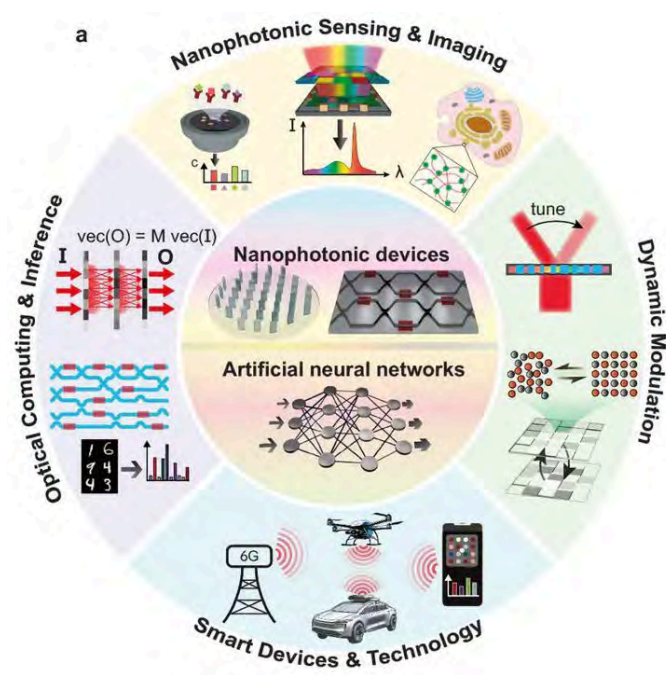
3. India established diplomatic relations with Costa Rica in **1970**.

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. RESEARCHERS SHOW OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF METALS CAN BE TUNED, OPENING NEW ROUTE TO PROGRAMMABLE NANOPHOTONIC DEVICES



- The study demonstrates that metallic materials can be engineered to exhibit controllable optical behaviour at the nanoscale.
- Tunable optical properties enable programmable nanophotonic devices capable of manipulating light with high precision.

- The breakthrough has potential applications in optical communication, quantum technologies, biosensing, imaging, and photonic computing.
- Nanophotonic devices offer faster data processing with lower energy consumption compared to conventional electronic systems.
- The research strengthens the field of advanced materials and nanoscale engineering.
- It supports the development of compact, energy-efficient, and high-performance photonic technologies.
- The innovation contributes to India's growing capabilities in frontier scientific research and advanced manufacturing.
- It has significant implications for future information and communication technologies.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Nanophotonics

- Branch of science that studies the interaction of **light with matter at the nanometre scale**.
- Enables manipulation of light beyond the conventional diffraction limit.

Optical Properties of Metals

- I. Include:
 - A. Reflection.
 - B. Absorption.
 - C. Transmission.
 - D. Scattering.
- II. Determined by the interaction of light with free electrons in metals.

Plasmonics

- Field that studies **surface plasmons**, which are collective oscillations of free electrons at a metal surface.
- Enables strong confinement and control of light at nanoscale dimensions.

Programmable Nanophotonic Devices

- I. Devices whose optical response can be dynamically controlled.



- II. Applications include:
- A. Optical computing.
 - B. Optical switches.
 - C. Sensors.
 - D. High-speed communication.
 - E. Quantum information processing.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Discovery:** Tunable optical properties of metals.
- **Technology:** Programmable nanophotonic devices.
- **Scientific Significance:** Enables precise control of light at the nanoscale.
- **Applications:** Optical computing, biosensors, quantum technologies, imaging, and telecommunications.
- **Economic Significance:** Supports next-generation semiconductor and photonics industries.
- **Strategic Importance:** Advances frontier research in nanotechnology and advanced materials.
- **Challenges:** Large-scale fabrication, cost, material stability, and device integration.
- **Way Forward:** Promote interdisciplinary research, strengthen nanofabrication infrastructure, encourage industry collaboration, and accelerate commercialization of photonic technologies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Nanophotonics:** Study of light-matter interaction at the nanometre scale.
- **Nanometre (nm):** One-billionth of a metre (10^{-9} m).
- **Photon:** Fundamental quantum (particle) of light.
- **Plasmon:** Collective oscillation of free electrons in a metal.

- **Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR):** Resonant interaction between light and surface electrons of a metal.
- **Optical Computing:** Computing using photons instead of electrons for information processing.
- **Metamaterials:** Artificially engineered materials with unique electromagnetic properties.
- **Semiconductor:** Material with electrical conductivity between that of a conductor and an insulator.
- **Quantum Technology:** Technology based on principles of quantum mechanics.
- **Diffraction Limit:** Fundamental limit on the resolution of optical systems due to the wave nature of light.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Nanophotonics deals with the interaction of light with matter at the nanometre scale.
2. Plasmonics studies the collective oscillation of free electrons at the surface of metals.
3. Optical computing uses photons instead of electrons for processing information.

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)

5. KAMARAJAR PORT BECOMES INDIA'S SECOND MAJOR PORT WITH 18-METRE DRAFT CAPABILITY, BOOSTING INDIA'S MARITIME COMPETITIVENESS



- The increase in draft depth enables Kamarajar Port to accommodate large container ships and bulk carriers with higher cargo capacity.
- Improved port infrastructure reduces logistics costs, turnaround time, and dependence on transshipment through foreign ports.
- The development enhances India's position in global maritime trade and strengthens supply chain efficiency.
- Greater cargo-handling capability is expected to boost exports, imports, and industrial growth.
- The project supports the Government's vision of modernizing port infrastructure under the maritime development agenda.

- Enhanced port capacity contributes to economic growth, regional connectivity, and employment generation.
- The achievement aligns with India's objective of becoming a global maritime hub.
- It also strengthens the country's blue economy and trade competitiveness.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Kamarajar Port

- Located at **Chennai** (Ennore).
- India's **first corporatized major port**.
- Handles:
 - Coal.
 - Containers.
 - Automobiles.
 - Petroleum products.
 - Bulk cargo.
 - LNG.

Port Draft

- The **draft** is the vertical distance between the waterline and the bottom of a vessel.
- A deeper port draft allows larger ships with greater cargo loads to enter safely.

Major Ports in India

- Governed under the **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021**.
- Play a crucial role in:
 - International trade.
 - Logistics.
 - Industrial development.
 - Coastal shipping.

Maritime Initiatives

- **PM Gati Shakti** – Integrated infrastructure development.
- **Maritime India Vision 2030** – Modernization and expansion of India's maritime sector.
- **Sagarmala Programme** – Port-led development and logistics efficiency.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Port:** Kamarajar Port.
- **Achievement:** 18-metre draft capability.
- **Strategic Significance:** Enables handling of larger cargo vessels.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts trade, exports, logistics efficiency, and industrial growth.
- **Infrastructure Impact:** Reduces turnaround time and enhances port productivity.
- **Governance Impact:** Supports port modernization and integrated transport infrastructure.
- **Challenges:** Continuous dredging, environmental sustainability, hinterland connectivity, and capacity expansion.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen multimodal connectivity, adopt smart port technologies, enhance green port initiatives, and expand cargo-handling infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Kamarajar Port:** India's first corporatized major port.
- **Location:** Chennai (Ennore).
- **Draft:** Vertical distance between a ship's waterline and its lowest point (keel).
- **Major Port Authorities Act: 2021.**
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Initiative for port-led development and logistics improvement.
- **Maritime India Vision 2030:** Roadmap for modernization of India's maritime sector.
- **PM Gati Shakti:** National Master Plan for integrated infrastructure development.
- **Transshipment:** Transfer of cargo from one vessel to another at an intermediate port.
- **Bulk Carrier:** Ship designed to transport unpackaged bulk cargo such as coal and ore.
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and environmental conservation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Kamarajar Port is India's first corporatized major port.
2. A deeper port draft enables larger ships carrying greater cargo loads to enter a port safely.
3. The Major Port Authorities Act was enacted in 2021.

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)