



Daily PIB Summary

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1. UNION BUDGET 2026–27: STRENGTHENING SEZs FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS & GROWTH



- The Budget focuses on **revamping SEZ policy framework** to make them more competitive globally.
- Emphasis on **increasing exports, attracting foreign investment, and boosting manufacturing.**
- Proposed reforms include **simplification of procedures, regulatory flexibility, and infrastructure development.**
- SEZs are being aligned with **global supply chains and new-age sectors like electronics, semiconductors, and services.**
- The move supports India's ambition to become a **major export hub and manufacturing powerhouse.**
- Addresses challenges such as **declining SEZ performance and WTO-related concerns.**
- Reflects governance focus on **trade facilitation, ease of doing business, and economic growth.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are SEZs?

- Special Economic Zones are **designated areas with liberal economic laws** to promote exports and investment.
- Operate as **duty-free enclaves** for trade and industrial activities.

Legal Framework

- Governed by the **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.**
- Administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Need for Reforms

- Declining attractiveness due to **tax regime changes and global competition.**
- Need to align with **WTO norms and evolving trade practices.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Revamp:** Modernisation of SEZ framework.
- **Export Promotion:** Focus on boosting exports and foreign exchange earnings.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Simplified procedures and regulatory reforms.
- **Sectoral Focus:** Electronics, semiconductors, services, and advanced manufacturing.
- **Global Integration:** Alignment with global value chains.
- **Investment Boost:** Attracts FDI and private investment.
- **Way Forward:** Transition to Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) model and ensure WTO compliance.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SEZ Act, 2005:** Governs Special Economic Zones.
- **Objective:** Promote exports, investment, and industrial growth.
- **Key Feature:** Duty-free enclave with tax incentives.
- **Admin Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **DESH Bill:** Proposed to replace SEZ framework with modernised system.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Special Economic Zones operate as duty-free enclaves for trade and industrial activities.
2. SEZs in India are governed by the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.
3. SEZ reforms aim to reduce exports and restrict foreign investment.

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.GUT MICROBIOTA AND PROBIOTIC SCIENCE FOUNDATION ORGANISES 16TH INDIA PROBIOTIC SYMPOSIUM IN NEW DELHI



Gut Microbiota and Probiotic Science Foundation (India)

- The symposium focused on **emerging research in gut microbiota and probiotic science**.
- Experts highlighted the role of probiotics in **improving digestion, immunity, and overall health**.
- Discussions covered **clinical applications, nutrition, and preventive healthcare**.
- Emphasis on **scientific validation and regulatory frameworks** for probiotic products.
- The event fosters collaboration among **scientists, healthcare professionals, and industry stakeholders**.
- It aligns with India's focus on **preventive healthcare and wellness sector growth**.
- Reflects integration of **biotechnology, nutrition, and public health policy**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Gut Microbiota

- Refers to the **community of microorganisms** living in the human digestive tract.
- Plays a crucial role in **digestion, metabolism, and immune system function**.

Probiotics

- Live microorganisms that provide **health benefits when consumed in adequate amounts**.
- Commonly found in foods like **yogurt, fermented foods, and dietary supplements**.

Scientific & Policy Relevance

- Increasing focus on **microbiome research in medicine and nutrition**.
- Regulatory oversight in India by agencies like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scientific Platform:** 16th India Probiotic Symposium in New Delhi.
- **Health Focus:** Role of probiotics in immunity and digestion.
- **Research Collaboration:** Interaction among academia, industry, and healthcare experts.
- **Preventive Healthcare:** Promotes nutrition-based health interventions.
- **Regulatory Aspect:** Importance of standards and safety validation.
- **Biotechnology Link:** Advances in microbiome science.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen research, awareness, and regulatory frameworks.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Gut Microbiota:** Microorganisms in digestive tract.
- **Probiotics:** Beneficial live microorganisms.

- **FSSAI:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India regulates food safety including probiotics.
- **Health Benefit:** Improves digestion and immunity.
- **Application:** Nutrition, medicine, and preventive healthcare.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Gut microbiota refers to microorganisms present in the human digestive system.
2. Probiotics are harmful bacteria that negatively impact human health.
3. FSSAI regulates food safety standards in India.

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)

3. GOI OPENS NOMINATIONS FOR RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR 2026 TO HONOUR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION



The awards aim to honour scientists, technologists, and innovators for exceptional achievements.

- It replaces earlier individual science awards to create a **unified and prestigious national recognition system**.
- Covers diverse fields including **basic science, applied research, technology development, and innovation**.
- Encourages **young researchers and interdisciplinary work**.
- Strengthens India's focus on **scientific excellence and research ecosystem development**.
- Promotes **innovation-led growth and knowledge economy**.
- Reflects governance priority towards **science-led development and global competitiveness**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- Instituted by the Government of India to recognise **contributions across science and technology domains**.
- Categories include awards for **lifetime achievement, scientists, young scientists, and teams**.

Need for Reform in Science Awards

- Earlier awards were **fragmented across ministries and institutions**.
- The new system ensures **greater transparency, inclusivity, and national prestige**.

Science & Innovation Ecosystem

- India is focusing on **R&D, startups, deep-tech innovation, and global scientific collaboration**.
- Linked with initiatives like **National Research Foundation (NRF)** and innovation missions.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **National Recognition:** Prestigious awards for excellence in science and innovation.
- **Unified Framework:** Consolidates multiple science awards.
- **Inclusive Scope:** Covers basic science, applied research, and technology.
- **Youth Focus:** Encourages young scientists and innovators.
- **Innovation Push:** Supports research-driven economic growth.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Enhances India's scientific standing.
- **Way Forward:** Promote R&D investment, interdisciplinary research, and global collaboration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar:** National science awards by Government of India.
- **Objective:** Recognise excellence in science, technology, and innovation.
- **Categories:** Lifetime achievement, individual, team, young scientists.
- **NRF:** National Research Foundation to boost R&D.
- **Focus:** Innovation, research, and knowledge economy.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is a national-level award recognising excellence in science and technology.
2. It replaces multiple earlier science awards with a unified framework.
3. The award is given only for achievements in basic sciences.

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.UPDATES ON KEY SECTORS IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST ASIA



- India is assessing the impact of **geopolitical tensions in West Asia** on critical sectors like **energy, fertilizers, shipping, and trade**.
- Disruptions in the region may affect **oil prices, supply chains, and inflation dynamics**.
- The government is taking measures to ensure **continuity of imports, especially crude oil and fertilizers**.
- Focus on **diversification of sourcing and strategic reserves** to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Shipping and logistics sectors are being monitored for **route disruptions and cost escalation**.
- The developments highlight India's dependence on **West Asia for energy security**.
- Reflects governance priority on **economic resilience and risk mitigation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India–West Asia Linkages

- West Asia is a major source of **crude oil, LNG, and fertilizers** for India.
- Strong ties in **trade, remittances, and diaspora presence**.

Key Vulnerable Sectors

- **Energy:** High dependence on crude oil imports.
- **Fertilizers:** Dependence on raw materials from the region.
- **Shipping:** Strategic sea routes like **Strait of Hormuz** critical for trade.

Geopolitical Risks

- Conflicts and tensions can lead to **price volatility, supply disruptions, and trade uncertainties**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sectoral Review:** Monitoring energy, fertilizers, shipping, and trade sectors.
- **Energy Security:** Ensuring uninterrupted crude oil supply.
- **Supply Diversification:** Reducing dependence on specific regions.
- **Logistics Impact:** Rising freight costs and route disruptions.
- **Economic Stability:** Managing inflation and external sector risks.
- **Strategic Measures:** Use of reserves and alternative sourcing.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen energy diversification, strategic reserves, and diplomatic engagement.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **West Asia:** Key supplier of crude oil and LNG to India.
- **Strait of Hormuz:** Critical chokepoint for global oil trade.
- **Energy Dependence:** India imports ~85% of crude oil.
- **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):** Buffer against supply disruptions.
- **Key Concern:** Price volatility and supply chain risks.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. West Asia is a major source of crude oil imports for India.
2. The Strait of Hormuz is an important route for global oil transportation.
3. India is fully self-sufficient in crude oil production.

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.ROUNDTABLE ON EXPANSION OF PNG SERVICES AND MAINTAINING ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN URBAN AREAS



- The discussion focused on expanding **PNG infrastructure for households, industries, and commercial users.**
- Emphasis was placed on ensuring **reliable supply of clean fuel** in urban areas.
- PNG is promoted as a **safer, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly alternative** to conventional fuels.
- The initiative supports India's transition towards a **gas-based economy.**
- It also addresses challenges related to **urban infrastructure, last-mile connectivity, and service continuity.**
- Strengthening PNG networks contributes to **urban sustainability and reduced pollution levels.**
- Reflects governance priorities in **energy security, clean energy transition, and urban service delivery.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is PNG (Piped Natural Gas)?

- Natural gas supplied through pipelines directly to **homes, industries, and commercial establishments.**
- Eliminates the need for cylinders and ensures **continuous supply.**

Policy Framework

- Expansion driven by the **City Gas Distribution (CGD) network.**
- Regulated by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.

Gas-Based Economy

- India aims to increase the share of natural gas in the energy mix from ~6% to **15%.**
- PNG plays a key role in **clean energy transition and reducing carbon emissions.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Focus on widening the PNG network in urban areas.
- **Clean Energy:** Promotes eco-friendly fuel over LPG and other fossil fuels.
- **Service Reliability:** Ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential services.
- **Urban Sustainability:** Reduces air pollution and enhances quality of life.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** Managed under PNGRB and CGD framework.
- **Economic Impact:** Cost-effective energy solution for households and industries.
- **Way Forward:** Accelerate network expansion, improve last-mile connectivity, and enhance resilience.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PNG:** Piped Natural Gas supplied through pipelines.
- **CGD Network:** City Gas Distribution system.
- **PNGRB:** Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board regulates gas sector.
- **Energy Target:** Increase natural gas share to ~15% of energy mix.
- **Benefits:** Clean, safe, and continuous fuel supply.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is supplied through pipelines directly to consumers.
2. PNGRB regulates the natural gas sector in India.
3. PNG requires storage in cylinders for household use.

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)