



Daily PIB Summary

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1. BIOPHARMACEUTICALS ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MODERN HEALTHCARE; INDIA WELL-POSITIONED TO EMERGE AS A GLOBAL LEADER: SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL



Key Highlights

- I. Biopharmaceuticals are driving innovation in healthcare.
- II. India possesses significant strengths in:
 - A. Biotechnology research.
 - B. Vaccine manufacturing.
 - C. Biosimilars production.
 - D. Skilled human resources.
- III. The sector is expected to contribute to affordable and advanced healthcare globally.

WHAT ARE BIOPHARMACEUTICALS?

Biopharmaceuticals

- Biopharmaceuticals are **medicines produced using living organisms or biotechnology techniques**, unlike conventional drugs synthesized through chemical processes.

Examples

- Vaccines.
- Monoclonal antibodies.
- Recombinant proteins.
- Gene therapies.
- Cell therapies.
- Insulin produced using recombinant DNA technology.

APPLICATIONS OF BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

- Treatment of cancer.
- Diabetes management.
- Autoimmune diseases.
- Rare genetic disorders.
- Infectious diseases.
- Personalized medicine.

INDIA'S STRENGTHS IN THE BIOPHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

Strong Biotechnology Ecosystem

- Large network of biotechnology companies and research institutions.

Global Vaccine Hub

- India is among the world's largest producers of vaccines.

Leadership in Biosimilars

- India is a major producer and exporter of biosimilar medicines.

Skilled Workforce

- Availability of highly trained scientists, researchers, and healthcare professionals.

Cost Competitiveness

- High-quality manufacturing at comparatively lower costs.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

- Promotes biotechnology research and innovation.

BioE3 Policy

- I. Focuses on:
 - A. **Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment.**
 - B. Promoting high-performance biomanufacturing.
 - C. Advancing sustainable biotechnology.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

- Supports biotechnology startups, innovation, and commercialization.

SIGNIFICANCE

Healthcare Innovation

- Enables development of advanced therapies for complex diseases.

Affordable Medicines

- Supports access to cost-effective biologics and biosimilars.

Economic Growth

- Boosts biotechnology exports and investment.

Global Health Security

- Strengthens vaccine and therapeutic manufacturing capacity.

Atmanirbhar Bharat

- Promotes self-reliance in high-end pharmaceutical manufacturing.

CHALLENGES

- High research and development costs.
- Complex regulatory approval processes.
- Need for advanced manufacturing infrastructure.
- Intellectual property and technology transfer issues.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase investment in biotechnology research.
- Strengthen industry-academia collaboration.
- Expand biomanufacturing infrastructure.
- Simplify regulatory pathways while ensuring safety and quality.
- Promote global partnerships in biotechnology.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Focus Sector:** Biopharmaceuticals.
- **Key Technologies:** Biotechnology and recombinant DNA.
- **Major Products:** Vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, biosimilars, gene therapies.
- **Lead Department:** Department of Biotechnology.
- **Innovation Agency:** BIRAC.
- **Flagship Policy:** BioE3 Policy.
- **Goal:** Position India as a global biotechnology leader.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **Biopharmaceuticals**
 - A. Medicines produced using living cells or biotechnology.
 - B. Include vaccines, recombinant proteins, monoclonal antibodies, and gene therapies.
- II. **Biosimilars**
 - A. Biologic medicines that are highly similar to an already approved reference biologic, with no clinically meaningful

differences in safety, purity, or efficacy.

- III. **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**
 - A. Established in **1986**.
 - B. Functions under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- IV. **BIRAC**
 - A. **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council**.
 - B. A Public Sector Enterprise under DBT.
 - C. Supports biotech innovation, startups, and commercialization.
- V. **BioE3 Policy**
 - A. Stands for **Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment**.
 - B. Promotes sustainable biomanufacturing and biotechnology-led economic growth.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Biopharmaceuticals are medicines produced using biotechnology and living organisms.
2. Biosimilars are biologic medicines that are highly similar to an approved reference biologic.
3. The Department of Biotechnology functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

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. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE RELEASES SECOND ADVANCE ESTIMATES OF HORTICULTURAL CROP AREA AND PRODUCTION FOR 2025–26



Key Highlights

- I. Second Advance Estimates cover:
 - A. Area under horticultural crops.
 - B. Expected production during **2025–26**.
- II. Includes major horticultural crops such as:
 - A. Fruits.
 - B. Vegetables.
 - C. Spices.
 - D. Plantation crops.
 - E. Flowers.
 - F. Aromatic and medicinal plants.

- III. Estimates help in production planning, price stabilization, and export strategies.

WHAT ARE ADVANCE ESTIMATES?

- Advance Estimates are **preliminary forecasts** of crop area and production prepared before the final harvest data is available.

Purpose

- I. Assist policymakers in:
 - A. Agricultural planning.
 - B. Food management.
 - C. Export–import decisions.
 - D. Market interventions.

Stages

- First Advance Estimates.
- Second Advance Estimates.
- Third Advance Estimates.
- Final Estimates.

WHAT IS HORTICULTURE?

Horticulture

- Horticulture is the branch of agriculture dealing with the cultivation of:
 - Fruits.
 - Vegetables.
 - Flowers.
 - Plantation crops.
 - Spices.
 - Medicinal and aromatic plants.

MAJOR HORTICULTURAL CROPS IN INDIA

Fruits

- Mango.
- Banana.
- Apple.
- Citrus.
- Grapes.

Vegetables

- Potato.
- Onion.
- Tomato.
- Brinjal.
- Cabbage.

Plantation Crops

- Coconut.
- Arecanut.
- Cashew.

Spices

- Black pepper.
- Cardamom.
- Turmeric.
- Ginger.

SIGNIFICANCE

Food and Nutritional Security

- Horticultural crops provide essential vitamins, minerals, and dietary diversity.

Farmer Income

- High-value crops generate better returns than many cereal crops.

Export Growth

- India is a major exporter of fruits, vegetables, spices, and plantation products.

Employment Generation

- Horticulture creates substantial employment across cultivation, processing, and marketing.

CHALLENGES

- Post-harvest losses.
- Inadequate cold-chain infrastructure.
- Climate variability.
- Pest and disease outbreaks.
- Price fluctuations.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen cold storage and supply chains.
- Promote value addition and food processing.
- Encourage climate-resilient horticulture.
- Expand export-oriented production.
- Improve market intelligence and digital agriculture.

post-harvest management, and marketing.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Released By:** Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Report:** Second Advance Estimates of Horticultural Crops (2025–26).
- **Coverage:** Area and production estimates.
- **Major Crops:** Fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants.
- **Purpose:** Agricultural planning, food security, and export promotion.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. Horticulture

- A. Branch of agriculture dealing with fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, plantation, medicinal, and aromatic crops.

II. Advance Estimates

- A. Preliminary estimates of crop area and production.
B. Released in stages before the final estimates.

III. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

- A. Functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

IV. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

- A. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in **2014–15**.
B. Promotes holistic development of the horticulture sector, including production,

V. India's Position

- A. India is the **second-largest producer of fruits and vegetables** in the world, after **China**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding horticulture in India:

1. Horticulture includes the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, spices, and plantation crops.
2. Advance Estimates of crop production are released only after the completion of harvesting.
3. The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3. FROM ROOFTOPS AND PONDS TO AQUIFERS: ODISHA'S GROUNDWATER REVIVAL UNDER 'JAL SANCHAY, JAN BHAGIDARI'



Key Highlights

- I. Focus on **groundwater recharge** through:
 - A. Rooftop rainwater harvesting.
 - B. Revival of ponds and traditional water bodies.
 - C. Recharge structures for aquifers.
- II. Emphasizes **Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation)** in water conservation.
- III. Supports sustainable agriculture, drinking water security, and climate resilience.

ABOUT 'JAL SANCHAY, JAN BHAGIDARI'

Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari

Objective

- Promote water conservation through community participation.
- Enhance groundwater recharge.
- Encourage rainwater harvesting.

- Improve long-term water security.

Key Activities

- Rooftop rainwater harvesting.
- Renovation of ponds, tanks, and traditional water bodies.
- Construction of recharge pits and check dams.
- Public awareness and community mobilization.

WHAT IS GROUNDWATER RECHARGE?

Groundwater Recharge

- Groundwater recharge is the process by which **rainwater or surface water infiltrates the soil and replenishes underground aquifers.**

Sources

- Rainfall.
- Rivers and lakes.
- Ponds and tanks.
- Artificial recharge structures.

WHAT ARE AQUIFERS?

Aquifer

- An aquifer is an **underground layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel that stores and transmits groundwater.**

Importance

- Supplies drinking water.
- Supports irrigation.

- Maintains river flows during dry periods.
- Enhances drought resilience.

SIGNIFICANCE

Water Security

- Improves groundwater availability for domestic and agricultural use.

Climate Resilience

- Enhances resilience against droughts and erratic rainfall.

Sustainable Agriculture

- Ensures reliable irrigation and supports crop productivity.

Community Participation

- Encourages local ownership and long-term maintenance of water conservation structures.

Environmental Benefits

- Restores groundwater levels and improves ecosystem health.

CHALLENGES

- Over-extraction of groundwater.
- Urbanization reducing natural recharge areas.
- Climate variability affecting rainfall patterns.
- Maintenance of water conservation structures.

WAY FORWARD

- Scale up rainwater harvesting in urban and rural areas.
- Strengthen community participation in water management.
- Promote scientific groundwater monitoring.
- Integrate watershed development with groundwater recharge initiatives.
- Encourage efficient water use through micro-irrigation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **State:** Odisha.
- **Campaign:** Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari.
- **Focus:** Groundwater recharge and community participation.
- **Major Interventions:** Rooftop rainwater harvesting, pond rejuvenation, aquifer recharge.
- **Outcome:** Improved groundwater levels and sustainable water management.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **Groundwater Recharge**
 - A. Process of replenishing underground aquifers through infiltration of rainwater or surface water.
- II. **Aquifer**
 - A. Underground layer of permeable rock or sediment that stores and transmits groundwater.
- III. **Rainwater Harvesting**

- A. Collection and storage of rainwater for future use or groundwater recharge.
- IV. **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal)**
- A. Central Sector Scheme launched in **2019**.
- B. Focuses on sustainable groundwater management through community participation in water-stressed areas.
- V. **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**
- A. National campaign promoting water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and rejuvenation of water bodies.

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal)** is a **Central Sector Scheme**, not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

4.INDIA AND NEPAL LAUNCH CROSS-BORDER REMITTANCE MECHANISM TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL FINANCIAL CONNECTIVITY



PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. An aquifer is an underground layer capable of storing and transmitting groundwater.
2. Groundwater recharge refers to the replenishment of aquifers through infiltration of water.
3. Atal Bhujal Yojana is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

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: (a)

Key Highlights

- Launch of a cross-border remittance mechanism between India and Nepal.
- Enables secure, real-time, and cost-effective remittances.
- Strengthens digital financial connectivity between the two countries.
- Supports financial inclusion and enhances ease of cross-border transactions.

WHAT ARE CROSS-BORDER REMITTANCES?

- Cross-border remittances refer to the **transfer of money by individuals or businesses from one country to another.**

Major Uses

- Family support.
- Education expenses.
- Healthcare payments.
- Business transactions.
- Tourism-related payments.

BENEFITS OF THE NEW MECHANISM

Faster Transactions

- Enables near real-time transfer of funds.

Lower Transaction Costs

- Reduces remittance charges compared to traditional channels.

Enhanced Financial Inclusion

- Expands access to formal digital financial services.

Secure Digital Payments

- Improves transparency and minimizes dependence on informal channels.

Strengthened Bilateral Cooperation

- Deepens economic and financial ties between India and Nepal.

ROLE OF DIGITAL PAYMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

India has developed robust digital payment systems that support:

- Instant fund transfers.
- Interoperable payment platforms.
- Secure authentication.
- Financial inclusion through digital public infrastructure.

SIGNIFICANCE

For Migrant Workers

- Easier and more affordable transfer of earnings to families.

Economic Integration

- Enhances trade and financial cooperation.

Financial Inclusion

- Encourages use of formal banking and digital payment systems.

Digital Economy

- Promotes cross-border digital financial services.

CHALLENGES

- Cybersecurity risks.
- Regulatory harmonization between countries.
- Consumer awareness and digital literacy.

- Data privacy and fraud prevention.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand cross-border digital payment partnerships with neighbouring countries.
- Strengthen cybersecurity and consumer protection.
- Enhance interoperability of payment systems.
- Promote digital financial literacy among users.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Countries:** India and Nepal.
- **Initiative:** Cross-border remittance mechanism.
- **Objective:** Fast, secure, and affordable money transfers.
- **Benefits:** Financial inclusion, lower costs, stronger bilateral connectivity.
- **Focus:** Digital financial integration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **Remittance**
 - A. Transfer of money by individuals or businesses from one country to another.
- II. **Cross-Border Digital Payments**
 - A. Facilitate international money transfers using interoperable digital payment systems.
- III. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**
 - A. Umbrella organization for retail payment systems in India.
 - B. Established in **2008**.
 - C. Operates:

1. **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

2. IMPS.
3. RuPay.

- IV. **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

- A. Real-time payment system developed by NPCI.
- B. Enables instant bank-to-bank transfers using mobile devices.

- V. **Importance of Cross-Border Remittances**

- A. Promote financial inclusion.
- B. Reduce transaction costs.
- C. Support migrant workers.
- D. Strengthen regional economic integration.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operates the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
2. Cross-border remittances facilitate the transfer of money between individuals or entities located in different countries.
3. Lower transaction costs and enhanced financial inclusion are among the benefits of digital cross-border remittance systems.

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. INDIAN NAVY SAFELY RECOVERS UNEXPLODED MISSILE WARHEAD FROM MERCHANT TANKER OFF KOCHI



Key Highlights

- Indian Navy recovered an unexploded missile warhead from a merchant tanker.
- The incident occurred off the coast of Kochi.
- Specialized naval experts safely neutralized the threat.
- Demonstrates the Navy's expertise in maritime security and explosive ordnance disposal.

ABOUT EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

- I. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) involves the **identification, recovery, rendering safe, and disposal of explosive devices**, including:

- A. Missiles.
- B. Bombs.
- C. Mines.
- D. Torpedoes.
- E. Unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Objectives

- Protect human life.
- Ensure maritime safety.
- Prevent accidental explosions.
- Secure critical infrastructure.

ROLE OF THE INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy

Primary Responsibilities

- Safeguard India's maritime interests.
- Protect Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).
- Conduct maritime security operations.
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- Search and Rescue (SAR).
- Mine countermeasure and EOD operations.

WHAT IS UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO)?

Unexploded Ordnance

- UXO refers to **explosive weapons that were fired, launched, or dropped but failed to explode as intended**, posing continuing risks to people and infrastructure.

SIGNIFICANCE

Maritime Safety

- Prevents accidents involving commercial shipping.

Protection of Human Life

- Ensures the safety of merchant crews and nearby vessels.

National Security

- Demonstrates India's capability to respond to maritime threats.

Trade Security

- Supports uninterrupted maritime commerce through safe sea lanes.

CHALLENGES

- Safe handling of unexploded military ordnance.
- Complex underwater recovery operations.
- Coordination between naval and civilian maritime authorities.
- Risks posed by increasing maritime security incidents.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen maritime surveillance and domain awareness.
- Enhance EOD capabilities and specialized training.
- Improve coordination with merchant shipping agencies.

- Expand regional maritime security cooperation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Agency:** Indian Navy.
- **Location:** Off Kochi, Kerala.
- **Operation:** Recovery of unexploded missile warhead.
- **Special Capability:** Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD).
- **Objective:** Maritime safety and protection of life.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. Indian Navy

- A. Maritime arm of the Indian Armed Forces.
- B. Operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- C. Responsible for safeguarding India's maritime interests.

II. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

- A. Specialized military capability for safely handling and disposing of explosive devices.

III. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

- A. Explosive munitions that failed to detonate after being deployed.
- B. Pose long-term safety and security risks.

IV. Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)

- A. Major maritime routes used for global trade, energy transportation, and naval movement.
- B. Their security is critical for India's economic and strategic interests.

- V. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**
- A. Non-combat operations undertaken by the armed forces during disasters and emergencies.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) involves the safe recovery and disposal of explosive devices.
2. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) refers to explosive weapons that failed to detonate as intended.
3. One of the responsibilities of the Indian Navy is safeguarding India's Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).

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)