



Daily PIB Summary

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1. SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)



- SMAM is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** aimed at increasing the adoption of modern agricultural machinery across India.
- It provides financial assistance for the purchase of farm machinery and equipment, with special emphasis on small and marginal farmers.
- The scheme promotes the establishment of **Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs)**, enabling farmers to rent costly machinery at affordable rates.
- Mechanization helps improve farm productivity, reduce labour dependency, and ensure timely agricultural operations.
- SMAM encourages the use of advanced technologies such as precision farming equipment and crop residue management machinery.
- The scheme also supports women farmers, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and farmers in difficult and hilly regions through higher subsidy provisions.
- It contributes to sustainable agriculture by promoting efficient use of inputs and reducing post-harvest losses.

- SMAM aligns with the Government's objective of modernizing agriculture and enhancing farmers' income.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

- **Launched:** 2014–15.
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Objective:** Promote agricultural mechanization and improve access to modern farm machinery.

Major Components

- Financial assistance for agricultural machinery.
- Establishment of **Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs)**.
- Promotion of **High-Tech Hubs** for farm machinery.
- Capacity building, training, and awareness.
- Promotion of crop residue management machinery.

Beneficiaries

- Small and marginal farmers.
- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- Cooperative societies.
- Rural entrepreneurs.

Significance

- Enhances farm productivity.
- Reduces labour shortages.
- Improves operational efficiency.
- Supports sustainable farming.
- Increases farmers' income.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scheme:** Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM).
- **Launched:** 2014–15.



- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Objective:** Increase farm mechanization and improve access to agricultural machinery.
- **Key Feature:** Financial assistance and Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs).
- **Economic Impact:** Higher productivity, lower cultivation costs, and improved farm profitability.
- **Environmental Impact:** Promotes crop residue management and efficient resource use.
- **Challenges:** High machinery costs, fragmented landholdings, limited awareness, and maintenance issues.
- **Way Forward:** Expand CHCs, strengthen training programmes, promote precision agriculture, encourage indigenous farm machinery manufacturing, and integrate digital technologies into mechanization services.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SMAM:** Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization.
- **Launch Year:** 2014–15.
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Custom Hiring Centre (CHC):** Facility where farmers can rent agricultural machinery instead of purchasing it.
- **Farm Mechanization:** Use of machinery to perform agricultural operations efficiently.
- **Precision Agriculture:** Technology-based farming using GPS, sensors, drones, and data analytics.
- **Crop Residue Management (CRM):** Scientific management of crop residues to prevent stubble burning and improve soil health.
- **Farmer Producer Organization (FPO):** Collective of farmers formed to improve market access and bargaining power.

- **Small and Marginal Farmers:** Farmers owning **less than 2 hectares** of cultivable land (as per the Agriculture Census classification).

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) was launched in **2014–15** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) enable farmers to access agricultural machinery on a rental basis.
3. Crop Residue Management (CRM) under SMAM promotes scientific management of crop residues to reduce stubble burning.

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. PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN AUSTRALIA



- The Prime Minister appreciated the Indian diaspora for acting as a bridge between India and Australia.
- The address highlighted the rapid expansion of cooperation in trade, education, critical minerals, clean energy, technology, defence, and maritime security.



- The Indian community in Australia was recognized for its significant contribution to Australia's economy, multicultural society, and India–Australia relations.
- The Prime Minister underscored India's economic growth, digital transformation, and global leadership as opportunities for greater collaboration.
- The event reinforced people-to-people ties, cultural diplomacy, and mutual trust between the two countries.
- Engagement with the diaspora supports investment, innovation, tourism, and educational exchanges.
- The address reflects India's broader strategy of leveraging its global diaspora to enhance international partnerships.
- Strong India–Australia relations contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Diaspora

- I. Refers to:
 - A. **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).**
 - B. **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs).**
 - C. Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) (now merged into the OCI scheme).
- II. One of the largest diaspora communities in the world.
- III. Contributes through:
 - A. Investments.
 - B. Remittances.
 - C. Technology transfer.
 - D. Entrepreneurship.
 - E. Cultural diplomacy.

India–Australia Relations

- I. Elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** in 2020.
- II. Major areas of cooperation:
 - A. Trade and investment.

- B. Defence and maritime security.
- C. Education and research.
- D. Critical minerals.
- E. Renewable energy.
- F. Science and technology.
- G. Cybersecurity.

Economic Cooperation

- **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** entered into force in **2022**, reducing tariffs and expanding market access.
- Both countries are working toward a broader **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)**.

Strategic Importance

- I. Both nations are members of the:
 - A. **Quad** (India, Australia, Japan, and the United States).
 - B. **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).**
 - C. **East Asia Summit (EAS).**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** Prime Minister's address to the Indian diaspora in Australia.
- **Focus:** Strengthening India–Australia ties and diaspora engagement.
- **Strategic Significance:** Reinforces cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and global governance.
- **Economic Significance:** Promotes trade, investment, education, and innovation partnerships.
- **Diplomatic Impact:** Enhances people-to-people and cultural relations.
- **Diaspora Role:** Acts as a bridge for economic, cultural, and technological collaboration.
- **Challenges:** Expanding trade, ensuring skilled workforce mobility, and strengthening supply chain resilience.
- **Way Forward:** Deepen economic integration, finalize CECA, expand educational and research collaboration, strengthen defence



cooperation, and leverage the Indian diaspora for innovation and investment.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP):** India–Australia partnership established in **2020**.
- **ECTA: India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**, effective from **2022**.
- **CECA:** Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (under negotiation).
- **Quad Members:** India, Australia, Japan, and the United States.
- **IORA:** Indian Ocean Rim Association, promoting regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean.
- **NRI (Non-Resident Indian):** Indian citizen residing outside India.
- **OCI (Overseas Citizen of India):** Foreign citizen of Indian origin eligible for specified lifelong visa and other benefits (not dual citizenship).
- **Remittances:** Money sent by migrants to their home country.
- **Critical Minerals:** Minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements essential for clean energy and advanced technologies.
- **Indo-Pacific:** Strategic region spanning the Indian and Pacific Oceans, central to global trade and security.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India and Australia elevated their relationship to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in **2020**.
2. The **India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** came into force in **2022**.
3. India and Australia are both members of the **Quad** and the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**.

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. NMCG'S FOCUS ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NbS): INITIATION OF TWO PILOT PROJECTS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES



- NMCG has launched pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of Nature-based Solutions in river conservation and watershed management.
- The initiative includes training programmes for officials and stakeholders to promote the adoption of NbS in river restoration projects.
- Nature-based Solutions use natural ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, floodplains, and vegetation to address environmental challenges.
- NbS can improve water quality, reduce flood risks, enhance groundwater recharge, and conserve biodiversity.
- The projects contribute to climate change adaptation while supporting sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem restoration.
- Capacity building will facilitate wider adoption of ecosystem-based approaches in river basin management.
- The initiative strengthens integrated and sustainable management of the Ganga basin.

- It aligns with India's commitments on climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- **Established:** 2011.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Role:** Implementation arm of the **Namami Gange Programme**.
- **Objective:** Conservation, rejuvenation, and sustainable management of the **Ganga River** and its tributaries.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

- I. Actions that **protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems** to address societal challenges while benefiting biodiversity and human well-being.
- II. Examples:
 - A. Wetland restoration.
 - B. Afforestation.
 - C. Riverbank stabilization using vegetation.
 - D. Floodplain restoration.
 - E. Urban green infrastructure.

Benefits of NbS

- Improves water quality.
- Enhances groundwater recharge.
- Reduces soil erosion.
- Mitigates floods.
- Conserves biodiversity.
- Sequesters carbon.
- Builds climate resilience.

Namami Gange Programme

- I. Flagship programme launched in **2014**.
- II. Focuses on:
 - A. Pollution abatement.
 - B. River surface cleaning.
 - C. Sewerage infrastructure.
 - D. Biodiversity conservation.

- E. Afforestation.
- F. Public participation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Initiative:** Nature-based Solutions (NbS) pilot projects and training programmes.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- **Objective:** Promote ecosystem-based river rejuvenation and climate resilience.
- **Focus Areas:** Wetlands, riverbanks, floodplains, watershed management, and biodiversity.
- **Environmental Significance:** Improves ecosystem health and water resource sustainability.
- **Climate Significance:** Supports climate adaptation and carbon sequestration.
- **Challenges:** Scaling up NbS, inter-agency coordination, community participation, and long-term monitoring.
- **Way Forward:** Integrate NbS into river basin planning, strengthen scientific research, enhance local community involvement, and replicate successful pilot projects across river basins.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NMCG:** National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- **Established:** 2011.
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Namami Gange Programme:** Launched in **2014** for the conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- **Nature-based Solutions (NbS):** Actions that protect, restore, and sustainably manage ecosystems to address societal and environmental challenges.
- **Wetlands:** Ecosystems permanently or seasonally saturated with water, acting as natural water filters and flood buffers.
- **Floodplain:** Flat land adjacent to a river that stores excess floodwater during high flows.



- **Riparian Zone:** Vegetated area along the banks of rivers and streams that stabilizes banks and supports biodiversity.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** Process by which water percolates into aquifers.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Capture and long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide by ecosystems such as forests and wetlands.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementing arm of the **Namami Gange Programme**.
2. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) involve protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing ecosystems to address environmental and societal challenges.
3. Wetland restoration can improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and enhance biodiversity.

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. STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILDLIFE REVIEWS KEY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES AND CONSIDERS OVER 100 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ITS 91st MEETING



- The Standing Committee assessed the progress of major wildlife conservation programmes across the country.
- It examined more than 100 proposals involving infrastructure and development activities affecting protected areas and eco-sensitive landscapes.
- The Committee emphasized minimizing ecological impacts through appropriate mitigation and wildlife management measures.
- Deliberations focused on safeguarding biodiversity while facilitating essential infrastructure projects.
- The meeting reaffirmed the importance of scientific decision-making and inter-agency coordination in wildlife governance.
- Wildlife clearances ensure that development projects comply with environmental safeguards under existing laws.



- The Committee also reviewed measures for habitat conservation, wildlife corridors, and species protection.
- The proceedings reflect India's commitment to achieving sustainable development while conserving biodiversity.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- I. **Statutory body** constituted under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- II. **Chairperson:** Prime Minister of India.
- III. Advises the Central Government on:
 - A. Wildlife conservation.
 - B. Protected area management.
 - C. Policies relating to biodiversity protection.
 - D. Projects affecting wildlife habitats.

Standing Committee of NBWL

- I. Examines proposals requiring wildlife clearance.
- II. Reviews:
 - A. Diversion of forest land within protected areas.
 - B. Projects in Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs).
 - C. Conservation initiatives.
- III. Makes recommendations to the Central Government.

Protected Areas in India

- I. Include:
 - A. National Parks.
 - B. Wildlife Sanctuaries.
 - C. Conservation Reserves.
 - D. Community Reserves.

Wildlife Clearance

- Required for projects likely to impact protected areas or critical wildlife habitats.
- Aims to balance development needs with biodiversity conservation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meeting:** 91st Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife.
- **Objective:** Review conservation initiatives and examine development project proposals.
- **Focus Areas:** Wildlife conservation, habitat protection, infrastructure projects, and mitigation measures.
- **Environmental Significance:** Strengthens biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- **Governance Impact:** Promotes scientific appraisal and regulatory oversight.
- **Strategic Importance:** Supports conservation of protected areas and wildlife corridors.
- **Challenges:** Habitat fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, infrastructure expansion, and climate change.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen landscape-level planning, protect wildlife corridors, improve ecological impact assessments, enhance community participation, and adopt science-based conservation strategies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):** Statutory body under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Chairperson of NBWL:** Prime Minister of India.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act:** Enacted in **1972** (substantially amended in **2022**).
- **Protected Areas:** National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, and Community Reserves.
- **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ):** Buffer area around protected areas to regulate activities harmful to wildlife.
- **Wildlife Corridor:** Natural route connecting habitats, enabling movement of wild animals.
- **Habitat Fragmentation:** Division of continuous habitats into smaller isolated patches due to human activities.



- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Process to assess likely environmental impacts of proposed projects before approval.
- **National Park:** Protected area with strict conservation measures; activities such as grazing and private rights are generally prohibited.
- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** Protected area where certain regulated human activities may be permitted without compromising wildlife conservation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is a statutory body constituted under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
2. The **Prime Minister of India** is the Chairperson of the National Board for Wildlife.
3. Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around protected areas to regulate activities that may adversely affect wildlife and ecosystems.

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. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS DIRECTS ALL RECOGNISED NSFs FOR OLYMPIC SPORTS TO PUBLISH LOS ANGELES 2028 OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION AND ATHLETE SELECTION PATHWAY BY 15 JULY



- All recognized Olympic NSFs have been instructed to publicly disclose a detailed roadmap for athlete qualification and selection for the **LA 2028 Olympics**.
- The pathway is expected to clearly specify qualification criteria, selection procedures, performance benchmarks, timelines, and grievance redressal mechanisms.
- The initiative seeks to provide athletes with clarity regarding eligibility and selection well in advance of the Olympic cycle.
- Transparent selection processes are expected to reduce disputes and improve confidence among athletes and stakeholders.
- The directive complements the Government's emphasis on scientific training, long-term planning, and good governance in sports administration.
- It aligns with India's objective of improving its Olympic performance through systematic preparation.
- The measure also promotes accountability among National Sports Federations.

- The initiative reflects India's broader vision of building a high-performance, athlete-centric sporting ecosystem.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Sports Federations (NSFs)

- Apex bodies recognized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** for the governance of individual sports in India.
- Responsible for:
 - Athlete selection.
 - National championships.
 - Coaching and training.
 - International representation.
 - Talent development.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

- Officially the **Games of the XXXIV Olympiad**.
- Scheduled to be held in **Los Angeles, United States**, in **2028**.
- India aims to significantly improve its medal tally through long-term athlete development.

Athlete Selection Pathway

A transparent roadmap generally includes:

- Qualification standards.
- Performance benchmarks.
- Selection trials.
- Ranking criteria.
- International exposure requirements.
- Appeals and grievance redressal process.

Government Initiatives Supporting Olympic Preparation

- **Khelo India Scheme**.
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**.
- **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**.
- Enhanced use of sports science, analytics, nutrition, and high-performance coaching.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Directive:** Publish LA 2028 qualification and athlete selection pathway by **15 July**.

- **Issued By:** Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- **Applies To:** Recognized National Sports Federations for Olympic sports.
- **Objective:** Ensure transparency, fairness, and athlete-centric governance.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens India's long-term Olympic preparations.
- **Governance Impact:** Promotes accountability, uniformity, and reduced litigation in athlete selection.
- **Challenges:** Ensuring uniform implementation across federations, maintaining objective criteria, and timely updates based on international qualification rules.
- **Way Forward:** Adopt digital selection systems, strengthen sports science support, regularly review selection criteria, and ensure independent grievance redressal mechanisms.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NSF:** National Sports Federation.
- **Recognition:** Granted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- **TOPS: Target Olympic Podium Scheme**, launched in **2014** to support elite athletes preparing for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- **Khelo India:** Flagship programme to promote grassroots sports and identify sporting talent.
- **Sports Authority of India (SAI):** Apex body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports responsible for sports development and athlete training.
- **National Sports Governance Act, 2025:** Framework to improve governance, transparency, and accountability in sports bodies.
- **Olympic Cycle:** Four-year period between two editions of the Olympic Games.
- **High-Performance Training:** Scientific approach incorporating sports medicine,



biomechanics, nutrition, psychology, and data analytics.

- **Selection Trials:** Competitions organized by NSFs to identify athletes for international events.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Mechanism to address complaints related to athlete selection and governance.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. National Sports Federations (NSFs) are recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to govern individual sports in India.
2. The **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** was launched to provide comprehensive support to elite athletes preparing for major international competitions.
3. Publishing athlete qualification and selection pathways in advance promotes transparency and reduces disputes in sports governance.

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)