



Daily PIB Summary

11 July, 2026

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1. INDIA-NEW ZEALAND JOINT STATEMENT



- Both countries agreed to strengthen their bilateral partnership through greater economic, strategic, and technological cooperation.
- They reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing trade, investment, innovation, and supply chain resilience.
- The leaders emphasized cooperation in agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, digital technologies, and critical minerals.
- Both sides agreed to deepen defence and maritime cooperation to promote peace, stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific.
- The Joint Statement highlighted collaboration in education, research, tourism, and skill development to strengthen people-to-people links.

- They reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and supporting a rules-based international order.
- The statement also emphasized cooperation on climate change, sustainable development, and multilateral institutions.
- India and New Zealand agreed to continue high-level political engagement and expand sectoral partnerships.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India-New Zealand Relations

- I. **Diplomatic Relations:** Established in **1952**.
- II. Based on shared democratic values, the rule of law, and a commitment to a rules-based international order.
- III. Key areas of cooperation include:
 - A. Trade and investment.
 - B. Agriculture and dairy research.
 - C. Education and skill development.
 - D. Science, technology, and innovation.
 - E. Renewable energy.
 - F. Maritime security.
 - G. Tourism and cultural exchanges.

Economic Cooperation

- New Zealand exports dairy products, wood, fruits, and wool.
- India exports pharmaceuticals, textiles, machinery, IT services, and engineering goods.
- Both countries seek to diversify trade and encourage investment.

Strategic Cooperation

- Support a **free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific**.
- Cooperate on maritime security, disaster resilience, and regional stability.
- Engage through multilateral forums such as the **East Asia Summit (EAS)** and the **Commonwealth**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Document:** India–New Zealand Joint Statement.
- **Focus Areas:** Trade, defence, education, technology, agriculture, climate action, and people-to-people ties.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and reinforces the rules-based international order.
- **Economic Significance:** Promotes trade diversification, investment, and resilient supply chains.
- **Environmental Significance:** Expands collaboration on renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable development.
- **Governance Impact:** Reinforces cooperation through regular high-level dialogues and institutional mechanisms.
- **Challenges:** Expanding bilateral trade, addressing market access issues, and enhancing connectivity.
- **Way Forward:** Conclude mutually beneficial trade arrangements, strengthen innovation partnerships, expand educational exchanges, deepen maritime cooperation, and promote collaboration in emerging technologies and clean energy.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Diplomatic Relations:** India and New Zealand established diplomatic relations in **1952**.
- **Indo-Pacific:** Strategic region spanning the Indian and Pacific Oceans, central to global trade and security.
- **Rules-Based International Order:** International system governed by agreed norms, treaties, and international law.
- **East Asia Summit (EAS):** Leaders-led forum promoting strategic dialogue and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

- **Commonwealth:** Voluntary association of **56** independent countries, many of which were former territories of the British Empire.
- **Critical Minerals:** Minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements essential for clean energy technologies.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Ability of supply chains to withstand disruptions and ensure continuity of production and trade.
- **Renewable Energy:** Energy generated from naturally replenishing sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower.
- **People-to-People Ties:** Cultural, educational, tourism, and diaspora exchanges that strengthen bilateral relations.
- **Maritime Security:** Measures to ensure safe, secure, and lawful use of the seas.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India and New Zealand established diplomatic relations in **1952**.
2. Both countries support a **free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific**.
3. Cooperation between India and New Zealand includes trade, education, agriculture, maritime security, and climate action.

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. INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS MADE-IN-INDIA ADVANCED STEALTH FRIGATE 'INS MAHENDRAGIRI' AT VISA KHAPATNAM



- **INS Mahendragiri** is an advanced multi-role stealth frigate designed and built in India under **Project 17A**.
- The warship is equipped with advanced stealth features, modern sensors, integrated combat management systems, and sophisticated weapon systems.
- It is capable of undertaking anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare operations.
- The commissioning strengthens India's maritime security and operational readiness in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The vessel showcases India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and reflects the success of the **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives in the defence sector.

- Indigenous content in Project 17A warships contributes to technological self-reliance and supports the domestic defence industrial ecosystem.
- The frigate will play an important role in protecting Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs), maritime interests, and regional stability.
- The induction further reinforces India's commitment to becoming a major defence manufacturing hub.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Mahendragiri

- Advanced **stealth guided-missile frigate** of the **Indian Navy**.
- Built under **Project 17A**.
- Designed for:
 - Anti-Air Warfare (AAW).
 - Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW).
 - Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW).
 - Maritime surveillance.
 - Escort and fleet operations.

Project 17A

- Follow-on programme to **Project 17 (Shivalik-class)** frigates.
- Involves the construction of **seven advanced stealth frigates**.
- Built by:
 - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.**
 - Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.**

Stealth Technology

- Reduces the ship's:
 - Radar signature.
 - Infrared signature.
 - Acoustic signature.
- Enhances survivability during combat.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

- Promotes indigenous design, development, and manufacturing of defence equipment.
- Supports technology development, employment generation, and reduced import dependence.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Warship:** INS Mahendragiri.
- **Class:** Advanced stealth guided-missile frigate.
- **Project:** Project 17A.
- **Commissioned At:** Visakhapatnam.
- **Strategic Significance:** Enhances India's maritime deterrence and operational capability in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Economic Significance:** Boosts indigenous defence manufacturing and strengthens the domestic shipbuilding industry.
- **Technological Significance:** Incorporates advanced stealth features, integrated combat systems, and modern weaponry.
- **Challenges:** Rapid technological evolution, maintenance of advanced naval platforms, and emerging maritime threats.
- **Way Forward:** Accelerate indigenous naval shipbuilding, strengthen defence R&D, integrate advanced technologies such as AI and unmanned systems, and expand maritime cooperation with partner nations.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Mahendragiri:** Advanced stealth guided-missile frigate commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- **Project 17A:** Programme for constructing **seven** advanced stealth frigates.
- **Project 17:** Earlier programme that produced the **Shivalik-class** stealth frigates.
- **MDL:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- **GRSE:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata.

- **Stealth Technology:** Reduces radar, infrared, acoustic, and electromagnetic signatures to improve survivability.
- **Blue-Water Navy:** A navy capable of sustained operations across the open oceans far from its home bases.
- **SLOCs (Sea Lines of Communication):** Maritime routes essential for global trade and naval movement.
- **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW):** Operations to detect, track, and neutralize enemy submarines.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** National initiative promoting self-reliance in manufacturing, including defence production.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **INS Mahendragiri** is an advanced stealth guided-missile frigate built under **Project 17A**.
2. **Project 17A** is a follow-on programme to the **Project 17 Shivalik-class** frigates.
3. Stealth technology in naval warships aims to reduce radar, infrared, and acoustic signatures.

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. UNION MINISTER SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN HAILS PMFME SCHEME'S LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT OF OVER TWO LAKH CREDIT-LINKED BENEFICIARIES



- PMFME provides **credit-linked financial assistance** to micro food processing enterprises for modernization, expansion, and formalization.
- The scheme promotes the **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach to develop district-specific food processing clusters.
- Financial support helps entrepreneurs upgrade technology, improve product quality, and enhance market competitiveness.
- The scheme encourages entrepreneurship among individuals, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and cooperatives.
- Capacity-building, training, branding, marketing, and technical support are integral components of PMFME.
- The initiative contributes to reducing post-harvest losses, increasing farmers' incomes, and generating rural employment.
- PMFME aligns with the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by strengthening domestic food processing industries.

- The milestone reflects increasing access to institutional finance for small food processing entrepreneurs.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

- **Launched:** 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Duration:** Initially for **2020–21 to 2024–25** (implementation has since been extended by the Government).

Objectives

- Formalize unorganized micro food processing units.
- Improve access to institutional credit.
- Promote value addition and processing.
- Enhance competitiveness of micro enterprises.
- Reduce food wastage and post-harvest losses.

Key Features

- I. **Credit-linked capital subsidy: 35%** of eligible project cost (subject to prescribed limits).
- II. Promotion of the **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach.
- III. Support for:
 - A. Individual entrepreneurs.
 - B. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
 - C. Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
 - D. Producer Cooperatives.

One District One Product (ODOP)

- Focuses on promoting a unique food product with high potential from each district.
- Encourages branding, processing, value addition, and market access.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scheme:** PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME).



- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- **Achievement:** Over 2 lakh credit-linked beneficiaries.
- **Focus:** Formalization, modernization, and credit support for micro food processing enterprises.
- **Economic Significance:** Enhances value addition, rural employment, and agricultural income.
- **Social Significance:** Promotes entrepreneurship, especially among SHGs, women, and small producers.
- **Challenges:** Limited awareness, market access constraints, technology adoption, and quality certification.
- **Way Forward:** Expand credit access, strengthen branding and export promotion, improve food quality standards, encourage digital marketing, and integrate PMFME with other agricultural value chain initiatives.

post-harvest losses and enhancing farmers' incomes.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme** was launched in **2020**.
2. The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**.
3. The **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach under PMFME seeks to promote district-specific food products through value addition and branding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

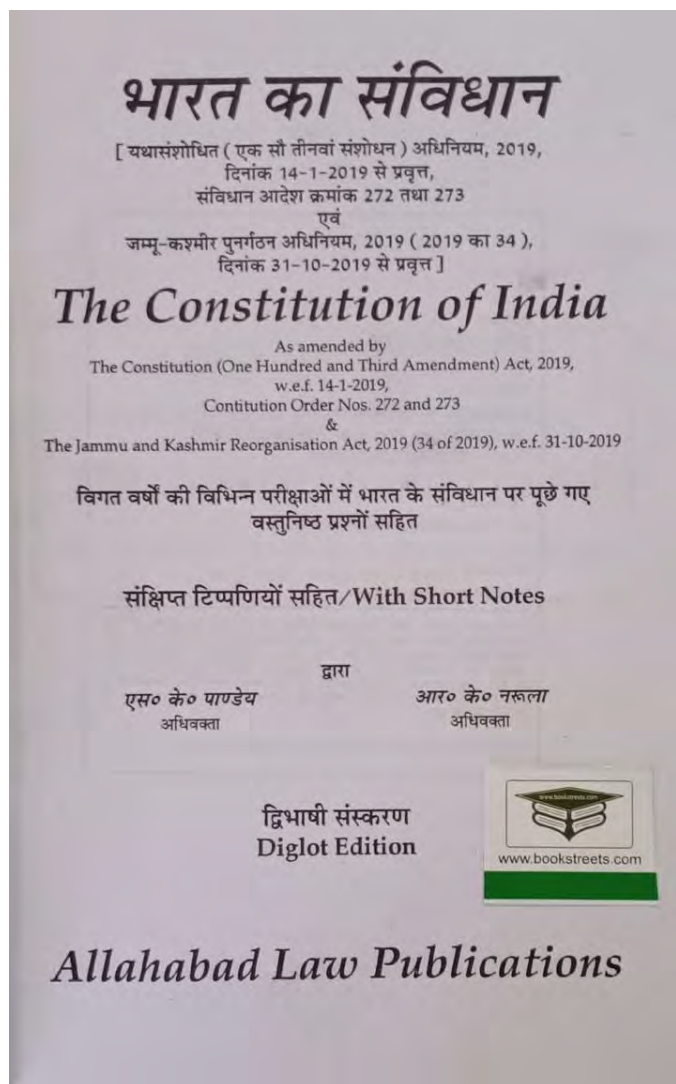
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PMFME:** Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.
- **Launch Year:** 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Credit-Linked Subsidy:** 35% of the eligible project cost (subject to prescribed limits).
- **ODOP: One District One Product** initiative promoting district-specific products.
- **FPO:** Farmer Producer Organization—a collective of farmers for better market access and economies of scale.
- **SHG:** Self-Help Group—a community-based group promoting savings, credit, and livelihoods.
- **Value Addition:** Processing agricultural produce to increase its economic value.
- **Food Processing Sector:** Acts as a critical link between agriculture and industry by reducing

4. NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "STRENGTHENING LEGAL EDUCATION THROUGH INTEGRATION OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES"



- The conference emphasized the need to integrate regional languages into legal education to make the study of law more accessible.
- It highlighted that language should not become a barrier to legal literacy, legal education, or access to justice.

- Discussions covered the translation of legal texts, judgments, statutes, and academic resources into Indian languages.
- Experts stressed the importance of developing multilingual legal terminology and digital legal resources.
- The conference encouraged collaboration among universities, judicial institutions, language experts, and regulatory bodies.
- It aligns with the objectives of **NEP 2020**, which promotes education in the mother tongue and multilingualism.
- The initiative is expected to increase participation of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds in legal education.
- It also supports the constitutional vision of ensuring equal access to justice and legal empowerment.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Legal Education in India

- Regulated primarily by the **Bar Council of India (BCI)** under the **Advocates Act, 1961**.
- Offered through:
 - National Law Universities (NLUs).
 - State universities.
 - Private law colleges.
- Traditionally, legal education has been dominated by English, though courts and legal proceedings also use several Indian languages.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020

- Emphasizes:
 - Multilingualism.
 - Mother tongue/local language as the medium of instruction, especially in early education.
 - Greater inclusion and equity in higher education.
 - Preservation and promotion of Indian languages.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 343:** Declares **Hindi in Devanagari script** as the Official Language of the Union (with continued use of English as provided by law).
- **Article 348:** Provides that proceedings in the **Supreme Court, High Courts**, and authoritative texts of Central laws are generally in **English**, unless otherwise provided.
- **Eighth Schedule:** Recognizes **22 Indian languages**.

Significance of Regional Languages in Legal Education

- Improves legal literacy.
- Expands access to legal education.
- Enhances access to justice.
- Encourages inclusive participation in the legal profession.
- Strengthens constitutional values of equality and justice.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** National Conference on integrating regional languages into legal education.
- **Focus:** Multilingual legal education and improved access to justice.
- **Policy Alignment:** National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Constitutional Significance:** Supports linguistic diversity and equal access to legal knowledge.
- **Educational Impact:** Encourages wider participation in legal education from diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- **Governance Impact:** Strengthens legal awareness and citizen empowerment.
- **Challenges:** Translation accuracy, development of standardized legal terminology, faculty training, and availability of quality study materials.
- **Way Forward:** Develop multilingual legal textbooks, strengthen legal translation

infrastructure, leverage AI-enabled translation tools, promote bilingual legal education, and expand digital legal repositories in Indian languages.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NEP 2020:** National Education Policy promoting multilingualism and inclusive education.
- **Bar Council of India (BCI):** Statutory body regulating legal education and the legal profession under the **Advocates Act, 1961**.
- **Advocates Act, 1961:** Governs the legal profession and legal education in India.
- **Article 343:** Official Language of the Union.
- **Article 348:** Language of the Supreme Court, High Courts, and authoritative texts of laws.
- **Eighth Schedule:** Recognizes **22** scheduled languages.
- **Access to Justice:** Principle ensuring that all individuals can effectively seek and obtain legal remedies.
- **Legal Literacy:** Awareness of legal rights, duties, and remedies.
- **Multilingualism:** Use and promotion of multiple languages in education and governance.
- **National Law Universities (NLUs):** Premier institutions offering legal education in India.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **Bar Council of India (BCI)** regulates legal education under the **Advocates Act, 1961**.
2. **Article 348** of the Constitution deals with the language to be used in the Supreme Court, High Courts, and authoritative texts of laws.
3. The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** promotes multilingualism and greater use of Indian languages in education.

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. LAKHANPUR AMONG FIRST TOWNS SELECTED UNDER PM SVANIDHI 'STREET FOOD HUB' PLAN



- Lakhanpur's inclusion under the Street Food Hub initiative seeks to improve infrastructure, hygiene standards, branding, and customer facilities for street food vendors.
- The initiative is linked with the **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** Scheme, which supports urban street vendors through affordable institutional credit and capacity building.
- The project aims to generate employment, promote local cuisine, and boost tourism.
- Street food hubs are expected to provide standardized vending spaces, sanitation facilities, waste management, and digital payment infrastructure.
- The initiative supports financial inclusion by encouraging vendors to adopt formal banking and digital transactions.
- It contributes to urban livelihood enhancement while preserving local culinary traditions.
- The scheme also aligns with the Government's objectives of inclusive urban development and self-reliance.

- Lakhanpur's strategic location as a gateway to Jammu & Kashmir offers significant tourism and economic potential.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- **Full Form:** Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).
- **Launched:** 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Objective:** Provide affordable working capital loans to urban street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and promote their financial inclusion.

Key Features

- Collateral-free working capital loans.
- Incentives for timely repayment.
- Cashback on digital transactions.
- Progressive enhancement of loan limits for successful repayment.
- Promotion of digital and formal financial services.

Street Food Hub Initiative

- I. Focuses on:
 - A. Hygienic food preparation.
 - B. Improved vending infrastructure.
 - C. Tourism promotion.
 - D. Skill development.
 - E. Branding and marketing.
 - F. Better customer amenities.

Importance of Lakhanpur

- Located in **Kathua district**, Jammu & Kashmir.
- Serves as a major entry point to the Union Territory from Punjab.
- Has potential to emerge as a tourism and commercial hub.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Town Selected:** Lakhanpur, Jammu & Kashmir.



- **Scheme:** PM SVANidhi – Street Food Hub Initiative.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Objective:** Improve livelihoods of street vendors through better infrastructure, hygiene, and financial inclusion.
- **Economic Significance:** Promotes local entrepreneurship, tourism, and employment generation.
- **Social Significance:** Enhances dignity and income security for street vendors.
- **Governance Impact:** Encourages formalization of the informal urban economy and digital financial inclusion.
- **Challenges:** Maintaining hygiene standards, capacity building, waste management, and sustained market demand.
- **Way Forward:** Expand the Street Food Hub model, integrate digital technologies, strengthen vendor training, improve urban infrastructure, and promote local cuisine through tourism campaigns.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PM SVANidhi:** Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi.
- **Launch Year:** 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Urban street vendors.
- **Nature of Assistance:** Collateral-free working capital loans with incentives for digital transactions and timely repayment.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Ensures access to formal banking, credit, and digital payment systems.
- **Street Vendor:** A person engaged in vending goods, food, or services in public places, regulated under the **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**.

- **Digital Payments:** Electronic payment systems such as UPI, QR code-based payments, and other digital modes.
- **Urban Livelihood:** Economic activities that provide income and employment opportunities in urban areas.
- **Street Food Hub:** Organized cluster of street food vendors with improved infrastructure, hygiene, branding, and tourist-friendly facilities.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **PM SVANidhi** was launched in **2020** to provide collateral-free working capital loans to urban street vendors.
2. The **PM SVANidhi** Scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
3. The **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014** provides a legal framework for protecting the livelihoods of street vendors.

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)