



Daily PIB Summary

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1. HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ICAR'S EXPENDITURE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER



Key Focus of the Meeting

- I. Review of:
 - A. Financial and developmental proposals related to ICAR programmes

Objectives

- Strengthen agricultural research infrastructure
- Promote innovation and technology dissemination
- Improve productivity and farmer welfare

Areas Discussed

- Agricultural research modernization
- Climate-resilient farming technologies
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening
- Research support for food security and sustainability

Significance

- Enhances India's agricultural research ecosystem
- Supports evidence-based farming and technological advancement

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

ICAR

- I. Indian Council of Agricultural Research:
 - A. Apex body for agricultural research and education in India
- II. Functions under:
 - A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)

- I. Government mechanism to:
 - A. Examine financial proposals of ministries and departments
- II. Ensures:
 - A. Efficient allocation and utilization of public expenditure

Importance of Agricultural Research

- I. Helps in:
 - A. Improving crop productivity
 - B. Developing climate-resilient varieties
 - C. Enhancing food security

Challenges in Agriculture

- Climate change
- Soil degradation
- Water scarcity
- Need for technological modernization

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Organization:** ICAR.
- **Meeting type:** Expenditure Finance Committee review.
- **Chair:** Union Agriculture Minister.
- **Focus:** Agricultural research and innovation.
- **Goal:** Productivity and sustainability.
- **Importance:** Farmer welfare and food security.
- **Way Forward:** Expand research-driven agricultural modernization.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ICAR:** Apex agricultural research body
- **Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- **EFC:** Financial proposal evaluation mechanism
- **Focus:** Agricultural innovation
- **Goal:** Food security
- **Challenge:** Climate-resilient agriculture
- **Approach:** Research and technology

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. ICAR is the apex body for agricultural research and education in India.
2. Agricultural research helps in developing climate-resilient farming technologies.
3. The Expenditure Finance Committee has no role in reviewing government expenditure proposals.

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.INS SAGARDHWANI DEPARTS PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA



Purpose of the Visit

- Enhance bilateral maritime cooperation
- Promote scientific and naval collaboration
- Strengthen regional engagement in the Indo-Pacific

Key Activities

- Professional exchanges
- Scientific outreach and interactions
- Goodwill engagements with Malaysian authorities

Significance

- Reinforces India's maritime diplomacy
- Supports stronger India-Malaysia strategic ties
- Enhances cooperation in marine and oceanic research

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Sagardhwani

- I. INS Sagardhwani:
 - A. Oceanographic and acoustic research vessel of the Indian Navy
- II. Used for:
 - A. Scientific studies
 - B. Marine research
 - C. Naval cooperation activities

Port Klang

- I. Port Klang:
 - A. Major maritime port of Malaysia
- II. Important for:
 - A. Trade and regional maritime connectivity

India–Malaysia Relations

- I. Cooperation areas:
 - A. Maritime security
 - B. Trade
 - C. Defence collaboration
 - D. Indo-Pacific engagement

Maritime Diplomacy

- I. Naval visits and port calls help:
 - A. Build trust
 - B. Improve interoperability
 - C. Strengthen regional stability

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Vessel:** INS Sagardhwani.
- **Location:** Port Klang, Malaysia.
- **Focus:** Maritime and scientific cooperation.

- **Region:** Indo-Pacific.
- **Importance:** Naval diplomacy and regional engagement.
- **Sector:** Oceanographic research.
- **Way Forward:** Deepen maritime partnerships in Southeast Asia.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Sagardhwani:** Research vessel
- **Country visited:** Malaysia
- **Port:** Port Klang
- **Focus:** Maritime cooperation
- **Region:** Indo-Pacific
- **Importance:** Naval diplomacy
- **Sector:** Oceanographic research

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Sagardhwani is associated with oceanographic and scientific research.
2. Port Klang is an important maritime port in Malaysia.
3. Maritime diplomacy can strengthen regional cooperation and security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REVIEWS STRATEGY FOR MAINSTREAMING OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN



Objectives

- Bring out-of-school children back into formal education
- Strengthen coordination among central, state, and district agencies
- Promote equitable access to learning opportunities

Key Strategies

- Flexible and open schooling models
- Identification and tracking of OoSC
- Bridge courses and special training programmes
- Community participation and local administration support

Role of NIOS

- I. Provides:
 - A. Open and distance learning opportunities
 - B. Flexible education pathways for disadvantaged children

Significance

- I. Supports:
 - A. Universalization of education
 - B. Reduction in dropout rates
 - C. Inclusive development

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Out-of-School Children (OoSC)

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Children not enrolled in formal schooling or who have dropped out
- II. Reasons may include:
 - A. Poverty
 - B. Migration
 - C. Social barriers
 - D. Lack of access to schools

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

- I. National Institute of Open Schooling:
 - A. Autonomous institution under Ministry of Education
- II. Provides:
 - A. Flexible school education through open and distance learning

Constitutional & Policy Framework

- I. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE Act):
 - A. Ensures free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years
- II. National Education Policy 2020:
 - A. Emphasizes universal access and inclusion

Importance of Mainstreaming

- I. Improves:
 - A. Literacy and skill development
 - B. Social inclusion
 - C. Human capital formation

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Focus:** Out-of-School Children.
- **Institution:** NIOS.
- **Goal:** Universal and inclusive education.
- **Approach:** Coordination with states and districts.
- **Policy linkage:** RTE Act and NEP 2020.
- **Way Forward:** Expand flexible learning and retention mechanisms.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **OoS:** Out-of-School Children
- **NIOS:** Open schooling institution
- **Law:** RTE Act
- **Policy:** NEP 2020
- **Goal:** Inclusive education
- **Challenge:** School dropouts
- **Approach:** Flexible learning systems

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. NIOS provides flexible education through open and distance learning.
2. The RTE Act guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
3. Mainstreaming out-of-school children is unrelated to inclusive development.

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)

4. OPERATION RAGEPILL: NCB BUSTS INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING NETWORK



Major Outcomes

- I. Busting of:
 - A. International drug trafficking syndicate
- II. Seizure of:
 - A. Captagon tablets and related narcotics materials

About Captagon

- I. Psychotropic substance linked to:
 - A. Illegal drug networks
- II. Known for:
 - A. Stimulant effects and abuse potential

Significance

- Highlights growing sophistication of transnational narcotics trade
- Strengthens India's anti-drug enforcement efforts

Operational Importance

- I. Demonstrates:
 - A. International coordination and intelligence-led enforcement

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- I. Narcotics Control Bureau:
 - A. Apex drug law enforcement agency in India
- II. Functions under:
 - A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- III. Responsible for:
 - A. Combating drug trafficking and narcotics abuse

Captagon

- I. Originally developed as:
 - A. Pharmaceutical stimulant
- II. Now largely associated with:
 - A. Illicit production and trafficking
- III. Classified as:
 - A. Psychotropic substance under international narcotics control frameworks

Drug Trafficking Concerns

- I. Linked with:
 - A. Organized crime
 - B. Terror financing
 - C. Public health risks

Legal Framework

- I. India combats narcotics trafficking through:
 - A. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Operation:** RAGEPILL.
- **Agency:** NCB.
- **Substance seized:** Captagon.
- **Nature:** Psychotropic substance.
- **Issue:** International drug trafficking.
- **Law:** NDPS Act.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen intelligence-sharing and anti-narcotics cooperation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NCB:** Anti-narcotics agency
- **Law:** NDPS Act
- **Substance:** Captagon

- **Category:** Psychotropic substance
- **Threat:** Transnational drug trafficking
- **Concern:** Organized crime
- **Goal:** Drug control and enforcement

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. NCB is India's apex narcotics law enforcement agency.
2. Captagon is classified as a psychotropic substance.
3. The NDPS Act deals with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5. QUANTUM & AI SOVEREIGNTY TO DEFINE INDIA'S NEXT-GENERATION GROWTH: DR. JITENDRA SINGH



Key Themes

- Quantum technology sovereignty
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) leadership
- Indigenous innovation ecosystems

Objectives

- Reduce dependence on foreign technologies
- Build secure and trusted digital infrastructure
- Promote research, startups, and advanced technology development

Focus Areas

- Quantum computing and communication
- AI applications across sectors
- Semiconductor and deep-tech ecosystems
- Cybersecurity and strategic technologies

Significance

- I. Supports:
 - A. Technological self-reliance
 - B. National security
 - C. Economic competitiveness
- II. Aligns with:
 - A. India's innovation-driven growth strategy

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Quantum Technology

- I. Uses principles of:
 - A. Quantum mechanics for computing and communication
- II. Applications include:
 - A. Quantum computing
 - B. Cryptography
 - C. Precision sensing

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- I. Enables:
 - A. Machine learning and automated decision-making
- II. Used in:
 - A. Healthcare
 - B. Agriculture
 - C. Defence
 - D. Finance
 - E. Governance

Technology Sovereignty

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Capability to develop and control critical technologies domestically
- II. Important for:
 - A. Strategic autonomy and cyber resilience

India's Technology Initiatives

- National Quantum Mission
- Digital India
- Startup and semiconductor ecosystem support programmes

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Focus:** Quantum and AI sovereignty.
- **Goal:** Indigenous technology ecosystem.
- **Sector:** Deep-tech innovation.
- **Importance:** Strategic autonomy and growth.
- **Applications:** Computing, cybersecurity, governance.
- **Policy direction:** Self-reliant technology ecosystem.
- **Way Forward:** Invest in R&D, startups, and advanced digital infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Quantum technology:** Advanced computing and communication
- **AI:** Artificial Intelligence
- **Mission:** National Quantum Mission
- **Goal:** Technological sovereignty
- **Concept:** Strategic autonomy
- **Sector:** Deep-tech innovation
- **Approach:** Indigenous ecosystem development

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Quantum technology has applications in computing and cryptography.

2. AI can be used across sectors such as healthcare, finance, and governance.
3. Technology sovereignty refers to complete dependence on imported technologies.

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)