



Daily PIB Summary

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1. INDIA AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 — AI FOR ALL: GLOBAL IMPACT CHALLENGE



- I. The **AI for ALL Challenge** seeks to identify scalable artificial intelligence solutions across priority development sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, governance, financial inclusion, and climate resilience.

Key features:

- Over **1,350 applications from 60+ countries**
- Focus on **large-scale deployability**
- Emphasis on **inclusion, accessibility, and affordability**
- Alignment with **SDGs and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) architecture**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 IndiaAI Mission

The IndiaAI Mission is India's umbrella programme for building AI computing infrastructure, datasets, skilling capacity, and startup ecosystem support.

It focuses on:

- Compute infrastructure (AI cloud)
- National data governance framework
- AI skilling and talent pipeline
- Public sector AI adoption

2 Strategic Positioning

India aims to:

- Build **AI for Global South**
- Leverage **Digital Public Infrastructure (Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC model)**
- Promote **responsible and ethical AI frameworks**

The 2026 summit operationalises these goals via global competitions and sectoral deployment pathways.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Participation:** 1,350+ applications from 60+ countries.
- **Sectoral Diversification:** Healthcare diagnostics, crop intelligence, climate

modelling, EdTech, fintech inclusion tools.

- **Evaluation Mechanism:** Multi-stage screening by domain experts and policymakers.

- **Inclusivity Focus:** Solutions targeting rural, low-income, and underserved populations.

- **Global South Leadership:** India positioning itself as an AI solutions hub for developing nations.

- **People-Planet-Progress**

Framework: AI deployment aligned with sustainability and equity principles.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **IndiaAI Mission:** Approved in 2024; focuses on compute, datasets, skilling & startups.

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker model.

- **AI Governance Debate:** AI safety vs AI deployment transition phase globally.

- **Relevant SDGs:** 4 (Education), 8 (Decent Work), 9 (Industry), 10 (Reduced Inequality), 13 (Climate Action).

- **Ethical AI Principles:** Transparency, Accountability, Bias mitigation, Data privacy.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The AI for ALL Challenge focuses exclusively on Indian startups.
2. It aims at scalable AI solutions across multiple development sectors.
3. It is aligned with India's Digital Public Infrastructure model.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

2.NHAI TO DEVELOP FIRST OF ITS KIND 'BEECORRIDORS' ALONG THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS



1. NHAI plans to create dedicated **BeeCorridors** by planting **nectar-rich flowering species** along highways and encouraging scientific beekeeping activities.

The initiative aims to:

- Strengthen **pollinator ecosystems**
- Enhance **crop productivity** in adjoining agricultural areas
- Support **rural income generation through apiculture**
- Integrate biodiversity with linear infrastructure planning

This marks a shift from conventional roadside plantation toward **ecologically functional green corridors**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 NHA and Green Highways

The National Highways Authority of India operates under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways.

It has previously implemented:

- Avenue plantation drives
- Green Highways Policy (2015)
- Wildlife crossings and eco-bridges

2 Pollinator Crisis

- Nearly **75% of global food crops** depend partly on animal pollination.

- Declining bee populations due to habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change pose a threat to food security.
- India is among the top honey-producing countries, and apiculture is promoted under various rural development schemes.

BeeCorridors combine **infrastructure expansion with biodiversity conservation**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ecological Infrastructure:** Highway plantations redesigned with bee-friendly, nectar-producing species.
- **Apiculture Promotion:** Support for local beekeepers along corridor stretches.
- **Agro-Economic Linkage:** Improved pollination can enhance yield in nearby farmlands.
- **Climate Resilience:** Pollinators strengthen ecosystem stability.
- **Livelihood Support:** Income diversification for rural communities.
- **Sustainable Highways Vision:** Integration of environmental planning into transport infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NHA:** Statutory body under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.
- **Pollination:** Essential ecological

service for reproduction of flowering plants.

- **Apis mellifera:** Common European honey bee species widely used in apiculture.
- **Green Highways Policy (2015):** Mandates plantation along highways (1% of project cost earmarked).
- **Linear Infrastructure:** Roads, railways, pipelines – often fragment habitats.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Pollination, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the proposed BeeCorridors initiative:

1. It aims to promote pollinator-friendly vegetation along highway stretches.
2. It can contribute to enhanced agricultural productivity in nearby areas.
3. It is implemented under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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)

(Statement 3 is incorrect – NHAI functions under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.)

3.CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE: WASTE TO WEALTH



- I. Circular Economy in agriculture promotes **resource efficiency**, where agricultural waste is not discarded but reintegrated into the production cycle.

It involves:

- Converting crop residue into **bio-CNG, biochar, compost**
- Utilizing livestock waste for **biogas generation**
- Promoting **organic and natural farming inputs**
- Reducing stubble burning and environmental pollution

The approach links **sustainability, climate action, energy security, and rural livelihoods.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 Circular Economy Concept

A circular economy replaces the “take–make–dispose” model with:

- **Reduce**
- **Reuse**
- **Recycle**
- **Regenerate**

It is embedded in India’s sustainability roadmap under the **G20 Presidency outcomes** and national climate strategies.

2 Agriculture–Waste Challenge

India generates:

- ~500 million tonnes of crop residue annually
- Large quantities of animal dung and agro–processing waste

Improper disposal leads to:

- Stubble burning (air pollution)
- Methane emissions
- Soil nutrient depletion

Circular economy practices convert this into productive assets.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Bioenergy Generation:** Crop residues used for Compressed Biogas (CBG) and ethanol production.
- **Soil Health Restoration:**

Composting and biochar improve soil organic carbon.

- **SATAT Initiative:** Promotes CBG production from agricultural waste.
- **Climate Mitigation:** Reduces methane and black carbon emissions.
- **Income Diversification:** Farmers earn from selling biomass residues.
- **Waste-to-Wealth Model:** Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat in energy and fertilizers.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Circular Economy:** Resource–efficient regenerative economic model.
- **SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation):** Launched in 2018 to promote CBG.
- **CBG:** Purified biogas with high methane content.
- **Biochar:** Carbon–rich product from pyrolysis of biomass.
- **Soil Organic Carbon (SOC):** Indicator of soil health.
- **Paris Agreement Linkage:** Methane reduction contributes to NDC targets.
- **Relevant SDGs:** 2 (Zero Hunger), 7 (Clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Consumption), 13 (Climate Action).

PadhAI–GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Circular Economy in Agriculture:

1. It promotes recycling of agricultural waste into bioenergy and organic inputs.
2. It helps reduce methane emissions from unmanaged biomass.
3. It increases dependence on chemical fertilizers.

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)