



Daily PIB Summary

20th March 2026

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1. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR: FOCUS ON CROP LOSS, INSURANCE & FARMER SUPPORT



- The Union Agriculture Minister conducted a comprehensive review to assess challenges in crop damage reporting and farmer compensation mechanisms
- Key concern highlighted was **delays in insurance claim settlement**, impacting farmer resilience
- The government stressed **technology-driven crop assessment** for accuracy and transparency
- Focus on improving implementation of

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- Reinforced need for **timely financial assistance** to mitigate agrarian distress
 - The move reflects a governance push toward **farmer-centric service delivery and accountability**
 - Broader implication: strengthens rural economy stability and reduces vulnerability to climate risks

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Crop Insurance Framework in India

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (launched 2016)
- Provides **financial support to farmers against crop loss due to natural calamities, pests, diseases**
- Premium shared by **Centre, States, and Farmers**
- Uses **technology like remote sensing, drones, and satellite imagery**

Institutional Mechanism

- Implemented through **State Governments + Insurance Companies**
- Monitored by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Claims depend on **Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)**

Key Issues in Implementation

- Delay in conducting CCEs
- Data discrepancies

- Late release of state share
- Low awareness among farmers

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Mechanism:** Strengthening Centre-State coordination for faster claim processing
- **Technology Integration:** Push for satellite-based crop loss assessment to reduce delays
- **Financial Provision:** Ensuring timely release of insurance claims and disaster relief funds
- **Farmer Welfare:** Emphasis on direct and prompt assistance to affected farmers
- **Strategic Significance:** Enhances agricultural resilience against climate variability
- **Challenges:** Administrative delays, data accuracy issues, and uneven state participation
- **Way Forward:**
 - I. Digitization of crop surveys
 - II. Real-time monitoring systems
 - III. Awareness campaigns for farmers
 - IV. Accountability mechanisms for insurers and states

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PMFBY Launch Year:** 2016
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- **Premium Structure:**
 - I. Kharif: 2% (farmer share)
 - II. Rabi: 1.5%
 - III. Commercial/Horticulture: 5%
- **Key Feature:** No upper limit on government subsidy
- **CCEs (Crop Cutting Experiments):** Primary method for yield estimation
- **Technology Use:** Remote sensing, GPS, drones
- **Related Scheme:**
 - I. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
- **Disaster Coverage:** Prevented sowing, post-harvest losses, localized calamities

Padh-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Under PMFBY, there is a cap on the maximum subsidy provided by the government.
2. Crop Cutting Experiments are used for estimating crop yield under PMFBY.

- 3. PMFBY covers post-harvest losses due to natural calamities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

2.INDIA–BHUTAN STRENGTHEN POSTAL COOPERATION



- India and Bhutan have taken steps to modernize and strengthen postal collaboration, particularly in cross-border mail and parcel delivery
- The partnership emphasizes **efficient logistics, digital integration, and service reliability**
- It aligns with India's **Neighbourhood First Policy**, reinforcing regional cooperation
- Improved postal connectivity is expected to **boost trade, e-commerce, and communication access** in border regions

- Reflects a governance approach focused on **infrastructure diplomacy and service delivery enhancement**
- Enhances Bhutan's access to broader global postal networks via India
- Broader implication: Strengthens regional integration and economic linkages in South Asia

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India–Bhutan Relations

- Long-standing **special diplomatic and economic partnership**
- Cooperation spans **hydropower, trade, education, and connectivity**
- Guided by mutual trust and strategic alignment

Postal Cooperation Framework

- India Post plays a key role in **international mail exchange and logistics**
- Bhutan's postal system integrates with regional and global networks through partnerships

Institutional Mechanism

- Department of Posts under Ministry of Communications
- Works in coordination with Bhutan Post and international postal bodies

International Linkage

- Governed by standards of Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- UPU ensures **global interoperability and standardization of postal services**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Mechanism:** Strengthening collaboration between India Post and Bhutan Post
- **Connectivity Enhancement:** Improved cross-border mail and parcel delivery systems
- **Digital Integration:** Adoption of technology for tracking, sorting, and efficient logistics
- **Strategic Significance:** Supports India's Neighbourhood First and regional connectivity goals
- **Economic Impact:** Facilitates e-commerce growth and small business participation
- **People-to-People Contact:** Enhances communication access in remote and border areas
- **Challenges:** Terrain constraints, infrastructure gaps, and service standardization

Way Forward:

- I. Expansion of digital postal services
- II. Capacity building and training
- III. Integration with global logistics networks
- IV. Infrastructure upgrades in border regions

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

• Universal Postal Union (UPU):

- I. Established: 1874
- II. Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland
- III. UN specialized agency for postal services

• India Post:

- I. One of the world's largest postal networks
- II. Operates under Ministry of Communications

• Bhutan Capital: Thimphu

• **India-Bhutan Treaty:** Revised in 2007, strengthening sovereignty and cooperation

• **Neighbourhood First Policy:** Focuses on strengthening relations with immediate neighbors

• **Key Function of Postal Systems:** Mail delivery, financial inclusion, logistics support

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. India and Bhutan's postal cooperation is aimed only at traditional mail delivery services.
3. Improved postal connectivity can facilitate e-commerce growth in border regions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3. DoSEL STRENGTHENS OPEN SCHOOLING VIA NIOS TO ACHIEVE 100% GER BY 2030



• The government is reinforcing the open schooling ecosystem to bring **every child into the education net**

• National Institute of Open Schooling will play a central role in providing **flexible and accessible education pathways**

• Targets children who are **dropouts, working, marginalized, or geographically isolated**

• Aligns with goals of National Education Policy 2020, particularly universal access and equity

• Focus on **digital learning, skill integration, and alternative education models**

• Governance focus: **inclusive policy design, last-mile delivery, and educational equity**

• Broader implication: critical for achieving **demographic dividend and human capital development**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

• GER measures **total enrolment in a level of education as a percentage of eligible population**

• A key indicator for **access and inclusivity in education systems**

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

• National Institute of Open Schooling is an autonomous institution under DoSEL

• Provides **open and distance learning**

(ODL) at secondary and senior secondary levels

- Caters to **diverse learners including adults and marginalized groups**

Policy Framework

- National Education Policy 2020 aims for **universalization of education from preschool to secondary level by 2030**

- Emphasizes **flexible learning pathways, multiple entry-exit, and vocational integration**

Need for Open Schooling

- Addresses **dropout rates, socio-economic barriers, and geographic constraints**

- Supports **lifelong learning and second-chance education**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Mechanism:** Strengthening role of NIOS as a national open schooling provider

- **Inclusion Focus:** Targeting out-of-school children, migrants, and disadvantaged groups

- **Digital Integration:** Leveraging online platforms for remote and flexible learning

- **Policy Alignment:** Supports NEP 2020 goal of universal school education

- **Strategic Significance:** Critical for achieving 100% GER and improving human capital

- **Challenges:** Digital divide, awareness gaps, quality assurance in open schooling

- **Way Forward:**

- I. Expansion of study centres and digital infrastructure
- II. Integration with skilling programs
- III. Community outreach and awareness campaigns
- IV. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NIOS Established:** 1989

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education

- **Type:** Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institution

- **GER Definition:** Ratio of total enrolment to eligible age group population

- **NEP 2020 Target:** Universal school education by 2030

- **ODL Advantage:** Flexible pace, inclusive access, lifelong learning

- **Related Initiative:**

- I. Samagra Shiksha

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) measures enrolment relative to the eligible population in a given age group.
2. The National Institute of Open Schooling provides only vocational education programs.
3. National Education Policy 2020 aims for universal school education by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4.SURAKSHA SANKALP KARYASHALA TO BOOST DISTRICT-LEVEL HIV RESPONSE IN HARYANA & DELHI



National AIDS Control Organisation
India's Voice against AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
www.naco.gov.in

- The workshop aims to enhance **decentralized HIV response mechanisms** at the district level
 - Focus on **data-driven interventions, early detection, and treatment adherence**
 - Reinforces India's commitment to ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030
 - Emphasizes **coordination among health officials, NGOs, and community stakeholders**
 - Aligns with the objectives of National AIDS Control Programme
 - Governance focus: **last-mile health delivery, capacity building, and accountability**
 - Broader implication: Strengthens public health systems and improves disease surveillance

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

HIV/AIDS in India

- Caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) affecting the immune system
 - Spread through **unprotected sexual contact, infected blood, needles, and mother-to-child transmission**
 - Managed through **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)**

Institutional Framework

- National AIDS Control Organisation under Ministry of Health
- Implements National AIDS Control

Programme (launched 1992)

- Focus areas: **prevention, testing, treatment, and awareness**

International Linkage

- India is a signatory to global HIV targets under UNAIDS
- Target: **95-95-95 goals by 2030** (diagnosis, treatment, viral suppression)

Need for District-Level Focus

- HIV prevalence varies across regions
- District-level interventions ensure **localized and targeted strategies**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Mechanism:** Collaboration between MoHFW, NACO, state authorities, and NGOs
- **Decentralized Approach:** Focus on district-level planning and implementation
- **Data-Driven Strategy:** Use of surveillance data for targeted interventions
- **Public Health Significance:** Strengthens early detection, treatment adherence, and prevention
- **Strategic Goal:** Aligns with global commitment to eliminate HIV/AIDS by 2030

- **Challenges:** Social stigma, awareness gaps, uneven healthcare access

• Way Forward:

- I. Community engagement and awareness campaigns
- II. Expansion of ART centers
- III. Strengthening testing infrastructure
- IV. Monitoring and evaluation at district level

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NACP Launch Year:** 1992
- **NACO:** Apex body for HIV/AIDS control in India
- **ART (Antiretroviral Therapy):** Treatment that suppresses HIV replication
- **UNAIDS 95-95-95 Targets:**
 - I. 95% diagnosed
 - II. 95% on treatment
 - III. 95% virally suppressed
- **HIV Transmission Modes:** Blood, sexual contact, mother-to-child
- **Legal Framework:** HIV/AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- **Key Indicator:** Prevalence rate among high-risk groups

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. National AIDS Control Programme in India was launched in the 1990s.
2. Antiretroviral Therapy completely cures HIV infection.
3. UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets aim at diagnosis, treatment, and viral suppression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.INTER-MINISTERIAL BRIEFING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST ASIA



• The Government of India reviewed recent developments in West Asia to ensure **policy coherence and preparedness**

- Discussions centered on **regional instability, energy security, diaspora safety, and trade routes**
- Emphasized **whole-of-government approach** for crisis response and strategic planning
- Highlighted importance of safeguarding **Indian diaspora and critical economic interests**
- Reinforces India's balanced diplomatic engagement in a sensitive geopolitical region
- Governance focus: **inter-ministerial coordination, risk assessment, and contingency planning**
- Broader implication: Ensures resilience of India's foreign policy and economic stability amid global uncertainties

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

West Asia: Strategic Importance

- Includes countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, United Arab Emirates
- Critical for **energy supplies, trade, and geopolitical stability**
- Hosts a large **Indian diaspora population**

India's Interests in West Asia

- **Energy Security:** Major source of crude oil and natural gas imports
- **Diaspora Welfare:** Millions of Indians working in the region
- **Trade & Connectivity:** Key maritime routes like Strait of Hormuz

- **Strategic Relations:** Balanced ties with multiple regional powers

Institutional Mechanism

- Led by Ministry of External Affairs
- Coordination with ministries like Defence, Petroleum, Commerce
- Inputs from intelligence and security agencies

Geopolitical Context

- Region often faces **conflicts, proxy wars, and shifting alliances**
- Impacts global **oil prices, supply chains, and security architecture**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Mechanism:** Inter-ministerial coordination for unified policy response
- **Strategic Assessment:** Review of geopolitical risks and emerging threats
- **Energy Security:** Monitoring impact on oil supply and pricing
- **Diaspora Protection:** Ensuring safety and contingency planning for Indian nationals
- **Economic Impact:** Safeguarding trade routes and supply chains
- **Challenges:** Regional instability, volatile alliances, external power competition

• Way Forward:

- I. Strengthening diplomatic engagement
- II. Diversifying energy sources
- III. Enhancing evacuation and crisis response mechanisms
- IV. Promoting regional stability through dialogue

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

• Strait of Hormuz:

- I. Critical chokepoint for global oil trade
- II. Connects Persian Gulf to Arabian Sea

• West Asia Importance for India:

- I. Major oil supplier
- II. Large Indian diaspora

- **Key Policy:** Strategic autonomy in foreign policy

• Evacuation Operations:

- I. Operation Ganga (example of crisis response model)

- **Major Import Dependency:** Crude oil from West Asia

- **Geopolitical Term:** Proxy war – indirect conflict between major powers

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical route for global oil transportation.
2. India follows a policy of exclusive alignment with one major power in West Asia.
3. West Asia hosts a significant Indian diaspora population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)