



Daily PIB Summary

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1. UNION MINISTER SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI TAKES CHARGE OF THE UNION MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



- I. Shri **Pralhad Joshi** has taken charge as the **Union Minister of Education**.
- II. As the head of the Ministry, he will oversee:
 - A. Implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.
 - B. School education reforms.
 - C. Higher education development.
 - D. Digital learning initiatives.
 - E. Research and innovation.
 - F. Skill development and internationalization of education.
- III. The Ministry continues to focus on:
 - A. Universal access to quality education.
 - B. Foundational literacy and numeracy.
 - C. Technology-enabled learning.
 - D. Multidisciplinary education.
 - E. Employability and innovation.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ministry of Education

- I. Originally known as the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**.
- II. Renamed as the **Ministry of Education** in **2020** in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.
- III. Responsible for:

- A. School Education.
- B. Higher Education.
- C. Educational research.
- D. Teacher education.
- E. Digital education.
- F. Educational policy formulation.

Departments under the Ministry

- **Department of School Education and Literacy**
- **Department of Higher Education**

KEY PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020

Focus areas include:

- Universal access to education.
- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).
- Holistic and multidisciplinary learning.
- Flexible curriculum.
- Vocational education.
- Digital learning.
- Research and innovation.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)

- Implemented through **NIPUN Bharat Mission**.
- Aims to ensure every child achieves basic literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3.

Digital Education

Major initiatives include:

- **DIKSHA Portal**
- **PM eVIDYA**
- **SWAYAM**
- **SWAYAM PRABHA**

Higher Education Reforms

- Multidisciplinary universities.
- Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).
- National Credit Framework (NCrF).
- Promotion of research through the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**.

SIGNIFICANCE

Educational

- Improves access, quality, and equity in education.
- Enhances learning outcomes.

Economic

- Develops a skilled workforce.
- Supports innovation-driven growth.

Social

- Promotes inclusive education.
- Reduces regional and gender disparities.

Strategic

- Builds human capital for **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- Strengthens India's global competitiveness in education and research.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Union Minister:** Shri Pralhad Joshi.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Major Focus:** Implementation of NEP 2020 and strengthening school and higher education.
- **Key Areas:** Foundational literacy, digital education, multidisciplinary learning, research, innovation, and skill development.
- **Strategic Importance:** Human capital development, knowledge economy, and inclusive growth.
- **Challenges:** Learning gaps, teacher shortages, digital divide, and improving the quality of higher education.
- **Way Forward:** Accelerate NEP implementation, strengthen teacher training, expand digital infrastructure, improve research funding, and enhance industry-academia collaboration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ministry of Education:** Renamed from the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)** in 2020.
- **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:** India's first education policy of the 21st century,

replacing the **National Policy on Education, 1986**.

- **5+3+3+4 Structure:** New curricular and pedagogical framework introduced under NEP 2020.
- **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** Launched in 2021 to achieve universal **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** by Grade 3.
- **DIKSHA:** National digital platform for school education.
- **SWAYAM:** Online platform offering free higher education and skill courses.
- **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC):** Digital repository enabling students to accumulate and transfer academic credits.
- **National Credit Framework (NCrF):** Integrates academic, vocational, and experiential learning.
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** Established under the **ANRF Act, 2023** to promote research and innovation.
- **Article 21A:** Provides the **Right to Education** for children aged **6–14 years**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)** was renamed as the **Ministry of Education** in 2020.
2. The **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020** introduced the **5+3+3+4** curricular structure.
3. **NIPUN Bharat Mission** aims to achieve **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** for all children by the end of Grade 3.

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. PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES CONSTITUTION OF HIGH-POWERED TASK FORCE ON EXAMINATION REFORMS



- I. The High-Powered Task Force has been constituted to:
 - A. Review the existing examination ecosystem.
 - B. Strengthen examination security.
 - C. Prevent paper leaks and malpractices.
 - D. Recommend technological and institutional reforms.
 - E. Improve governance of public examinations.
- II. The recommendations are expected to cover:
 - A. Secure digital examination systems.
 - B. Data protection.
 - C. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
 - D. Capacity building.
 - E. Stronger legal and administrative safeguards.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Need for Examination Reforms

India conducts numerous large-scale examinations for:

- Higher education admissions.

- Recruitment to government services.
- Professional courses.
- Scholarship programmes.

Challenges include:

- Question paper leaks.
- Cybersecurity threats.
- Identity fraud.
- Impersonation.
- Logistical complexities.
- Ensuring fairness and transparency.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TASK FORCE

- Enhance the credibility of examinations.
- Strengthen digital infrastructure.
- Improve cybersecurity.
- Develop secure question paper management systems.
- Standardize examination protocols.
- Recommend institutional reforms.
- Promote accountability.

LIKELY AREAS OF REFORM

Technology

- Encryption of question papers.
- AI-enabled monitoring.
- Biometric verification.
- Secure digital platforms.
- Cybersecurity audits.

Governance

- Clear accountability mechanisms.
- Standard Operating Procedures.
- Better coordination among agencies.

Legal Framework

- Strong deterrence against malpractice.
- Improved enforcement mechanisms.
- Protection of examination integrity.

Capacity Building

- Training of examination officials.
- Awareness among candidates.

- Crisis management protocols.

RELATED LEGISLATION

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

The Act aims to:

- Prevent unfair practices in public examinations.
- Punish organized paper leak rackets.
- Protect the interests of genuine candidates.
- Improve the credibility of recruitment examinations.

Major Provisions

- I. Criminalizes organized examination fraud.
- II. Prescribes stringent penalties.
- III. Targets organized criminal networks.
- IV. Covers recruitment examinations conducted by:
 - A. UPSC.
 - B. SSC.
 - C. NTA.
 - D. RRBs.
 - E. IBPS.
 - F. Other notified public authorities.

SIGNIFICANCE

Educational

- Restores public trust.
- Ensures fair competition.

Administrative

- Improves examination governance.
- Enhances institutional accountability.

Technological

- Encourages secure digital examination systems.
- Strengthens cyber resilience.

Economic

- Protects merit-based recruitment.
- Reduces costs associated with examination irregularities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Initiative:** High-Powered Task Force on Examination Reforms.
- **Objective:** Strengthen transparency, security, and integrity of public examinations.
- **Focus Areas:** Technology, cybersecurity, governance, legal reforms, and capacity building.
- **Supporting Law:** Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.
- **Strategic Importance:** Merit-based recruitment, educational credibility, and public confidence.
- **Challenges:** Cyber threats, large-scale logistics, coordination among agencies, and evolving examination fraud techniques.
- **Way Forward:** Adopt AI-enabled monitoring, strengthen digital infrastructure, implement robust cybersecurity protocols, and ensure periodic review of examination systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:** Enacted to prevent unfair practices in public examinations and punish organized cheating and paper leaks.
- **Public Examinations Covered:** Includes examinations conducted by agencies such as **UPSC, SSC, NTA, RRBs, IBPS**, and other notified authorities.
- **National Testing Agency (NTA):** Autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Education** responsible for conducting several national-level entrance examinations.
- **UPSC:** Constitutional body established under **Articles 315–323** of the Constitution.
- **Biometric Authentication:** Used to verify the identity of candidates and prevent impersonation.
- **Encryption:** Converts information into a secure format to prevent unauthorized access, especially for digital question papers.



- **Cybersecurity Audit:** Systematic evaluation of digital infrastructure to identify and mitigate security vulnerabilities.
- **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):** Documented set of instructions to ensure consistency and security in examination processes.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024** aims to curb organized malpractice in public examinations.
2. The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** functions under the **Ministry of Education**.
3. The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** is a constitutional body established under **Articles 315–323** of the Constitution.

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. AS MONSOON ARRIVES, RAJNANDGAON IS READY TO #CatchTheRain THROUGH MISSION JAL RAKSHA



- I. **Mission Jal Raksha** aims to maximize rainwater conservation during the monsoon through:

- A. Construction and restoration of water harvesting structures.
- B. Renovation of ponds and tanks.
- C. Check dams and percolation structures.
- D. Groundwater recharge.
- E. Public awareness and community participation.

- II. The campaign supports:

- A. Sustainable water management.
- B. Agricultural productivity.
- C. Climate adaptation.
- D. Long-term water security.

- III. The initiative complements the national **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain** campaign.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Catch the Rain Campaign

- I. Launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- II. Theme:
 - A. **"Catch the Rain, Where It Falls, When It Falls."**
- III. Objective:
 - A. Promote rainwater harvesting before and during the monsoon.
 - B. Improve water conservation through community participation.
 - C. Enhance groundwater recharge.

MISSION JAL RAKSHA

Objectives

- Conserve every drop of rainwater.
- Increase groundwater recharge.
- Restore traditional water bodies.
- Improve irrigation availability.
- Strengthen climate resilience.
- Encourage people's participation in water conservation.

Major Activities

- I. Desilting ponds and lakes.

- II. Construction of:
 - A. Check dams.
 - B. Farm ponds.
 - C. Percolation tanks.
 - D. Recharge pits.
 - E. Contour trenches.
- III. Restoration of traditional water harvesting systems.
- IV. Plantation activities to improve watershed health.
- V. Community awareness campaigns.

RELATED GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- I. Nationwide water conservation campaign.
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Rainwater harvesting.
 - B. Watershed development.
 - C. Renovation of water bodies.
 - D. Efficient water use.

Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal)

- Community-led groundwater management programme.
- Focuses on sustainable groundwater use in water-stressed areas.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- I. Promotes:
 - A. Irrigation efficiency.
 - B. Water-use efficiency.
 - C. "Per Drop More Crop."

SIGNIFICANCE

Water Security

- Improves groundwater availability.
- Enhances drought resilience.

Agriculture

- Supports irrigation.
- Improves crop productivity.

Environment

- Restores ecosystems.
- Reduces soil erosion.
- Improves watershed health.

Climate Change

- Strengthens adaptation to erratic rainfall.
- Enhances resilience against water scarcity.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **District:** Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- **Campaign:** Mission Jal Raksha under the **#CatchTheRain** initiative.
- **Lead Ministry (National Campaign):** Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Major Focus:** Rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and restoration of water bodies.
- **Strategic Importance:** Water security, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and community participation.
- **Challenges:** Rapid urbanization, groundwater depletion, climate variability, and maintenance of water conservation structures.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen local water governance, integrate GIS-based monitoring, encourage community ownership, expand watershed management, and promote efficient water-use technologies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Catch the Rain Campaign:** National water conservation campaign launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Theme:** "Catch the Rain, Where It Falls, When It Falls."
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:** Focuses on rainwater harvesting, watershed development, groundwater recharge, and restoration of water bodies.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal):** World Bank-assisted programme for sustainable



groundwater management through community participation.

- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):** Aims to improve irrigation coverage and water-use efficiency.
- **Watershed Management:** Integrated management of land and water resources within a drainage basin to conserve soil and water.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** Process by which rainwater infiltrates the ground and replenishes aquifers.
- **Aquifer:** Underground layer of permeable rock or sediment that stores and transmits groundwater.
- **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.**
- **SDG 13: Climate Action.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **Catch the Rain** campaign is implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
2. The theme of the campaign is "**Catch the Rain, Where It Falls, When It Falls.**"
3. **Atal Bhujal Yojana** focuses on sustainable groundwater management through community participation.

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. LOKAYAN 26 – INDIAN NAVAL SHIP SUDARSHINI DEPARTS BOSTON, USA



- I. **LOKAYAN 26** is an international deployment of **INS Sudarshini**, the Indian Navy's sail training ship.
- II. During its visit to Boston, the ship participated in:
 - A. Naval diplomacy engagements.
 - B. Cultural exchange programmes.
 - C. Professional interactions with foreign naval personnel.
 - D. Community outreach with the Indian diaspora.
- III. The deployment highlights India's commitment to:
 - A. Rules-based maritime order.
 - B. Freedom of navigation.
 - C. International maritime cooperation.
 - D. Indo-Pacific engagement.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Sudarshini

- **Type:** Sail Training Ship (Three-masted Barque).
- **Commissioned:** 2012.
- Built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**.
- Named after '**Sudarshini**', meaning "beautiful vision."

Primary Roles

- I. Training naval cadets in:
 - A. Seamanship.
 - B. Navigation.
 - C. Leadership.
 - D. Traditional sailing skills.
- II. Representing India during:
 - A. International maritime events.
 - B. Goodwill visits.
 - C. Diplomatic missions.
 - D. Cultural exchanges.

ABOUT LOKAYAN 26

Objectives

- Promote India's maritime heritage.
- Strengthen bilateral naval relations.
- Enhance defence diplomacy.
- Foster cultural exchanges.
- Increase awareness of India's vision for a secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Key Activities

- Port visits.
- Joint naval interactions.
- Ship visits by the public.
- Cultural performances.
- Professional exchanges.
- Interaction with Indian diaspora.

MARITIME DIPLOMACY

India uses naval deployments to:

- Build trust among partner nations.

- Enhance interoperability.
- Promote regional stability.
- Support humanitarian cooperation.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships.

These deployments complement India's vision of:

- **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).**
- **A Free, Open, Inclusive and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific.**

RELATED INITIATIVES

SAGAR

Security and Growth for All in the Region

- I. Announced in **2015**.
- II. India's maritime vision for:
 - A. Regional cooperation.
 - B. Maritime security.
 - C. Sustainable development.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

- I. Launched in **2019**.
- II. Promotes:
 - A. Maritime security.
 - B. Disaster risk reduction.
 - C. Sustainable use of marine resources.
 - D. Capacity building.

SIGNIFICANCE

Strategic

- Strengthens India's naval diplomacy.
- Expands India's maritime partnerships.
- Reinforces India's role in the Indo-Pacific.

Diplomatic

- Enhances people-to-people ties.
- Deepens defence cooperation.
- Promotes India's soft power.

Professional

- Provides real-world seamanship training.
- Develops leadership and navigation skills among naval cadets.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ship:** INS Sudarshini.
- **Mission:** LOKAYAN 26.
- **Recent Port:** Boston, United States.
- **Lead Organisation:** Indian Navy.
- **Major Focus:** Maritime diplomacy, sail training, international cooperation, and cultural outreach.
- **Strategic Importance:** Supports India's maritime vision, naval diplomacy, and Indo-Pacific engagement.
- **Challenges:** Long-duration deployments, logistics, weather conditions, and coordination across multiple international ports.
- **Way Forward:** Expand goodwill missions, strengthen naval partnerships, increase joint maritime exercises, and promote India's maritime heritage globally.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Sudarshini:** Sail Training Ship of the **Indian Navy**, commissioned in **2012**.
- **Builder:** Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- **Type:** **Three-masted Barque** used primarily for sail training and goodwill missions.
- **LOKAYAN:** Indian Navy's overseas sail training and maritime outreach initiative.
- **SAGAR:** **Security and Growth for All in the Region**, India's maritime vision announced in **2015**.
- **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI):** Launched in **2019** to promote cooperation in maritime security and sustainable use of ocean resources.
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth while preserving marine ecosystems.
- **UNCLOS (1982):** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, often regarded as the "Constitution of the Oceans."

- **Indian Navy Motto:** "शं नो वरुणः (Sham No Varunah)" – *May the Lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us.*

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **INS Sudarshini** is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy.
2. **SAGAR** stands for **Security and Growth for All in the Region**.
3. The **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** was launched in **2019**.

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. SHRI HARIVANSH DELIVERS VALEDICTORY ADDRESS AT 'PRARAMBH' ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR NEWLY-ELECTED RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS



1. **'Prarambh'** is an orientation programme designed to help newly elected Rajya Sabha members understand:
 - A. Parliamentary procedures.
 - B. Rules of debate.

- C. Legislative processes.
 - D. Committee systems.
 - E. Ethical responsibilities of lawmakers.
 - F. Constitutional values and democratic traditions.
- II. Shri Harivansh emphasized:
- A. Constructive dialogue.
 - B. Consensus building.
 - C. Respect for parliamentary traditions.
 - D. The importance of informed participation in legislative work.
- III. Such programmes strengthen parliamentary effectiveness and deepen democratic governance.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Rajya Sabha

- Rajya Sabha is the **Council of States**, the **Upper House of Parliament**.
- Established under **Article 79** of the Constitution.
- It represents the **States and Union Territories** in the Union Legislature.

Composition

- I. Maximum strength: **250 members**.
- II. Present strength: **245 members**.
- III. Members are:
 - A. Elected by elected members of State Legislative Assemblies through **proportional representation by the single transferable vote**.
 - B. Nominated by the President for distinguished contributions in literature, science, art, and social service.

ABOUT 'PRARAMBH' ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Objectives

- I. Familiarize newly elected MPs with:
 - A. Parliamentary procedures.
 - B. Legislative drafting and scrutiny.
 - C. Question Hour and Zero Hour.

- D. Committee functioning.
- E. Constitutional obligations.
- F. Rules of conduct and ethics.

Importance

- Helps members perform legislative duties effectively.
- Enhances the quality of debates.
- Encourages informed policymaking.
- Strengthens democratic institutions.

ROLE OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA

Constitutional Provision

- I. **Article 89** provides for:
 - A. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Vice-President of India).
 - B. Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Functions

- Presides over the House in the absence of the Chairman.
- Maintains order and decorum.
- Ensures adherence to parliamentary rules and procedures.
- Facilitates smooth conduct of business.

PARLIAMENTARY TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Orientation programmes aim to improve:

- Legislative effectiveness.
- Understanding of constitutional principles.
- Committee participation.
- Policy oversight.
- Accountability and transparency.

Such initiatives are essential for strengthening **deliberative democracy**.

SIGNIFICANCE

Democratic

- Strengthens parliamentary democracy.
- Improves informed decision-making.

Institutional

- Enhances legislative efficiency.
- Promotes adherence to parliamentary conventions.

Governance

- Leads to better lawmaking and oversight.
- Improves policy discussions and public accountability.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Event:** Valedictory session of 'Prarambh'.
- **Speaker:** Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- **Purpose:** Orientation of newly elected Rajya Sabha members.
- **Focus Areas:** Parliamentary procedures, ethics, legislative responsibilities, and constitutional values.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthening parliamentary capacity and democratic institutions.
- **Way Forward:** Institutionalize continuous legislative training, strengthen committee systems, and encourage evidence-based policymaking.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 79:** Establishes the **Parliament of India**, consisting of the President, Rajya Sabha, and Lok Sabha.
- **Rajya Sabha:** The **Council of States** and the Upper House of Parliament.
- **Maximum Strength of Rajya Sabha: 250 members.**
- **Current Strength: 245 members.**
- **Article 80:** Deals with the composition of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Article 89:** Provides for the **Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.**
- **Chairman of Rajya Sabha:** The **Vice-President of India** serves ex officio as Chairman.

- **Deputy Chairman:** Elected by Rajya Sabha members from among themselves.
- **Rajya Sabha is a Permanent House:** It is **not subject to dissolution**; one-third of its members retire every two years.
- **Election Method: Proportional Representation by means of the Single Transferable Vote (STV).**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the Rajya Sabha:

1. Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution.
2. The Vice-President of India is the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
3. Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected through proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

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)