



Daily PIB Summary

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1. CATCH THE RAIN: A RENEWED NATIONAL CALL FOR WATER CONSERVATION



VIII. The initiative advances **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** and strengthens India's water security.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain

- **Launched: 2021.**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- Theme:
"Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls."
- Focuses on decentralized and community-driven water conservation.

Objectives

- Promote rainwater harvesting.
- Recharge groundwater.
- Restore traditional water bodies.
- Improve water-use efficiency.
- Strengthen community participation.
- Build climate resilience through sustainable water management.

Major Activities

- Rooftop rainwater harvesting.
- Renovation of ponds, lakes, and tanks.
- Construction of recharge structures.
- Desilting of water bodies.
- Afforestation and watershed development.
- Public awareness campaigns.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Campaign:** Catch the Rain.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Primary Objective:** Rainwater harvesting and water conservation through community participation.
- **Environmental Significance:** Enhances groundwater recharge, improves ecosystem health, and supports climate resilience.
- **Economic Significance:** Improves water availability for agriculture, industry, and domestic use.

- I. **Catch the Rain** is a flagship water conservation campaign under the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**.
- II. The campaign promotes rainwater harvesting before and during the monsoon season through people's participation (**Jan Bhagidari**).
- III. It encourages construction, repair, and rejuvenation of:
 - A. Rainwater harvesting structures.
 - B. Check dams.
 - C. Ponds and tanks.
 - D. Stepwells.
 - E. Recharge pits.
 - F. Traditional water bodies.
- IV. The initiative emphasizes local planning based on rainfall patterns and geographical conditions.
- V. Community participation, convergence of government schemes, and involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies are key features.
- VI. The campaign contributes to groundwater recharge, improved water availability, drought resilience, and climate adaptation.
- VII. It supports sustainable water resource management and aligns with the vision of **Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari**.



- **Social Significance:** Encourages people's participation and strengthens local water governance.
- **Challenges:** Declining groundwater levels, urbanization, pollution of water bodies, climate variability, and limited public awareness.
- **Way Forward:** Scale up rainwater harvesting, rejuvenate traditional water bodies, strengthen watershed management, leverage GIS and remote sensing for water planning, and encourage behavioural change towards efficient water use.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Catch the Rain Campaign:** Launched in **2021** under the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** with the theme "**Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls.**"
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:** National campaign promoting water conservation and water security through convergence and community participation.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Collection and storage of rainwater for future use and groundwater recharge.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** Process of replenishing underground aquifers through infiltration of surface water.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal):** Central Sector Scheme launched in **2019** to improve groundwater management in water-stressed areas through community participation.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):** Launched in **2019** to provide **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** to every rural household.
- **National Water Mission:** One of the **eight missions** under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**; aims to conserve water, minimize wastage, and ensure equitable distribution.
- **Watershed Management:** Integrated management of land, water, and vegetation

resources within a drainage basin to conserve soil and water.

- **SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **Catch the Rain** campaign was launched under the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
2. The campaign promotes rainwater harvesting under the theme "**Where it Falls, When it Falls.**"
3. The **National Water Mission** is one of the eight missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.

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)

2. FROM BANANA FARMS TO MAKHANA MARKETS: THE HIGHWAY SET TO POWER BIHAR'S AGRICULTURAL HEARTLAND



- I. The highway will enhance transportation infrastructure across key agricultural districts of Bihar.
- II. It aims to facilitate faster movement of agricultural produce such as:
 - A. **Banana.**



- B. **Makhana (Fox Nut/Gorgon Nut).**
 - C. Fruits and vegetables.
 - D. Other horticultural produce.
- III. Improved connectivity is expected to reduce post-harvest losses and transportation time.
- IV. Farmers will benefit from better access to markets, processing centres, storage facilities, and export hubs.
- V. The project supports agricultural diversification and strengthens rural supply chains.
- VI. Enhanced road infrastructure is expected to attract investments in food processing, warehousing, and logistics.
- VII. The initiative aligns with the Government's vision of integrated infrastructure development under **PM Gati Shakti**.
- VIII. It contributes to inclusive regional development and rural employment generation.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Agricultural Importance of Bihar

Bihar is a leading producer of:

- **Makhana (Fox Nut)** – contributing **over 80%** of India's production.
- Banana.
- Litchi.
- Maize.
- Vegetables.
- Rice and wheat.

Makhana

- Derived from the aquatic plant **Euryale ferox**.
- Cultivated mainly in ponds and wetlands.
- Rich in protein, fibre, antioxidants, and minerals.
- Holds significant export potential.

Banana Cultivation

Major banana-producing districts include:

- Katihar.
- Purnia.
- Bhagalpur.
- Vaishali.

- Muzaffarpur and surrounding regions.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- **Launched: 2021.**
- Aims to integrate infrastructure planning across sectors.
- Promotes multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Project:** Highway connectivity across Bihar's agricultural belt.
- **Focus Crops:** Banana, Makhana, horticultural produce.
- **Economic Significance:** Reduces logistics costs, improves farmer incomes, and boosts agro-processing.
- **Agricultural Significance:** Enhances market access and strengthens agricultural value chains.
- **Infrastructure Significance:** Supports multimodal logistics and regional connectivity.
- **Employment Significance:** Encourages investments in food processing, warehousing, transport, and allied sectors.
- **Challenges:** Land acquisition, timely project execution, maintenance, and ensuring integration with storage and processing infrastructure.
- **Way Forward:** Develop integrated agri-logistics hubs, expand cold-chain infrastructure, strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), promote value addition, and improve export connectivity.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **Makhana (Fox Nut):**
- A. Scientific Name: **Euryale ferox**.
 - B. Aquatic crop cultivated in ponds and wetlands.
 - C. Bihar accounts for **over 80%** of India's production.



- II. **GI Tag: Mithila Makhana** received the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag in **2022**.
- III. **Banana:** One of Bihar's major horticultural crops with significant domestic market potential.
- IV. **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan:** Launched in **2021** to promote integrated infrastructure planning and multimodal connectivity.
- V. **National Logistics Policy (NLP), 2022:** Seeks to reduce logistics costs and improve India's logistics performance.
- VI. **Farmer Producer Organization (FPO):** Collective of farmers that enhances bargaining power, market access, and value addition.
- VII. **Cold Chain:** Temperature-controlled supply chain for preserving perishable agricultural produce.
- VIII. **Value Addition:** Processing agricultural produce into higher-value products to increase farmers' incomes.
- IX. **Agri-Logistics:** Infrastructure and services supporting storage, transportation, processing, and marketing of agricultural produce.
- X. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY):** Scheme to promote modern food processing infrastructure and reduce post-harvest losses.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **Mithila Makhana** has been granted a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.
2. **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** aims to promote integrated infrastructure planning and multimodal connectivity.
3. The **National Logistics Policy, 2022** seeks to reduce logistics costs and improve India's logistics efficiency.

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)

3. INDIAN AIR FORCE PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE PITCH BLACK 2026 AT DARWIN, AUSTRALIA



- I. **Exercise Pitch Black** is one of the world's largest multinational air warfare exercises, hosted biennially by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- II. The IAF's participation reflects India's growing defence cooperation with Australia and Indo-Pacific partners.
- III. The exercise focuses on:
 - A. Complex air combat operations.
 - B. Large Force Employment (LFE) missions.
 - C. Air-to-air and air-to-ground operations.
 - D. Integrated planning and execution.
 - E. Coalition warfare.
- IV. It provides an opportunity for participating air forces to exchange operational best practices and enhance combat readiness.
- V. The exercise strengthens India's strategic partnerships under the vision of a **Free, Open, Inclusive and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific**.
- VI. It also contributes to improving interoperability with friendly foreign air forces in humanitarian



assistance, disaster relief, and security operations.

- VII. The exercise reflects India's commitment to regional stability and defence diplomacy.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Exercise Pitch Black

- Hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- Conducted **biennially**.
- **Venue: RAAF Base Darwin**, Northern Territory, Australia.
- Named after the **dark night skies** over northern Australia, which provide ideal conditions for night flying and air combat training.

Objectives

- Improve interoperability among participating air forces.
- Conduct realistic multinational air combat training.
- Enhance operational planning and mission execution.
- Strengthen coalition warfare capabilities.
- Foster defence cooperation and mutual understanding.

India–Australia Defence Cooperation

India and Australia cooperate through:

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** (2020).
- **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**.
- **Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA)** (2020).
- **Malabar Naval Exercise** (with the Quad countries).
- Bilateral military exercises such as **AUSINDEX**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Exercise:** Pitch Black 2026.
- **Host:** Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- **Venue:** Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia.
- **Indian Participant:** Indian Air Force (IAF).

- **Strategic Significance:** Enhances interoperability, coalition warfare capability, and Indo-Pacific security cooperation.
- **Operational Significance:** Improves readiness for multinational air operations and complex combat missions.
- **Diplomatic Significance:** Strengthens India–Australia defence partnership and military diplomacy.
- **Challenges:** Coordinating multinational operations, integrating diverse platforms, and adapting to evolving air warfare technologies.
- **Way Forward:** Expand joint training, deepen defence technology cooperation, strengthen interoperability, and enhance collaboration in emerging domains such as cyber, space, and unmanned systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Exercise Pitch Black:** Biennial multinational air combat exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- **Venue: RAAF Base Darwin**, Northern Territory, Australia.
- **Host Country:** Australia.
- **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF):** Air warfare branch of the **Australian Defence Force (ADF)**.
- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP):** Established between **India and Australia** in **2020** to deepen cooperation in defence, trade, critical minerals, education, and technology.
- **Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA):** Signed in **2020**, enabling reciprocal access to military logistics facilities.
- **Malabar Exercise:** Multilateral naval exercise involving **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States (Quad members)**.
- **Quad:** Strategic grouping comprising **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States**, promoting a **Free, Open, Inclusive, and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific**.



- **Interoperability:** Ability of armed forces from different countries to operate together effectively through compatible procedures, communication, and logistics.
- **Large Force Employment (LFE):** Coordinated military operations involving a large number of aircraft executing complex missions.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **Exercise Pitch Black** is a **biennial multinational air combat exercise** hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
2. The **Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA)** between India and Australia was signed in **2020**.
3. The **Quad** comprises **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States**.

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. INDIAN TEAM WINS 1 GOLD AND 3 SILVER MEDALS AT THE 37TH INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD (IBO) 2026 IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA



- I. India participated in the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026**, one of the world's

most prestigious competitions for school students in biology.

- II. The Indian contingent secured:
 - A. **1 Gold Medal**
 - B. **3 Silver Medals**
- III. The Olympiad tested participants in:
 - A. Molecular biology.
 - B. Genetics.
 - C. Ecology.
 - D. Evolution.
 - E. Plant and animal physiology.
 - F. Practical laboratory skills.
- IV. The success highlights the effectiveness of India's national science talent identification and Olympiad training programmes.
- V. The achievement inspires greater interest in life sciences, research, biotechnology, and innovation among students.
- VI. It strengthens India's reputation in international scientific competitions and reflects the country's growing emphasis on quality STEM education.
- VII. The accomplishment aligns with the objectives of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which promotes scientific temper, inquiry-based learning, and research culture.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

International Biology Olympiad (IBO)

- I. An annual international competition for **pre-university school students**.
- II. Brings together the world's best young biology students.
- III. Objectives:
 - A. Promote excellence in biology.
 - B. Encourage scientific thinking.
 - C. Foster international collaboration.
 - D. Develop future scientists and researchers.

Indian Participation

- India selects its team through the **National Olympiad Programme**.
- The programme is coordinated by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**, a constituent institution of the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)**.
- Students undergo rigorous national-level selection and training before representing India internationally.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026.
- **Venue:** Vilnius, Lithuania.
- **India's Performance:** 1 Gold Medal and 3 Silver Medals.
- **Academic Significance:** Encourages excellence in biology and scientific research.
- **Educational Significance:** Promotes inquiry-based learning and practical laboratory skills.
- **National Significance:** Demonstrates India's growing global competitiveness in STEM education.
- **Challenges:** Expanding access to quality science education, laboratory infrastructure, and advanced research opportunities.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen science education, expand Olympiad training programmes, promote research culture, improve laboratory facilities, and encourage innovation among young learners.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **International Biology Olympiad (IBO):** Prestigious annual international competition for **pre-university students** in biology.
- **37th IBO (2026):** Hosted by **Vilnius, Lithuania**.
- **Indian Selection Agency:** **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**.

- **HBCSE:** Constituent institution of the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)**; coordinates India's National Olympiad Programme.
- **TIFR:** Premier research institution established in **1945** and funded by the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- **National Olympiad Programme:** Multi-stage selection process that identifies and trains Indian students for International Science Olympiads.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** Emphasizes experiential learning, scientific temper, innovation, and research.
- **STEM:** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
- **Scientific Temper:** A Fundamental Duty under **Article 51A(h)** of the Constitution, requiring citizens to develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
- **International Science Olympiads:** Global competitions held annually in subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Informatics, Astronomy & Astrophysics, and Artificial Intelligence.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **International Biology Olympiad (IBO)** is an annual competition for **pre-university school students**.
2. The **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)** coordinates India's National Olympiad Programme for selecting students for international science Olympiads.
3. **Article 51A(h)** of the Constitution makes it a Fundamental Duty to develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

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. NAMASTE SCHEME ENSURES DIGNITY, SAFETY, AND SOCIAL SECURITY FOR SANITATION WORKERS



- I. **NAMASTE** aims to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks through complete mechanization.
- II. The scheme seeks to improve the **occupational safety, health, dignity, and livelihoods** of sanitation workers.
- III. It provides:
 - A. Mechanized sanitation equipment.
 - B. Skill development and capacity building.
 - C. Health insurance and social security.
 - D. Occupational safety training.
 - E. Financial inclusion and livelihood support.

- IV. The initiative promotes safe sanitation practices and reduces the risk of fatalities during sewer and septic tank cleaning.
- V. It complements the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, by supporting rehabilitation and safer working conditions.
- VI. The scheme contributes to the objectives of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** by strengthening scientific sanitation management.
- VII. It also encourages Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to adopt modern sanitation technologies and standard operating procedures.
- VIII. The initiative reinforces the principles of dignity of labour, social justice, and inclusive development.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

NAMASTE Scheme

- I. **Full Form: National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem.**
- II. **Launched: 2022.**
- III. **Implementing Ministries:**
 - A. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).**
 - B. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
- IV. Focuses on mechanizing sewer and septic tank cleaning and ensuring the welfare of sanitation workers.

Objectives

- Eliminate hazardous manual cleaning.
- Ensure dignity and safety of sanitation workers.
- Promote mechanized sanitation.
- Improve occupational health and social security.
- Provide skill development and sustainable livelihoods.

RELATED INITIATIVES

Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

- Prohibits manual scavenging.
- Provides for identification, liberation, and rehabilitation of manual scavengers.
- Regulates sewer and septic tank cleaning with prescribed safety measures.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- Launched on **2 October 2014**.
- Promotes sanitation, scientific waste management, and elimination of insanitary practices.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- Reviews welfare measures, occupational safety, and rehabilitation of sanitation workers.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scheme:** NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem).
- **Launch Year:** 2022.
- **Implementing Ministries:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Primary Objective:** Mechanize sanitation work and ensure dignity, safety, and social security for sanitation workers.
- **Social Significance:** Promotes dignity of labour, social justice, and inclusion.
- **Health Significance:** Reduces occupational hazards and sewer-related fatalities.
- **Governance Significance:** Strengthens urban sanitation systems and implementation of labour welfare laws.
- **Challenges:** Limited mechanization in some areas, inadequate equipment, skill gaps, and social stigma.

- **Way Forward:** Expand mechanized sanitation, ensure universal availability of PPE, strengthen rehabilitation and insurance coverage, improve training, and strictly enforce anti-manual scavenging laws.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NAMASTE: National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem**, launched in **2022**.
- **Implementing Ministries:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Objective:** Promote mechanized sewer and septic tank cleaning while ensuring the dignity, safety, and welfare of sanitation workers.
- **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:** Prohibits manual scavenging and provides for rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers.
- **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):** Non-statutory body under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** that monitors the welfare of sanitation workers.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):** Launched on **2 October 2014** to improve sanitation and eliminate insanitary practices.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Includes helmets, gloves, boots, masks, protective clothing, and safety harnesses used to reduce occupational risks.
- **Article 21:** Guarantees the **Right to Life**, interpreted to include the **right to live with dignity**.
- **Article 46:** Directs the State to protect weaker sections from social injustice and exploitation.
- **SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **NAMASTE Scheme** is jointly implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and**



Empowerment and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

2. The **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** prohibits manual scavenging and provides for rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers.
3. **Article 21** of the Constitution has been interpreted to include the **right to live with dignity**.

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)