



Daily PIB Summary

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1. SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES OF ASSAM, KERALA, TAMIL NADU, WEST BENGAL AND PUDUCHERRY



- The Election Commission has declared the **election schedule for five legislative assemblies**, initiating the democratic process of electing state governments.
- The elections will be conducted in **multiple phases using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with VVPAT systems**, ensuring transparency and integrity.
- The announcement activates the **Model Code of Conduct**, regulating political conduct during the election period.
- The process involves stages such as **notification, nomination filing, scrutiny, withdrawal, polling, and counting of votes**.
- These elections are a crucial component of **India's federal democratic system**, enabling citizens

to elect representatives to state legislatures.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India is an **independent constitutional authority responsible for conducting elections in India**.

It is established under **Article 324 of the Constitution of India**.

Key responsibilities include:

- Conducting **elections to Parliament and State Legislatures**
- Supervising **elections to the offices of President and Vice-President**
- Ensuring **free and fair electoral processes**

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

The **Model Code of Conduct** is a set of **guidelines issued by the Election Commission** to regulate the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections.

Key provisions include:

- Restrictions on **government announcements or new schemes**
- Guidelines on **campaigning and public meetings**
- Prohibition of **misuse of official machinery for election purposes**

The MCC becomes effective **from the date of election schedule announcement**.

Election Process in India

The election process typically includes:

1. **Notification of Election**
2. **Filing of Nominations**
3. **Scrutiny of Nominations**
4. **Withdrawal of Candidature**
5. **Polling**
6. **Counting of Votes**
7. **Declaration of Results**

Voting is conducted using Electronic Voting Machine along with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail for transparency.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Election Announcement:** Schedule declared by the **Election Commission of India**.
- **States Involved:** Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry.
- **MCC Enforcement:** **Model Code of Conduct** comes into force immediately.
- **Voting Technology:** Elections conducted using **EVMs and VVPAT systems**.
- **Phased Polling:** Elections may be conducted in **multiple phases for logistical and security reasons**.
- **Democratic Significance:** Ensures **periodic elections and democratic governance in states**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Article 324

- Empowers the **Election Commission of India** to supervise elections.

Election Commission of India

- Constitutional body
- Responsible for **conducting elections to Parliament and State Legislatures**

Voting Technology

- Electronic Voting Machine
- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

Model Code of Conduct

- Enforced **immediately after election schedule announcement**
- Ensures **fair election campaigning**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **elections in India**:

1. Article 324 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of the Election Commission of India.
2. The Model Code of Conduct comes into effect immediately after the election schedule is announced.
3. Electronic Voting Machines are used along with VVPAT systems in elections.

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.GCWAS-2026 CONCLUDES WITH RENEWED GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS



- The **GCWAS-2026 conference** highlighted the critical role women play across the **agriculture and food value chain**, from production to processing and marketing.
- Participants emphasized the need for **gender-responsive policies, improved access to finance, technology, and capacity-building for women farmers and entrepreneurs.**
- Discussions also focused on strengthening **women-led cooperatives, farmer producer organisations, and rural enterprises.**
- The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to **integrating gender perspectives into agri-food**

systems, promoting inclusive growth, food security, and sustainable rural development.

- Such initiatives align with global efforts toward **equitable agricultural transformation and women's economic empowerment.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Women in Agri-Food Systems

Women constitute a significant share of the **agricultural workforce globally**, particularly in developing countries.

Their roles include:

- **Crop production and livestock management**
- **Post-harvest processing**
- **Food distribution and marketing**

Despite their contribution, women often face **limited access to land, credit, technology, and extension services.**

Agri-Food Systems

Agri-food systems refer to the **entire chain of activities involved in producing, processing, distributing, and consuming food.**

Components include:

- **Agricultural production**
- **Food processing and storage**
- **Transportation and marketing**
- **Consumption and nutrition**

Transforming these systems is essential for **sustainable development and food security.**

Global Frameworks Supporting Women in Agriculture

Efforts to empower women in agriculture align with global goals such as:

- Sustainable Development Goals
- SDG 5
- SDG 2

Promoting women's participation helps achieve **inclusive economic growth and sustainable agriculture**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Conference:** GCWAS-2026 held in **New Delhi**.
- **Primary Focus:** Empowering **women in agri-food systems**.
- **Policy Discussions:** Gender-responsive agricultural policies and programs.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Strengthening **women farmers, cooperatives, and rural entrepreneurs**.
- **Access to Resources:** Need for improved **credit, technology, and market access**.
- **Global Commitment:** Reinforces international collaboration for **gender-inclusive agriculture**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Agri-Food System

- Entire chain from **farm production to food consumption**

Women in Agriculture

- Play major roles in **crop cultivation, livestock rearing, and food processing**

Relevant SDGs

- SDG 5
- SDG 2

Importance

- Gender-inclusive agriculture improves **food security, productivity, and rural livelihoods**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **agri-food systems and women's participation**:

1. Agri-food systems include activities from agricultural production to food consumption.
2. Women play significant roles in agriculture but often face limited access to resources such as credit and land.
3. Promoting women's participation in agriculture contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to gender equality and food security.

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. BCCL ORGANISES INTERACTION WITH NRS LINKAGE AND CIL SWMA E-AUCTION CONSUMERS



भारत कोकिंग कोल लिमिटेड
Bharat Coking Coal Limited

- The interaction aimed to strengthen coordination between **coal suppliers and industrial consumers** under the **NRS linkage and SWMA e-auction systems**.
- Discussions focused on **coal supply management, allocation procedures, and operational challenges faced by consumers**.
- The initiative reflects efforts to enhance **transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness in coal distribution mechanisms**.
- Improving communication with consumers helps ensure **reliable coal supply for industries such as steel, power, and cement**.
- Such engagements are important for maintaining **energy security and smooth functioning of industrial supply chains**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)

Bharat Coking Coal Limited is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.

Key features:

- Major producer of **coking coal in India**
- Headquarters in **Dhanbad, Jharkhand**
- Supplies coal mainly to the **steel industry**

Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) Linkage

The **Non-Regulated Sector (NRS)** includes industries not covered under regulated coal allocation mechanisms.

Examples include:

- **Cement**
- **Steel (non-integrated plants)**
- **Textiles**
- **Brick kilns**

Coal supply to these sectors is facilitated through **linkage allocations and auction mechanisms**.

SWMA e-Auction

The **Single Window Mode Auction (SWMA)** is an **online coal auction platform** developed by Coal India Limited.

Key features:

- Transparent **electronic bidding process**

- Allocation of coal to **non-regulated sector consumers**
- Improved **efficiency and fairness in coal distribution**

- **Single Window Mode Auction**
- Online coal allocation platform developed by **CIL**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Organising Company:** Interaction conducted by **BCCL**.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Meeting held with **NRS linkage consumers and SWMA e-auction participants**.
- **Coal Distribution Mechanism:** Focus on **linkage supply and e-auction systems**.
- **Operational Coordination:** Addressed **supply challenges and logistics issues**.
- **Industrial Importance:** Coal supplied to **steel, cement, and other industries**.
- **Transparency Goal:** Promotes **efficient and transparent coal allocation**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)

- Subsidiary of Coal India Limited
- Major producer of **coking coal**

Coking Coal

- Used primarily in **steel manufacturing**

Non-Regulated Sector (NRS)

- Industries **not covered under regulated coal supply**

SWMA e-Auction

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **coal supply mechanisms in India:**

1. Bharat Coking Coal Limited is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.
2. Coking coal is primarily used in steel production.
3. The SWMA e-auction system facilitates transparent allocation of coal to non-regulated sector consumers.

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. WARFARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN; TRADITIONAL MAN-TO-MAN COMBAT GRADUALLY REDUCING:

DR. JITENDRA SINGH



- Modern warfare is witnessing a major transformation with the **integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, cyber capabilities, and space-based surveillance.**
- According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, the nature of conflict is shifting from **conventional battlefield engagements to technology-centric operations.**
- Technologies like **unmanned systems, cyber warfare tools, and satellite intelligence** are increasingly shaping defence strategies.
- This transformation underscores the need for **strong research ecosystems, indigenous defence technologies, and collaboration between scientific institutions and the armed forces.**
- Strengthening technological capabilities in defence is critical for

national security, strategic deterrence, and future warfare preparedness.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Changing Nature of Warfare

Traditional warfare primarily involved **direct military confrontation between soldiers on the battlefield.**

However, contemporary conflicts increasingly rely on:

- **Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)**
- **Cyber warfare capabilities**
- **Artificial intelligence and automation**
- **Satellite-based surveillance**

These developments are collectively referred to as **technology-driven or network-centric warfare.**

Role of Emerging Technologies

Key technologies influencing modern warfare include:

Artificial Intelligence

- Decision support systems
- Autonomous weapons platforms

Cyber Warfare

- Protection of **critical digital infrastructure**
- Offensive cyber operations

Space Technology

- Satellite-based **communication, navigation, and surveillance**

India's defence technology ecosystem involves institutions such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

India's Defence Modernization

India has been promoting **indigenous defence technology development** under initiatives like:

- Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing
- Strengthening collaboration between **research institutions, startups, and armed forces**

These efforts aim to **enhance strategic autonomy in defence technologies**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Minister's Statement:** Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the **technology-driven nature of modern warfare**.
- **Decline of Traditional Combat:** Direct man-to-man combat is **gradually decreasing**.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Greater use of **AI, drones, cyber warfare, and satellite systems**.
- **Strategic Importance:** Technology is central to **future military preparedness**.
- **Research Ecosystem:** Emphasis on **scientific innovation and defence R&D**.
- **Indigenous Capability:** Supports **self-reliance in defence technologies**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Modern Warfare Technologies

- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**
- **Cyber warfare tools**
- **Satellite surveillance systems**

Key Defence R&D Institution

- Defence Research and Development Organisation

Strategic Concept

- **Network-Centric Warfare** – integration of information systems, sensors, and communication networks in military operations.

Policy Link

- Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **modern warfare**:

1. Modern warfare increasingly relies on technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence, and cyber capabilities.
2. Satellite-based systems play an important role in military communication and surveillance.
3. Traditional battlefield combat has completely disappeared in modern conflicts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.NHAI TO REVISE FASTAG ANNUAL PASS FEE FROM 1 APRIL 2026 FOR FY 2026–27



- The revision of the FASTag annual pass fee is part of the government's efforts to **streamline electronic toll collection and improve highway user services**.
- FASTag uses **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** to enable automatic toll payment without stopping at toll plazas.
- Adjustments in the annual pass fee help maintain **efficient toll infrastructure operations and highway maintenance funding**.
- The initiative supports the broader objective of **digitisation of road**

transport services and reduction of congestion at toll plazas.

- It also contributes to improved **fuel efficiency, travel time reduction, and transparency in toll collection**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

FASTag System

The FASTag is an **electronic toll collection mechanism** introduced to facilitate **cashless toll payments on highways**.

Key features:

- Uses **RFID technology**
- Linked to **bank accounts or prepaid wallets**
- Allows **automatic deduction of toll charges**

FASTag is mandatory for vehicles on **national highways**.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

The National Highways Authority of India operates under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Development and maintenance of national highways**
- **Toll management and infrastructure development**

- Implementation of **digital toll collection systems**

Benefits of Electronic Toll Collection

Electronic tolling provides several advantages:

- **Reduced waiting time at toll plazas**
- **Lower fuel consumption and emissions**
- **Transparent and efficient toll collection**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Authority:** Revision announced by **NHAI**.
- **Effective Date:** **1 April 2026** for FY **2026–27**.
- **Technology Used:** **FASTag electronic toll collection system**.
- **Digital Payment:** Enables **cashless toll transactions** using RFID.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Helps reduce **congestion at toll plazas**.
- **Infrastructure Support:** Generates funds for **highway maintenance and development**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

FASTag

- Electronic toll collection system based on **RFID technology**

Implementing Authority

- National Highways Authority of India

Parent Ministry

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Advantages

- **Cashless toll payments**
- **Reduced travel time**
- **Lower fuel consumption**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **FASTag**:

1. FASTag uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for electronic toll collection.
2. FASTag enables automatic deduction of toll charges without stopping vehicles at toll plazas.
3. The system is implemented by the National Highways Authority of India.

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)