



Daily PIB Summary

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1. GOVERNMENT ACTS TO CURB SUGAR PRICE RISE AND ENSURE FESTIVE-SEASON AVAILABILITY



- The price rise is attributed to **lower domestic production, festive demand, weather-related crop damage, global supply tightening, speculation and hoarding.**
- Sugar production is estimated at **306 LMT**, against the initial estimate of about 343 LMT.
- The Government has imposed a **400-tonne stock limit on dealers** from 1 August–30 November 2026.
- Bulk consumers will be restricted to stocks equivalent to **15 days of consumption** from 1 September.
- **10 LMT duty-free raw sugar imports** will augment domestic availability.
- Early crushing from **15 October** is expected to increase October production and support festive-season supply.
- The measures balance **consumer price stability with sugarcane farmers' interests**, while the ethanol programme continues to support mill finances.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Sugar Economy in India

- India normally produces around **320–340 LMT of sugar annually**, against domestic consumption of about **280–290 LMT**.
- Sugarcane is a major cash crop supporting millions of farmers and workers.

- Excess sugar production can lock up mill finances and contribute to delays in payment of sugarcane dues.

Ethanol–Sugar Linkage

- Diversion of surplus sugar towards ethanol helps reduce excess inventories and improve the financial health of sugar mills.
- The Government states that the share of sugar diverted for ethanol declined from about **12% in 2022–23 to 9% in 2025–26**.
- Nearly three-fourths of India's ethanol production now comes from **grains, particularly maize**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Price Rise:** Retail sugar price increased by about **15.6%** between 20 July and 20 August 2026.
- **Production:** Expected output of **306 LMT**, below the initial 343 LMT estimate.
- **Stock Limit:** Dealers capped at **400 tonnes** until 30 November.
- **Bulk Consumers:** Stock restricted to **15 days of consumption** from 1 September.
- **Imports:** **10 LMT raw sugar** allowed duty-free.
- **Crushing:** States and mills advised to begin crushing from **15 October**.
- **Farmer Interest:** **97% of sugarcane dues for 2025–26** had been paid by 20 August.
- **Challenge:** Balancing consumer affordability, mill viability, farmer remuneration and ethanol blending objectives.
- **Way Forward:** Better stock monitoring, transparent market information, timely crushing and targeted action against hoarding.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Current Sugar Production Estimate:** 306 LMT.
- **Initial Estimate:** ~343 LMT.
- **Normal Annual Production:** ~320–340 LMT.
- **Domestic Consumption:** ~280–290 LMT.
- **Dealer Stock Limit:** 400 tonnes.
- **Bulk Consumer Limit:** 15 days' consumption.
- **Duty-Free Import:** 10 LMT raw sugar.
- **Sugarcane Diseases:** **Red Rot** and **Top Borer** affected production.
- **Global Sugar Deficit 2026–27:** ~33 LMT.

- **Global Price:** \$474/tonne → \$552/tonne between 30 June and 20 August 2026.
- **Ethanol Diversion:** ~12% (2022–23) → ~9% (2025–26).
- **Important Distinction:** Ethanol diversion is **not the sole cause** of the current sugar-price rise, according to the Government.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding India's sugar sector:

1. Sugarcane can be diverted towards ethanol production, helping sugar mills manage surplus sugar stocks.
2. The Government has imposed a 400-tonne stock limit on sugar dealers during the current price-management period.
3. The recent rise in sugar prices has been attributed exclusively to diversion of sugar for ethanol production.

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. INDIA AND ADB SIGN \$230 MILLION LOAN TO MODERNISE CHENNAI'S WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION



- The project will modernise Chennai's water supply and sewerage infrastructure through new pipelines and upgraded pumping stations.

- Over **170 km of water-supply and sewer pipes** will be constructed.
- **7 water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations** will be upgraded.
- Chennai will implement a comprehensive **ring-main water supply system**, improving pressure balance, reliability and equitable distribution.
- Digital technologies will enable **real-time monitoring, data-driven decision-making and faster blockage detection**.
- The project strengthens urban resilience against climate-related risks while improving public health and quality of life.
- It aligns with **AMRUT 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund**, linking external financing with India's urban-development priorities.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Climate-Resilient Urban Water Management

- I. Rapid urbanisation increases pressure on water resources, sewerage networks and drainage systems.
- II. Climate change can intensify:
 - A. Urban flooding
 - B. Water scarcity
 - C. Extreme rainfall
 - D. Sea-level-related risks
- III. Climate-resilient water infrastructure seeks to ensure **reliable services under changing climatic conditions**.

Ring-Main Water Supply

- A ring-main system is a **closed-loop distribution network**.
- Water can reach different service areas through interconnected routes, helping maintain pressure and improving reliability during disruptions.

ADB & India

- The **Asian Development Bank** is a multilateral development bank focused on economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.
- ADB financing supports infrastructure, climate resilience, urban development and other development priorities in India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Financing:** \$230 million ADB loan.
- **Project:** Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project.
- **Infrastructure:** 170+ km of water and sewer pipelines.
- **Pumping Stations:** 7 water + 38 sewer stations to be upgraded.
- **Innovation:** Comprehensive ring-main water distribution system.
- **Digitalisation:** Real-time monitoring and data-driven water management.
- **Climate Resilience:** Strengthens urban water infrastructure against climate-related risks.
- **Governance:** Performance-based contracts and improved utility management aim to enhance financial sustainability.
- **Way Forward:** Integrate water conservation, wastewater reuse, rainwater harvesting and climate-sensitive urban planning.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ADB:** Asian Development Bank.
- **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.
- **Established:** 1966.
- **India:** Founding member of ADB.
- **Project:** Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project.
- **Loan:** \$230 million.
- **Ring Main:** Closed-loop water distribution network.
- **AMRUT:** Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.
- **AMRUT 2.0:** Focuses on water-secure cities, universal water supply coverage and wastewater management.
- **Urban Challenge Fund:** Supports urban infrastructure and reforms through competitive, outcome-oriented financing.
- **Key Concept: Climate-resilient infrastructure** = infrastructure designed to withstand and adapt to climate-related hazards.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project:

1. It is supported through a \$230 million loan from the Asian Development Bank.
2. The project includes a comprehensive ring-main solution for Chennai's water supply system.
3. The Asian Development Bank is headquartered in New Delhi.

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. INDIAN ARMY'S TERRITORIAL ARMY LAUNCHES 'TERRIER CYBER QUEST 2026'



- TCQ 3.0 seeks innovative, indigenous solutions to emerging **defence and cybersecurity challenges**.
- It brings together talent from **academia, industry, research institutions, government and the Armed Forces**.
- The initiative strengthens the connection between India's technology ecosystem and defence requirements.
- Focus on AI and cyber threat mitigation reflects the growing importance of the **information domain in modern warfare**.
- Indigenous technological solutions can reduce dependence on imported cybersecurity capabilities.
- Such platforms can promote **dual-use innovation**, where civilian technologies can also serve national-security requirements.

- The initiative highlights the importance of skilled human resources alongside technological capabilities in India's cyber-defence architecture.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Territorial Army

- The Territorial Army is a **voluntary part-time military organisation** that supports the Regular Army when required.
- It provides trained manpower for national-security and other designated responsibilities.

Cybersecurity & Defence

- I. Modern military operations increasingly depend on:
 - A. Secure communications
 - B. Artificial Intelligence
 - C. Cyber networks
 - D. Data and information systems
 - E. Electronic and information warfare
- II. Cyberattacks can target military networks, critical infrastructure, financial systems and government databases.

Hackathon Approach

- Defence hackathons provide a platform for innovators to develop **problem-specific technological solutions**.
- They can accelerate the movement from **ideation → prototype → testing → deployment**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Initiative:** Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0).
- **Lead:** Territorial Army.
- **Collaboration:** CyberPeace.
- **Focus:** AI, cybersecurity, threat mitigation and information-domain challenges.
- **Participants:** Academia, industry, research institutions, government and Armed Forces.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens India's indigenous cyber-defence ecosystem.
- **Innovation:** Encourages technology solutions tailored to contemporary defence requirements.
- **Way Forward:** Promote industry-military collaboration, indigenous R&D, cyber-skilled

manpower and rapid deployment of validated solutions.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **TCQ:** Terrier Cyber Quest.
- **2026 Edition: TCQ 3.0** — third edition.
- **Organiser:** Territorial Army.
- **Partner:** CyberPeace.
- **Core Areas:** AI, cybersecurity, threat mitigation, information domain.
- **Territorial Army:** Voluntary military organisation supporting the Regular Army.
- **Cybersecurity:** Protection of information systems, networks and data against unauthorised access, disruption or destruction.
- **Information Warfare:** Use and protection of information and information systems to influence or gain advantage during conflict.
- **Strategic Objective:** Promote indigenous technological solutions for national security.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Terrier Cyber Quest 2026:

1. It is launched by the Territorial Army in collaboration with CyberPeace.
2. It focuses exclusively on developing civilian applications of artificial intelligence.
3. It seeks participation from academia, industry, research institutions and the Armed Forces.

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)

4. KEN-BETWA LINK PROJECT: INDIA'S FIRST INTERLINKING PROJECT TO ENTER IMPLEMENTATION



- KBLP involves construction of the **Daudhan Dam** on the Ken River and a **216.465-km link canal** to the Betwa basin.
- The project is expected to provide irrigation to **10.62 lakh hectares** and drinking water to about **62 lakh people**.
- It will generate **103 MW hydropower** and **27 MW solar power**, integrating water and energy security.
- The project covers drought-prone areas of **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**, particularly the Bundelkhand region.
- It can improve agricultural productivity, cropping intensity and resilience against rainfall variability.
- Its implementation also raises concerns regarding **forest diversion, biodiversity, displacement and rehabilitation**, requiring strong environmental safeguards.
- The project represents the complex balance between **water security, inter-state cooperation and ecological conservation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ken-Betwa Link

- **Ken River:** Flows through Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and is a tributary of the Yamuna.
- **Betwa River:** Also flows through Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and joins the Yamuna.
- The project proposes transferring water from the **Ken basin to the Betwa basin**.

Major Components

- **Daudhan Dam:** 96.7 m high, located in Madhya Pradesh.

- **Link Canal:** 216.465 km long.
- Other components include **Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage and Bina Complex Multipurpose Project**.
- Total project cost: **₹44,605 crore**.
- Scheduled completion: **2030**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Water Transfer:** Ken basin → Betwa basin.
- **Beneficiaries:** Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Irrigation:** 10.62 lakh hectares.
- **Drinking Water:** About 62 lakh people.
- **Energy:** 103 MW hydropower + 27 MW solar power.
- **Strategic Significance:** First priority interlinking project to enter implementation.
- **Environmental Challenge:** Potential impacts on forests, wildlife and riverine ecosystems.
- **Social Challenge:** Land acquisition, displacement and rehabilitation of affected families.
- **Way Forward:** Ensure ecological-flow assessment, transparent rehabilitation, biodiversity safeguards and effective Centre-State coordination.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Project:** Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP).
- **Rivers:** Ken and Betwa.
- **States:** Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Region:** Bundelkhand.
- **Dam:** Daudhan Dam.
- **Dam Height:** 96.7 m.
- **Link Canal:** 216.465 km.
- **Cost:** ₹44,605 crore.
- **Irrigation Potential:** 10.62 lakh ha.
- **Drinking Water:** ~62 lakh people.
- **Power:** 103 MW hydro + 27 MW solar.
- **NPP:** National Perspective Plan for Interlinking of Rivers.
- **Key Distinction:** KBLP is the **first priority project under the NPP to enter implementation**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Ken-Betwa Link Project:

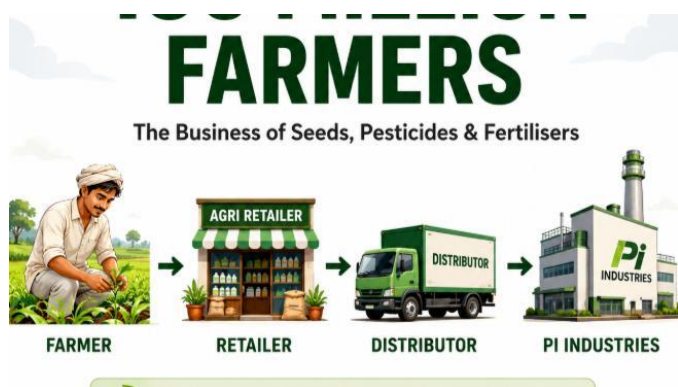
1. It involves transfer of water from the Ken basin to the Betwa basin.
2. It is the first priority project under the National Perspective Plan for Interlinking of Rivers to enter implementation.
3. Both the Ken and Betwa rivers are tributaries of the Ganga.

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. CCI PENALISES AGRO INPUT ASSOCIATIONS FOR CARTELISATION



- The case highlights the role of competition law in preventing **collective anti-competitive conduct by trade associations**.
- Cartelisation can distort competition, restrict market choices and adversely affect efficient price discovery.
- The CCI directed the concerned parties to **cease and desist** from the prohibited conduct.
- Monetary penalties were imposed on the associations and individuals found liable, totalling **₹10.65 lakh**.
- The associations were also directed to conduct **competition-compliance training**.
- Competitive agro-input markets are important for maintaining reasonable prices and availability of inputs for farmers.
- The case reinforces **market accountability, consumer welfare and fair competition** in agricultural supply chains.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Competition Act, 2002

- **Section 3:** Prohibits anti-competitive agreements causing or likely to cause an **Appreciable Adverse Effect on Competition (AAEC)**.
- **Section 3(3):** Covers anti-competitive agreements between enterprises/persons engaged in identical or similar trade.
- **Section 27:** Provides powers to the CCI to pass orders against anti-competitive conduct.
- **Section 48:** Provides for liability of individuals responsible for anti-competitive conduct of companies/associations.

Cartelisation

- A cartel involves competitors coordinating rather than competing, including through:
 - A. Price fixing
 - B. Output/supply restrictions
 - C. Market allocation
 - D. Bid rigging

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regulator:** Competition Commission of India.
- **Parties:** AIDA, AIWA and concerned office-bearers/individuals.
- **Violation:** Cartelisation under Section 3.
- **Penalty:** ₹10.65 lakh cumulatively.
- **Non-Monetary Action:** Cease-and-desist directions and competition-compliance training.
- **Farmer Impact:** Competitive input markets support better prices and availability.
- **Governance:** Demonstrates enforcement of competition law against associations, not merely individual firms.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen competition-law awareness, compliance mechanisms and monitoring of trade associations.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CCI:** Competition Commission of India.
- **Legal Basis:** Competition Act, 2002.
- **Section 3:** Anti-competitive agreements.
- **Section 3(3):** Certain agreements between competitors presumed to cause AAEC.



- **Section 27:** Orders against anti-competitive agreements/abuse of dominance.
- **Section 48:** Liability of persons in charge for contraventions.
- **AAEC:** Appreciable Adverse Effect on Competition.
- **Cartel:** Coordination among competitors to reduce or eliminate competition.
- **Important: Dominant position itself is not illegal; abuse of dominant position is prohibited.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding competition law in India:

1. Section 3 of the Competition Act, 2002 deals with anti-competitive agreements.
2. Cartelisation among competitors can attract action under the Competition Act.
3. The CCI can impose only monetary penalties and cannot issue cease-and-desist directions.

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)