



# Daily PIB Summary

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12th March 2026

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## 1. FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT SUBJECT TO RULES: LOK SABHA SPEAKER



- The **Lok Sabha Speaker clarified that parliamentary freedom of speech is not absolute and must operate within the procedural rules of the House.**
- While Members of Parliament enjoy constitutional protection for their speeches in Parliament, such privileges are governed by **rules of procedure, discipline, and authority of the presiding officer.**
- The statement reinforces the importance of **maintaining order, decorum, and accountability during parliamentary debates.**
- It also highlights the balance between **parliamentary privilege and institutional responsibility**, ensuring that debates remain **constructive and within constitutional norms.**

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

### Freedom of Speech in Parliament

The Constitution provides special protection to legislators under Article 105.

Key provisions include:

- **Freedom of speech in Parliament**
- **Immunity from legal proceedings for statements made in the House**
- Protection for **votes and parliamentary actions**

However, this freedom is **subject to the rules and procedures of the House.**

### Parliamentary Privileges

Parliamentary privileges are special rights enjoyed by Members of Parliament to enable them to perform their duties effectively.

These include:

- **Freedom of speech in Parliament**
- **Freedom from arrest in certain civil cases during sessions**
- **Control over internal proceedings**

Privileges are derived from:

- Article 105 (for Parliament)
- Article 194 (for State Legislatures)

### Role of the Speaker

The Om Birla presides over proceedings of the Lok Sabha.

Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining **order and discipline in the House**
- Interpreting **rules of procedure**

- Regulating **debates and discussions**

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Speaker's Clarification:** Freedom of speech in Parliament is **subject to procedural rules**.
- **Constitutional Protection:** MPs enjoy privileges under **Article 105 of the Constitution**.
- **Not Absolute:** Parliamentary speech must adhere to **rules of the House and authority of the Speaker**.
- **Institutional Discipline:** Ensures **orderly conduct of debates and legislative functioning**.
- **Democratic Accountability:** Balances **legislative freedom with parliamentary responsibility**.
- **Presiding Authority:** The Speaker plays a key role in **regulating discussions and enforcing rules**.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

### Article 105 – Parliamentary Privileges

- Freedom of speech in Parliament
- Immunity from court proceedings for statements made in the House

### Article 194

- Similar privileges for **State Legislatures**

### Speaker of Lok Sabha

- Presiding officer of the **Lower House of Parliament**
- Responsible for **maintaining order and enforcing rules**

## Rules of Procedure

- Govern **debates, discussions, and legislative conduct**

## Key Principle

- Parliamentary privileges are **not absolute and must be exercised within constitutional and procedural limits**.

## PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **parliamentary privileges in India**:

1. Freedom of speech in Parliament is provided under Article 105 of the Constitution.
2. Parliamentary privileges allow Members of Parliament to speak without any procedural limitations in the House.
3. Similar privileges for State Legislatures are provided under Article 194 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**

## 2. PRESERVATION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE



### unesco

#### Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Intangible Cultural Heritage refers to **living cultural traditions and practices passed down through generations**, including performing arts, rituals, festivals, and traditional knowledge systems.
- The Government of India is undertaking initiatives to **identify, document, preserve, and promote such heritage through cultural institutions, research programs, and international collaboration**.
- India is also actively participating in global efforts to protect ICH under the framework of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**.
- Safeguarding intangible heritage strengthens **cultural identity, community participation, and sustainable tourism**, while also preserving traditional knowledge for future generations.

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

### Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

Intangible Cultural Heritage includes **non-physical aspects of culture** transmitted across generations.

Major categories include:

- **Oral traditions and expressions**
- **Performing arts**
- **Social practices, rituals, and festivals**
- **Traditional craftsmanship**
- **Knowledge concerning nature and the universe**

The global framework for safeguarding ICH is the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

### India and UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

India has several elements inscribed on the **UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**, including:

- Kutiyattam
- Ramlila
- Vedic Chanting
- Durga Puja

These traditions represent the **diversity of India's cultural heritage**.

### Institutional Mechanisms

The preservation of cultural heritage in India is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture through institutions such as:

- Sangeet Natak Akademi
- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

These institutions work on **documentation, research, and promotion of traditional cultural practices.**

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cultural Preservation:** Government initiatives focus on safeguarding **intangible cultural traditions.**
- **UNESCO Framework:** India participates in the **2003 UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage.**
- **Diverse Heritage:** Includes **performing arts, rituals, festivals, and traditional knowledge.**
- **Institutional Support:** Cultural bodies document and promote heritage practices.
- **Community Participation:** Preservation relies on **local communities and practitioners.**
- **Tourism and Identity:** Cultural heritage contributes to **cultural tourism and national identity.**

## PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

### Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

- Refers to **living traditions and cultural practices**

### UNESCO Convention

- **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage – 2003**

### Indian Institutions for Cultural Preservation

- Sangeet Natak Akademi

- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

### Examples from India on UNESCO ICH List

- Kutiyattam
- Ramlila
- Vedic Chanting
- Durga Puja

### Importance

- Preserves **traditional knowledge systems**
- Strengthens **cultural diversity and identity**

## PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH):**

1. Intangible Cultural Heritage includes practices such as rituals, festivals, and performing arts.
2. The UNESCO Convention for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003.
3. Intangible Cultural Heritage refers only to physical monuments and archaeological structures.

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: (b)**

### 3. PENSION TO SENIOR ARTISTS UNDER CULTURAL WELFARE SCHEME



- The Government of India provides **pension and financial assistance to senior artists** who have dedicated their lives to the preservation and promotion of art forms but face financial difficulties in old age.
- The scheme supports practitioners from various fields including **classical music, dance, theatre, folk arts, literature, and traditional crafts**.
- It serves as a social security measure recognizing the **contribution of artists in safeguarding India's cultural heritage**.
- The initiative also encourages continued engagement of artists in **cultural transmission and mentoring younger generations**.
- Through this welfare scheme, the government aims to **preserve artistic**

traditions while ensuring dignity and financial security for senior cultural practitioners.

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

### Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists Scheme

The pension support is provided under the **Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists** implemented by the Ministry of Culture.

Key features:

- Monthly financial assistance to **artists aged 60 years or above**
- Beneficiaries must have **significant contribution in the field of art and culture**
- Intended for artists facing **financial hardship**

### Scope of the Scheme

The scheme covers artists from diverse cultural domains:

- **Classical and folk music**
- **Dance and theatre**
- **Traditional crafts and visual arts**
- **Literature and cultural scholarship**

It recognizes the role of artists in **preserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage**.

### Cultural Welfare in India

India's cultural welfare initiatives aim to:

- Protect **traditional art forms**
- Provide **financial security to cultural practitioners**
- Encourage **intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge**

Such initiatives help sustain **cultural diversity and heritage preservation**.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Financial Assistance:** Pension provided to **senior artists in financial distress**.
- **Implementing Ministry:** Managed by the **Ministry of Culture**.
- **Eligibility:** Artists aged **60 years and above with notable contributions to arts**.
- **Cultural Coverage:** Includes **music, dance, theatre, literature, and traditional crafts**.
- **Heritage Preservation:** Supports practitioners who safeguard **India's cultural traditions**.
- **Social Security:** Ensures **dignity and financial stability for veteran artists**.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

### Scheme Name

- **Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists**

### Implementing Authority

- Ministry of Culture

### Eligibility

- Age **60 years or above**

- Demonstrated contribution to **arts and culture**
- Facing **financial hardship**

### Purpose

- Provide **monthly financial assistance**
- Support preservation of **traditional art forms**

### Cultural Significance

- Encourages **continuity of artistic traditions**
- Recognizes contributions of **senior cultural practitioners**

## PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the **Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists scheme**:

1. It provides pension support to senior artists facing financial hardship.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Culture.
3. Only classical musicians are eligible under the scheme.

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: (b)**

## 4. DEEP-SEA MINING: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IN PARLIAMENT



- Deep-sea mining involves the exploration and extraction of **valuable minerals from the ocean floor**, including polymetallic nodules rich in metals such as **nickel, cobalt, copper, and manganese**.
- India has been granted exploration rights for a large area in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin** by the International Seabed Authority.
- The Government is developing **deep-sea technologies such as remotely operated vehicles, submersibles, and mining systems** to explore these resources.
- These minerals are critical for **clean energy technologies, electronics, and advanced manufacturing**, making deep-sea mining strategically important for resource security.
- However, the initiative also requires careful consideration of **marine ecosystem protection and environmental sustainability**.

## Deep Ocean Mission

The **Deep Ocean Mission** was launched to explore and harness the potential of **deep ocean resources**.

Major objectives include:

- Development of **deep-sea mining technology**
- Exploration of **polymetallic nodules**
- Advancement of **underwater robotics and ocean observation systems**
- Study of **deep-sea biodiversity**

The mission is implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

## Polymetallic Nodules

Polymetallic nodules are **potato-shaped mineral deposits found on the deep ocean floor**.

They contain valuable metals such as:

- **Nickel**
- **Cobalt**
- **Copper**
- **Manganese**

These minerals are essential for **batteries, renewable energy technologies, and electronics manufacturing**.

## International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The International Seabed Authority regulates **mineral-related activities in international seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction**.

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

It operates under the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Parliamentary Response:** Government outlined progress in **deep-sea mining exploration**.
- **Strategic Programme:** Implemented under the **Deep Ocean Mission**.
- **Exploration Rights:** India holds exploration rights in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin**.
- **Mineral Resources:** Focus on **polymetallic nodules containing critical minerals**.
- **Technology Development:** Includes **deep-sea vehicles, robotics, and mining systems**.
- **Energy Transition Link:** Minerals support **renewable energy technologies and battery manufacturing**.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Need to ensure **marine ecosystem protection**.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

### Deep Ocean Mission

- Launched in **2021**
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**

### Polymetallic Nodules

- Found at depths of **4,000–6,000 meters**
- Rich in **nickel, cobalt, copper, and manganese**

### International Seabed Authority (ISA)

- Established under **UNCLOS**
- Regulates mining in **international seabed areas**

### Central Indian Ocean Basin

- Area allocated to **India for polymetallic nodule exploration**

### Importance

- Source of **critical minerals**
- Supports **green energy technologies**

## PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **deep-sea mining**:

1. Polymetallic nodules found on the seabed contain metals such as nickel, cobalt, and manganese.
2. The International Seabed Authority regulates mineral-related activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
3. India's Deep Ocean Mission is implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

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. STRENGTHENING FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR THROUGH MOFPI SCHEMES: OVER 13 LAKH EMPLOYMENT GENERATED



- The Government of India has implemented multiple schemes through the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** to boost the **food processing sector, enhance value addition, and reduce post-harvest losses.**
- These initiatives focus on **developing modern infrastructure such as Mega Food Parks, cold chains, and food processing units**, thereby improving the efficiency of agricultural supply chains.
- The schemes have collectively contributed to **generating more than 13 lakh employment opportunities across the country**, particularly benefiting **farmers, rural entrepreneurs, and small businesses.**
- Strengthening the food processing sector also supports **income diversification for farmers, increased exports, and improved food security.**

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

### Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is responsible for **policy formulation and development of the food processing sector in India.**

Key objectives include:

- Increasing **value addition to agricultural produce**
- Reducing **post-harvest losses**
- Promoting **food processing infrastructure**
- Enhancing **employment and rural entrepreneurship**

### Major MoFPI Schemes

Several flagship schemes support the sector:

#### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

- Focuses on **integrated cold chains, Mega Food Parks, and agro-processing clusters.**

#### Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme

- Supports **micro food processing enterprises** and **self-help groups.**

These schemes aim to strengthen the **farm-to-fork value chain.**

### Importance of Food Processing Sector

The sector plays a crucial role in:

- **Increasing farmers' income**
- **Reducing food wastage**
- **Boosting exports of processed food**
- **Creating rural employment opportunities**

It also supports **agriculture–industry linkage** and contributes to **value addition in the agri-economy**.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Infrastructure Development:** Expansion of **Mega Food Parks, cold chains, and food processing units**.
- **Employment Generation:** Over **13 lakh jobs created** through MoFPI schemes.
- **Value Addition:** Enhances **processing of agricultural produce**.
- **Farmer Benefits:** Provides **better market access and higher incomes for farmers**.
- **Rural Entrepreneurship:** Encourages **micro food enterprises and self-help groups**.
- **Supply Chain Strengthening:** Improves **post-harvest management and food logistics**.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

### Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)

- Responsible for **development of the food processing sector**

### Key Schemes

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme

### Mega Food Park Scheme

- Provides **modern infrastructure for food processing clusters**

### Importance of Food Processing

- Reduces **post-harvest losses**
- Promotes **value addition to agricultural produce**
- Boosts **agri-based exports**

## PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the **food processing sector in India**:

1. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements schemes to promote infrastructure such as Mega Food Parks and cold chains.
2. The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme supports micro food processing units.
3. Food processing helps reduce post-harvest losses and increase value addition to agricultural produce.

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)**