



Daily PIB Summary

16th March 2026

Welcome to PadhAI

Your Partner in Smart UPSC Preparation

You're holding a resource designed to cut through the noise and bring you *only what truly matters* for the exam. At PadhAI, we believe preparation should be clear, focused, and time-efficient — never overwhelming.

At PadhAI, we build everything around one philosophy:

“Learn only what matters.

Learn it the right way.

Learn it at the right time.”

With a rapidly growing community of *2lakh+ aspirants*, PadhAI has become a trusted space for disciplined learning and daily practice.

We bring you:

- Concise Monthly Magazines
- Daily PIB Summaries @ 9 PM
- Daily MCQs + Mains Practice
- High-yield, exam-ready content
- APP features - duel competition, fast mains answer review, daily news article summary, PYQs, MCQs PRACTICE, AI tutor (based on highly yield content From UPSC topper insight, and various trusted websites). Many more feature which will improve your preparation and save your time automatically.

Join our Telegram community and download the PadhAI App to experience structured guidance, supportive peers, and consistent motivation — everything a serious aspirant needs

Welcome to a smarter way of preparing.

Welcome to PadhAI.



[Click here](#) to join to telegram channel

Scan the QR code or just click on it
to download the app

1.161ST REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE



- Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees play a crucial role in **strengthening parliamentary oversight and accountability**.
- The **161st report** examines matters under ministries dealing with **personnel management, administrative reforms, and legal affairs**.
- Through detailed review and consultations, the committee provides **recommendations aimed at improving policy implementation, transparency, and institutional efficiency**.
- Such reports assist Parliament in **scrutinising government**

functioning and enhancing legislative deliberation.

- The committee system thus strengthens **democratic governance, evidence-based policymaking, and executive accountability**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs)

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees were introduced in **1993** to enhance **parliamentary scrutiny of government policies and expenditure**.

They examine:

- **Demands for Grants of ministries**
- **Bills referred by Parliament**
- **Annual reports of ministries**
- **Policy issues and administrative performance**

Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice

This committee oversees ministries such as:

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Ministry of Law and Justice

Key areas covered include:

- **Civil services administration**

- **Public grievance redressal mechanisms**
- **Legal and judicial affairs**
- **Administrative reforms**

institutional efficiency and accountability.

- **Democratic Importance:** Strengthens **legislative scrutiny and transparency in governance.**

Role of Parliamentary Committees

Parliamentary committees perform several important functions:

- **Detailed scrutiny of policies and legislation**
- **Improved legislative oversight**
- **Expert consultations and stakeholder engagement**
- **Bipartisan examination of governance issues**

They are often referred to as **“mini-Parliaments”** due to their detailed and technical review process.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Report Number:** 161st Report of the Standing Committee.
- **Committee Domain:** Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law & Justice.
- **Parliamentary Oversight:** Reviews policies and administrative functioning.
- **Governance Focus:** Addresses issues of **civil services, legal administration, and grievance redressal.**
- **Policy Recommendations:** Provides suggestions for **improving**

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs)

- Introduced in **1993**
- Strengthen **legislative oversight**

Total DRSCs

- **24 committees** in Parliament

Composition

- Members from **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**

Key Functions

- Examine **Demands for Grants**
- Scrutinise **Bills and policies**
- Review **annual reports of ministries**

Relevant Ministries under the Committee

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Ministry of Law and Justice

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs)**:

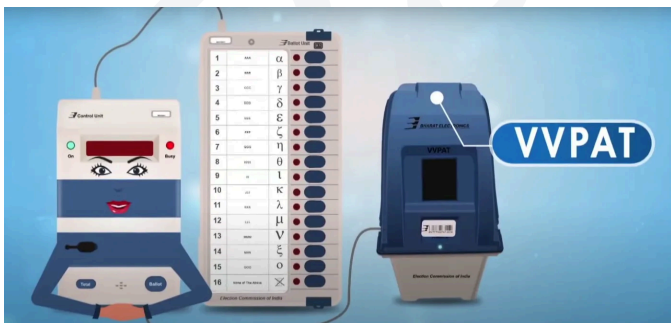
1. DRSCs were introduced in India in 1993 to strengthen parliamentary oversight.
2. They examine Demands for Grants of ministries and may review bills referred to them.
3. They consist only of members from the Lok Sabha.

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)

2.ECI APPOINTS SPECIAL OBSERVER FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ASSAM, 2026



- The Election Commission appoints **Special Observers during sensitive**

or high-stakes elections to reinforce oversight of the electoral process.

- The Special Observer will **supervise election preparations, law and order arrangements, and adherence to electoral guidelines** in Assam.
- Such appointments enhance **coordination among election officials, security agencies, and local administration.**
- The initiative helps address **logistical, administrative, or security concerns during elections.**
- It reflects the Commission's commitment to **maintaining electoral integrity and public trust in democratic institutions.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India is a **constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Constitution of India.**

Its functions include:

- Conducting **elections to Parliament and State Legislatures**
- Supervising **Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections**
- Ensuring **free and fair electoral processes**

Role of Election Observers

Election observers are senior officers appointed by the **Election Commission** to monitor different aspects of the electoral process.

Types of observers include:

- **General Observers** – monitor overall election administration
- **Expenditure Observers** – monitor election spending
- **Police Observers** – oversee law and order arrangements
- **Special Observers** – appointed in sensitive or complex electoral situations

Their presence strengthens **transparency and compliance with election rules.**

Model Code of Conduct

The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** regulates the behaviour of **political parties and candidates during elections.**

It comes into force **immediately after the announcement of the election schedule.**

Key provisions include:

- Restrictions on **government announcements**
- Regulation of **campaign activities**
- Prevention of **misuse of official machinery**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Authority:** Appointment made by the **Election Commission of India.**
- **Election Concerned: Assam Legislative Assembly Election 2026.**
- **Role:** Special Observer to supervise **election management and compliance.**
- **Monitoring Function:** Ensures **law and order, electoral integrity, and transparency.**
- **Administrative Coordination:** Works with **election officials and security agencies.**
- **Democratic Significance:** Strengthens **free and fair electoral processes.**

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Article 324

- Provides for the **superintendence, direction, and control of elections** by the Election Commission.

Election Observers

- Appointed by the **Election Commission of India** to monitor elections.

Types of Observers

- **General Observer**
- **Expenditure Observer**
- **Police Observer**

- **Special Observer**

Model Code of Conduct

- Comes into force **from the date of election announcement.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **election observers in India**:

1. Election observers are appointed by the Election Commission of India to monitor various aspects of the electoral process.
2. Special observers are generally appointed during elections that require additional monitoring due to administrative or security concerns.
3. The Election Commission derives its authority to conduct elections from Article 324 of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

3.INDIA'S CUMULATIVE EXPORTS REACH US\$ 790.86 BILLION DURING APRIL-FEBRUARY 2025-26



सत्यमेव जयते

वाणिज्य एवं
उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

- India's export performance during April–February 2025–26 shows **steady growth in both merchandise and services exports.**
- The increase reflects **expanding global demand for Indian goods and services**, including sectors such as **engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, IT services, and business services.**
- Growth in services exports, particularly in **IT and digital services**, continues to strengthen India's position in the global services market.
- Rising exports contribute to **foreign exchange earnings, economic growth, and employment generation.**
- The trend also supports India's broader goal of **enhancing its role in global trade and achieving higher export targets.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India's Export Structure

India's exports are broadly divided into two categories:

Merchandise Exports

- I. Physical goods such as:
 - A. Engineering products
 - B. Petroleum products
 - C. Pharmaceuticals
 - D. Textiles
 - E. Agricultural commodities

Services Exports

- I. Intangible services such as:
 - A. **Information Technology (IT) services**
 - B. **Business process outsourcing (BPO)**
 - C. Financial and consulting services
 - D. Tourism and travel services

India is among the **world's leading exporters of IT and digital services.**

Role of Trade in Economic Growth

Exports play a crucial role in:

- **Enhancing foreign exchange reserves**
- **Promoting industrial production**
- **Generating employment**
- **Strengthening global economic integration**

Export growth is also aligned with India's strategy of becoming a **major global manufacturing and services hub.**

Government Initiatives to Boost Exports

Key initiatives include:

- Foreign Trade Policy
- Make in India
- Production Linked Incentive Scheme

These programs aim to **enhance competitiveness, increase manufacturing capacity, and expand export markets.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Export Growth:** Cumulative exports reached **US\$ 790.86 billion** during April–February 2025–26.
- **Growth Rate:** Approximately **5.79% increase** compared to the previous year.
- **Export Components:** Includes both **merchandise and services exports.**
- **Major Contributors:** Engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, and **IT services.**
- **Economic Importance:** Supports **foreign exchange earnings and economic growth.**

- **Trade Strategy:** Strengthens India's integration into **global supply chains**.

3. Growth in exports contributes to higher foreign exchange earnings for the country.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Merchandise Exports

- Export of **physical goods**

Services Exports

- Export of **intangible services such as IT and BPO**

Key Ministry

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Important Policy

- Foreign Trade Policy

Economic Significance

- Improves **balance of payments**
- Increases **foreign exchange reserves**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **India's exports**:

1. Merchandise exports refer to the export of physical goods.
2. Services exports include sectors such as information technology and business process outsourcing.

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.MAJOR STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO DISCOURAGE AND MITIGATE CROP RESIDUE BURNING



- Crop residue burning, especially after the **paddy harvest in north India**, is a major contributor to **seasonal air pollution**.
- The government has implemented several initiatives to promote **in-situ and ex-situ management of crop residues**, including financial assistance for machinery and technological solutions.
- Programs encourage farmers to use **crop residue management**

equipment such as Happy Seeder, Super SMS, and mulchers instead of burning stubble.

- The government also promotes **biomass utilisation for bioenergy, composting, and industrial uses.**
- These interventions aim to protect **soil health, reduce air pollution, and support sustainable agricultural practices.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Crop Residue Burning

Crop residue burning refers to the **burning of leftover agricultural biomass such as paddy straw after harvest.**

It is prevalent mainly in states such as:

- Punjab
- Haryana
- Uttar Pradesh

Farmers burn residues to **quickly clear fields for the next cropping cycle.**

However, this practice causes:

- Severe **air pollution**
- Loss of **soil nutrients**
- Release of **greenhouse gases**

Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme

The government launched the **Crop Residue Management Scheme** to address stubble burning.

Key components include:

- **Subsidies for crop residue management machinery**
- Promotion of **in-situ residue management**
- Capacity building and **awareness programs for farmers**

The scheme is implemented mainly in **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi region.**

Technological Solutions

Examples of machinery used in residue management include:

- **Happy Seeder** – allows sowing crops without removing stubble
- **Super Straw Management System (Super SMS)** – spreads straw evenly
- **Mulchers and rotavators** – incorporate residue into soil

These technologies help improve **soil organic matter and soil fertility.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Government Response:** Measures outlined in Parliament by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**

- **Primary Issue:** Crop residue burning causing **air pollution and environmental degradation**.
- **Key Scheme: Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme** providing subsidies for machinery.
- **Technological Solutions:** Use of **Happy Seeder, Super SMS, mulchers, and rotavators**.
- **Biomass Utilisation:** Promotion of **bioenergy production and composting** from agricultural waste.
- **Environmental Impact:** Helps reduce **air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Crop Residue Burning

- Burning of leftover **stubble after harvest**

Major Affected Region

- **Punjab–Haryana belt** of north India

Key Government Scheme

- **Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme**

Important Machinery

- **Happy Seeder**
- **Super Straw Management System (Super SMS)**

Environmental Impact

- Releases **PM2.5, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants**
- Causes **seasonal air pollution in northern India**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **crop residue management in India**:

1. Crop residue burning contributes to air pollution and loss of soil nutrients.
2. The Happy Seeder allows sowing crops without removing crop residues from the field.
3. The Crop Residue Management scheme promotes the use of agricultural machinery to manage stubble.

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. COORDINATED EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT, RBI AND NPCI ACCELERATE GROWTH IN DIGITAL PAYMENTS



- India has witnessed a **substantial rise in digital payment transactions**, driven by initiatives such as the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and improved digital infrastructure.
- Coordinated actions by the government, RBI, and NPCI have helped promote **secure, accessible, and low-cost digital payment systems**.
- The expansion of digital payment platforms has enabled **financial inclusion by integrating small businesses, street vendors, and rural populations into the formal financial system**.
- Digital payments also contribute to **greater transparency, reduced cash dependency, and improved efficiency in financial transactions**.
- These developments strengthen India's ambition of building a **robust digital economy**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Digital Payments Ecosystem in India

India's digital payment ecosystem includes multiple platforms such as:

- **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)**
- **IMPS (Immediate Payment Service)**
- **RuPay card network**
- **AePS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System)**

These platforms enable **instant electronic fund transfers and cashless payments**.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

Unified Payments Interface is a **real-time digital payment system** developed by National Payments Corporation of India.

Key features:

- Instant **bank-to-bank transfers**
- **Mobile-based payments**
- Interoperable across banks and apps

UPI has become **one of the world's largest real-time payment systems**.

Institutional Roles

Government of India

- Promotes digital financial inclusion and infrastructure.

Reserve Bank of India

- Regulates payment systems and ensures **financial stability and security**.

NPCI

- Operates key digital payment platforms such as **UPI and RuPay**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Coordination:** Government, RBI, and NPCI jointly promoting digital payments.
- **Key Platform:** Rapid expansion of **UPI-based transactions**.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Digital payments integrating **small merchants and rural users**.
- **Transparency:** Reduced dependence on **cash transactions**.
- **Economic Impact:** Supports the growth of **India's digital economy**.
- **Technology Integration:** Mobile applications and QR-based payments widely adopted.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- Real-time digital payment system
- Developed by National Payments Corporation of India

Regulator of Payment Systems

- Reserve Bank of India

NPCI

- Umbrella organization for **retail payments in India**
- Operates platforms such as **UPI, RuPay, and IMPS**

Digital Payment Benefits

- Financial inclusion
- Reduced cash handling
- Transparent transactions

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **digital payments in India**:

1. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) enables instant bank-to-bank fund transfers through mobile platforms.
2. The National Payments Corporation of India operates key retail payment systems in India.
3. The Reserve Bank of India regulates payment and settlement systems in the country.

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)