



Daily PIB Summary

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1. WHERE EVERY PURCHASE FINDS A GeM



- GeM is a **unified, end-to-end digital platform** for government procurement.
- It enables **paperless, cashless and contactless** procurement.
- It has connected **1.37 lakh+ government buyers** with nearly **25 lakh sellers/service providers**, facilitating cumulative procurement of **₹20 lakh crore+**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Launched:** 9 August 2016.
- Provides a common marketplace for government buyers and sellers.
- Procurement lifecycle covers:
 - Seller registration
 - Product listing
 - Bidding
 - Contract award
 - Order fulfilment
 - Payment

Procurement Modes

- Direct purchase
- Comparison
- e-Bidding
- Reverse auction

KEY FEATURES

Transparency & Efficiency

- Digital records and automated workflows reduce discretion.

- Tools such as **Last Purchase Price**, price trends and procurement history support informed purchasing.

Inclusive Procurement

- **SWAYATT:** Startups, Women & Youth Advantage through e-Transactions.
- **Womaniya:** Promotes women entrepreneurs and WSHGs.
- **SARAS Collection:** Market access for rural SHGs.
- **Startup Runway 2.0:** Dedicated platform for startups.

GeM Suvidha Kendras

- **50 Kendras** are being established on a pilot basis.
- Provide seller registration, catalogue creation, capacity building and grievance support.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Enhances **transparency and accountability** in public procurement.
- Expands market access for **MSEs, startups, women and SC/ST entrepreneurs**.
- Supports **Make in India, Vocal for Local, Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and Ease of Doing Business.
- Reduces transaction costs and improves procurement efficiency.

CHALLENGES

- Digital literacy and capacity constraints among smaller sellers.
- Ensuring quality and timely delivery across a large marketplace.
- Need for stronger integration and interoperability among procurement platforms.

WAY FORWARD

- Greater use of **AI and data analytics** for smarter procurement.
- Expand last-mile support through GeM Suvidha Kendras.
- Strengthen interoperability with **CPPP, IREPS and DPPP**.
- Increase participation of local and disadvantaged enterprises.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Launch:** 2016



- **Government buyers:** 1.37 lakh+
- **Sellers/service providers:** ~25 lakh
- **Cumulative procurement:** ₹20 lakh crore+
- **Product categories:** 10,660+
- **Service categories:** 350+
- **Major initiatives:** SWAYATT, Womaniya, SARAS, Startup Runway 2.0, GeM Sahay.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

GeM Sahay

- Provides eligible proprietorship sellers access to **instant, collateral-free working-capital loans.**

GeM & Inclusion

- **MSEs:** 11 lakh+ registered; procurement of ₹2.36 lakh crore+ in 2025–26.
- **Women-led MSEs:** 2.1 lakh+; procurement of ₹28,000 crore+.
- **Startups:** Procurement crossed ₹19,000 crore.

Institutional Integration

- I. GeM is being integrated with:
 - A. **Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)**
 - B. **Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System (IREPS)**
 - C. **Defence Public Procurement Portal (DPPP)**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

1. GeM was launched in **2016** as a digital platform for government procurement.
2. **SWAYATT** promotes participation of startups, women entrepreneurs, MSEs and SHGs in public procurement.
3. GeM facilitates procurement through mechanisms including **e-bidding and reverse auctions.**

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)

2. OMCs TEST E20 PETROL FOR MOISTURE & CHLORIDE PRESENCE



- E20 petrol contains **20% ethanol blended with petrol.**
- OMC testing found **no basis for the reported claim of 500 ppm chloride.**
- The presence of moisture at the alleged level was also **not established.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

E20 Petrol

- I. **E20** = petrol containing **20% ethanol by volume.**
- II. Part of India's **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.**
- III. Aims to:
 - A. Reduce crude-oil import dependence.
 - B. Increase ethanol utilisation.
 - C. Reduce emissions.
 - D. Support farmers and the biofuel economy.

KEY FEATURES

Quality Testing

- I. OMCs conduct quality checks for parameters including:
 - A. Ethanol content.
 - B. Water/moisture.
 - C. Chlorides.
 - D. Other fuel-quality parameters.

Why Chloride & Moisture Matter

- Excess **chlorides** can contribute to corrosion.
- **Water contamination** can affect fuel quality and engine performance.

- Hence, their monitoring is important for E20 fuel quality.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Reaffirms the importance of **quality assurance** in E20 rollout.
- Builds consumer confidence in ethanol-blended petrol.
- Supports India's transition towards **lower fossil-fuel dependence**.

CHALLENGES

- Ensuring uniform E20 quality across the supply chain.
- Preventing contamination during transportation and storage.
- Adapting older vehicles to higher ethanol blends.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen regular fuel-quality testing.
- Improve storage and transportation standards.
- Ensure transparent dissemination of test results.
- Promote consumer awareness regarding E20 compatibility.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Fuel:** E20 petrol.
- Ethanol content:** 20%.
- Tested by:** Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- Claim tested:** 500 ppm chloride and presence of moisture.
- Finding:** Claims **not validated** by OMC testing.
- Programme:** Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

E20

- Petrol containing **20% ethanol**.
- Ethanol is a renewable biofuel.

EBP Programme

- Implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**.
- Objectives include reducing oil imports, emissions and supporting domestic ethanol production.

Ethanol

- Can be produced from **sugarcane, molasses, maize and other approved feedstocks**.
- Higher ethanol blending requires suitable fuel systems and vehicle compatibility.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding E20 petrol:

- E20 petrol contains 20% ethanol by volume.
- The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme aims to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil.
- Excess moisture and chloride contamination can adversely affect fuel quality.

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)

3. GOVERNMENT SIGNS STRATEGIC MoUs TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TO STARTUPS



सत्यमेव जयते

वाणिज्य एवं
उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY

- The partnerships aim to bridge gaps in **finance, mentorship, technology, skilling and market access** for startups.
- They support the broader vision of building a stronger and more globally competitive **Startup India ecosystem**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Startup India

- Launched in **2016** by the Government of India.
- Aims to create a favourable ecosystem for **innovation and entrepreneurship**.

- Implemented by **DPIIT**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

KEY FEATURES

Areas of MoU Cooperation

- Mentorship and capacity building.
- Access to investors and funding.
- Technology and innovation support.
- Market and industry linkages.
- Skill development and networking.
- Support for startups beyond major metropolitan centres.

Startup Ecosystem

- I. Includes:
 - A. Startups.
 - B. Incubators and accelerators.
 - C. Investors.
 - D. Industry.
 - E. Educational institutions.
 - F. Government agencies.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Promotes **innovation and entrepreneurship**.
- Improves access to capital and markets.
- Strengthens industry–startup collaboration.
- Creates employment opportunities.
- Supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and India's innovation-driven growth.

CHALLENGES

- Limited access to early-stage finance.
- Regulatory and compliance burden.
- Uneven access to technology and mentorship.
- High failure rates among early-stage startups.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand startup support beyond major cities.
- Strengthen public–private partnerships.
- Improve access to patient capital and global markets.
- Promote deep-tech, climate-tech and social-impact startups.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Initiative:** Strategic MoUs for startup support.
- **Nodal ecosystem:** Startup India.
- **Implementing Department:** DPIIT.

- **Focus:** Finance, mentorship, technology, skilling and market access.
- **Objective:** Build a stronger and globally competitive startup ecosystem.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Startup India

- **Launched:** 2016.
- **Nodal Department:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Focuses on promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and startup growth.

DPIIT

- Ministry: **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- Responsible for promoting industrial development and investment.

Startup Ecosystem

- **Incubators:** Help startups develop ideas and early-stage businesses.
- **Accelerators:** Provide structured support for rapid growth.
- **Angel Investors/VCs:** Provide equity financing.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Startup India:

1. Startup India was launched in 2016.
2. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the nodal department for Startup India.
3. Startup India seeks to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

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. Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Chairs CEO Roundtable at India Medical Device 2026



- The roundtable brought together government and industry stakeholders to discuss **innovation, investment, domestic manufacturing and regulatory reforms**.
- Emphasis was placed on making India a competitive global hub for medical devices.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Medical Device Sector

- I. India has been promoting domestic production to reduce dependence on imported medical devices.
- II. The sector covers:
 - A. Diagnostic equipment.
 - B. Surgical instruments.
 - C. Medical electronics.
 - D. Implants and consumables.

Government Focus

- **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023** aims to make India a global manufacturing hub.
- Government support includes **PLI schemes**, medical-device parks and R&D promotion.

KEY FEATURES

- Promote **indigenous manufacturing** and innovation.
- Encourage private-sector investment.
- Strengthen medical-device R&D and technology.

- Develop skilled manpower.
- Improve regulatory and testing infrastructure.
- Integrate Indian manufacturers into global value chains.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Reduces import dependence.
- Enhances healthcare supply-chain resilience.
- Promotes **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Creates high-skilled employment.
- Strengthens India's position in the global medical-device market.

CHALLENGES

- High dependence on imported components and advanced technologies.
- Limited domestic R&D and testing infrastructure.
- Need for specialised skills.
- Regulatory and quality-compliance challenges.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase R&D and industry-academia collaboration.
- Strengthen medical-device parks and testing facilities.
- Promote indigenous components and critical technologies.
- Improve ease of doing business and export competitiveness.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** India Medical Device 2026.
- **Chair:** Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda.
- **Focus:** Manufacturing, innovation, investment and regulatory ecosystem.
- **Policy:** National Medical Devices Policy, 2023.
- **Goal:** Make India a global medical-device manufacturing hub.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

National Medical Devices Policy, 2023

- I. Vision: Position India as a **global leader in medical-device manufacturing**.
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Infrastructure.
 - B. Investment.
 - C. R&D and innovation.



- D. Human resources.
- E. Regulatory ecosystem.

Medical Devices

- Include equipment such as **diagnostic machines, implants, surgical instruments and monitoring devices.**
- Regulated in India primarily under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and **Medical Devices Rules, 2017.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding India's medical-device sector:

1. The National Medical Devices Policy was notified in 2023.
2. The policy seeks to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence.
3. Medical devices in India are regulated under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

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. XI BRICS CULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING CONCLUDES IN BHOPAL; BHOPAL DECLARATION ADOPTED



- The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation in **culture, heritage, creative industries and cultural exchanges.**

- The Bhopal Declaration reaffirmed BRICS countries' commitment to preserving cultural diversity and promoting people-to-people ties.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

BRICS

- BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies.
- Original members: **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.**
- The grouping has expanded with the inclusion of new members.

BRICS Cultural Cooperation

- I. Promotes cooperation in:
 - A. Cultural heritage.
 - B. Museums and libraries.
 - C. Performing arts.
 - D. Film and creative industries.
 - E. Cultural exchanges and digital technologies.

KEY FEATURES

Bhopal Declaration

- I. Emphasises:
 - A. Preservation of cultural heritage.
 - B. Protection of cultural diversity.
 - C. Cooperation in creative and cultural industries.
 - D. Greater cultural exchanges among BRICS nations.
 - E. Use of digital technologies for cultural preservation and access.

India's Role

- Highlights India's **civilisational heritage and cultural diversity.**
- Strengthens India's cultural diplomacy within BRICS.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Promotes **soft power diplomacy.**
- Strengthens people-to-people connectivity.
- Supports protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- Creates opportunities for cooperation in India's creative economy.

CHALLENGES

- Differences in cultural policies and institutional frameworks.
- Balancing digitisation with heritage protection.
- Risk of commercialisation and cultural homogenisation.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen cultural exchanges and joint projects.
- Promote digital preservation of heritage.
- Expand cooperation in creative industries.
- Encourage youth participation in cultural diplomacy.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meeting:** XI BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting.
- **Venue:** Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Outcome:** Bhopal Declaration.
- **Focus:** Culture, heritage, creative industries and cultural exchanges.
- **Importance:** Strengthening BRICS cultural cooperation and India's cultural diplomacy.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

BRICS

- **B:** Brazil
- **R:** Russia
- **I:** India
- **C:** China
- **S:** South Africa

BRICS Cooperation

- I. Initially focused strongly on economic and financial cooperation.
- II. Has expanded into areas such as:
 - A. Culture
 - B. Health
 - C. Education
 - D. Science & technology
 - E. Environment

Cultural Diplomacy

- Uses cultural exchanges, heritage, arts and people-to-people relations to strengthen international relations.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding BRICS cultural cooperation:

1. The BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting promotes cooperation in cultural heritage and creative industries.
2. The Bhopal Declaration was adopted at the XI BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting.
3. Cultural cooperation can serve as an instrument of soft power diplomacy.

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)