Daily PIB Summary

3rd March

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1.INDIA FULLY PREPARED AMID EVOLVING SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST – ENERGY SUPPLIES ROBUST

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
सत्यमेव जयते

- India has assured energy security despite geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.
  Officials highlighted diversified crude import sources to reduce dependency risks.
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) provide buffer stocks against short-term disruptions.
- Close monitoring of global supply chains and shipping routes is underway.
- India's refining capacity and logistics network remain stable.
- The statement reinforces macroeconomic stability amid global volatility.
- Energy resilience supports inflation control and economic growth.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India's Energy Dependence

- India imports over 80% of its crude oil requirements.
- The Middle East remains a major supplier region.
- Diversification includes supplies from the US, Russia, Africa, and Latin America.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)

India maintains underground crude storage facilities as emergency buffers.
These reserves can be released during supply disruptions or price spikes.

Institutional Framework

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** oversees energy policy, supply monitoring, and coordination with oil marketing companies.

Energy Security Concept

Energy security refers to:

- Availability of energy resources.
- Affordability and price stability.
- Diversified sourcing.
- Strategic reserves and domestic capacity.

Geopolitical Sensitivity

The Middle East hosts major oil-producing nations and critical shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, impacting global energy flows.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Diversified Imports:** Reduced overdependence on any single region.
- **Strategic Reserves:** Buffer stocks maintained for contingencies.
- **Refining Strength:** India among the world's top refining hubs.
- **Supply Chain Monitoring:** Real-time assessment of shipping routes.
- **Macroeconomic Stability:** Energy security crucial for inflation management.

- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Continuous coordination with supplier nations.
- **Way Forward:** Renewable energy expansion and green transition.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR):** Emergency crude oil storage.
- **Energy Security:** Reliable and affordable energy supply.
- **Strait of Hormuz:** Critical global oil transit chokepoint.
- **Crude Oil Imports:** >80% of India's requirement.
- **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs):** Public sector energy distributors.
- **Diversification Strategy:** Multi-source procurement approach.
- **Refining Capacity:** India among top global refining nations.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Strategic Petroleum Reserves are meant to cushion against short-term crude supply disruptions.
2. Energy security involves both availability and affordability of energy resources.
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) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2.PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES POST-BUDGET WEBINAR ON "SUSTAINING AND STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC GROWTH"

- The Prime Minister emphasized timely and efficient execution of Budget proposals.
- He highlighted reforms in manufacturing, infrastructure, MSMEs, and financial sector deepening.
- The focus was on crowding in private investment and boosting employment.
- Digital public infrastructure and innovation were underscored as growth multipliers.
- The interaction brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders.
- The webinar stressed cooperative federalism for policy implementation.
- It reinforced India's ambition to become a high-growth, developed economy by 2047.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Post-Budget Webinars

- Institutionalized to ensure effective Budget implementation.
- Provide a platform for stakeholder consultation.
- Encourage Centre–State coordination and industry participation.

Union Budget Framework

- Presented under **Article 112** (Annual Financial Statement).
- Includes revenue, expenditure, fiscal deficit targets.
- Acts as a macroeconomic roadmap.

Growth Strategy Themes

- Capital expenditure push.
- MSME credit expansion.
- Infrastructure development (roads, railways, logistics).
- Financial sector reforms.
- Innovation and start-up ecosystem support.

Institutional Anchoring

The **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for fiscal policy and budgetary implementation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Implementation Focus:** Converting announcements into outcomes.
- **Capital Expenditure Push:** Infrastructure-led growth model.
- **Private Investment:** Enabling regulatory and financial reforms.
- **MSME Support:** Credit facilitation and digital platforms.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Growth multiplier effect.
- **Cooperative Federalism:** States' role in economic delivery.

- **Way Forward:** Sustainable, inclusive, and innovation-driven growth.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 112:** Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget).
- **Fiscal Deficit:** Excess of total expenditure over total receipts (excluding borrowings).
- **Capital Expenditure:** Spending on asset creation.
- **MSME:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **Crowding-in Effect:** Public investment stimulating private investment.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker ecosystem.
- **Cooperative Federalism:** Shared governance between Centre and States.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Union Budget is presented under Article 112 of the Constitution.
2. Capital expenditure refers to spending on asset creation and infrastructure.
3. Fiscal deficit represents the difference between revenue receipts and revenue expenditure only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3.RAV CONDUCTS NATIONAL-LEVEL HANDS-ON TRAINING ON AGNIKARMA & RAKTA-MOKSHANA IN NEW DELHI

- The training focused on practical demonstration of two classical Ayurvedic para-surgical procedures.
- It aimed to standardize clinical practices and improve therapeutic outcomes.
- Participants received supervised, hands-on exposure to procedural techniques.
- The initiative strengthens capacity building in traditional healthcare systems.
- It aligns with efforts to integrate evidence-based Ayurveda into mainstream healthcare.
- The programme contributes to quality assurance and safety protocols in AYUSH practice.
- It reinforces India's global positioning in traditional medicine systems.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV)

- Autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Focuses on continuing medical education and skill enhancement.
- Promotes advanced training in Ayurvedic specialties.

Agnikarma

- A therapeutic heat-based procedure.
- Used for musculoskeletal disorders, pain management, and localized conditions.
- Classified under para-surgical techniques in Ayurveda.

Rakta-Mokshana

- Bloodletting therapy described in classical Ayurvedic texts.
- Used to treat conditions associated with vitiated blood (Rakta Dosha).
- Includes methods like leech therapy (Jalaukavacharana).

AYUSH Framework

- AYUSH includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homoeopathy.
- Institutionalized under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Focus on integrative and preventive healthcare.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hands-on Training:** Practical demonstration under expert supervision.
- **Clinical Standardization:** Uniform protocols for para-surgical therapies.
- **Capacity Building:** Skill enhancement for practitioners.
- **Evidence-Based Approach:** Emphasis on safety and efficacy.

- **AYUSH Integration:** Strengthening traditional medicine systems.
- **National Outreach:** Participation from across India.
- **Way Forward:** Research-backed modernization of classical therapies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **RAV:** Autonomous body for Ayurveda education & training.
- **Agnikarma:** Heat-based para-surgical Ayurvedic procedure.
- **Rakta-Mokshana:** Bloodletting therapy in Ayurveda.
- **Jalaukavacharana:** Leech therapy method.
- **AYUSH:** Acronym for traditional medicine systems in India.
- **Ministry of AYUSH:** Established in 2014.
- **Para-surgical Procedures:** Non-major surgical therapeutic techniques.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Agnikarma is a heat-based therapeutic procedure in Ayurveda.
2. Rakta-Mokshana involves therapeutic bloodletting.
3. Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4.OVER 100,000 SCHOOLS SATURATED BY UIDAI'S SPECIAL DRIVE ON MANDATORY BIOMETRIC UPDATE IN AADHAAR

- UIDAI conducted a large-scale outreach campaign in schools to complete mandatory biometric updates for children.
- Biometric updates are required when children attain specific age milestones.
- The drive aimed to prevent authentication failures in welfare and service delivery.
- It strengthened Aadhaar-linked benefits under various government schemes.
- The initiative enhanced digital identity accuracy and reliability.
- It supports smoother access to scholarships, DBT schemes, and public services.
- The campaign reflects governance emphasis on inclusive digital infrastructure.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Aadhaar Biometric Update

- Biometric update is mandatory at age 5 and again at age 15.
- Includes fingerprint, iris scan, and photograph update.

- Ensures accuracy as children's biometric traits change with age.

UIDAI

- Established under the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- Functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Responsible for issuing and managing Aadhaar numbers.

Importance of Biometric Accuracy

- Prevents authentication errors.
- Ensures seamless Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Reduces duplication and identity fraud.

Digital Governance Linkage

Aadhaar forms a key pillar of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), enabling:

- Welfare delivery
- Banking access
- Scholarship transfers
- Health scheme integration

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **School-Based Drive:** Outreach in over 100,000 institutions.
- **Mandatory Update:** Required at age 5 and 15.
- **Authentication Reliability:** Reduced biometric mismatches.
- **DBT Linkage:** Improved access to welfare schemes.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Ensured children remain in the digital identity net.
- **Administrative Efficiency:** Streamlined identity management.

- **Way Forward:** Continued awareness and periodic data updation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Aadhaar Act, 2016:** Statutory backing for Aadhaar.
- **UIDAI:** Statutory authority under MeitY.
- **Biometric Data:** Fingerprints, iris, photograph.
- **Mandatory Update Ages:** 5 years and 15 years.
- **DBT:** Direct Benefit Transfer.
- **DPI:** Digital Public Infrastructure.
- **Authentication:** Verification of identity through biometric/OTP.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Biometric updates in Aadhaar are mandatory at specific age milestones during childhood.
2. UIDAI functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. Aadhaar has no role in Direct Benefit Transfer schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)