



Daily PIB Summary

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I. REFORMS TO EXPAND FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES (G-SECS)



Key Highlights

- I. Reforms aim to:
 - A. Increase participation of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
 - B. Improve liquidity in the Government Securities (G-Sec) market.
 - C. Deepen India's bond market.
 - D. Facilitate efficient government borrowing.

Objectives

- I. Broaden:
 - A. Investor base for Government Securities.
- II. Promote:
 - A. Stable foreign capital inflows.
- III. Enhance:
 - A. Market efficiency and price discovery.
- IV. Strengthen:
 - A. India's global financial competitiveness

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What are Government Securities (G-Secs)?

Government Securities (G-Secs)

- Debt instruments issued by the Government of India to finance its fiscal requirements.

Types

- Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
- Dated Government Securities (Government Bonds)
- State Development Loans (SDLs)

Who are Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)?

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

- I. Investments by foreign entities in:
 - A. Government bonds.
 - B. Corporate bonds.
 - C. Equity shares.
 - D. Other financial securities.
- II. FPIs do **not** seek management control over companies.

KEY REFORMS

Greater FPI Access

- Liberalization of investment norms to encourage higher foreign participation in G-Secs.

Fully Accessible Route (FAR)

Fully Accessible Route (FAR)

- Specified Government Securities are available for investment by non-residents **without any investment ceiling**.
- Introduced by the:

Reserve Bank of India

Market Deepening

- I. Measures to:
 - A. Improve secondary market liquidity.
 - B. Increase trading efficiency.
 - C. Attract long-term institutional investors.

SIGNIFICANCE

Lower Borrowing Costs

- A deeper bond market can reduce the Government's cost of borrowing.

Market Liquidity

- Increased participation improves trading volumes and price discovery.

Global Integration

- Strengthens India's integration with international financial markets.

Investment Climate

- Enhances investor confidence and supports capital inflows.

Economic Growth

- Facilitates financing for infrastructure and development.

ROLE OF RBI

Reserve Bank of India

- I. Manages:
 - A. Government borrowing programme.
 - B. Regulation of the Government Securities market.
 - C. Debt market development.

CHALLENGES

- Volatility in global capital flows.
- Exchange rate risks.
- External financial shocks.
- Need to balance market openness with financial stability.

WAY FORWARD

- I. Continue:
 - A. Gradual liberalization of the bond market.
- II. Strengthen:
 - A. Market infrastructure and transparency.
- III. Encourage:
 - A. Participation of long-term institutional investors.
- IV. Maintain:
 - A. Robust macroeconomic and financial stability.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Instrument:** Government Securities (G-Secs).
- **Investor Category:** Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- **Key Reform:** Expansion of foreign participation.
- **Special Mechanism:** Fully Accessible Route (FAR).
- **Regulator:** Reserve Bank of India.
- **Objective:** Deep and liquid bond market.
- **Benefit:** Lower borrowing costs and stronger capital markets.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **G-Secs:** Sovereign debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
- **FPI:** Investment in financial securities without management control.
- **FAR (Fully Accessible Route):** Permits unrestricted FPI investment in specified Government Securities.
- **Regulator:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Major Benefit:** Improved liquidity and efficient price discovery.
- **Risk:** Exposure to volatile global capital flows.
- **Importance:** Supports government borrowing and financial market development.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Government Securities (G-Secs) are sovereign debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
2. Under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR), specified Government Securities are open to non-resident investors without investment ceilings.
3. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) generally invest in securities without seeking management control.

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. DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS PRESCRIBES STANDARD PACK SIZES FOR EDIBLE OILS UNDER LEGAL METROLOGY FRAMEWORK



Key Highlights

- I. Standard pack sizes have been notified for major edible oils and blended edible oils.
- II. The reform aims to:
 - A. Improve consumer awareness.
 - B. Enable easy price comparison.
 - C. Reduce market confusion caused by non-standard pack sizes.
- III. Applicable to both:
 - A. Domestically manufactured edible oils.
 - B. Imported edible oils.

Standard Pack Sizes Prescribed

The notified standard pack sizes are:

- **200 ml/g**
- **500 ml/g**
- **1 litre/kg**
- **2 litre/kg**
- **3 litre/kg**
- **4 litre/kg**
- **5 litre/kg**
- **15 litre/kg**
- **20 litre/kg**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Legal Metrology

Legal Metrology Act, 2009

- I. Regulates:
 - A. Weights and measures.
 - B. Packaged commodities.
 - C. Fair trade practices.
 - D. Consumer protection.

Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

- I. Govern:
 - A. Labelling requirements.
 - B. Declaration of net quantity.
 - C. Consumer information on packaged goods.

KEY REFORMS

1. Standardisation of Pack Sizes

Applies to major edible oils such as:

- Palm oil.
- Soybean oil.
- Sunflower oil.
- Mustard/Rapeseed oil.
- Groundnut oil.
- Sesame oil.
- Rice bran oil.
- Cottonseed oil.
- Corn oil.
- Blended edible oils.

2. Dual Declaration of Quantity

- If quantity is declared in **volume (litres/ml)**, the package must also mention the **equivalent weight**, improving transparency under the Packaged Commodities Rules.

3. Consumer-Friendly Exemptions

The following are exempt:

- Packs below **200 ml or 200 g**.
- Minor edible oils.

This ensures continued availability of affordable small packs.

SIGNIFICANCE

Consumer Protection

- Enables consumers to compare prices more easily across brands.

Fair Trade Practices

- Discourages misleading packaging and irregular pack sizes.

Market Transparency

- Promotes uniformity in retail packaging.

Ease of Regulation

- Simplifies enforcement under Legal Metrology laws.

Industry Standardisation

- Creates a level playing field for manufacturers and retailers.

CHALLENGES

- Industry adjustment during the transition period.
- Compliance by manufacturers and importers.
- Consumer awareness regarding new pack sizes.
- Monitoring and enforcement by authorities.

WAY FORWARD

- Ensure timely implementation after the transition period.
- Strengthen market surveillance under Legal Metrology.
- Conduct consumer awareness campaigns.
- Extend standardisation where appropriate to other packaged commodities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- **Department:** Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **Framework:** Legal Metrology.
- **Law:** Legal Metrology Act, 2009.
- **Rules:** Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.
- **Objective:** Standard pack sizes for edible oils.
- **Benefit:** Greater price transparency and informed consumer choice.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Legal Metrology Act:** Enacted in **2009**.
- **Packaged Commodities Rules: 2011.**
- **Standard Pack Sizes:** 200 ml/g, 500 ml/g, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15 and 20 litre/kg.
- **Applies To:** Domestic and imported edible oils.
- **Exemptions:** Packs below 200 ml/g and minor edible oils.
- **New Requirement:** Declaration of equivalent weight when quantity is shown in volume.

- **Purpose:** Consumer protection, transparency and fair trade.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the recent standardisation of edible oil pack sizes:

1. The reform has been introduced under the Legal Metrology framework.
2. Standard pack sizes apply to both domestically manufactured and imported edible oils.
3. Packages below 200 ml or 200 g are exempt from the standard pack size requirement.

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.MoU BETWEEN DIGITAL INDIA BHASHINI AND KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY (KU) FOR CO-CREATING NATIONAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR 'VOICE FIRST' LANGUAGE TRANSLATION PLATFORM FOR NEPAL



Key Highlights

- I. MoU signed between:
 - A. Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD).
 - B. Kathmandu University (KU).
- II. Objective:
 - A. Develop Nepal's national **Voice First Language Translation Platform**.
- III. Focus Areas:
 - A. AI-based language translation.
 - B. Speech recognition.
 - C. Voice-enabled digital services.
 - D. Multilingual digital inclusion.

OBJECTIVES

- I. Promote:
 - A. Multilingual digital communication.
- II. Enhance:
 - A. Digital inclusion and accessibility.
- III. Strengthen:
 - A. India–Nepal digital cooperation.
- IV. Support:
 - A. AI-driven public digital infrastructure.

- Speech recognition.
- Real-time language translation.

Advantages

- I. Improves accessibility for:
 - A. People with low literacy.
 - B. Elderly users.
 - C. Rural populations.
 - D. Persons with disabilities.

Kathmandu University (KU)

Kathmandu University

- I. One of Nepal's leading autonomous universities.
- II. Known for research in:
 - A. Engineering.
 - B. Information Technology.
 - C. Artificial Intelligence.
 - D. Innovation.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

What is BHASHINI?

BHASHINI (Bhasha Interface for India)

- An AI-powered language technology platform under the **National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)**.
- Developed by the:

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Features

- Speech-to-text.
- Text-to-speech.
- Machine translation.
- Voice-based AI services.
- Multilingual digital accessibility.

What is a 'Voice First' Platform?

A **Voice First** platform enables users to interact primarily through:

- Voice commands.

SIGNIFICANCE

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

- Expands India's expertise in Digital Public Infrastructure beyond its borders.

India–Nepal Relations

- I. Strengthens bilateral cooperation in:
 - A. Digital technology.
 - B. Education.
 - C. Artificial Intelligence.

Language Inclusion

- Enables citizens to access digital services in their native languages.

AI Collaboration

- Encourages joint research and innovation in language technologies.

Regional Connectivity

- Promotes digital cooperation in South Asia.

RELATED INITIATIVES

Digital India Programme

- Aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

National Language Translation Mission

- Promotes technology-enabled multilingual communication through BHASHINI.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indian Partner:** Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD).
- **Nepalese Partner:** Kathmandu University.
- **Purpose:** National Voice First Language Translation Platform.
- **Technology:** Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing (NLP).
- **Focus:** Multilingual digital infrastructure.
- **Significance:** Digital diplomacy and India–Nepal cooperation.
- **Outcome:** Improved digital accessibility and language inclusion.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **BHASHINI:** Bhasha Interface for India.
- **Mission:** National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Technology:** AI, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Speech Recognition.
- **Partner Institution:** Kathmandu University, Nepal.
- **Objective:** Voice-based multilingual digital infrastructure.
- **Significance:** Strengthens Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and India–Nepal digital cooperation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. BHASHINI is an AI-powered language platform developed under the National Language Translation Mission.
2. BHASHINI functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
3. The recently signed MoU between Digital India Bhashini and Kathmandu University aims to develop a Voice First Language Translation Platform for Nepal.

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. PRESIDENT APPOINTS ADDITIONAL JUDGES AS PERMANENT JUDGES OF BOMBAY HIGH COURT



Key Highlights

The following Additional Judges have been appointed as Permanent Judges of the Bombay High Court:

- Justice Shailesh Pramod Brahme
- Justice Firdosh Phiroze Pooniwalla
- Justice Jitendra Shantilal Jain
- Justice Mahendra Arjun Nerlikar
- Justice Firdosh Framroze Daboo

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Appointment of High Court Judges

Article 217 of the Constitution

- Provides for the appointment and conditions of service of High Court Judges.

Appointing Authority

- **President of India.**

Appointment is made after consultation with:

- Chief Justice of India
- Governor of the concerned State.
- Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

Additional Judges

Article 224(1)

Provides for the appointment of **Additional Judges**:

- I. To deal with:
 - A. Temporary increase in the workload.
 - B. Pendency of cases.

Tenure

- Appointed for a period **not exceeding two years.**
- They may subsequently be appointed as **Permanent Judges**, subject to vacancies and recommendations.

Permanent Judges

- I. Hold office until attaining the age of:
 - A. **62 years** (for High Court Judges).
- II. Enjoy the same powers, jurisdiction, and constitutional protections as other High Court Judges.

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

Recommendation Process

The appointment of High Court Judges follows the **Collegium System**, comprising:

- Chief Justice of India
- Two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court of India (for High Court appointments).

The Collegium recommends names to the Union Government, which advises the President for appointment.

SIGNIFICANCE

Strengthening the Judiciary

- Reduces vacancies in High Courts.

Faster Justice Delivery

- Helps reduce pendency of cases.

Judicial Efficiency

- Enhances disposal of civil and criminal matters.

Access to Justice

- Improves availability of judicial resources.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Court:** Bombay High Court.
- **Appointment:** Additional Judges appointed as Permanent Judges.
- **Appointing Authority:** President of India.
- **Relevant Articles:** Article 217 and Article 224.

- **Consultation:** CJI, Governor, and Chief Justice of the High Court.
- **Retirement Age of High Court Judges: 62 years.**
- **Objective:** Reduce vacancies and improve judicial functioning.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 217:** Appointment and conditions of service of High Court Judges.
- **Article 224:** Appointment of Additional and Acting Judges.
- **Appointing Authority:** President of India.
- **Additional Judge Tenure:** Up to 2 years.
- **Retirement Age (High Court): 62 years.**
- **Collegium for HC Appointments:** CJI + two senior-most Supreme Court judges.
- **Bombay High Court Jurisdiction:** Maharashtra, Goa, and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of High Court Judges:

1. High Court Judges are appointed by the President of India under Article 217 of the Constitution.
2. Additional Judges are appointed under Article 224 to deal with

temporary increases in the workload or backlog of cases.

3. The retirement age of High Court Judges in India is 62 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)

5.INDIA'S HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



What is India's Health Transformation?

- I. India's Health Transformation refers to comprehensive reforms focused on:
 - A. Universal healthcare access.
 - B. Affordable medical services.
 - C. Digital health.

- D. Preventive healthcare.
- E. Strengthened health infrastructure.

KEY PILLARS OF INDIA'S HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Universal Health Coverage

Ayushman Bharat

Two major components:

(a) Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

- World's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme.
- Provides health insurance coverage for eligible vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

(b) Ayushman Arogya Mandir (formerly Health and Wellness Centres)

- Strengthens comprehensive primary healthcare.
- Provides preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care.

Digital Health Revolution

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

Objectives:

- Create a digital health ecosystem.
- Enable seamless sharing of health records.
- Improve healthcare accessibility.

Key Features:

- ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account).
- Digital Health Records.
- Healthcare Professional Registry.
- Health Facility Registry.

Health Infrastructure Expansion

Major initiatives include:

- New AIIMS institutions.
- Upgraded district hospitals.
- Expansion of medical colleges.
- Increased ICU and critical care facilities.

Affordable Medicines

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

- Provides quality generic medicines at affordable prices through Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Preventive Healthcare

Focus on:

- Immunization.
- Maternal and child health.
- Non-communicable disease screening.
- Nutrition.
- Sanitation and hygiene.

OTHER MAJOR INITIATIVES

Mission Indradhanush

- Expands immunization coverage for children and pregnant women.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- Addresses malnutrition among women and children.

National Health Mission

- Strengthens healthcare delivery in rural and urban areas.

SIGNIFICANCE

Improved Healthcare Access

- Expands healthcare services to underserved populations.

Financial Protection

- Reduces out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare.

Digital Governance

- Improves efficiency through digital health infrastructure.

Human Capital Development

- Enhances productivity through better health outcomes.

Inclusive Development

- Supports equitable access to healthcare services.

CHALLENGES

- Regional disparities in healthcare access.
- Shortage of healthcare professionals.
- High burden of non-communicable diseases.
- Urban-rural healthcare gap.
- Need for higher public health expenditure.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase investment in public healthcare.
- Strengthen primary healthcare services.
- Expand digital health infrastructure.
- Improve availability of skilled healthcare professionals.
- Promote preventive and community-based healthcare.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Flagship Scheme:** Ayushman Bharat.
- **Digital Initiative:** Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- **Affordable Medicines:** PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
- **Primary Healthcare:** Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.
- **Immunization:** Mission Indradhanush.
- **Nutrition:** POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- **Goal:** Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

- **Ayushman Bharat:** Umbrella programme for Universal Health Coverage.
- **AB-PMJAY:** Health assurance scheme for eligible vulnerable families.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandir:** Comprehensive primary healthcare centres (formerly Health and Wellness Centres).
- **ABDM:** Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
- **ABHA:** Ayushman Bharat Health Account.
- **PMBJP:** Provides affordable generic medicines.
- **National Health Mission:** Strengthens public healthcare delivery.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Ayushman Bharat comprises both AB-PMJAY and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.
2. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create a nationwide digital health ecosystem.
3. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana provides affordable generic medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

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