



Daily PIB Summary

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1. REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE FOR A RESILIENT INDIA



- Regenerative agriculture shifts the focus from maximising short-term output towards **restoring the natural resource base of farming**.
- It promotes practices such as minimum soil disturbance, crop diversification, cover crops, residue management and integrated livestock systems.
- Improved soil organic matter can enhance **water retention, nutrient cycling and soil biodiversity**.
- Reduced dependence on excessive chemical inputs can lower production costs and improve long-term farm sustainability.
- Greater soil carbon storage can contribute to **climate-change mitigation**, while healthier soils improve resilience to droughts and extreme rainfall.
- The approach can support India's goals of **sustainable agriculture, climate resilience and resource conservation**.
- Successful adoption requires location-specific practices, farmer awareness, market incentives, research and appropriate policy support.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is Regenerative Agriculture?

- Regenerative agriculture is an approach that seeks to **restore and improve agricultural ecosystems** rather than merely minimise environmental damage.
- It focuses particularly on:
 - Soil health
 - Biodiversity

- Water conservation
- Nutrient cycling
- Carbon sequestration

Major Practices

- **Minimum/No Tillage:** Reduces soil disturbance and erosion.
- **Cover Cropping:** Protects soil between main crops.
- **Crop Rotation:** Improves nutrient cycling and breaks pest cycles.
- **Mulching:** Conserves soil moisture and moderates soil temperature.
- **Agroforestry:** Integrates trees with crops/livestock.
- **Integrated Livestock:** Recycles nutrients through crop-livestock interactions.

Why India Needs It

- Soil degradation, groundwater depletion, declining soil organic matter and climate variability threaten agricultural sustainability.
- Regenerative approaches can help shift Indian agriculture towards **resource-efficient and climate-resilient production systems**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Core Principle:** Restore ecosystem functions while producing food.
- **Soil Health:** Increases organic matter, microbial activity and nutrient cycling.
- **Water:** Better soil structure improves infiltration and water retention.
- **Climate:** Can increase soil carbon storage and resilience to climatic shocks.
- **Biodiversity:** Crop diversity and habitat restoration support beneficial organisms.
- **Farmer Economics:** Potential reduction in input costs over time.
- **Challenge:** Transition costs, knowledge gaps, uncertain short-term returns and limited access to suitable markets.
- **Way Forward:** Farmer training, locally adapted models, research, incentives and stronger measurement of soil-health outcomes.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Regenerative Agriculture:** Farming approach focused on restoring soil and ecosystem health.



- **Soil Organic Matter:** Improves soil structure, nutrient availability and water-holding capacity.
- **Cover Crop:** Crop grown primarily to protect and improve soil rather than for direct harvest.
- **No-Till:** Crop production with minimal or no mechanical soil disturbance.
- **Crop Rotation:** Sequential cultivation of different crops on the same land.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Removal and storage of carbon, including in soils and vegetation.
- **Agroforestry:** Deliberate integration of **trees with crops and/or livestock**.
- **Key Distinction:** Regenerative agriculture is broader than simply reducing chemical inputs; its central objective is **ecosystem restoration**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding regenerative agriculture:

1. It seeks to improve soil health and ecosystem functions while maintaining agricultural production.
2. Crop diversification and cover cropping can form part of regenerative agricultural practices.
3. Regenerative agriculture necessarily requires complete elimination of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

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. PIYUSH GOYAL LEADS 200-MEMBER BUSINESS DELEGATION TO JAPAN



- The delegation seeks to deepen business-to-business engagement and expand opportunities for Indian and Japanese companies.
- Cooperation is expected across **manufacturing, technology, infrastructure, investment and supply chains**.
- Stronger India-Japan economic ties can support India's integration into resilient and diversified global value chains.
- Japan remains an important source of **foreign investment and advanced technology** for India.
- Greater commercial engagement complements the broader **India-Japan Special and Global Strategic Partnership**.
- The initiative can support India's objectives of boosting exports, attracting investment and strengthening domestic manufacturing.
- It also gains significance amid efforts to build **trusted and resilient supply chains** in the Indo-Pacific.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India-Japan Economic Relations

- India and Japan have developed extensive cooperation in **trade, investment, infrastructure and technology**.
- Japan has supported major Indian infrastructure projects, including the



Mumbai–Ahmedabad High–Speed Rail project.

- The **India–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** provides the framework for bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Supply Chain Resilience

- India and Japan cooperate on diversifying production and reducing excessive dependence on concentrated supply chains.
- This is particularly relevant for strategic sectors such as **electronics, automobiles, semiconductors and critical technologies**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Delegation:** 200-member Indian business delegation.
- **Leadership:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.
- **Destination:** Japan.
- **Focus:** Trade, investment and business partnerships.
- **Strategic Sector:** Manufacturing, technology and resilient supply chains.
- **Investment:** Japan is an important source of FDI and infrastructure financing for India.
- **Goeconomic Significance:** Strengthens India's position in Indo-Pacific economic networks.
- **Way Forward:** Expand market access, facilitate investment, deepen technology partnerships and diversify supply chains.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **India–Japan CEPA:** Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- **CEPA:** Covers trade in goods and services and broader economic cooperation.
- **Relationship:** India–Japan **Special and Global Strategic Partnership**.
- **Key Cooperation Areas:** Infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, investment and supply-chain resilience.
- **Mumbai–Ahmedabad HSR:** Major India–Japan infrastructure cooperation project.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Diversification and strengthening of production and sourcing networks to withstand disruptions.

- **Japan:** Major source of foreign investment and development cooperation for India.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding **India–Japan economic relations**:

1. India and Japan have a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
2. Japan is an important partner of India in infrastructure and investment.
3. India and Japan's economic cooperation is confined exclusively to trade in goods.

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. LOKAYAN 2026: INS SUDARSHINI ARRIVES IN LISBON, PORTUGAL



- Lokayan 2026 is an overseas training and outreach deployment of the Indian Navy.
- INS Sudarshini uses traditional sail training to develop **leadership, teamwork, seamanship and navigation skills** among naval personnel.



- The visit provides an opportunity for professional interaction between the **Indian Navy and Portuguese maritime institutions**.
- Such port calls contribute to India's broader maritime diplomacy and reinforce its engagement with partner countries.
- Sail training also preserves knowledge of traditional navigation while complementing modern naval capabilities.
- The deployment demonstrates India's commitment to maintaining a **rules-based maritime order and cooperative maritime environment**.
- Naval diplomacy through training deployments strengthens strategic relationships without being limited to formal defence engagements.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Sudarshini

- I. INS Sudarshini is an **Indian Navy sail training ship**.
- II. It is designed to provide practical exposure to:
 - A. Sailing
 - B. Navigation
 - C. Seamanship
 - D. Leadership
 - E. Teamwork
- III. Sail training requires personnel to understand wind, weather, currents and vessel handling, developing resilience and decision-making skills.

India-Portugal Maritime Relations

- India and Portugal share historical maritime links extending across the Indian Ocean and Atlantic world.
- Contemporary relations include cooperation in **defence, maritime affairs, trade, science and technology**.
- Naval port visits serve as an important instrument of **maritime diplomacy**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Deployment:** Lokayan 2026.
- **Ship:** INS Sudarshini.
- **Type:** Sail training ship.
- **Port:** Lisbon, Portugal.

- **Primary Role:** Training and professional development of naval personnel.
- **Diplomatic Significance:** Strengthens India-Portugal maritime engagement.
- **Training Value:** Builds seamanship, leadership, teamwork and navigation skills.
- **Maritime Diplomacy:** Naval visits promote goodwill and professional cooperation.
- **Way Forward:** Expand naval exchanges, maritime training cooperation and coordinated engagement in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Sudarshini:** Indian Navy sail training ship.
- **Lokayan 2026:** Overseas maritime training/outreach deployment.
- **Lisbon:** Capital of **Portugal**.
- **Sail Training:** Uses practical sailing experience to develop seamanship and leadership.
- **Naval Diplomacy:** Use of naval deployments, port calls and exchanges to strengthen international relations.
- **Portugal:** Located on the **Iberian Peninsula** in southwestern Europe.
- **Atlantic Ocean:** Portugal's western maritime frontier.
- **Strategic Linkage:** Naval diplomacy supports broader defence and maritime cooperation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding INS Sudarshini:

1. INS Sudarshini is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy.
2. Sail training can contribute to the development of seamanship, leadership and navigation skills.
3. Lisbon, where the vessel arrived during Lokayan 2026, is the capital of Spain.

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)

4. NSDC AND CULTUS EDUCATION LAUNCH NATIONWIDE CLOUD AND AI SKILLING INITIATIVE



- The programme seeks to equip learners with skills in **cloud computing, artificial intelligence and emerging digital technologies**.
- It addresses the growing demand for skilled professionals as businesses accelerate digital transformation.
- Industry participation can help align skilling programmes with **real-world technology requirements and employability**.
- Wider access to advanced digital training can reduce the skills gap between India's workforce and emerging technology needs.
- Cloud and AI skills are increasingly relevant across sectors including manufacturing, finance, healthcare, governance and education.
- The initiative can strengthen India's **digital talent pool**, innovation ecosystem and global technology-services competitiveness.
- Public-private collaboration provides a scalable model for connecting **government skilling infrastructure with industry expertise**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Skill Development Corporation

- **NSDC** is a public-private partnership organisation working under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- It supports skill-development initiatives through partnerships with training providers, industry and other stakeholders.

Cloud Computing & AI

- **Cloud computing:** Delivery of computing resources such as storage, processing power, databases and software through networked infrastructure.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Technologies enabling machines to perform tasks associated with human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning and pattern recognition.
- Cloud infrastructure provides scalable computing capacity that can support **AI development and deployment**.

Industry-Linked Skilling

- Industry-linked programmes help ensure that training reflects changing workplace requirements.
- Certifications, practical projects and exposure to cloud platforms can improve **job readiness and digital employability**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Partners:** NSDC + Cultus Education.
- **Technology Support:** Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- **Focus:** Cloud computing and Artificial Intelligence.
- **Scale:** Nationwide skilling initiative.
- **Objective:** Build an industry-ready digital workforce.
- **Employment:** Enhances employability in technology-intensive sectors.
- **Industry Linkage:** Connects training with contemporary technology requirements.
- **Strategic Significance:** Supports India's digital economy and technology talent pipeline.
- **Way Forward:** Expand access beyond major cities, strengthen practical training and improve industry-recognised certification pathways.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NSDC:** National Skill Development Corporation.



- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- **AWS:** Amazon Web Services.
- **Cloud Computing:** On-demand access to computing resources through a network.
- **AI:** Artificial Intelligence.
- **Industry 4.0:** Technology-driven transformation involving AI, IoT, automation, cloud computing and advanced analytics.
- **Digital Skilling:** Development of workforce capabilities required for technology-enabled employment.
- **Public-Private Partnership:** Collaboration between government/public institutions and private-sector entities to deliver development outcomes.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the nationwide Cloud and AI skilling initiative:

1. It has been launched by NSDC and Cultus Education with support from Amazon Web Services.
2. Cloud computing can provide scalable computing resources through networked infrastructure.
3. The National Skill Development Corporation functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5. BRICS SPORTS MINISTERS ADOPT JOINT DECLARATION AT VISA KHAPATNAM MEETING



- The declaration seeks to deepen cooperation among BRICS countries in **sports development and physical activity**.
- It recognises sport's contribution to **public health, youth empowerment, social inclusion and community development**.
- Cooperation can include sharing expertise, training methodologies, sports science and best practices.
- Greater sporting exchanges can strengthen **people-to-people ties and cultural diplomacy** among BRICS members.
- The initiative also supports the promotion of **grassroots and inclusive sports**, including participation of women and persons with disabilities.



- Sports cooperation adds a softer dimension to India's broader BRICS engagement.
- It demonstrates how multilateral groupings can use sports to advance **sustainable human development and international understanding**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

BRICS

- BRICS is a forum for cooperation among major emerging economies.
- Its cooperation has expanded beyond economics into areas such as **health, education, science and technology, culture and sports**.
- India has increasingly used BRICS platforms to promote cooperation in areas relevant to the **Global South**.

Sports Diplomacy

- Sports diplomacy uses sporting exchanges, competitions, training and institutional cooperation to strengthen international relations.
- It can create channels of engagement even where conventional diplomatic interactions are limited.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Venue:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Forum:** BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting.
- **Outcome:** Joint Declaration.
- **Focus:** Sports cooperation and physical activity.
- **Youth:** Sports identified as an instrument of youth empowerment and development.
- **Public Health:** Promotes active lifestyles and physical well-being.
- **Inclusion:** Supports broader participation in sporting activities.
- **Diplomacy:** Strengthens people-to-people and cultural connections.
- **Way Forward:** Expand sporting exchanges, sports-science collaboration, athlete development and grassroots programmes.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **BRICS:** Originally Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- **BRICS Expansion:** The grouping has expanded its membership beyond the original five.
- **India:** One of the founding members of the original BRICS grouping.
- **BRICS Cooperation:** Includes economic, political, social and sectoral cooperation.
- **Sports Diplomacy:** Use of sports to promote international relations and people-to-people contacts.
- **Joint Declaration:** A political/institutional statement reflecting areas of common understanding and cooperation.
- **Visakhapatnam:** Major port city on India's eastern coast in **Andhra Pradesh**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

1. India was part of the original BRICS grouping.
2. BRICS cooperation is limited exclusively to trade and investment.
3. Sports and people-to-people exchanges can form part of BRICS sectoral cooperation.

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)