



Daily PIB Summary

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1. AFFORDABLE NUTRITION FOR EVERY INDIAN: JAN AUSHADHI NUTRACEUTICALS



- I. Jan Aushadhi Kendras now offer a range of **nutraceutical products** in addition to affordable generic medicines.
- II. The initiative seeks to:
 - A. Improve nutritional outcomes.
 - B. Reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure.
 - C. Promote preventive healthcare.
 - D. Increase access to quality nutrition supplements across the country.
- III. These products are available at prices significantly lower than many comparable branded alternatives.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Nutraceuticals?

Nutraceuticals are products derived from food sources that provide **health or medical benefits** beyond basic nutrition.

They may help in:

- Maintaining overall health.
- Preventing nutritional deficiencies.
- Supporting immunity.
- Promoting healthy ageing.
- Improving general well-being.

Examples

- Multivitamins.
- Mineral supplements.
- Calcium tablets.
- Iron and folic acid supplements.
- Protein supplements.
- Omega-3 fatty acids.
- Probiotics.

PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI PARIYOJANA (PMBJP)

Launch

- Originally launched in **2008** as the **Jan Aushadhi Scheme**.
- Revamped and renamed as the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** in **2015**.

Implementing Agency

- **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**.
- Under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.

OBJECTIVES OF PMBJP

- Provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices.
- Reduce healthcare expenditure.
- Promote rational use of medicines.
- Improve access to healthcare in urban and rural areas.
- Expand availability of affordable nutraceuticals.

KEY FEATURES OF JAN AUSHADHI NUTRACEUTICALS

Affordable Pricing

- Products are offered at substantially lower prices than many branded alternatives.

Quality Assurance

Products undergo:

- Quality testing.
- Compliance with prescribed standards.



- Regulatory approvals before being supplied through Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Wide Accessibility

- Available through thousands of **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** across India, improving access in both urban and rural areas.

Preventive Healthcare

Supports:

- Healthy lifestyles.
- Nutritional supplementation.
- Management of deficiencies.
- Public health promotion.

BENEFICIARIES

The initiative benefits:

- Senior citizens.
- Women.
- Children.
- Pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Persons with nutritional deficiencies.
- Low-income households.
- Patients requiring long-term nutritional supplementation.

SIGNIFICANCE

Health

- Promotes preventive healthcare.
- Supports better nutrition.
- Reduces micronutrient deficiencies.

Economic

- Lowers out-of-pocket expenditure.
- Makes nutritional supplements affordable.

Social

- Enhances nutritional equity.
- Improves access among economically weaker sections.

Public Health

- Complements national nutrition initiatives.
- Supports healthier communities.

RELATED GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- National Nutrition Mission aimed at reducing malnutrition.

Saksham Anganwadi & POSHAN 2.0

- Focuses on nutrition support for women and children.

Ayushman Bharat

- Strengthens primary healthcare through **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs**.

National Health Mission (NHM)

- Supports maternal, child, and community health programmes.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Programme:** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- **Implementing Agency:** Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- **Focus:** Affordable nutraceuticals and generic medicines.
- **Objective:** Improve nutrition, preventive healthcare, and affordability.
- **Strategic Importance:** Supports Universal Health Coverage and nutritional security.
- **Challenges:** Public awareness, supply chain management, and ensuring availability in remote areas.
- **Way Forward:** Expand Jan Aushadhi Kendras, strengthen awareness campaigns, ensure uninterrupted supply, and integrate nutraceutical awareness with national nutrition programmes.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PMBJP:** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
- **Implementing Agency:** Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).



- **Parent Department: Department of Pharmaceuticals.**
- **Parent Ministry: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**
- **Jan Aushadhi Kendras:** Retail outlets providing affordable quality generic medicines and selected nutraceutical products.
- **Generic Medicines:** Medicines with the same active ingredient, dosage, safety, and efficacy as branded medicines but sold at lower prices.
- **Nutraceutical:** A food-derived product offering health benefits beyond basic nutrition.
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Launched in **2018** to improve nutritional outcomes among women and children.
- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** Ensures access to quality healthcare services without financial hardship.
- **Preventive Healthcare:** Focuses on disease prevention and health promotion rather than treatment alone.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding Jan Aushadhi Nutraceuticals:

1. They are provided under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.
2. The programme is implemented by the **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**.
3. One of the objectives is to improve access to affordable nutritional supplements and promote preventive healthcare.

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. A DELEGATION FROM BASTAR MANDAL CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT



- I. The President interacted with representatives from **Bastar Mandal**, appreciating:
 - A. The rich tribal heritage of Bastar.
 - B. Traditional knowledge systems.
 - C. Indigenous arts and crafts.
 - D. Contributions of tribal communities to environmental conservation.
- II. The meeting reaffirmed the Government's emphasis on:
 - A. Tribal welfare.
 - B. Education.
 - C. Livelihood enhancement.
 - D. Cultural preservation.
 - E. Inclusive development.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Bastar Region

- I. Located in the southern part of **Chhattisgarh**.
- II. Known for:
 - A. Dense forests.
 - B. Rich biodiversity.
 - C. Distinct tribal traditions.
 - D. Handicrafts and metalwork.
 - E. Cultural festivals.

Major Tribal Communities

- Gond

- Maria
- Muria
- Halba
- Bhatra
- Dhurwa

These communities possess rich traditions in:

- Art.
- Music.
- Dance.
- Forest-based livelihoods.
- Sustainable natural resource management.

TRIBAL WELFARE INITIATIVES

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

The nodal ministry responsible for:

- Tribal development.
- Educational support.
- Livelihood promotion.
- Socio-economic empowerment.

PM JANMAN

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan

- I. Launched in **2023**.
- II. Focuses on the development of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- III. Covers:
 - A. Housing.
 - B. Roads.
 - C. Drinking water.
 - D. Education.
 - E. Healthcare.
 - F. Connectivity.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- Provide quality residential education to tribal students.
- Aim to improve educational outcomes in Scheduled Areas.

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana

- Promotes value addition to **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**.

- Enhances income of tribal gatherers.
- Encourages tribal entrepreneurship.

CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF BASTAR

Bastar is renowned for:

Bastar Dussehra

- One of India's longest cultural festivals.
- Celebrated for over **75 days**.
- Distinct from the conventional Dussehra celebrations elsewhere in India.

Traditional Crafts

- Bell metal (Dhokra) craft.
- Wood carving.
- Bamboo products.
- Tribal textiles.
- Iron craft.

These crafts provide important livelihood opportunities and preserve indigenous knowledge.

SIGNIFICANCE

Social

- Strengthens recognition of tribal identity.
- Encourages inclusive governance.

Cultural

- Preserves India's indigenous traditions.
- Promotes tribal heritage nationally.

Economic

- Supports tribal artisans.
- Encourages sustainable livelihoods and eco-tourism.

Environmental

- Recognises the role of tribal communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Occasion:** Delegation from Bastar Mandal met the President of India.
- **Location:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.



- **Focus:** Tribal empowerment, cultural heritage, education, and inclusive development.
- **Major Region:** Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- **Strategic Importance:** Promotes tribal welfare while preserving India's cultural diversity.
- **Challenges:** Education gaps, healthcare access, infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, and market access for tribal products.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen tribal education, improve connectivity, expand livelihood programmes, promote GI-tagged tribal products, and enhance community-led conservation initiatives.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Bastar:** Tribal-dominated region in **Chhattisgarh**, known for forests, handicrafts, and indigenous culture.
- **Scheduled Tribes (STs):** Recognised under **Article 342** of the Constitution.
- **Fifth Schedule:** Deals with the administration and control of **Scheduled Areas** and Scheduled Tribes in most mainland states.
- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs:** Established in **1999**.
- **PM JANMAN: Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan**, launched in **2023** for the development of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** Residential schools for tribal students.
- **Van Dhan Yojana:** Promotes value addition and marketing of **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**.
- **Minor Forest Produce (MFP):** Includes bamboo, honey, lac, tendu leaves, medicinal plants, and other non-timber forest products.
- **Bastar Dussehra:** One of the world's longest cultural festivals, celebrated for approximately **75 days**.
- **Dhokra Art:** Traditional lost-wax metal casting craft widely practiced in Bastar.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. **Article 342** of the Constitution relates to the specification of **Scheduled Tribes**.
2. **PM JANMAN** focuses on the development of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
3. **Bastar Dussehra** is one of the longest cultural festivals celebrated in India.

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. PARLIAMENT QUESTION: HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AND INDIGENOUS SPACE TECHNOLOGY





- I. India is making significant progress towards launching its **first indigenous human spaceflight mission (Gaganyaan)**.
- II. The programme focuses on:
 - A. Human-rated launch vehicles.
 - B. Crew safety systems.
 - C. Indigenous space technologies.
 - D. Astronaut training.
 - E. Advanced space infrastructure.
- III. The initiative supports the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and strengthens India's position as a leading global space power.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Gaganyaan Mission

- **Announced:** 2018 by the Prime Minister.
- **Implementing Agency:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Objective:** Demonstrate India's capability to send a crew into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and safely return them to Earth.

Mission Profile

- Carry a crew of Indian astronauts (**Gaganyatris**) into orbit.
- Orbit at approximately **400 km** altitude.
- Mission duration of about **3 days**.
- Safe splashdown in the sea after re-entry.

KEY INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGIES

Human-Rated LVM3 Launch Vehicle

- Modified version of the **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)**.
- Enhanced reliability and safety for carrying astronauts.

Crew Escape System (CES)

- Enables rapid separation of the crew module during emergencies.
- Protects astronauts during launch failures.

Crew Module

- I. Designed and developed indigenously.

- II. Equipped with:

- A. Life-support systems.
- B. Environmental control.
- C. Navigation and communication systems.

Service Module

Provides:

- Propulsion.
- Power supply.
- Thermal control.
- Mission support.

Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS)

Maintains:

- Oxygen supply.
- Cabin pressure.
- Temperature.
- Humidity.
- Removal of carbon dioxide and contaminants.

ASTRONAUT TRAINING

Indian astronauts undergo training in:

- Space medicine.
- Survival techniques.
- Microgravity adaptation.
- Spacecraft operations.
- Emergency response.

Training is supported by:

- ISRO.
- International collaborations.
- Astronaut training facilities in India.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIGENOUS SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Strategic

- Strengthens national security.
- Reduces dependence on foreign technology.
- Enhances strategic autonomy.

Scientific



- Advances indigenous research.
- Encourages innovation in aerospace engineering.

Economic

- Supports the growth of India's space economy.
- Promotes private sector participation.
- Encourages high-technology manufacturing.

Technological

- I. Builds capabilities in:
 - A. Robotics.
 - B. Materials science.
 - C. Artificial intelligence.
 - D. Advanced electronics.
 - E. Precision manufacturing.

RELATED SPACE REFORMS

Indian Space Policy, 2023

Encourages:

- Private sector participation.
- Commercialisation of space activities.
- Innovation.
- International collaboration.

IN-SPACE

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre

- Facilitates private participation.
- Authorises non-governmental space activities.

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)

- Commercial arm of ISRO.
- Promotes commercial utilisation of Indian space technologies.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mission:** Gaganyaan.
- **Implementing Agency:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Objective:** Demonstrate indigenous human spaceflight capability.
- **Launch Vehicle:** Human-rated LVM3.

- **Major Technologies:** Crew Module, Crew Escape System, Service Module, Environmental Control and Life Support System.
- **Supporting Reforms:** Indian Space Policy 2023, IN-SPACE, NSIL.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthens India's technological self-reliance and global space leadership.
- **Challenges:** Human-rating standards, mission safety, advanced life-support technologies, and long-term space missions.
- **Way Forward:** Continue technology development, strengthen industry participation, expand astronaut training, and pursue future missions such as the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** and crewed lunar exploration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation**, established in **1969**.
- **Gaganyaan:** India's first indigenous human spaceflight mission.
- **Gaganyatri:** The term used for Indian astronauts participating in the Gaganyaan mission.
- **LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3):** ISRO's heavy-lift launch vehicle used for the Gaganyaan programme.
- **Crew Escape System (CES):** Emergency escape mechanism to protect astronauts during launch failures.
- **ECLSS: Environmental Control and Life Support System**, maintains a habitable environment inside the spacecraft.
- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO):** Generally extends up to about **2,000 km** above Earth; Gaganyaan is planned to operate at around **400 km**.
- **IN-SPACE:** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre, established to promote and regulate private participation in space activities.



- **NSIL: NewSpace India Limited**, the commercial arm of ISRO.
- **Indian Space Policy, 2023**: Provides the framework for expanding India's space ecosystem through greater private sector participation and commercialisation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding India's Human Spaceflight Programme:

1. **Gaganyaan** aims to demonstrate India's capability to send astronauts into **Low Earth Orbit** and return them safely.
2. The **Crew Escape System (CES)** is designed to protect astronauts during launch emergencies.
3. **IN-SPACe** has been established to promote and authorise private sector participation in India's space activities.

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. NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON MANAGEMENT OF GENETIC RESOURCES CHARTS ROADMAP FOR STRENGTHENING INDIA'S AGROBIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION



- I. The meeting focused on:
 - A. Conservation of plant, animal, fish, and microbial genetic resources.
 - B. Sustainable utilization of agrobiodiversity.
 - C. Strengthening national gene banks.
 - D. Enhancing climate resilience in agriculture.
 - E. Supporting farmers through improved conservation and breeding programmes.
- II. The roadmap aligns with India's commitments under international biodiversity agreements and national food security objectives.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Genetic Resources?

Genetic resources are biological materials containing genetic information with actual or potential value for:

- Agriculture.
- Food production.



- Forestry.
- Fisheries.
- Medicine.
- Scientific research.

Examples

- Traditional crop varieties.
- Indigenous livestock breeds.
- Wild relatives of cultivated crops.
- Microorganisms.
- Medicinal plants.

WHAT IS AGROBIODIVERSITY?

Agrobiodiversity refers to the diversity of:

- Crops.
- Livestock.
- Fisheries.
- Forest species.
- Soil organisms.
- Pollinators.

that support agricultural production and food systems.

IMPORTANCE OF AGROBIODIVERSITY

Food Security

- Ensures availability of diverse food crops.
- Reduces dependence on a limited number of varieties.

Climate Resilience

- Provides drought-, flood-, and pest-resistant varieties.
- Supports adaptation to climate change.

Nutritional Security

- Encourages cultivation of nutrient-rich traditional crops.
- Improves dietary diversity.

Economic Benefits

- Supports farmers' livelihoods.
- Conserves valuable indigenous genetic resources.

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON MANAGEMENT OF GENETIC RESOURCES

Role

The Board advises on:

- Conservation strategies.
- Sustainable use of genetic resources.
- Policy development.
- Coordination among research institutions.
- National priorities for biodiversity management.

KEY INSTITUTIONS

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- Apex body for agricultural research in India.
- Coordinates research on crop improvement and genetic resources.

National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)

- I. Located in **New Delhi**.
- II. Functions under **ICAR**.
- III. Maintains India's National Gene Bank.
- IV. Conserves:
 - A. Seeds.
 - B. Plant germplasm.
 - C. Wild crop relatives.

National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR)

- Located in **Karnal, Haryana**.
- Conserves indigenous livestock genetic resources.

GENE BANKS

Gene banks preserve genetic material through:

- Seed storage.
- Cryopreservation.
- Tissue culture.
- Field gene banks.

They safeguard valuable genetic diversity for future breeding and research.

LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORK

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Provides for:

- Conservation of biodiversity.
- Sustainable use of biological resources.
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001

Protects:

- Plant breeders' rights.
- Farmers' rights.
- Traditional varieties.

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

- Established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Regulates access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- I. Adopted in **1992**.
- II. Objectives:
 - A. Conservation of biodiversity.
 - B. Sustainable use.
 - C. Fair and equitable benefit sharing.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Promotes:

- Conservation.
- Sustainable use.
- Access and benefit sharing for plant genetic resources.

SIGNIFICANCE

Agricultural

- Strengthens crop breeding.
- Improves productivity.
- Enhances resilience.

Environmental

- Conserves biodiversity.
- Protects ecosystems.

Economic

- Supports sustainable agriculture.
- Promotes bio-economy.

Strategic

- Strengthens India's food and nutritional security.
- Supports climate-resilient farming systems.

CHALLENGES

- Genetic erosion.
- Habitat degradation.
- Climate change.
- Loss of indigenous crop varieties.
- Limited awareness regarding conservation.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand national gene banks.
- Strengthen in-situ and ex-situ conservation.
- Promote traditional crop varieties.
- Encourage participatory breeding programmes.
- Strengthen digital documentation of genetic resources.
- Enhance benefit-sharing mechanisms for farming communities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Focus:** Conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources.
- **Major Institutions:** ICAR, NBPGR, NBAGR, National Biodiversity Authority.
- **Legal Framework:** Biological Diversity Act, 2002; PPV&FR Act, 2001.
- **Strategic Importance:** Supports food security, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Challenges:** Genetic erosion, climate change, and habitat loss.



- **Way Forward:** Strengthen conservation infrastructure, promote indigenous varieties, and enhance farmer participation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Agrobiodiversity:** Diversity of crops, livestock, aquatic species, soil organisms, and associated ecosystems used in agriculture.
- **Genetic Resources:** Biological material containing genetic information of actual or potential value.
- **ICAR: Indian Council of Agricultural Research,** India's apex agricultural research organisation.
- **NBPGR: National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources,** New Delhi; maintains India's National Gene Bank.
- **NBAGR: National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources,** Karnal, Haryana.
- **Gene Bank:** Facility for long-term conservation of seeds, tissues, pollen, and other genetic materials.
- **Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** Provides for conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing of biological resources.
- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):** Headquartered in **Chennai**.
- **PPV&FR Act, 2001:** Protects breeders' and farmers' rights over plant varieties.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** International treaty adopted at the **Rio Earth Summit (1992)**.
- **ITPGRFA:** International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted under the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)** functions under the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.

2. The **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** provides for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in India.
3. The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** is headquartered in **Chennai**.

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. PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN INDIA



- I. Public libraries serve as community knowledge centres by providing:
 - A. Free access to books and learning resources.
 - B. Digital information services.
 - C. Educational support.
 - D. Cultural and research materials.
- II. The Government supports library development through:

- A. Financial assistance.
- B. Digitisation initiatives.
- C. Capacity building.
- D. Modernisation of library infrastructure.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is a Public Library?

A **public library** is a publicly funded institution that provides **free or affordable access** to:

- Books.
- Newspapers and magazines.
- Digital resources.
- Educational materials.
- Research publications.
- Community learning programmes.

Public libraries are open to all members of society regardless of age, gender, caste, religion, or economic status.

OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Promote literacy and reading habits.
- Support school and higher education.
- Encourage lifelong learning.
- Preserve cultural heritage.
- Bridge the digital divide.
- Provide access to authentic information.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

State Subject

- **Libraries** fall under the **State List (List II)** of the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution.
- Therefore, the primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining public libraries lies with **State Governments**.

The Union Government supports libraries through various schemes and institutions.

MAJOR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

National Library of India

- Located in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- India's **largest public library**.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Culture**.

- Acts as the national repository of books and publications.

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)

- Established in **1972**.
- Headquarters: **Kolkata**.
- Autonomous organisation under the **Ministry of Culture**.

Functions

- Financial assistance to public libraries.
- Library modernisation.
- Capacity building.
- Promotion of library services across India.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

National Mission on Libraries (NML)

Launched to:

- Modernise libraries.
- Improve infrastructure.
- Digitise collections.
- Develop professional skills of library personnel.
- Enhance public access to knowledge resources.

Digital Library Initiatives

Government initiatives encourage:

- Digitisation of manuscripts.
- Online catalogues.
- Digital repositories.
- E-learning resources.
- Remote access to library collections.

IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Educational

- Support students and researchers.
- Provide learning materials.
- Encourage reading culture.

Social

- Promote inclusive access to information.
- Serve disadvantaged communities.

Cultural



- Preserve manuscripts and historical documents.
- Promote local languages and literature.

Economic

- Enhance employability through skill development resources.
- Support entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

CHALLENGES

- Inadequate funding.
- Poor infrastructure in rural areas.
- Limited digital resources.
- Shortage of trained librarians.
- Low public awareness and library usage.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase investment in library infrastructure.
- Expand digital library services.
- Strengthen community outreach programmes.
- Promote reading campaigns.
- Improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Enhance collaboration with schools, universities, and local communities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Subject:** Public Libraries.
- **Constitutional Status:** State List (Seventh Schedule).
- **Largest Public Library:** National Library of India, Kolkata.
- **Nodal Ministry (National Library & RRRLF):** Ministry of Culture.
- **Major Institution:** Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF).
- **Flagship Initiative:** National Mission on Libraries (NML).
- **Strategic Importance:** Promotes literacy, digital inclusion, lifelong learning, and preservation of cultural heritage.
- **Challenges:** Funding, infrastructure, digitisation, and awareness.

- **Way Forward:** Modernisation, digitisation, and stronger community engagement.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- Libraries:** Included in the **State List (List II)** under the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution.
- National Library of India:** Located in **Kolkata, West Bengal**; India's largest public library.
- Ministry of Culture:** Nodal ministry for the National Library and several national library initiatives.
- Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF):**
 - Established: **1972**
 - Headquarters: **Kolkata**
 - Supports development and modernisation of public libraries.
- National Mission on Libraries (NML):** Focuses on modernising libraries, digitisation, and improving access to knowledge resources.
- Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954:** Requires publishers to deposit copies of publications with designated national libraries, helping preserve India's published heritage.
- Digital Libraries:** Facilitate online access to books, journals, manuscripts, and educational resources.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding public libraries in India:

- Libraries** are included in the **State List** of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- The **National Library of India** is located in **Kolkata**.
- The **Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)** functions under the **Ministry of Culture**.

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)