



Daily PIB Summary

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1. NINE YEARS OF GST: SIMPLIFYING TAXATION, STRENGTHENING INDIA



- Introduced on **1 July 2017**, GST replaced multiple indirect taxes with a unified destination-based tax regime.
- The reform has simplified taxation, reduced cascading of taxes, and created a common national market.
- GST has improved tax compliance through digital platforms such as GSTN, e-Invoicing, and e-Way Bills.
- The tax system has enhanced transparency, widened the tax base, and strengthened revenue mobilization.
- The GST Council has emerged as a key institution of cooperative federalism through consensus-based decision-making.
- Digitalization of tax administration has reduced compliance costs and improved ease of doing business.
- GST continues to support economic integration, formalization of the economy, and logistics efficiency.
- Ongoing reforms aim to simplify compliance further and improve taxpayer services.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- Introduced on **1 July 2017**.
- A **destination-based indirect tax** levied on the supply of goods and services.
- Replaced multiple Central and State indirect taxes with a unified tax system.

Constitutional Basis

- **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016** enabled the introduction of GST.
- **Article 246A:** Empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to levy GST.
- **Article 269A:** Deals with levy and collection of **Integrated GST (IGST)** on inter-State supplies.
- **Article 279A:** Provides for the constitution of the **GST Council**.

GST Council

- Constitutional body under **Article 279A**.
- **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister.
- Members include the Union Minister of State (Finance) and Finance/Taxation Ministers of all States and Union Territories with legislatures.
- Recommends tax rates, exemptions, threshold limits, and policy changes.

Components of GST

- **CGST:** Central Goods and Services Tax.
- **SGST:** State Goods and Services Tax.
- **IGST:** Integrated Goods and Services Tax.
- **UTGST:** Union Territory Goods and Services Tax.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Launch:** GST implemented on **1 July 2017**.
- **Tax Reform:** Unified multiple indirect taxes into a single destination-based tax.
- **Institutional Mechanism:** GST Council promotes cooperative fiscal federalism through consensus.
- **Digital Governance:** GSTN, e-Way Bills, and e-Invoicing have improved compliance and transparency.
- **Economic Impact:** Supports formalization, ease of doing business, and efficient logistics.
- **Revenue Mobilization:** Broadens the tax base and strengthens indirect tax collection.
- **Challenges:** Compliance burden for MSMEs, classification disputes, inverted duty structure, and revenue dependence.
- **Way Forward:** Simplify tax structure, rationalize rates, strengthen dispute resolution, and enhance digital compliance systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **GST Launch: 1 July 2017.**
- **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016:** Introduced the constitutional framework for GST.
- **Article 246A:** Special provision relating to GST.
- **Article 269A:** IGST on inter-State trade and commerce.
- **Article 279A:** Establishment of the GST Council.

- **GST Type:** Destination-based indirect tax.
- **GST Council Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister.
- **GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network):** IT backbone for GST administration.
- **e-Way Bill:** Electronic document required for movement of goods beyond the prescribed threshold.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC):** Credit available for GST paid on inputs used in the course of business.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 279A of the Constitution provides for the establishment of the GST Council.
2. GST is a destination-based indirect tax on the supply of goods and services.
3. Integrated GST (IGST) is levied on intra-State supplies of goods and services.

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. GENERAL DHIRAJ SETH TAKES OVER AS THE CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF



- General Dhiraj Seth has taken over as the Chief of the Army Staff, becoming the professional head of the Indian Army.
- The change in leadership comes at a time when the Army is focusing on modernization, indigenisation, and capability enhancement.
- Key priorities include strengthening operational preparedness, integrating emerging technologies, and enhancing jointness among the Armed Forces.
- The Army continues to address conventional and non-conventional security challenges, including border management, counter-terrorism, and cyber threats.
- The appointment reinforces continuity in military leadership and strategic planning.
- The leadership transition is important for advancing defence reforms and improving operational effectiveness.
- It also aligns with India's objective of building self-reliance in defence

manufacturing under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

- Effective military leadership remains central to safeguarding national security and territorial integrity.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)

- I. The Chief of the Army Staff is the **professional head of the Indian Army**.
- II. Responsible for:
 - A. Operational preparedness.
 - B. Force modernization.
 - C. Personnel management.
 - D. Strategic planning.
 - E. Training and doctrine.

Indian Army

- Raised on **1 April 1895**.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Responsible for safeguarding India's territorial integrity and conducting land-based military operations.

Higher Defence Management

- **President of India** is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** promotes jointness among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** functions under the Ministry of Defence.

Defence Modernisation

- Indigenisation of defence equipment.

- Integrated Theatre Commands (proposed).
- Network-centric warfare.
- Artificial Intelligence and unmanned systems.
- Cyber and space capabilities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Appointment:** General Dhiraj Seth assumes office as Chief of the Army Staff.
- **Role:** Professional head of the Indian Army.
- **Responsibilities:** Operational readiness, modernization, leadership, and strategic planning.
- **Strategic Priority:** Strengthening national security and defence preparedness.
- **Modernisation:** Focus on indigenous defence production and emerging technologies.
- **Jointness:** Supports integrated planning and coordination among the Armed Forces.
- **Challenges:** Border security, hybrid warfare, cyber threats, and rapid technological change.
- **Way Forward:** Accelerate defence reforms, enhance indigenous capabilities, strengthen joint commands, and invest in future-ready military technologies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS):** Professional head of the Indian Army.
- **Indian Army Day: 15 January.**
- **Indian Army Raised: 1 April 1895.**
- **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces:** President of India.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** Promotes jointness among the three Services.
- **Department of Military Affairs (DMA):** Established in **2019** under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Integrated Theatre Command:** Proposed unified command integrating Army, Navy, and Air Force resources.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence:** Focus on indigenous defence manufacturing and reduced import dependence.
- **Hybrid Warfare:** Combination of conventional, irregular, cyber, and information warfare.
- **Network-Centric Warfare:** Integration of sensors, communication networks, and command systems for enhanced operational effectiveness.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief of the Army Staff is the professional head of the Indian Army.
2. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
3. The Department of Military Affairs was established to promote greater

integration and jointness in defence management.

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: (d)

3. NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS AND PREVENTION OF SUICIDES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTS FIELD VISITS TO 30 HEIs ACROSS 10 STATES SINCE MAY 2025



- The National Task Force is evaluating the preparedness of Higher Education Institutions to address student mental health concerns and prevent suicides.
- Field visits focus on counselling infrastructure, institutional support mechanisms, grievance redressal, and awareness programmes.

- The initiative promotes a holistic and preventive approach towards mental health within educational campuses.
- Recommendations are expected to strengthen student well-being through improved counselling services, early intervention, and institutional accountability.
- The exercise aligns with the objective of creating safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments.
- Strengthening campus mental health systems is essential for improving academic outcomes and reducing psychological distress among students.
- The initiative highlights the growing importance of mental health as a component of quality higher education.
- It also supports evidence-based policymaking for student welfare and institutional reforms.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Task Force

- I. Constituted to examine issues relating to:
 - A. Student mental health.
 - B. Prevention of suicides in Higher Education Institutions.
 - C. Institutional support systems.
 - D. Counselling and psychological services.
 - E. Student well-being.

Mental Health in Higher Education

- I. Students may face:
- A. Academic stress.
 - B. Examination pressure.
 - C. Social isolation.
 - D. Financial challenges.
 - E. Career uncertainty.
 - F. Emotional and psychological issues.

Institutional Support Mechanisms

- Professional counselling centres.
- Psychological support services.
- Faculty mentoring.
- Peer support programmes.
- Grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Mental health awareness initiatives.

Legal and Policy Framework

- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** promotes holistic and inclusive education with emphasis on student well-being.
- **University Grants Commission** issues guidelines on student counselling and mental health support.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Initiative:** Field visits by the National Task Force to 30 HEIs across 10 States.
- **Objective:** Strengthen student mental health support and suicide prevention mechanisms.
- **Focus Areas:** Counselling services, institutional preparedness, awareness, and early intervention.

- **Governance Impact:** Encourages evidence-based reforms and accountability in higher education institutions.
- **Educational Significance:** Promotes safe, inclusive, and supportive campus environments.
- **Policy Relevance:** Supports implementation of mental health and higher education reforms.
- **Challenges:** Shortage of trained counsellors, stigma, unequal access to mental health services, and institutional capacity gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Expand counselling infrastructure, train faculty and staff, strengthen peer support systems, promote mental health awareness, and institutionalize regular mental health assessments.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Mental Healthcare Act: 2017.**
- **Objective of the Act:** Protect the rights of persons with mental illness and ensure access to mental healthcare services.
- **NEP 2020:** Emphasizes holistic development, student well-being, and inclusive education.
- **UGC:** Statutory body established under the **University Grants Commission Act, 1956.**
- **HEI:** Higher Education Institution.
- **Counselling:** Professional psychological support to improve emotional and mental well-being.
- **Early Intervention:** Identification and timely support before mental health issues become severe.

- **Psychosocial Support:** Assistance addressing psychological and social needs.
- **Life Skills Education:** Develops coping, communication, and decision-making skills.
- **Student Well-being:** Encompasses physical, mental, emotional, and social health.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 seeks to protect the rights of persons with mental illness.
2. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes holistic development and student well-being.
3. The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a constitutional body established under the Constitution of India.

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. CLARIFICATION REGARDING MEDIA REPORTS ON THE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT IN BPCL'S SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION ON ETHANOL ALLOCATION MATTER



- The clarification was issued after certain media reports inaccurately portrayed the Attorney General's submissions before the Supreme Court.
- The Government stated that the proceedings related to the allocation of ethanol to Dedicated Ethanol Plants and the need to avoid conflicting judicial decisions in similar cases pending before different High Courts.
- It informed the Court that Transfer Petitions would be filed to enable uniform adjudication of common legal issues.
- The Supreme Court directed that **status quo** be maintained regarding ethanol allocation for the current Ethanol Supply Year (2025–26) in the present matter.
- The Government categorically denied making any submission that the **E20 Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme** was an "experiment."

- The clarification reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining uninterrupted ethanol supplies to achieve the national blending target.
- The episode highlights the importance of accurate reporting of judicial proceedings involving major public policy initiatives.
- It also underscores the significance of legal certainty for India's biofuel and energy security programmes.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

- I. Launched to promote blending of ethanol with petrol.
- II. Objectives:
 - A. Reduce crude oil imports.
 - B. Enhance energy security.
 - C. Support farmers' income.
 - D. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

E20 Fuel

- Petrol blended with **20% ethanol**.
- India achieved the target of **20% ethanol blending** ahead of schedule.

Special Leave Petition (SLP)

- Filed under **Article 136** of the Constitution.
- Enables the Supreme Court to grant special leave to appeal against judgments or orders of any court or tribunal (except those related to Armed Forces).

Transfer Petition

- Enables transfer of cases involving similar questions of law from different High Courts to the Supreme Court to avoid conflicting judgments.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Clarification:** The Government denied reports that E20 was termed an "experiment."
- **Legal Issue:** Pertains to ethanol allocation for Dedicated Ethanol Plants.
- **Supreme Court:** Directed maintenance of status quo for the current Ethanol Supply Year in the present matter.
- **Policy Objective:** Ensure uninterrupted ethanol supply under the national EBP Programme.
- **Energy Security:** Supports reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- **Environmental Impact:** Promotes cleaner transportation fuel and lower carbon emissions.
- **Challenges:** Balancing contractual obligations, judicial consistency, and uninterrupted ethanol procurement.
- **Way Forward:** Expedite adjudication of common legal issues, strengthen ethanol supply chains, and continue implementation of the National Biofuel Programme.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 136:** Special Leave to Appeal by the Supreme Court.
- **E20 Fuel:** Petrol containing **20% ethanol**.
- **EBP Programme:** Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme.
- **National Policy on Biofuels:** Approved in **2018**; amended in **2022**.
- **First Generation (1G) Ethanol:** Produced from sugarcane juice, molasses, and food grains.
- **Second Generation (2G) Ethanol:** Produced from agricultural residues and lignocellulosic biomass.
- **Dedicated Ethanol Plant:** Facility established primarily for ethanol production and supply.
- **Transfer Petition:** Seeks transfer of similar cases to a single court for uniform adjudication.
- **Status Quo Order:** Maintains the existing position until further judicial orders.
- **Biofuels:** Renewable fuels derived from biomass used as alternatives to fossil fuels.

3. Second Generation (2G) ethanol is primarily produced from agricultural residues and lignocellulosic biomass.

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: (d)

5. APPROVAL OF MERGER SCHEME BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PFC AND REC



- The merger seeks to consolidate two major public sector financial institutions engaged in financing the power sector.
- The combined entity is expected to achieve greater operational efficiency, improved resource utilization, and enhanced financial strength.
- A stronger institution can provide greater financial support for power

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. A Special Leave Petition (SLP) is filed under Article 136 of the Constitution of India.
2. E20 fuel contains 20% ethanol blended with petrol.

generation, transmission, distribution, and renewable energy projects.

- The merger aligns with the Government's objective of strengthening Public Sector Enterprises through strategic consolidation.
- Enhanced financing capacity is expected to support infrastructure development and accelerate India's energy transition.
- The move may improve access to long-term finance for emerging sectors such as renewable energy, green hydrogen, and energy storage.
- The merger is expected to contribute to a more robust and resilient power financing ecosystem.
- It reinforces the role of development finance in achieving sustainable economic growth.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

- Established in **1986**.
- A **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Power**.
- Provides financial assistance for power generation, transmission, distribution, and infrastructure projects.

REC Limited

- Formerly **Rural Electrification Corporation**.
- Established in **1969**.
- A **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.
- Provides financial assistance for power infrastructure, rural electrification,

renewable energy, and distribution projects.

Role of Development Finance Institutions

- Mobilize long-term capital for infrastructure development.
- Support strategic sectors with long-gestation projects.
- Promote economic growth and public investment.

Power Sector Financing

- I. Supports:
 - A. Power generation.
 - B. Transmission networks.
 - C. Distribution infrastructure.
 - D. Renewable energy.
 - E. Smart grids.
 - F. Energy storage.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Merger:** Approved by the Boards of PFC and REC.
- **Objective:** Strengthen power sector financing through institutional consolidation.
- **Sectoral Focus:** Power generation, transmission, distribution, and renewable energy.
- **Financial Impact:** Enhanced lending capacity and operational efficiency.
- **Strategic Significance:** Supports infrastructure development and India's clean energy transition.
- **Governance:** Subject to statutory and regulatory approvals.
- **Challenges:** Integration of operations, regulatory clearances, and

harmonization of institutional processes.

- **Way Forward:** Ensure seamless integration, strengthen project financing, promote renewable energy investments, and enhance financial resilience.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PFC:** Power Finance Corporation.
- **Established: 1986.**
- **REC Limited:** Established in **1969** as Rural Electrification Corporation.
- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Power.
- **Maharatna CPSE:** Highest category of Central Public Sector Enterprises based on financial and operational criteria.
- **Development Finance Institution (DFI):** Institution providing long-term finance for infrastructure and strategic sectors.
- **Transmission:** Bulk transfer of electricity from generating stations to substations.
- **Distribution:** Delivery of electricity from substations to end consumers.
- **Renewable Energy:** Energy derived from naturally replenishing sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass.
- **Energy Transition:** Shift from fossil fuels to cleaner and sustainable energy systems.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Power Finance Corporation functions under the Ministry of Power.
2. REC Limited was originally established as the Rural Electrification Corporation.
3. Development Finance Institutions primarily provide long-term financing for infrastructure and strategic sectors.

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: (d)