



Daily PIB Summary

18th 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. CABINET APPROVES SMALL HYDRO POWER (SHP) DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR FY 2026-27 TO FY 2030-31



नवीन एवं
नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**NEW AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

सत्यमेव जयते

- The Government of India has sanctioned a dedicated Small Hydro Power (SHP) scheme with a budget of ₹2,584.60 crore for the five-year period from 2026-27 to 2030-31 to promote renewable energy.
- The scheme targets **installation of SHP projects (1-25 MW)** totalling around **1,500 MW** capacity.
- **Central financial assistance** will be provided to incentivise projects, especially in **hilly, North Eastern and border regions**.
- It is expected to attract **about ₹15,000 crore of investment**, boost **clean energy generation** and **local employment**, and strengthen decentralised power supply.

- The scheme also supports preparation of **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)** for future projects, creating a pipeline for long-term growth.
- SHP projects minimise land acquisition and transmission requirements, making them suitable for **remote and rural areas**.
- The strategy aligns with national goals of **renewable energy expansion, employment generation, and sustainable rural development**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Small Hydro Power (SHP) Projects?

Small Hydro Power refers to **hydropower installations with capacity between 1 and 25 MW** that generate electricity by harnessing river or canal flows without large dams or reservoirs.

Why SHP Matters for India

- SHP is a **renewable, low-carbon energy source** that complements solar and wind.
- It creates **local employment** and **energy access** in hilly and remote regions where grid expansion is challenging.

- Such projects often require **minimal transmission infrastructure**, reducing losses and costs.

Policy Evolution

Previously, SHP development focused on older schemes and guidelines that aimed to promote such projects; however, a **fresh, structured and higher budget scheme** has now been approved to give a renewed push.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Financial Outlay:** ₹2,584.60 crore over FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- **Capacity Target:** ~1,500 MW of new SHP installations.
- **Assistance in North East & Border Areas:** ₹3.6 crore per MW or **30% of project cost**, capped at ₹30 crore per project.
- **Assistance in Other States:** ₹2.4 crore per MW or **20% of project cost**, capped at ₹20 crore per project.
- **Investment Potential:** Expected **₹15,000 crore investment** in the SHP sector.
- **Employment Generation:** ~51 lakh person-days of employment during construction with additional jobs in operations.
- **DPR Support:** ₹30 crore allocated for preparation of detailed project reports for future SHP projects.

- **Environmental & Social Benefits:** Minimal land impact, little community displacement, reduced transmission losses, and socio-economic upliftment in remote areas.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **SHP Definition:** Small Hydro Power projects with capacity **1–25 MW**.
- II. **Scheme Period:** **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**.
- III. **Outlay:** **₹2,584.60 crore**.
- IV. **Assistance Levels:**
 - A. **North East/Border:** Up to **₹3.6 Cr/MW or 30% cost** — cap ₹30 Cr.
 - B. **Other States:** Up to **₹2.4 Cr/MW or 20% cost** — cap ₹20 Cr.
- V. **Target Capacity:** **~1,500 MW**.
- VI. **Investment Attraction:** **~₹15,000 crore**.
- VII. **Employment Impact:** **~51 lakh person-days** during construction.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the recently approved Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme:

1. The SHP Development Scheme targets installation of approximately 1,500 MW of small hydro capacity.

2. Central financial assistance under the scheme is higher (as a percentage of project cost) for projects in North Eastern and border districts compared to other states.
3. The scheme prohibits the use of indigenous plant and machinery to promote international technology standards.

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)

2. AYUSH SERVICES EXPAND IN RURAL ODISHA WITH INCREASED DOCTORS, CAMPS AND TELE-CONSULTATION



- The Odisha Government has appointed **1,111 AYUSH medical officers** – 584 Ayurvedic, 525 Homoeopathic and 2 Unani – to

enhance service delivery in **rural and tribal areas**.

- Expansion includes **AYUSH health camps** and **tele-consultation (Tele-AYUSH)** integrated with the national **e-Sanjeevani** platform.
- Training programmes – **induction and refresher courses** – are underway for AYUSH doctors and assistants to improve healthcare outreach.
- Tele-AYUSH hubs in medical colleges support spoke dispensaries, helping remote patients access specialist advice.
- The initiative strengthens **traditional medicine systems** and enhances healthcare penetration where allopathic access is limited.
- Expansion aligns with broader goals to integrate **preventive, promotive and accessible** AYUSH services alongside mainstream healthcare mechanisms. (Inferred)
- The policy move reflects efforts to improve **health equity** and boost rural health infrastructure. (Inferred)

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is AYUSH?

AYUSH refers to traditional and alternative medical systems in India – **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy** – promoted

for **holistic healthcare** and preventive medicine.

AYUSH in India's Health System

- AYUSH has been integrated within national health frameworks like the **National AYUSH Mission** to strengthen traditional medicine institutions and service delivery.
- Telemedicine platforms like **e-Sanjeevani** have been used to expand specialist access, including AYUSH consultations in remote locations.

Tele-AYUSH

Tele-consultation bridges geographical barriers, linking **hub centres (medical colleges)** with multiple **spoke AYUSH dispensaries**, enhancing service reach without physical infrastructure expansion.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Appointment Drive:** 1,111 AYUSH medical officers deployed in rural & tribal Odisha.
- **Specialisation Spread:** Includes Ayurvedic (584), Homoeopathic (525) and Unani (2) practitioners.
- **Tele-Consultation:** Tele-AYUSH operational on the **e-Sanjeevani** platform connecting dispensaries to hub centres.

- **Training Programs:** Induction and refresher training for AYUSH staff to improve quality & integration.
- **Health Camps:** Increased outreach through periodic AYUSH health camps in rural settings. (Implicit from expansion)
- **State Responsibility:** Primary implementation by Odisha Government, supported by national schemes where applicable.
- **Accessibility Impact:** Bolsters healthcare availability in underserved regions with limited allopathic workforce. (Inferred)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **AYUSH Systems:** Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy.
- **Tele-AYUSH:** Telemedicine initiative connecting AYUSH dispensaries with specialist hubs via **e-Sanjeevani**.
- **Rural & Tribal Focus:** Priority to underserved districts with healthcare gaps.
- **Training Types:** Induction and refresher programmes for medical officers and assistants.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the expansion of AYUSH services in rural Odisha:

1. The Government of Odisha has appointed more than 1,000 AYUSH medical officers to strengthen rural healthcare.
2. Tele-AYUSH services in the state are linked with the national telemedicine platform e-Sanjeevani.
3. The central government directly funds all appointments of AYUSH medical officers in Odisha.

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. PARLIAMENT QUESTION: DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITE LAUNCH FACILITIES IN INDIA



- India currently operates **two main satellite launch pads** at Indian Space Research Organisation's Satish Dhawan Space Centre — one for small Launch Vehicles (PSLV/SSLV) and the second for heavier vehicles like GSLV and LVM3.
- The Government has approved and **financially sanctioned a "Third Launch Pad" project** at Sriharikota to support future missions including heavier & human-rated vehicles; geotechnical surveys and preparatory work are underway.
- Civil works, propulsion & fluid systems, and operational commissioning are planned through **2028–29** to make the new pad fully functional.
- Separately, the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) Launch Complex at Kulasekarapattinam**

(Tamil Nadu) is being constructed to provide additional orbital access, especially for small satellites and polar orbit launches.

- Kulasekarapattinam site will enhance **payload capacity for SSLV class vehicles** compared to Sriharikota by offering a direct trajectory over sea, improving efficiency for small satellite missions.
- Post-commissioning of Kulasekarapattinam, launches by private entities and NGEs (Non-Government Entities) in the SSLV category are envisaged from this facility.
- The expansion of launch infrastructure positions India to meet **increasing domestic and commercial launch demands**, supports strategic programmes like human spaceflight, and fosters industry participation. (Inferred)

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Launch Infrastructure in India

- India's satellite launch operations are centred on the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota**, where two operational launch pads support various launch vehicles developed by ISRO – ranging from **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** to **Geosynchronous**

Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and **Launch Vehicle Mk III (LVM3)**.

Need for Expanded Launch Capabilities

- With **growing satellite deployment** requirements – including commercial, scientific, navigation, remote sensing and future human spaceflight missions – India is expanding its **launch infrastructure** to increase launch cadence, reduce schedule bottlenecks and support a broader class of vehicles.

Role of Private Sector and New Players

- Under reforms in the space sector (e.g., through Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre and space policy reforms), **private launch providers** and **NGEs** are being enabled to use launch facilities and conduct missions, expanding India's space economy.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Third Launch Pad (TLP) Status:** Financial sanction received in **March 2025**; topographical surveys completed; multiple work packages identified for construction.

- **Timelines:** Civil works by **May 2028**, propellant and fluid systems by **July 2028**, launch facilities by **September 2028**, and commissioning by **March 2029**.
- **Indian Industry Participation:** Tenders to involve **Indian private players and MSMEs**, promoting “Make in India” principles in infrastructure development.
- **Kulasekarapattinam Complex:** Targeted commissioning in **FY 2026-27**, with land acquisition largely complete and site preparation ongoing.
- **Enhanced Payload Capability:** SSLV payload capability to **Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits (SSPO)** is significantly better from Kulasekarapattinam than Sriharikota, enabling smaller satellites to be launched more efficiently.
- **Private Launches:** SSLV and similar small launch vehicles from NGEs planned post-commissioning of the new spaceport.
- **Strategic Outcome:** Lays the groundwork to support **increased launch cadence, commercial launch service growth**, and **next-generation space missions**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota:** India’s primary

orbital launch site with two operational launch pads.

- **Third Launch Pad:** New facility sanctioned in **March 2025**; commissioning expected by **2028-29**.
- **Kulasekarapattinam SSLV Launch Complex:** Dedicated facility for **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle missions**; aimed for commissioning in **FY 2026-27**.
- **Payload Advantage:** Kulasekarapattinam’s location allows **~300 kg payload to polar orbits** for SSLV, compared to lower capacity from Sriharikota.
- **Launch Cadence Goals:** India plans to expand launch frequency to meet commercial and strategic space needs. (Inferred)

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the development of satellite launch facilities in India:

1. The third satellite launch pad at Sriharikota was financially sanctioned in 2025 and is expected to be commissioned by 2029.
2. Kulasekarapattinam launch complex will primarily serve heavy lift launch vehicles such as GSLV and LVM3.

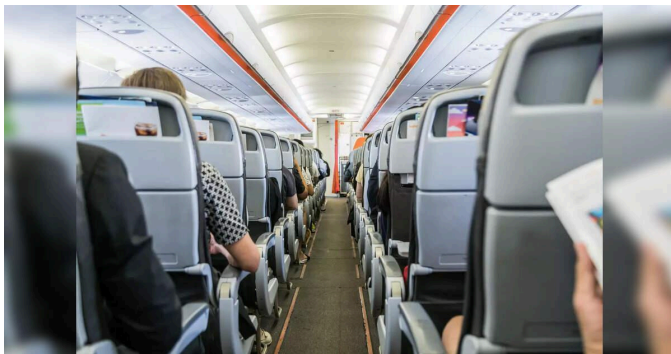
3. The Kulasekarapattinam facility enhances payload capacity to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits for Small Satellite Launch Vehicle missions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

4. STRENGTHENING PASSENGER FACILITATION IN INDIAN AVIATION



- The Indian government has introduced **new aviation norms** focused on strengthening passenger facilitation across domestic airline operations.
- Under DGCA directives, airlines must allocate a **minimum of 60 % seats free of additional seat-selection charges**, preventing hidden costs during booking.

- Airlines are required to **seat passengers travelling on the same PNR together**, preferably in adjacent seats, to improve group/family travel experience.
- Regulations also emphasize **transparent policies** for carriage of **sports equipment, musical instruments, pets** and clearer **passenger rights communication**.
- The push for fair access and transparency comes as India's aviation market grows rapidly in domestic demand and seeks to improve overall travel convenience.
- The directives align with broader efforts to improve passenger experience, reduce grievances, and standardise practices across airlines.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Passenger Facilitation in Aviation

- Passenger facilitation refers to all measures that **make air travel easier, fairer and more predictable** for flyers – from pricing transparency to seating, baggage, disability support and grievance redressal.

Why New Rules Now?

- In recent years, a surge in **ancillary charges** (e.g., paid seat selection), **passenger complaints about**

transparency, and rising air travel demand has prompted regulators to intervene to ensure that **basic travel services remain fair and accessible**.

DGCA's Regulatory Role

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** is the statutory regulator for civil aviation in India responsible for passenger rights enforcement, airline behaviour oversight, and safety standards.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Free Seat Allocation:** Airlines must make **at least 60 % of seats free of extra seat-selection charges** on domestic flights.
- **Same-PNR Seating:** Passengers booked under the same PNR (e.g., families or groups) must be seated together, preferably adjacent.
- **Policy Transparency:** Carriers must adopt **transparent and passenger-friendly policies** for carrying pets, sports gear and musical instruments.
- **Display of Passenger Rights:** Airlines must **prominently display passenger rights** on digital and physical platforms (website, app, booking portal, counters).
- **Regional Accessibility:** Key entitlements should be

communicated in **regional languages** to broaden awareness.

- **Grievance Redressal:** Strengthened mechanisms to address issues like **delays, cancellations, denied boarding** under passenger rights framework.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Passenger Name Record (PNR):** Unique identifier for a flight booking used to link passenger details.
- **DGCA:** The Indian civil aviation regulator empowered to direct airline passenger-friendly norms.
- **Seat-Selection Fee:** Ancillary charge often levied by airlines to allow passengers to choose specific seats outside base fare.
- **Passenger Facilitation:** Measures ensuring ease, transparency and fairness in air travel services and bookings.
- **Sports Equipment & Pets:** Now covered under transparent carriage norms subject to operational safety.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the recent passenger facilitation measures in Indian aviation:

1. The DGCA has mandated that airlines make at least 60 % of seats available free of seat selection charges on domestic flights.
2. Passengers booked under the same Passenger Name Record (PNR) must be seated together if they request it.
3. The directive restricts airlines from carrying sports equipment or pets under any conditions.

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. WHITE REVOLUTION 2.0



- **White Revolution 2.0** builds on India's original dairy transformation (Operation Flood) to modernise and expand cooperative dairy systems.

- The initiative aims to **increase milk procurement by dairy cooperatives by about 50 %**, targeting around **1,007 lakh kg per day by 2028-29**.
- It focuses on **creating and strengthening dairy cooperative societies** (DCS, M-PACS, etc.) across uncovered panchayats and villages.
- **Women's empowerment, employment generation and sustainable dairy value chains** are core components of the programme.
- Infrastructure improvements – automatic milk collection units, testing equipment, chilled storage – are planned to improve quality and value addition.
- The initiative is being implemented through the **Ministry of Cooperation**, with NDDDB playing a central role in early funding and coordination.
- White Revolution 2.0 addresses structural challenges including **unorganised market share**, regional disparities and supply chain gaps in India's dairy sector.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Original White Revolution (Operation Flood)

- The original White Revolution — **Operation Flood** — was a dairy development programme launched in the 1970s that transformed India into the **world's largest milk producer** by organising rural milk producers into cooperatives and modernising processing and marketing.

Need for Revitalisation

- Despite growth, the dairy sector faces challenges such as low cooperative coverage, quality concerns, and a large unorganised market share.
- White Revolution 2.0 seeks to address these by strengthening cooperative infrastructure and outreach.

Institutional Framework

- **Ministry of Cooperation:** Oversees policy, SOPs and implementation.
- **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB):** Coordinates expansion of cooperatives and early funding.
- **Dairy Cooperatives:** Primary units for milk procurement, processing and marketing.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Milk Procurement Target:** Increase to about **1,007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29** ($\approx 50\%$ rise).
- **Cooperative Expansion:** Form and strengthen **$\sim 75,000$ new dairy cooperative societies and 46,422 existing ones**; projected **coverage across villages**.
- **Multi-purpose PACS & Societies:** Planned establishment of **~ 1.2 lakh DCS & M-PACS** linked to milk routes.
- **Women Empowerment:** Focus on integrating women dairy farmers into organised systems to enhance incomes.
- **Infrastructure Support:** Investment in milk collection units, testing labs and bulk coolers to boost quality and reduce losses.
- **Banking & Credit:** Initiatives like **RuPay Kisan Credit Cards** and micro-ATMs at cooperative societies to support finances.
- **Sustainability & Circularity:** Emphasis on efficient resource use, cattle health and expanded procurement transparency.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **White Revolution:** India's dairy transformation via Operation Flood (1970s) that made India the world's largest milk producer.

- **White Revolution 2.0:** Initiative to modernise and expand cooperative dairy sector with targets by **2028-29**.
- **Milk Procurement Target: ~1,007 lakh kg/day** dairy cooperative procurement.
- **Cooperatives:** Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS), Multi-Purpose PACS & district cooperatives.
- **NDDB:** National Dairy Development Board – key coordinating agency.
- **RuPay Kisan Credit Card & Micro-ATMs:** Financial inclusion tools for farmers.

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

Answer: (b)

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements about White Revolution 2.0:

1. It aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by around 50 % by 2028-29.
2. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is playing a role in funding and coordinating the initiative.
3. The programme seeks to reduce women's participation in dairy cooperatives in favour of mechanised processes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?