PadhAI

Daily PIB Summary

24 June, 2026

1.VICE-PRESIDENT RELEASES BOOK "VIP CULTURE IN INDIA: POWER, PRIVILEGE AND THE DISTANCE FROM DEMOCRACY"

- The book examines the persistence of VIP culture in India and its impact on democratic governance.
- It highlights how excessive privileges and special treatment can create a disconnect between public institutions and citizens.
- The Vice-President stressed that democracy flourishes when public office is viewed as a responsibility rather than a privilege.
- The discussion reinforced constitutional principles of equality before law and equal access to public services.
- The publication contributes to debates on governance reforms, administrative ethics, and democratic accountability.
- It draws attention to the need for responsive institutions that remain accessible to ordinary citizens.
- The issue is significant for strengthening trust between citizens and the state.
- It aligns with broader efforts to promote transparency, good governance, and public service delivery.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

VIP Culture in India

- VIP culture refers to the practice of granting special privileges, preferential treatment, and exclusive access to individuals holding public office or positions of influence.
- It is often viewed as inconsistent with democratic ideals of equality and inclusiveness.

Constitutional Foundation

India's constitutional framework emphasizes equality and rule of law.

- **Article 14:** Equality before law and equal protection of laws.
- **Article 15:** Prohibition of discrimination on specified grounds.
- **Article 16:** Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
- **Preamble:** Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

Administrative Reforms Against VIP Culture

- Removal of red beacons from vehicles of dignitaries (except emergency services) in 2017.

- Expansion of e-governance initiatives to reduce discretionary access.
- Citizen grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Focus on transparency and accountability in public administration.

Democratic Significance

- Public institutions derive legitimacy from serving citizens.
- Equal treatment strengthens trust in governance.
- Citizen-centric administration deepens democratic participation and accountability.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Core Theme:** Examines the relationship between power, privilege, and democratic values.
- **Constitutional Principle:** Reinforces equality before law as a cornerstone of Indian democracy.
- **Governance Perspective:** Advocates citizen-centric and accountable public administration.
- **Institutional Significance:** Encourages greater accessibility of public institutions.
- **Administrative Ethics:** Public office should be treated as a public trust rather than a source of privilege.
- **Democratic Relevance:** Highlights the importance of reducing barriers between citizens and decision-makers.
- **Challenges:** Persistence of hierarchical administrative practices and symbolic privileges.
- **Way Forward:** Promote transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and service-oriented governance.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 14:** Equality before law and equal protection of laws.
- **Article 15:** Prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- **Article 16:** Equality of opportunity in public employment.
- **Rule of Law:** Concept popularized by A. V. Dicey.
- **Preamble Keywords:** Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.
- **2017 Reform:** Ban on red beacon vehicles for most dignitaries.
- **Good Governance Principles:** Transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness, efficiency.
- **Citizen-Centric Governance:** Governance model prioritizing public welfare and service delivery.
- **Public Office as Public Trust:** Important principle of administrative ethics.
- **Fraternity:** Ensures dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws.

2. Citizen-centric governance emphasizes accessibility and accountability of public institutions.
3. The Constitution explicitly provides a special category of legal privileges for VIP citizens.

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.DISCUSSION PAPER ON METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES FOR COMPILATION OF MONETARY ASSET ACCOUNTS OF COAL IN INDIA

- MoSPI has proposed a methodology to estimate the monetary value of India's coal resources through the compilation of Monetary Asset Accounts.
- The framework seeks to integrate natural resource wealth into national accounting systems.
- Coal, being India's dominant energy source, constitutes a significant component of the country's natural capital.
- The initiative will improve evidence-based policymaking regarding resource extraction, conservation, and sustainable development.
- Monetary valuation enables assessment of resource depletion and its economic implications over time.
- The framework aligns India with global practices under environmental-economic accounting systems.
- It can support long-term energy planning, fiscal policy, and sustainable resource management.
- The initiative represents a shift from measuring only economic output to accounting for natural wealth alongside conventional assets.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Monetary Asset Accounts?

- Monetary Asset Accounts estimate the economic value of natural resources in monetary terms.
- They record changes in the value of assets due to extraction, discoveries, revaluation, and depletion.
- These accounts complement physical asset accounts, which measure quantities rather than value.

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)

- Natural Capital refers to stocks of natural resources that provide economic and environmental benefits.
- Examples include coal, forests, minerals, water resources, and ecosystems.
- Natural Capital Accounting integrates environmental assets into economic accounting frameworks.

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- Developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- Serves as the international standard for environmental-economic accounting.
- Links environmental information with economic statistics.

Coal Sector in India

- Coal remains the backbone of India's energy sector.
- India possesses the world's fifth-largest coal reserves.
- Coal contributes significantly to electricity generation, industrial production, and energy security.

Importance of Resource Valuation

- Helps quantify depletion of natural resources.
- Supports sustainable extraction policies.
- Facilitates intergenerational equity in resource management.
- Improves transparency in national wealth estimation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Objective:** Develop a methodology for estimating the monetary value of coal assets in India.
- **Institutional Framework:** Led by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation under Natural Capital Accounting initiatives.
- **International Alignment:** Based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).
- **Policy Significance:** Supports evidence-based resource management and sustainable development planning.
- **Economic Relevance:** Enables incorporation of coal wealth into broader national wealth assessments.
- **Energy Security:** Assists long-term planning for India's energy transition and resource utilization.
- **Challenges:** Valuation complexities, price fluctuations, reserve estimation uncertainties, and environmental externalities.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen environmental-economic accounting, improve resource valuation methodologies, and expand natural capital accounting to other sectors.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SEEA:** System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.
- **Developed By:** United Nations Statistical Commission.
- **Natural Capital:** Stock of natural resources yielding economic and ecological benefits.
- **Asset Account:** Records opening stock, additions, reductions, and closing stock of an asset.
- **Physical Asset Account:** Measures quantity (tonnes, hectares, cubic metres, etc.).
- **Monetary Asset Account:** Measures economic value of resources.
- **Natural Capital Accounting (NCA):** Integration of environmental assets into national accounts.
- **Coal Type Classification:** Anthracite, Bituminous, Sub-bituminous, Lignite.
- **India's Energy Mix:** Coal remains the largest source of electricity generation.
- **Resource Depletion:** Reduction in natural resource stock due to extraction exceeding replenishment.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

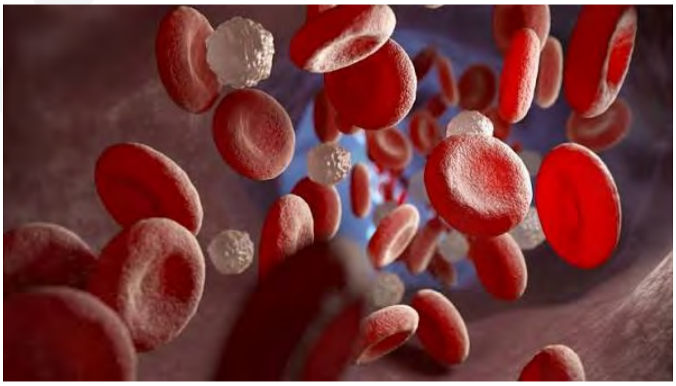
1. Monetary Asset Accounts estimate the economic value of natural resources in monetary terms.
2. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is an internationally recognized framework for integrating environmental and economic data.
3. Physical Asset Accounts record only the monetary value of natural resources.

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.IPC ORGANIZES NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENSURING QUALITY OF BLOOD AND BLOOD COMPONENTS THROUGH IP 2026 STANDARDS



- The conference was organized to promote the adoption of IP 2026 standards for blood and blood components across blood centres in India.
- It brought together healthcare professionals, regulatory authorities, laboratory experts, and blood bank personnel to discuss quality management practices.

- The initiative seeks to enhance the safety, efficacy, and quality of blood products used in transfusion medicine.
- Standardized quality protocols help reduce transfusion-related risks and improve patient outcomes.
- The conference aligns with India's broader objective of strengthening healthcare quality assurance systems.
- It highlights the growing role of pharmacopoeial standards in ensuring uniformity and regulatory compliance in healthcare services.
- The initiative contributes to public health security by improving the reliability of blood transfusion infrastructure.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)

- Indian Pharmacopoeia is the official book of standards for drugs, pharmaceuticals, and biological products in India.
- It prescribes quality specifications, testing methods, storage conditions, and standards for healthcare products.
- The latest edition, **IP 2026**, was released to strengthen quality benchmarks in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

- IPC is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is responsible for setting standards for drugs and healthcare products in India.
- It also functions as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmacovigilance in Public Health Programmes.

Blood and Blood Components

Blood collected from donors is separated into various components:

- **Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBCs):** Treatment of anemia and blood loss.
- **Platelets:** Management of bleeding disorders and thrombocytopenia.
- **Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP):** Used in coagulation disorders.
- **Cryoprecipitate:** Rich source of clotting factors.

Importance of Quality Standards

- Ensures safety of recipients.
- Minimizes risk of transfusion-transmitted infections.
- Standardizes testing and storage practices.
- Improves traceability and regulatory oversight.

Blood Transfusion Services in India

- Governed through the framework of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945.
- Blood is legally classified as a "drug" under Indian law.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Initiative:** Organized by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Primary Objective:** Strengthen implementation of IP 2026 standards for blood and blood components.
- **Quality Assurance:** Focus on standardization of collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution practices.
- **Patient Safety:** Aims to reduce transfusion-related adverse events and improve healthcare outcomes.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Enhances adherence to national quality and safety requirements.
- **Public Health Significance:** Supports safe and reliable blood transfusion services across the country.
- **Challenges:** Variations in infrastructure, quality management systems, and technical capacity among blood centres.
- **Way Forward:** Capacity building, regular audits, adoption of best practices, and nationwide implementation of IP 2026 standards.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP):** Official compendium of drug standards in India.
- **Latest Edition:** IP 2026.
- **IPC:** Autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Blood Status in India:** Classified as a "drug" under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- **WHO Goal:** Universal access to safe blood and blood products.
- **PRBC:** Packed Red Blood Cells.
- **FFP:** Fresh Frozen Plasma.
- **Hemovigilance:** Monitoring and reporting of adverse events related to blood transfusion.
- **Pharmacovigilance:** Science of monitoring adverse effects of medicines.
- **Transfusion-Transmitted Infections (TTIs):** HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, etc.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Blood is classified as a drug under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. Indian Pharmacopoeia prescribes standards for drugs and biological products in India.
3. Hemovigilance refers to the monitoring of adverse events related to blood transfusion.

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: (d)

4.AMBASSADOR JAMIESON GREER LEADS U.S. DELEGATION TO INDIA FOR BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT TALKS

- India and the United States held ministerial-level negotiations to advance the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement.
- Discussions covered market access, digital trade, supply-chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and cooperation in strategic sectors.
- Both countries acknowledged substantial progress made through technical and ministerial engagements in recent months.
- The proposed interim agreement is expected to serve as a foundation for a broader and more comprehensive trade pact.
- The negotiations assume significance amid evolving global trade dynamics, supply-chain diversification efforts, and tariff-related uncertainties.
- Enhanced trade cooperation can strengthen investment flows, technology partnerships, and economic resilience between the two countries.
- The talks reflect the growing importance of India–U.S. economic relations within the framework of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.
- Successful conclusion of the agreement could contribute to greater market integration and expansion of bilateral trade.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India–U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)

- The proposed BTA seeks to deepen economic engagement between India and the United States.
- It aims to address tariff and non-tariff barriers while facilitating trade and investment.
- The agreement is being negotiated in phases, beginning with an interim arrangement.

Interim Agreement Framework

- India and the U.S. agreed on a framework for an Interim Agreement in February 2026.
- The framework reaffirmed commitment to broader BTA negotiations.
- It focuses on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade arrangements.

Key Areas Under Negotiation

- Market Access
- Digital Trade
- Customs and Trade Facilitation
- Non-Tariff Measures

- Investment Promotion
- Economic Security Alignment
- Supply Chain Resilience

India–U.S. Economic Relations

- The United States is among India's largest trading partners.
- Bilateral trade spans goods, services, technology, energy, defence, and investment.
- Both countries have set ambitious goals to expand trade and strengthen trusted supply chains.

Strategic Importance

- Reduces overdependence on concentrated supply chains.
- Supports diversification of manufacturing ecosystems.
- Enhances economic cooperation in emerging technologies and critical sectors.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lead Negotiators:** Jamieson Greer (USTR) and Piyush Goyal (India).
- **Primary Objective:** Advance negotiations for an interim India–U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement.
- **Trade Focus:** Market access, digital trade, customs facilitation, and non-tariff barriers.
- **Supply Chain Dimension:** Emphasis on resilient and trusted supply chains.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens India–U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.
- **Economic Impact:** Potential boost to trade, investment, exports, and technology cooperation.
- **Challenges:** Tariff disputes, regulatory barriers, market access concerns, and trade investigations.
- **Way Forward:** Conclude the interim agreement and progressively negotiate a comprehensive trade pact.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **BTA:** Bilateral Trade Agreement between two countries.
- **FTA (Free Trade Agreement):** Eliminates or reduces tariffs and trade barriers.
- **USTR:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.
- **Market Access:** Ability of goods and services to enter a foreign market.
- **Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):** Regulations, standards, quotas, and procedures affecting trade.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Capacity to withstand disruptions in production and logistics.
- **Digital Trade:** Trade enabled through digital technologies and cross-border data flows.
- **Economic Security Alignment:** Cooperation in critical sectors, technology, and strategic industries.
- **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership:** Framework guiding India–U.S. relations across multiple sectors.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Non-tariff barriers include regulations, standards, and customs procedures that affect trade.
2. A Bilateral Trade Agreement is negotiated between more than two countries.
3. Trade facilitation aims to simplify and harmonize cross-border trade procedures.

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)

5.SIX YOUTH-LED SUSTAINABILITY STARTUPS WIN YOUTH CO:LAB NATIONAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2026

- The Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026 recognized six innovative startups working on sustainability-focused solutions.
- The challenge received over 350 applications from 28 States, reflecting growing youth participation in social entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation.
- Fifty startups were shortlisted for the National Springboard Programme, a capacity-building initiative involving mentorship and business development support.
- The competition focused on promoting responsible consumption through innovations in sustainable textiles, circular economy solutions, and sustainable food and water systems.
- Winning startups will receive seed grants and ecosystem support to scale their impact-driven ventures.
- The initiative strengthens India's startup ecosystem while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Mission LiFE objectives.
- It highlights the increasing role of youth-led enterprises in addressing environmental and developmental challenges through innovation.
- The programme contributes to building an inclusive and sustainability-oriented entrepreneurial ecosystem.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is Youth Co:Lab?

- Youth Co:Lab is a regional initiative co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme and Citi Foundation.

- It aims to empower young entrepreneurs and innovators across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The initiative promotes leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Youth Co:Lab in India

- Launched in 2019 in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission.
- Supports youth-led startups through mentorship, incubation, networking, and seed funding.
- Has conducted multiple national innovation challenges focused on developmental priorities.

Theme of 2026 Challenge

Responsible Consumption aligned with **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**.

Focus Areas:

- Sustainable Textiles and Fashion
- Circular Economy Innovations
- Sustainable Food Systems and Water Conservation

Mission LiFE

- Launched by India to promote environmentally conscious lifestyles.
- Encourages sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- Supports climate action through behavioural change and community participation.

Startup Support Structure

- National Springboard Programme
- Expert Mentorship
- Regional Immersion Programme
- Seed Grants
- Investor and Ecosystem Linkages

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Organizing Partners:** UNDP, Citi Foundation, AIM-NITI Aayog, and T-Hub Foundation.
- **Participation Scale:** Over 350 applications received from 28 States.
- **Capacity Building:** Top 50 startups selected for the National Springboard Programme.
- **Focus Areas:** Responsible consumption, circular economy, sustainable textiles, and water conservation.
- **Mission LiFE Linkage:** Encourages sustainable lifestyles and environmentally responsible behaviour.
- **Entrepreneurship Promotion:** Provides mentorship, incubation support, and funding opportunities.
- **SDG Contribution:** Advances goals related to sustainable consumption, innovation, and climate action.
- **Challenges:** Scaling sustainable business models, access to finance, market linkages, and technology adoption.
- **Way Forward:** Expand youth entrepreneurship support, strengthen green innovation financing, and integrate sustainability into startup ecosystems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Youth Co:Lab:** Co-created by UNDP and Citi Foundation in 2017.
- **Youth Co:Lab India Launch:** 2019.
- **Indian Partner:** Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog.
- **Implementation Partner (2026):** T-Hub Foundation.
- **Mission LiFE:** Lifestyle for Environment.
- **SDG 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production.
- **SDG 9:** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.
- **Circular Economy:** Economic model emphasizing reuse, recycling, and resource efficiency.
- **Social Entrepreneurship:** Business approach addressing social and environmental challenges.
- **Seed Grant:** Early-stage funding provided to startups for product development and scaling.
- **T-Hub:** Startup incubation and innovation ecosystem platform based in Hyderabad.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Youth Co:Lab is a joint initiative of UNDP and Citi Foundation.
2. The 2026 Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge focused on Responsible Consumption aligned with Mission LiFE.
3. Circular Economy Innovations were among the focus areas of the challenge.

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: (d)