



Daily PIB Summary

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1. BEYOND THE NUMBERS: INDIA'S SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRESS



- India has made substantial gains in **school access and participation**.
- The focus is increasingly shifting towards **foundational literacy and numeracy, learning outcomes and quality education**.
- **NEP 2020**, Samagra Shiksha and initiatives such as **NIPUN Bharat** support this transition.
- Technology, better infrastructure, teacher development and inclusive education are becoming important components of school education reform.

KEY PROGRESS

- Access and enrolment**
 - Expansion of the school network has significantly improved access to education.
 - Greater participation of girls and disadvantaged groups has strengthened educational inclusion.
- Infrastructure**
 - Improvements in classrooms, toilets, drinking water, electricity and digital facilities have supported a better learning environment.
- Foundational learning**
 - Greater emphasis is being placed on **reading, writing and basic mathematics in the early grades**.
 - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy is a major priority under **NEP 2020**.
- Digital education**

- Digital platforms and ICT-based learning have expanded access to educational content.
- DIKSHA** provides digital resources for teachers and students.

V. Quality over enrolment

- High enrolment alone does not guarantee educational success.
- Learning outcomes, retention, attendance and competencies** are equally important.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVES

- National Education Policy 2020**
 - Emphasises holistic, multidisciplinary and competency-based education.
 - Gives strong priority to foundational learning.
- NIPUN Bharat**
 - Focuses on achieving **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** among children.
- Samagra Shiksha**
 - An integrated school-education programme covering **pre-school to Class XII**.
 - Focuses on access, equity and quality.
- PM SHRI Schools**
 - Aims to develop exemplar schools aligned with the vision of **NEP 2020**.
- DIKSHA**
 - National digital platform supporting teachers and learners with educational resources.

SIGNIFICANCE

- **Human capital:** Better school education strengthens India's demographic dividend.
- **Social mobility:** Quality education can reduce inter-generational poverty and inequality.
- **Women empowerment:** Greater access and retention of girls improve long-term social and economic outcomes.
- **Economic growth:** A skilled workforce begins with strong foundational education.
- **Viksit Bharat 2047:** Human-capital development is essential for India's long-term development.

KEY CHALLENGE

- The major transition is from “schooling” to “learning”.

Enrolment → Attendance → Retention → Foundational Learning → Competency → Holistic Development

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy.
- Improve teacher training and classroom pedagogy.
- Reduce regional and socio-economic disparities.
- Ensure meaningful use of educational technology rather than merely increasing digital infrastructure.
- Use learning assessments to improve classroom-level interventions.
- Strengthen early childhood care and education as the foundation for school readiness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- NEP → National Education Policy, 2020
- NIPUN Bharat → Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
- Samagra Shiksha → Pre-school to Class XII
- DIKSHA → Digital education platform
- PM SHRI → Exemplary schools aligned with NEP 2020
- Core shift → Access and enrolment → Quality and learning outcomes

Remember

“More children in school” is progress.

“More children actually learning” is meaningful educational progress.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

- NIPUN Bharat focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy.
- Samagra Shiksha covers school education from pre-school to Class XII.
- DIKSHA is associated with digital resources for school education.

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: (d)

2. CEC CALLS FOR ACADEMIA TO STRENGTHEN INFORMED DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



- Academia can play an important role in developing **democratic awareness and constitutional values**.
- Universities and educational institutions can encourage students to understand the **electoral process, voting rights and responsibilities**.
- The initiative highlights the importance of informed voters for a healthy democracy.
- It also complements the Election Commission's efforts towards **voter education and participation**.

ROLE OF ACADEMIA

- Civic education**
 - Help students understand constitutional institutions and democratic processes.
- Electoral awareness**
 - Promote awareness about voter registration, voting procedures and electoral rights.
- Critical thinking**
 - Encourage citizens to evaluate information and distinguish reliable information from misinformation.
- Youth participation**

- A. Engage first-time voters and young citizens in democratic processes.

V. Research

- A. Academic institutions can study electoral participation, voter behaviour and emerging challenges to democracy.

WHY INFORMED PARTICIPATION MATTERS

- **Better electoral choices:** Voters equipped with reliable information can make more informed decisions.
- **Reduced misinformation:** Civic and media literacy can help citizens identify misleading information.
- **Higher participation:** Awareness can encourage eligible citizens, especially young voters, to participate.
- **Democratic accountability:** Active citizens strengthen accountability of elected institutions.
- **Constitutional values:** Education can reinforce values such as equality, liberty, secularism and rule of law.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

- I. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is a constitutional body under **Article 324**.
- II. It is responsible for the **superintendence, direction and control** of elections to:
 - A. Lok Sabha.
 - B. Rajya Sabha.
 - C. State Legislative Assemblies.
 - D. President.
 - E. Vice-President.
- III. **Article 325** → Provides for one general electoral roll and prohibits exclusion on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- IV. **Article 326** → Provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies based on **adult suffrage**.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Strengthens **electoral literacy** among youth.
- Encourages collaboration between the **ECI and educational institutions**.
- Promotes evidence-based public discourse.
- Helps build resilience against **electoral misinformation and disinformation**.

- Supports the broader goal of **participatory democracy**.

WAY FORWARD

- Integrate electoral literacy into higher-education programmes.
- Encourage student-led voter-awareness initiatives.
- Promote media and digital literacy.
- Strengthen research collaboration between academia and election authorities.
- Create platforms for informed discussion on constitutional and democratic institutions.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- CEC → Chief Election Commissioner
- ECI → Constitutional body
- Constitutional basis → Article 324
- Article 325 → One general electoral roll
- Article 326 → Adult suffrage
- Core theme → Informed and participatory democracy

Remember

Electoral literacy + Critical thinking + Voter participation = Informed democracy

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

- The Election Commission of India derives its constitutional basis from Article 324.
- Article 326 deals with elections based on adult suffrage.
- Academic institutions have no role in promoting electoral literacy.

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. QATAR–INDIA POSTAL REMITTANCE SERVICE POWERED BY UPI



- The service combines the **postal network of Qatar Post** with India's **UPI ecosystem**.
- It provides a formal channel for transferring money from Qatar to beneficiaries in India.
- The initiative strengthens **India–Qatar financial connectivity** and supports the large Indian diaspora in Qatar.
- It also demonstrates the international expansion of **India's digital-payment infrastructure**.

HOW IT WORKS

- **Qatar Post outlet** → Customer initiates the remittance.
- **PosTransfer** → Facilitates the postal money-transfer process.
- **UPI infrastructure** → Enables the India-side digital payment/settlement ecosystem.
- **Indian beneficiary** → Receives the remitted funds through the supported channel.

Simple flow

Qatar Post → **PosTransfer** → **UPI-enabled India-side transfer** → **Beneficiary in India**

WHAT IS UPI?

- I. **UPI** → **Unified Payments Interface**.
- II. Developed by **NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)**.
- III. Enables instant bank-to-bank payments through a unified digital interface.
- IV. It supports:
 - A. Person-to-person payments.
 - B. Merchant payments.

- C. Bill payments.
- D. Digital transfers.

WHAT IS POS TRANSFER?

- **PosTransfer** is a postal remittance service enabling international money transfers through participating postal networks.
- Its integration with UPI helps connect the **international postal remittance channel with India's digital payment ecosystem**.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA

- **Remittances:** India is one of the world's largest recipients of remittances.
- **Diaspora:** Qatar hosts a significant Indian community.
- **Financial inclusion:** Postal outlets can provide access to formal remittance services.
- **Digital public infrastructure:** Demonstrates how India's digital payment systems can be integrated internationally.
- **India–Qatar ties:** Adds a financial and digital dimension to bilateral relations.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR REMITTANCES

- Formal digital channels can help reduce dependence on informal money-transfer mechanisms.
- Greater accessibility can improve the **speed, transparency and convenience** of remittances.
- Integration with digital infrastructure can lower transaction friction and improve financial connectivity.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand UPI-linked remittance corridors to more countries.
- Improve interoperability between international payment systems.
- Reduce transaction costs for migrant workers.
- Strengthen cybersecurity and consumer protection.
- Expand financial literacy among overseas Indian workers.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- UPI → Unified Payments Interface
- UPI developed/operated by → NPCI
- Service → Qatar–India Postal Remittance

- Platform → PosTransfer
- Qatar-side network → Qatar Post outlets
- Core concept → International remittance + Digital Public Infrastructure

Remember

Qatar Post + PosTransfer + UPI = Easier Qatar-to-India remittances

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

- UPI is associated with the National Payments Corporation of India.
- The Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service uses PosTransfer and UPI.
- The service is available through Qatar Post outlets.

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: (d)

4. EXERCISE MAITREE-XV: INDIA-THAILAND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE



- **MAITREE** is a bilateral military exercise between **India and Thailand**.
- It focuses on enhancing **joint operational capability**, particularly in challenging environments.
- The exercise provides an opportunity to exchange **tactical practices, operational experience and best practices**.

- It also contributes to stronger **India-Thailand strategic and defence relations**.

KEY FEATURES

- **Participants:** Indian Army and Royal Thai Army.
- **Nature:** Bilateral army exercise.
- **Exercise series:** **MAITREE-XV**.
- **Focus:** Joint training, interoperability and tactical cooperation.
- **Training areas:** Likely include field operations, counter-terrorism and humanitarian/disaster-response elements.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

- **Act East Policy:** Thailand is an important partner in India's engagement with Southeast Asia.
- **Indo-Pacific:** Defence cooperation contributes to India's wider engagement in the Indo-Pacific.
- **ASEAN connectivity:** Thailand is an important ASEAN partner and a key link between South and Southeast Asia.
- **Interoperability:** Joint exercises improve coordination between the armed forces of both countries.
- **Regional security:** Supports cooperation against common security challenges.

INDIA-THAILAND DEFENCE COOPERATION

- Includes:
 - Joint military exercises.
 - Defence dialogues.
 - Military exchanges.
 - Training and capacity building.
 - Maritime security cooperation.
- MAITREE** complements other India-Thailand engagements involving the **Army, Navy and wider defence establishments**.

WHY THAILAND IS IMPORTANT FOR INDIA

- Geographical bridge between **South Asia and Southeast Asia**.
- Important partner under India's **Act East Policy**.
- Located near critical **Bay of Bengal-Andaman Sea** maritime routes.
- Member of **ASEAN** and other regional forums.
- Important for India's broader **Indo-Pacific outreach**.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase frequency and scope of joint exercises.
- Expand cooperation in **maritime security and HADR**.
- Strengthen defence technology and training exchanges.
- Improve coordination on emerging security challenges in the Indo-Pacific.
- Deepen India–Thailand engagement through ASEAN-led mechanisms.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- MAITREE → India–Thailand
- Type → Joint military exercise
- Indian participant → Indian Army
- Thai participant → Royal Thai Army
- Strategic context → Act East Policy + Indo-Pacific + ASEAN

Remember

MAITREE = India + Thailand → Army cooperation → Interoperability → Act East

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

- MAITREE is a joint military exercise between India and Thailand.
- Thailand is an important partner for India's Act East Policy.
- MAITREE is a multilateral exercise conducted under the ASEAN framework.

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)

5. INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER GUIDE TO GRASSLANDS & OPEN NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS



- Open natural ecosystems are often overlooked compared with forests, despite supporting significant **biodiversity and ecosystem services**.
- The guide seeks to improve their **recognition, mapping, conservation and sustainable management**.
- It is particularly relevant to **land degradation neutrality, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience**.
- India's initiative also contributes to the global discussion on combating **desertification, land degradation and drought**.

WHAT ARE OPEN NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS?

- Ecosystems dominated by **grasses, herbs, shrubs or sparse vegetation**, rather than dense tree cover.
- They include:
 - Grasslands.
 - Savannas.
 - Rangelands.
 - Scrublands.
 - Other naturally open landscapes.
- They can be **natural ecosystems**, rather than degraded forests or lands awaiting afforestation.

WHY GRASSLANDS MATTER

- Biodiversity**

- A. Provide habitat for grassland birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and pollinators.
- II. **Carbon storage**
 - A. Grassland soils can store significant amounts of carbon.
- III. **Livelihoods**
 - A. Support pastoralism, livestock grazing and rural communities.
- IV. **Water regulation**
 - A. Vegetation and soils influence infiltration, water retention and watershed functioning.
- V. **Climate resilience**
 - A. Healthy grasslands can be relatively resilient to drought and climatic variability.

KEY CONCERN

- I. A major conservation challenge is the assumption that **“more trees always means a healthier ecosystem.”**
- II. Planting trees in naturally open ecosystems can sometimes alter:
 - A. Native biodiversity.
 - B. Soil and water regimes.
 - C. Fire patterns.
 - D. Habitat structure.

Core principle

Conserve the ecosystem that naturally belongs there — not simply increase tree cover everywhere.

UNCCD & LAND DEGRADATION

- I. **UNCCD → United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.**
- II. It focuses on combating:
 - A. Desertification.
 - B. Land degradation.
 - C. Drought.
- III. **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** aims to ensure that the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services remain stable or increase.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA

- Improves recognition of **non-forest ecosystems** in conservation planning.

- Supports better land-use decisions.
- Helps prevent inappropriate afforestation in naturally open landscapes.
- Strengthens India's contribution to global **land restoration and biodiversity conservation**.
- Can support pastoral communities and sustainable rangeland management.

WAY FORWARD

- Improve scientific mapping of grasslands and other open ecosystems.
- Distinguish **natural grasslands from degraded or deforested areas**.
- Include grasslands in biodiversity and climate policies.
- Promote sustainable grazing and pastoral livelihoods.
- Use ecosystem-specific restoration rather than a one-size-fits-all afforestation approach.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- UNCCD → United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- Focus → Desertification + Land degradation + Drought
- LDN → Land Degradation Neutrality
- Open ecosystems → Grasslands + Savannas + Rangelands + Scrublands
- Venue → Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Key idea → Naturally open ecosystems should not automatically be treated as degraded land

Remember

Grassland ≠ Wasteland

Open ecosystem ≠ Degraded ecosystem

Conservation → Ecosystem-specific management

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

- Naturally occurring grasslands can constitute important ecosystems in their own right.
- All naturally open ecosystems should necessarily be converted into forests to improve ecological health.
- UNCCD deals with desertification, land degradation and drought.

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)