



Daily PIB Summary

28 July, 2026

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1. INDIA LEADS THE WILDERNESS IN TIGER CONSERVATION



- I. India is home to the **largest wild tiger population in the world**, accounting for **over 70% of the global wild tiger population**.
- II. The success of tiger conservation has been driven by:
 - A. **Project Tiger**.
 - B. Expansion of **Tiger Reserves**.
 - C. Strong legal protection under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
 - D. Scientific monitoring using camera traps and technology.
 - E. Community participation and eco-development.
- III. Tiger conservation has also contributed to:
 - A. Biodiversity conservation.
 - B. Protection of forests and watersheds.
 - C. Climate resilience.
 - D. Sustainable livelihoods through eco-tourism.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Project Tiger

- **Launched: 1973**
- **Objective:** Ensure the long-term survival of tigers in their natural habitats.
- Initially started with **9 Tiger Reserves**.
- Today, India has **more than 50 Tiger Reserves**, covering a significant area of protected forests.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- I. Established under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** (amended in 2006).
- II. Functions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- III. Responsible for:
 - A. Tiger conservation policy.
 - B. Monitoring tiger reserves.
 - C. Funding and technical support.
 - D. Strengthening protection measures.

KEY CONSERVATION MEASURES

Habitat Protection

- Expansion and effective management of tiger reserves.
- Conservation of wildlife corridors.
- Restoration of degraded habitats.

Scientific Monitoring

- Camera trap surveys.
- GPS and GIS-based monitoring.
- Periodic **All India Tiger Estimation**.

Anti-Poaching Measures

- Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).
- Drone surveillance.
- Intelligence-led enforcement.
- Strengthened patrolling.

Community Participation

- Eco-development committees.
- Livelihood support.
- Human-wildlife conflict mitigation.
- Eco-tourism initiatives.

IMPORTANCE OF TIGERS

Ecological

- Apex predators that maintain ecological balance.
- Regulate prey populations.
- Preserve healthy forest ecosystems.

Environmental

- I. Healthy tiger habitats conserve:
 - A. Forests.
 - B. Rivers.
 - C. Watersheds.
 - D. Carbon sinks.

Economic

- Promote wildlife tourism.
- Generate rural employment.
- Support local economies.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Global Tiger Forum (GTF)

- International intergovernmental organization headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- Promotes cooperation among tiger-range countries.

TX2 Initiative

- Global goal launched in **2010** to **double the world's wild tiger population by 2022**.
- India played a leading role in achieving significant progress toward this objective.

SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Conservation

- Protects numerous species sharing tiger habitats.

Climate Action

- Conserved forests act as major carbon sinks.

Sustainable Development

- Supports **SDG 15 (Life on Land)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.

International Leadership

- Positions India as a global model in wildlife conservation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Flagship Programme:** Project Tiger.
- **Launch Year:** 1973.

- **Nodal Authority:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Global Share:** India is home to **over 70% of the world's wild tigers**.
- **Major Focus:** Habitat conservation, scientific monitoring, anti-poaching, and community participation.
- **Challenges:** Habitat fragmentation, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen wildlife corridors, expand technology-driven monitoring, improve community participation, enhance interstate coordination, and promote sustainable eco-tourism.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Project Tiger:** Launched in **1973** to conserve the Bengal Tiger in India.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):** Statutory body established in **2006** under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:** Principal legislation for wildlife conservation in India.
- **Tiger Census:** Conducted periodically using camera traps, GIS, and statistical methods as part of the **All India Tiger Estimation**.
- **Tiger Reserve:** Protected area notified for tiger conservation under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act**.
- **Global Tiger Forum (GTF):** Only intergovernmental organization dedicated exclusively to tiger conservation; headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- **TX2 Goal:** Global initiative launched in **2010** to double wild tiger numbers by **2022**.
- **IUCN Status of Tiger:** **Endangered**.
- **CITES:** Tigers are listed under **Appendix I**, prohibiting international commercial trade in wild-caught specimens.

- **Apex Predator:** A predator at the top of the food chain that helps maintain ecosystem balance.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding tiger conservation in India:

1. **Project Tiger** was launched in **1973**.
2. The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body established under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
3. India is home to **over 70% of the world's wild tiger population**.

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. INDIA EMERGES AS THE WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST SUPPLIER OF SEAFARERS



- I. India is now one of the leading providers of skilled seafarers to the global shipping industry.
- II. The growth has been driven by:
 - A. Expansion of maritime education and training.

- B. Improved certification standards.
- C. Digital reforms in maritime administration.
- D. Increased participation of women in the maritime sector.
- E. Strong alignment with international maritime standards.

- III. The development supports India's vision of becoming a **global maritime hub**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Who is a Seafarer?

A **seafarer** is a person employed or engaged to work on a seagoing vessel, including:

- Deck officers.
- Marine engineers.
- Navigation officers.
- Ratings (crew members).
- Electro-technical officers.
- Catering and support staff.

Seafarers are essential for:

- Global trade.
- Shipping operations.
- Maritime logistics.
- Offshore energy activities.

INDIA'S MARITIME SECTOR

India possesses:

- **7,500 km** coastline.
- **12 Major Ports** and over **200 Non-Major Ports**.
- Strategic location along major international sea routes.
- A rapidly expanding shipping and logistics ecosystem.

Nearly **95% of India's merchandise trade by volume** and around **70% by value** is transported through maritime routes.

KEY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030

- I. Roadmap for transforming India's maritime sector.

- II. Focus areas:
- A. Port modernization.
 - B. Maritime logistics.
 - C. Skill development.
 - D. Shipbuilding.
 - E. Coastal shipping.

Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

- I. Long-term strategy for making India a leading global maritime nation.
- II. Emphasizes:
 - A. Innovation.
 - B. Sustainability.
 - C. Green shipping.
 - D. Employment generation.

Sagarmala Programme

- I. Launched in **2015**.
- II. Objective:
 - A. Port-led development.
 - B. Enhanced logistics efficiency.
 - C. Coastal community development.
 - D. Maritime employment.

Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)

- I. Functions under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- II. Regulates:
 - A. Maritime education.
 - B. Seafarer certification.
 - C. Training institutes.
 - D. Shipping standards.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- I. Specialized agency of the United Nations.
- II. Develops global regulations for:
 - A. Shipping safety.
 - B. Maritime security.
 - C. Marine pollution prevention.

STCW Convention

Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), 1978

- I. Establishes international standards for:
 - A. Training.
 - B. Certification.
 - C. Competency of seafarers.

India complies with the STCW Convention, enhancing the global employability of Indian seafarers.

SIGNIFICANCE

Economic

- Generates foreign exchange through overseas employment.
- Supports India's maritime economy.

Employment

- Creates high-skilled jobs for youth.
- Expands opportunities for women in maritime careers.

Strategic

- Enhances India's global maritime influence.
- Supports the Blue Economy and maritime security.

Global Trade

- Strengthens the international shipping workforce.
- Reinforces India's reputation for skilled maritime professionals.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Achievement:** India becomes the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **Regulator:** Directorate General of Shipping (DGS).
- **Supporting Initiatives:** Maritime India Vision 2030, Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Sagarmala Programme.



- **Major Focus:** Maritime skill development, certification, employment, and global competitiveness.
- **Strategic Importance:** Supports India's Blue Economy and global maritime leadership.
- **Challenges:** Automation in shipping, evolving skill requirements, ensuring seafarer welfare, and improving gender diversity.
- **Way Forward:** Expand maritime training capacity, adopt advanced simulation technologies, strengthen international partnerships, promote green shipping skills, and improve welfare measures for seafarers.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Seafarer:** A person employed to work aboard a seagoing vessel.
- **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS):** Maritime administration under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- **STCW Convention (1978):** International convention prescribing minimum standards for training and certification of seafarers.
- **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** UN specialized agency headquartered in **London, United Kingdom**.
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Launched in **2015** for port-led development and improved logistics.
- **Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030:** Blueprint for transforming India's maritime sector through infrastructure, technology, and skill development.
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods, and ecosystem health.
- **UNCLOS (1982):** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, often called the "Constitution of the Oceans."
- **India's Coastline:** Approximately **7,500 km**.
- **Merchant Shipping:** Refers to commercial vessels engaged in transporting cargo and passengers.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)** functions under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
2. The **STCW Convention** lays down international standards for the training and certification of seafarers.
3. The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** is a specialized agency of the **United Nations**.

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. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU LAUNCHES VARIOUS INITIATIVES AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN TO MARK COMPLETION OF FOUR YEARS OF HER PRESIDENCY



- I. The initiatives launched by the President reflect efforts to transform **Rashtrapati Bhavan** into a more accessible, inclusive, and people-oriented institution.
- II. The programmes focus on:
 - A. Improving visitor experience.

- B. Promoting India's cultural heritage.
- C. Using technology for better public access.
- D. Encouraging environmental sustainability.
- E. Strengthening interaction between the President's Office and citizens.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Rashtrapati Bhavan

- I. Rashtrapati Bhavan is the **official residence of the President of India**.
- II. Located on **Raisina Hill, New Delhi**.
- III. It was originally built as the residence of the **Viceroy of India** during British rule.
- IV. Designed by architects:
 - A. **Sir Edwin Lutyens**
 - B. **Sir Herbert Baker**
- V. Construction was completed in **1929**.
- VI. It became the official residence of the President of India after independence.

INITIATIVES AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Heritage and Cultural Preservation

- I. Initiatives focus on showcasing:
 - A. India's architectural heritage.
 - B. Art collections.
 - C. Historical significance of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- II. Efforts aim to preserve national heritage while making it accessible to citizens.

Digital Accessibility

- I. Technology-based initiatives help citizens:
 - A. Explore Rashtrapati Bhavan virtually.
 - B. Access information about its history and institutions.
 - C. Improve visitor services.

Digital platforms support greater transparency and public participation.

Sustainable Development Initiatives

Focus areas include:

- Green practices.
- Water conservation.
- Energy efficiency.
- Environment-friendly management of the presidential estate.

These efforts align with India's broader sustainability goals.

Citizen-Centric Engagement

The initiatives encourage:

- Greater public participation.
- Educational visits.
- Awareness about constitutional institutions.
- Stronger connection between citizens and the highest constitutional office.

ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Constitutional Position

- The President is the **Head of the State** of India.
- Provisions relating to the President are contained in **Part V, Chapter I of the Constitution**.

Important Articles

Article	Provision
Article 52	The President of India
Article 53	Executive power of the Union
Article 54	Election of President
Article 56	Term of office
Article 60	Oath or affirmation of the President

SIGNIFICANCE

Constitutional Awareness

- Enhances public understanding of India's constitutional institutions.

- Encourages citizens to engage with democratic traditions.

Cultural Importance

- Preserves and promotes India's heritage.
- Highlights Rashtrapati Bhavan as a symbol of national identity.

Governance

- Promotes transparency and accessibility.
- Strengthens citizen-oriented functioning of public institutions.

Sustainability

- Demonstrates environmentally responsible management of heritage properties.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Occasion:** Completion of four years of President Droupadi Murmu's presidency.
- **Venue:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- **Focus Areas:** Heritage conservation, digital outreach, sustainability, and citizen engagement.
- **Institution:** Office of the President of India.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthening public connection with constitutional institutions.
- **Challenges:** Balancing heritage preservation with modernization, managing visitors, and maintaining sustainability standards.
- **Way Forward:** Expand digital initiatives, promote constitutional literacy, preserve heritage assets, and encourage wider citizen participation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- I. **President of India:** Constitutional head of the Indian State.
- II. **Article 52:** Provides for the office of the President of India.
- III. **Article 54:** President is elected by an **Electoral College** consisting of:
 - A. Elected members of both Houses of Parliament.

- B. Elected members of State Legislative Assemblies.

- C. Elected members of Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry.

- IV. **Article 56:** President holds office for a term of **five years**.
- V. **Article 60:** Deals with the oath or affirmation of the President.
- VI. **Rashtrapati Bhavan:** Official residence of the President of India.
- VII. **Location:** Raisina Hill, New Delhi.
- VIII. **Architects:** Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.
- IX. **Original Purpose:** Built as the residence of the Viceroy of India.
- X. **President Droupadi Murmu:** Became the **15th President of India** and the first person belonging to a tribal community to hold the office.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the President of India:

1. The President of India is the constitutional head of the Indian State.
2. The President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of elected members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.
3. The term of office of the President is five years.

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. AGRICULTURAL INPUT SUBSIDY FOR HORTICULTURE CROPS



- The Government has increased the Agricultural Input Subsidy for damaged horticulture crops to improve post-disaster support for farmers.
- Horticulture crops involve relatively higher cultivation costs and generate greater value than many field crops; hence, enhanced compensation reduces financial distress.
- The revised subsidy strengthens disaster resilience in agriculture by facilitating quicker restoration of orchards and plantations.
- It complements India's broader strategy of climate-resilient agriculture amid increasing frequency of extreme weather events.
- The measure also supports farmers' income stability, food and nutritional security, and rural livelihoods.
- Effective implementation requires timely crop damage assessment, transparent fund release, and coordination between the Centre and States.
- The initiative reinforces disaster risk reduction as an integral component of agricultural governance.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Agricultural Input Subsidy (AIS)

- Agricultural Input Subsidy is financial assistance provided to farmers whose crops

are damaged due to **notified natural calamities**.

- It is intended to help farmers purchase seeds, fertilizers, planting material and other essential inputs for the next cropping season.
- The subsidy is a **relief measure**, not compensation for the full value of crop losses.

Disaster Relief Framework

- Assistance is provided according to the norms of the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**.
- In severe disasters, additional assistance may be provided from the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** after assessment by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).
- Disaster relief operates under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.

Horticulture in India

- I. Horticulture includes:
 - A. Fruits
 - B. Vegetables
 - C. Flowers
 - D. Spices
 - E. Plantation crops
 - F. Medicinal and aromatic plants
- II. The sector contributes significantly to agricultural diversification, farmers' income, exports, nutrition, and employment.

Why Horticulture Needs Higher Support

- High initial investment in planting material and irrigation.
- Longer gestation period for orchards.
- Perishable produce with limited shelf life.
- Greater vulnerability to unseasonal rainfall, hailstorms, frost and cyclones.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Measure:** Enhanced Agricultural Input Subsidy for horticulture crops damaged by notified natural calamities.



- **Institutional Mechanism:** Financial assistance through SDRF with additional support from NDRF where required.
- **Objective:** Enable farmers to restore cultivation and reduce post-disaster financial stress.
- **Strategic Significance:** Promotes climate-resilient agriculture and safeguards high-value crop production.
- **Economic Impact:** Supports rural incomes, agricultural exports, and supply of fruits and vegetables.
- **Governance Aspect:** Encourages faster relief delivery, better disaster assessment, and coordinated Centre-State action.
- **Challenges:** Delays in crop damage assessment, uneven implementation across States, and limited awareness among beneficiaries.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen remote sensing-based crop assessment, improve direct benefit transfers, integrate crop insurance with disaster relief, and expand climate-resilient horticultural practices.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Disaster Management Act:** 2005.
- **Disaster Relief Funds:** State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- **Finance Commission:** Recommends the corpus and funding pattern of SDRF and NDRF.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs administers disaster relief funds.
- **Agricultural Input Subsidy:** Relief assistance for purchasing agricultural inputs after crop damage; it is **not** compensation for the total crop value.
- **Horticulture:** Cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, plantation, medicinal and aromatic crops.
- **Crop Insurance vs Input Subsidy:** Crop insurance indemnifies insured losses, whereas

Agricultural Input Subsidy is disaster relief under notified calamity norms.

- **Climate Risks to Horticulture:** Hailstorms, frost, heatwaves, floods, cyclones, droughts, and unseasonal rainfall.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Agricultural Input Subsidy is provided to assist farmers in restoring cultivation after crop losses due to notified natural calamities.
2. Assistance under Agricultural Input Subsidy is generally provided through the State Disaster Response Fund based on prescribed norms.
3. Agricultural Input Subsidy is intended to fully compensate farmers for the market value of crop losses.

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. GOVERNMENT IMPOSES STOCK HOLDING LIMITS ON SUGAR DEALERS



- The Government has prescribed stock limits for sugar dealers to discourage artificial shortages created through hoarding.
- The decision seeks to stabilise retail sugar prices, particularly during periods of high demand such as festive seasons.



- Mandatory stock disclosure enhances transparency in the sugar supply chain and facilitates effective market monitoring.
- The measure balances the interests of consumers by ensuring affordable prices while maintaining orderly market operations.
- It strengthens regulatory oversight of essential food commodities without disrupting legitimate trade.
- Stable sugar prices also contribute to food inflation management and broader macroeconomic stability.
- The initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring food security through efficient market regulation.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Stock Holding Limits?

- Stock holding limits specify the **maximum quantity of a commodity** that traders, wholesalers, retailers, or processors can store.
- They are imposed to prevent:
 - Hoarding
 - Black marketing
 - Artificial price rise
 - Supply manipulation

Sugar Sector in India

- India is among the **largest producers and consumers of sugar** globally.
- Sugar is produced primarily from **sugarcane**, an important cash crop supporting millions of farmers.
- The sector has strong linkages with:
 - Rural employment
 - Ethanol production
 - Food processing industry
 - Export and import policy

Legal Framework

- Stock limits are imposed under the powers available through the **Essential Commodities**

Act, 1955, whenever necessary to safeguard public interest.

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution monitors sugar availability, production, consumption, and market prices.

Why Stock Limits are Necessary

- Prevent speculative hoarding.
- Ensure uninterrupted market supply.
- Protect consumers from sudden price spikes.
- Improve transparency through regular stock reporting.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Measure:** Stock holding limits imposed on sugar dealers across the country.
- **Institutional Mechanism:** Monitoring by the Department of Food and Public Distribution through mandatory online stock disclosure.
- **Objective:** Prevent hoarding, ensure adequate availability, and stabilise retail prices.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens food security and enhances confidence in agricultural commodity markets.
- **Economic Impact:** Helps moderate food inflation while ensuring smooth movement of sugar in domestic markets.
- **Governance Aspect:** Promotes transparency, accountability, and real-time monitoring of commodity stocks.
- **Challenges:** Accurate stock verification, preventing under-reporting, and balancing market regulation with ease of doing business.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen digital stock monitoring, improve enforcement mechanisms, integrate market intelligence systems, and promote predictable sugar policy.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Essential Commodities Act:** 1955.
- **Objective of the Act:** Regulate production, supply, distribution, and trade of essential commodities in public interest.



- **Department Concerned:** Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- **Sugar Source:** Produced primarily from **Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*)**.
- **Major Sugarcane Producing States:** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Bihar, and Haryana.
- **By-products of Sugar Industry:** Molasses, bagasse, press mud, and ethanol.
- **Hoarding:** Deliberate accumulation of goods to create artificial scarcity and increase prices.
- **Buffer Stock:** Reserve stock maintained to ensure supply stability during shortages.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Stock holding limits are imposed to prevent hoarding and artificial scarcity of essential commodities.
2. Mandatory disclosure of sugar stocks improves transparency and enables better market monitoring.
3. Stock holding limits are intended to promote speculative trading in agricultural commodities.

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)