



Monthly PIB Summary

April 2026

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1. NEAR REAL-TIME DATA COLLECTION FOR ANGANWADI SERVICES FACILITATED THROUGH 'POSHAN TRACKER' DIGITAL APPLICATION



- Poshan Tracker enables **real-time monitoring of nutrition services** under Anganwadi centres.
- Tracks beneficiaries such as **pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children**.
- Enhances **data-driven decision-making and service delivery efficiency**.
- Supports implementation of **nutrition schemes under POSHAN Abhiyaan**.
- Reduces data delays and improves **transparency and accountability**.
- Facilitates **targeted interventions to combat malnutrition**.
- Reflects governance focus on **digital health, nutrition security, and welfare delivery**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Poshan Tracker

- Poshan Tracker is a mobile-based application.
- Used by Anganwadi workers for **real-time data entry and monitoring**.

Anganwadi Services

- Part of **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** scheme.
- Provides **nutrition, health, and early childhood care services**.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- National Nutrition Mission aimed at **reducing stunting, undernutrition, anemia, and low birth weight**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Real-Time Data:** Near real-time monitoring of beneficiaries.
- **Digital Governance:** Use of mobile applications for service tracking.
- **Target Groups:** Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children.
- **Transparency:** Reduces delays and improves accountability.
- **Nutrition Focus:** Strengthens efforts to combat malnutrition.
- **Policy Support:** Aids implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- **Way Forward:** Improve digital literacy, ensure data accuracy, and expand coverage.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Poshan Tracker:** Digital monitoring tool for Anganwadi services.
- **ICDS:** Integrated Child Development Services scheme.
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** National Nutrition Mission.
- **Beneficiaries:** Women and children.
- **Objective:** Reduce malnutrition indicators.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Poshan Tracker is used for real-time monitoring of Anganwadi services.
2. ICDS provides nutrition and early childhood care services.
3. POSHAN Abhiyaan focuses only on adult nutrition.

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. EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EMRS IN TRIBAL-DOMINATED AREAS



- EMRS aims to provide **quality residential education to tribal students** from Class VI to XII.
- Focus on expanding schools in **tribal-dominated and remote regions**.
- Ensures **equitable access, reducing regional and social disparities in education**.
- Integrates **modern curriculum with tribal culture and values**.
- Improves **literacy, skill development, and socio-economic mobility** of tribal communities.
- Supports inclusive growth through **targeted educational interventions**.
- Reflects governance focus on **social justice, education, and tribal empowerment**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- Eklavya Model Residential Schools launched in 1997–98.
- Provides **free residential education** to ST students.

Institutional Framework

- Implemented by the National Education Society for Tribal Students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Policy Objective

- Establish EMRS in every block with **50% or more ST population and at least 20,000 tribal population**.
- Aims to bring tribal education at par with **Navodaya Vidyalayas**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Educational Inclusion:** Focus on tribal students' access to quality education.
- **Residential Model:** Free schooling with boarding facilities.
- **Equity Focus:** Reduces regional and social disparities.
- **Cultural Integration:** Incorporates tribal traditions and values.
- **Institutional Support:** Managed by NESTS.
- **Human Development:** Enhances literacy and employability.
- **Way Forward:** Improve infrastructure, teacher availability, and digital integration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **EMRS:** Residential schools for Scheduled Tribe students.

- **Launched:** 1997–98.
- **Implementing Body:** National Education Society for Tribal Students.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Coverage Criteria:** Blocks with high ST population.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. EMRS provides free residential education to Scheduled Tribe students.
2. It is implemented by the National Education Society for Tribal Students.
3. EMRS is only for urban students.

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)

3. GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES EXTENSION OF ROSCTL SCHEME FOR APPAREL AND MADE-UPS EXPORTS



- RoSCTL provides **rebates of embedded state and central taxes/levies** not refunded through other mechanisms.
- The extension ensures **continued support to textile exporters**, especially MSMEs.
- Aims to enhance **global competitiveness of Indian apparel and made-ups sector**.
- Helps mitigate **cost disadvantages due to taxes on inputs and logistics**.
- Boosts **employment generation in the labour-intensive textile sector**.
- Supports India's **export growth and foreign exchange earnings**.
- Reflects governance focus on **export promotion and manufacturing competitiveness**.

- Significant role in **MSME sector and rural employment**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scheme Extension:** Continued RoSCTL support for exporters.
- **Tax Rebate:** Refund of embedded taxes and levies.
- **Sector Focus:** Apparel and made-ups exports.
- **Competitiveness:** Reduces cost burden on exporters.
- **Employment Impact:** Supports labour-intensive textile industry.
- **Export Growth:** Enhances global market share.
- **Way Forward:** Expand coverage, improve logistics, and strengthen value chains.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

RoSCTL Scheme

- Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies introduced in 2019.
- Covers **apparel (garments) and made-ups (home textiles like bed linen, curtains)**.

Objective

- Refund taxes such as **state VAT on fuel, electricity duty, and other levies** not covered under GST.
- Ensure compliance with **WTO norms**.

Textile Sector Importance

- Major contributor to **employment, exports, and industrial output**.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **RoSCTL:** Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies.
- **Launched:** 2019.
- **Sector:** Apparel and made-ups.
- **Objective:** Refund embedded taxes not covered under GST.
- **Compliance:** WTO-compatible export support scheme.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. RoSCTL provides rebates on embedded taxes and levies on exports.

2. It covers apparel and the made-up sector.
3. RoSCTL replaces GST refunds entirely.

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. INDIA SDG DASHBOARD LAUNCHED AS CENTRALIZED PLATFORM FOR MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- The India SDG Dashboard provides a **unified digital platform for tracking SDG progress** across states and sectors.
- Enables **real-time data access, visualization, and analysis** for policymakers and stakeholders.
- Strengthens **evidence-based decision-making and governance**.

- Facilitates monitoring of India's progress towards **Agenda 2030 targets**.
- Promotes **transparency, accountability, and inter-state comparison**.
- Enhances coordination between **central ministries, states, and international agencies**.
- Reflects governance focus on **data-driven development and sustainable policy planning**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Adopted in 2015 by the United Nations as part of **Agenda 2030**.
- Comprising **17 goals and 169 targets** covering social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

India's SDG Monitoring Framework

- Led by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Complemented by tools like **SDG India Index (NITI Aayog)**.

Role of Data Platforms

- Centralized dashboards enable **real-time monitoring, evaluation, and policy corrections**.
- Facilitate **global reporting and benchmarking**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Centralized Platform:** India SDG Dashboard for monitoring progress.
- **Data Integration:** Combines data across sectors and regions.
- **Real-Time Access:** Enables timely decision-making.
- **Transparency:** Promotes accountability and public access.
- **Global Alignment:** Tracks progress towards SDG targets.
- **Institutional Collaboration:** Partnership with UN agencies.
- **Way Forward:** Improve data quality, expand indicators, and strengthen state-level capacity.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SDGs:** 17 goals under UN Agenda 2030.
- **India SDG Dashboard:** Centralized monitoring platform.
- **MoSPI:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **UN Role:** United Nations Resident Coordinator Office.
- **Complementary Tool:** SDG India Index by NITI Aayog.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Sustainable Development Goals were adopted under Agenda 2030.
2. India SDG Dashboard provides real-time monitoring of SDG indicators.

3. SDG India Index is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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)

5. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



- India is enhancing **social protection mechanisms** for the elderly population.
- Focus on **income security, healthcare, and welfare services**.
- Schemes include pensions, insurance, and healthcare initiatives for senior citizens.
- Addresses challenges of **ageing population, dependency ratio, and vulnerability**.
- Promotes **dignity, independence, and well-being of elderly citizens**.
- Aligns with constitutional principles of **social justice and welfare state**.

- Reflects governance focus on **inclusive growth and demographic transition management**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Demographic Trend

- India is witnessing a **rising elderly population (60+ years)**.
- Increasing **life expectancy and ageing society challenges**.

Key Schemes

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme:** Provides pension to elderly below poverty line.
- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana:** Pension scheme for senior citizens.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** Health coverage including elderly.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007:** Legal protection and maintenance rights.

Policy Objective

- Ensure **financial security, healthcare access, and social inclusion** for elderly citizens.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Income Security:** Pension schemes like IGNOAPS and PMVVY.
- **Healthcare Access:** Coverage under Ayushman Bharat.
- **Legal Protection:** Maintenance and Welfare Act, 2007.

- **Demographic Challenge:** Rising ageing population.
- **Social Inclusion:** Promoting dignity and independence.
- **Governance Focus:** Welfare state and social justice.
- **Way Forward:** Increase pension coverage, improve healthcare infrastructure, and strengthen elderly care services.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Senior Citizen:** Person aged 60 years and above.
- **IGNOAPS:** Pension for BPL elderly.
- **PMVVY:** Pension scheme for senior citizens.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** Health insurance scheme.
- **Law:** Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. IGNOAPS provides pension to elderly persons below poverty line.
2. PMVVY is a pension scheme for senior citizens.
3. Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 deals with environmental protection.

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)

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1. INDIA'S MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM



- The system integrates **real-time data and forecasting** for multiple hazards such as cyclones, floods, heatwaves, and earthquakes.
- Supports **decision-making by authorities** for timely evacuation and disaster response.
- Enhances coordination among agencies like **IMD, NDMA, and disaster management authorities**.
- Provides **location-specific alerts and advisories** to minimize loss of life and property.
- Aligns with global frameworks like the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.
- Strengthens India's capacity for **climate resilience and disaster risk governance**.
- Reflects governance focus on **technology-driven disaster management and public safety**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Multi-Hazard Early Warning System

- Covers multiple natural hazards instead of a single hazard approach.
- Uses **data integration, modeling, and communication systems**.

Institutional Framework

- I. Key agencies:
 - A. India Meteorological Department
 - B. National Disaster Management Authority
 - C. Central and State Disaster Management Authorities

Global Context

- Linked to **Sendai Framework (2015–2030)** for disaster risk reduction.
- Emphasizes **early warning systems and resilience building**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Integrated System:** Covers cyclones, floods, heatwaves, earthquakes.
- **Real-Time Data:** Uses advanced forecasting and monitoring tools.
- **Decision Support:** Assists authorities in a timely response.
- **Public Safety:** Reduces loss of life and property.
- **Institutional Coordination:** IMD, NDMA, and others involved.
- **Global Alignment:** Linked with Sendai Framework goals.

- **Way Forward:** Improve last-mile connectivity, community awareness, and technology integration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MH-EW DSS:** Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System.
- **IMD:** India Meteorological Department.
- **NDMA:** National Disaster Management Authority.
- **Sendai Framework:** Global DRR framework (2015–2030).
- **Objective:** Early warning and disaster risk reduction.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems address multiple types of disasters.
2. IMD plays a role in weather-related forecasting in India.
3. Sendai Framework focuses on trade liberalization.

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.NMDC SCRIPTS HISTORY WITH ITS HIGHEST EVER 53 MT PRODUCTION OUTPUT

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NMDC

- NMDC recorded **53 MT iron ore production**, the highest in its history.
- The milestone strengthens India's **raw material base for the steel industry**.
- Supports infrastructure growth and **industrial expansion**.
- Enhances India's position as a **major iron ore producer globally**.
- Contributes to **economic growth, employment, and export potential**.
- Aligns with national goals like **self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat)** in core sectors.
- Reflects governance focus on **resource efficiency, mining reforms, and industrial development**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

NMDC Limited

- NMDC Limited is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel.
- India's **largest iron ore producer**.

Iron Ore Importance

- Key raw material for **steel production**.
- Steel is critical for **infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing sectors**.

Mining Sector in India

- Governed by laws like the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.
- Recent reforms aim to **increase efficiency, transparency, and private participation**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Record Production:** 53 MT iron ore output.
- **Industrial Support:** Strengthens steel and infrastructure sectors.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts growth and employment.
- **Global Position:** Enhances India's mining leadership.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Resource Utilisation:** Efficient extraction and supply.
- **Way Forward:** Sustainable mining, technological upgrades, and environmental safeguards.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NMDC:** India's largest iron ore producer.
- **Status:** Navratna PSU under Ministry of Steel.
- **Output:** 53 MT (record production).
- **Law:** Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- **Use:** Iron ore for steel production.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. NMDC Limited is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel.
2. Iron ore is a key raw material for steel production.
3. NMDC is primarily involved in petroleum refining.

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)

3.INTER-MINISTERIAL BRIEFING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST ASIA

- Reflects governance focus on **national security, economic resilience, and foreign policy coordination.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India–West Asia Relations

- I. West Asia is crucial for India due to:
 - A. **Energy imports (oil and gas)**
 - B. **Large Indian diaspora**
 - C. **Trade and remittances**

Key Strategic Concerns

- **Energy Security:** Dependence on crude oil imports.
- **Sea Routes:** Strategic chokepoints like **Strait of Hormuz.**
- **Diaspora:** Safety of millions of Indians in the region.

Institutional Coordination

- I. Involves multiple ministries including:
 - A. External Affairs
 - B. Petroleum and Natural Gas
 - C. Commerce and Industry

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** Joint review of geopolitical developments.
- **Energy Focus:** Monitoring oil supply and price volatility.
- **Diaspora Safety:** Ensuring security of Indian nationals.
- **Trade & Logistics:** Assessing supply chain disruptions.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Balanced foreign policy approach.



- The briefing reviewed implications of **geopolitical tensions in West Asia** on key sectors.
- Focus areas included **energy security, trade routes, diaspora safety, and supply chains.**
- Ministries coordinated to ensure **preparedness for contingencies and disruptions.**
- Emphasis on safeguarding **Indian nationals and assets in the region.**
- Highlighted risks of **oil price volatility and logistics disruptions.**
- Reinforces India’s approach of **strategic autonomy and balanced diplomacy.**

- **Risk Management:** Preparedness for contingencies.
- **Way Forward:** Diversify energy sources, strengthen diplomacy, and enhance strategic reserves.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **West Asia:** Key region for India's energy imports.
- **Strait of Hormuz:** Major oil transit chokepoint.
- **Energy Dependence:** India imports ~85% of crude oil.
- **Diaspora:** Large Indian population in Gulf countries.
- **Lead Ministry:** Ministry of External Affairs.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. West Asia is a major source of India's crude oil imports.
2. The Strait of Hormuz is an important route for global oil transportation.
3. India is completely independent of West Asia for energy needs.

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)

4.GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA CONCLUDES FIELD SEASON 2025–26 WITH MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN MINERAL EXPLORATION AND CRITICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT



- GSI carried out extensive **geological mapping, mineral exploration, and resource assessment**.
- Focus on identifying **critical and strategic minerals** like lithium, rare earth elements, and base metals.
- Enhances India's **resource security and reduces import dependence**.
- Supports sectors like **energy transition, electronics, and defence manufacturing**.
- Provides scientific inputs for **policy planning and sustainable mining**.
- Aligns with initiatives for **self-reliance in critical minerals (Atmanirbhar Bharat)**.
- Reflects governance focus on **resource management, economic growth, and strategic autonomy**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Geological Survey of India (GSI)

- Geological Survey of India is the **premier geoscientific organisation** established in 1851.
- Responsible for **geological mapping, mineral exploration, and geoscientific studies**.

Critical Minerals

- Essential for **modern technologies and renewable energy systems** (e.g., lithium for batteries).
- High import dependence makes them **strategically important**.

Field Season

- Annual operational cycle during which GSI conducts **field-based surveys and exploration activities**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Exploration Achievements:** Extensive mineral surveys completed.
- **Critical Minerals Focus:** Lithium, rare earths, and strategic resources.
- **Resource Security:** Reduces dependence on imports.
- **Economic Impact:** Supports industry and infrastructure sectors.
- **Scientific Input:** Aids policy and planning.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthens Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- **Way Forward:** Accelerate exploration, promote private participation, and ensure sustainable mining.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **GSI:** Established in 1851, premier geoscientific body.
- **Function:** Geological mapping and mineral exploration.
- **Critical Minerals:** Lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements.
- **Use:** Energy transition, electronics, defence.
- **Objective:** Resource security and self-reliance.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Geological Survey of India is responsible for mineral exploration and geological mapping.
2. Critical minerals like lithium are important for renewable energy technologies.
3. India is fully self-sufficient in all critical minerals.

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)

5. GOVERNMENT GRANTS FULL CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTION ON CRITICAL PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS AMID WEST ASIA CONFLICT



- The exemption aims to **stabilize domestic supply and control price rise** of essential petrochemical inputs.
- Addresses disruptions caused by **conflict in West Asia affecting global supply chains**.
- Supports industries dependent on petrochemicals such as **plastics, textiles, and pharmaceuticals**.
- Reduces **input costs and inflationary pressures** in manufacturing sectors.
- Ensures continuity in **industrial production and economic activity**.
- Reflects proactive governance to **shield the economy from external shocks**.
- Aligns with broader goals of **economic resilience and supply chain security**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Petrochemical Sector

- Petrochemicals are derived from **crude oil and natural gas**.
- Used in products like **plastics, synthetic fibers, chemicals, and fertilizers**.

India's Import Dependence

- India relies significantly on imports for **crude oil and petrochemical feedstock**.
- West Asia is a key supplier.

Geopolitical Risks

- Conflicts in the region can lead to **price volatility, supply disruptions, and shipping challenges**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Measure:** Full customs duty exemption on critical petrochemicals.
- **Objective:** Stabilize prices and ensure supply continuity.
- **Sector Impact:** Benefits plastics, textiles, pharma industries.
- **Inflation Control:** Reduces cost pressures.
- **Economic Stability:** Maintains industrial output.
- **Strategic Response:** Mitigates geopolitical risks.
- **Way Forward:** Diversify import sources, enhance domestic production, and build strategic reserves.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Petrochemicals:** Derived from crude oil and natural gas.

- **Key Use:** Plastics, textiles, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals.
- **Import Source:** West Asia.
- **Policy Tool:** Customs duty exemption to control prices.
- **Concern:** Supply chain disruption due to geopolitical tensions.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Petrochemicals are derived from crude oil and natural gas.
2. Customs duty exemption can help reduce input costs for industries.
3. India is completely independent of imports for petrochemical feedstock.

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)

1. INDIAN NAVY'S LATEST STEALTH FRIGATE 'INS TARAGIRI' COMMISSIONED IN VISAKHAPATNAM



- INS Taragiri is a **stealth guided-missile frigate** equipped with advanced weapons and sensors.
- Strengthens India's **blue-water naval capabilities and maritime security**.
- Enhances operational readiness in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Part of indigenous warship-building efforts under **Make in India**.
- Improves capacity for **anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare**.
- Boosts India's deterrence and **strategic presence in global sea lanes**.
- Reflects governance focus on **defence modernization and self-reliance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Taragiri

- Stealth frigate under **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)**.
- Equipped with **state-of-the-art radar, missile systems, and combat management systems**.

Project 17A

- Follow-on to **Project 17 (Shivalik-class)** frigates.
- Focus on **advanced stealth features and improved combat capabilities**.

Strategic Importance

- The Indian Ocean Region is critical for **trade routes and energy security**.
- Naval strength ensures **sea lane security and regional stability**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Stealth Capability:** Reduced radar signature and advanced design.
- **Multi-Role Combat:** Anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine warfare.
- **Indigenisation:** Built under Make in India initiative.
- **Strategic Reach:** Enhances presence in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Defence Modernisation:** Strengthens naval fleet.
- **Deterrence:** Improves maritime security and response capability.
- **Way Forward:** Continue indigenous shipbuilding and integrate advanced technologies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Taragiri:** Stealth guided-missile frigate.
- **Project:** 17A (Nilgiri-class).
- **Navy:** Indian Navy.
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam.
- **Role:** Multi-role naval warfare.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Taragiri is a stealth guided-missile frigate.
2. It is part of Project 17A.
3. It is designed only for anti-submarine warfare.

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)

2.CAQM'S ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE REVIEWS INSPECTION OUTCOMES, STRENGTHENS COMPLIANCE MECHANISMS ACROSS NCR



- CAQM reviewed **ground-level inspections and enforcement measures** to control air pollution in NCR.
- Focus on sectors like **construction, industries, vehicular emissions, and waste burning**.
- Strengthens **compliance monitoring and inter-agency coordination**.
- Ensures implementation of measures under **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**.
- Aims to reduce **PM2.5 and PM10 pollution levels**.
- Enhances **accountability of state agencies and local bodies**.
- Reflects governance focus on **environmental regulation, public health, and urban sustainability**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- Commission for Air Quality Management established in 2021.
- Responsible for **air quality management in NCR and adjoining areas**.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- Framework for **graded measures based on pollution levels**.
- Includes restrictions on **construction, traffic, and industrial activities**.

Air Pollution in NCR

- I. Major sources:
 - A. Vehicular emissions
 - B. Construction dust
 - C. Stubble burning
 - D. Industrial pollution

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inspection Review:** Assessment of enforcement actions.
- **Sector Focus:** Construction, transport, industry, waste burning.
- **Compliance Mechanism:** Strengthened monitoring and penalties.
- **GRAP Implementation:** Ensures timely action based on pollution levels.
- **Inter-Agency Coordination:** Collaboration across states and authorities.

- **Public Health Impact:** Reduces pollution-related health risks.
- **Way Forward:** Enhance technology use, strict enforcement, and regional cooperation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CAQM:** Statutory body for air quality management in NCR.
- **Established:** 2021.
- **GRAP:** Graded Response Action Plan.
- **Pollutants:** PM2.5, PM10.
- **Region:** National Capital Region.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. CAQM is responsible for air quality management in NCR.
2. GRAP provides graded measures based on pollution levels.
3. GRAP is implemented only during the monsoon season.

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)

3.INDIA'S SEAFOOD EXPORTS: FROM GROWTH TO GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS



- India's seafood exports have expanded significantly, driven by **shrimp production and aquaculture growth**.
- The sector contributes to **foreign exchange earnings and coastal livelihoods**.
- Focus on **value addition, quality standards, and traceability** to meet global norms.
- Diversification into new markets beyond traditional destinations like the US and EU.
- Strengthens India's position as a **leading global seafood exporter**.
- Faces challenges like **disease outbreaks, sustainability concerns, and trade barriers**.
- Reflects governance focus on **blue economy, export promotion, and rural development**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Seafood Sector in India

- Includes **marine capture fisheries and aquaculture**.
- India is among the **top exporters of shrimp globally**.

Institutional Framework

- Marine Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce.
- Promotes **exports, quality control, and market access**.

Blue Economy

- Sustainable use of **ocean resources for economic growth and livelihoods**.
- Linked to fisheries, tourism, shipping, and marine biotechnology.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Export Growth:** Rising seafood exports, especially shrimp.
- **Global Position:** India as a leading exporter.
- **Value Addition:** Focus on processed and high-value products.
- **Market Diversification:** Expansion to new regions.
- **Livelihood Impact:** Supports coastal communities.
- **Challenges:** Disease, sustainability, trade barriers.
- **Way Forward:** Improve infrastructure, ensure sustainability, and enhance certification systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MPEDA:** Marine Products Export Development Authority.
- **Major Export:** Shrimp.
- **Sector:** Fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Concept:** Blue Economy.
- **Markets:** US, EU, and emerging destinations.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. MPEDA is responsible for promoting seafood exports from India.
2. Shrimp is a major component of India's seafood exports.
3. Blue Economy focuses only on marine tourism.

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)

4. JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2026: RATIONALIZING COMPLIANCE AND DECRIMINALIZING MINOR OFFENCES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR



- The Bill seeks to **replace criminal penalties with civil penalties** for minor procedural violations in health-related laws.
- Aims to reduce **regulatory burden and litigation** for healthcare providers and businesses.
- Promotes **ease of doing business and trust-based governance**.
- Ensures that serious offences affecting **public health and safety remain penalized**.
- Encourages **voluntary compliance and transparency**.
- Aligns with broader reforms to **simplify legal frameworks and reduce over-criminalization**.
- Reflects governance focus on **regulatory reform, healthcare sector growth, and efficient administration**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Jan Vishwas Initiative

- Focus on **decriminalization of minor offences across sectors**.
- Aims to improve **business environment and reduce compliance complexity**.

Decriminalization Concept

- Shifts from **criminal prosecution (imprisonment) to monetary penalties or administrative actions**.
- Ensures proportionality in punishment.

Health Sector Regulation

- I. Governed by multiple laws relating to:
 - A. Drugs and cosmetics
 - B. Clinical establishments
 - C. Public health standards

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Decriminalization:** Minor offences converted to civil penalties.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Reduces compliance burden.
- **Regulatory Reform:** Simplifies legal procedures.
- **Public Health Safeguard:** Serious violations remain penalized.
- **Trust-Based Governance:** Encourages voluntary compliance.
- **Legal Efficiency:** Reduces litigation and court burden.
- **Way Forward:** Ensure clarity in implementation, maintain strict

standards for critical violations, and build awareness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Jan Vishwas Bill:** Focus on decriminalizing minor offences.
- **Approach:** Criminal → Civil penalties.
- **Sector:** Health (current amendment focus).
- **Objective:** Ease of doing business.
- **Principle:** Proportionality in punishment.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Jan Vishwas Bill aims to decriminalize minor offences.
2. It replaces criminal penalties with civil penalties for certain violations.
3. It removes penalties for all offences in the health sector.

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. SWACHHATA PAKHWADA 2026: DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS REINFORCES CLEANLINESS AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY



- Swachhata Pakhwada is a **fortnight-long cleanliness drive** across government departments.
- The initiative promotes **sanitation, hygiene, and behavioral change in workplaces**.
- Encourages **collective responsibility and citizen participation**.
- Aligns with the objectives of **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- Improves **institutional efficiency and work environment**.
- Reinforces the culture of **public service accountability and discipline**.
- Reflects governance focus on **cleanliness, public health, and civic responsibility**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Swachhata Pakhwada

- Observed by various ministries in a **rotational calendar format**.

- Focuses on **cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, and best practices**.

Swachh Bharat Mission

- Nationwide initiative launched in 2014 for **sanitation and cleanliness**.
- Aims to eliminate **open defecation and improve solid waste management**.

Department of Legal Affairs

- The Department of Legal Affairs functions under the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- Deals with **legal advice, litigation, and legislative drafting**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cleanliness Drive:** Swachhata Pakhwada observed actively.
- **Participation:** Officers and staff engagement.
- **Behavioral Change:** Promotes hygiene practices.
- **Policy Alignment:** Linked with Swachh Bharat Mission.
- **Workplace Impact:** Improves office environment.
- **Civic Responsibility:** Encourages collective action.
- **Way Forward:** Institutionalize best practices and sustain cleanliness initiatives.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Swachhata Pakhwada:** Fortnight cleanliness campaign.
- **Mission:** Swachh Bharat Mission (2014).
- **Organiser:** Department of Legal Affairs.
- **Focus:** Hygiene, sanitation, awareness.
- **Approach:** Behavioral change and participation.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Swachhata Pakhwada is a fortnight-long cleanliness campaign.
2. It is linked to the Swachh Bharat Mission.
3. It is observed only by private sector organizations.

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)

1. INDIA'S RESILIENT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN AGRICULTURE



- India is promoting **climate-resilient agriculture** to ensure stable production amid extreme weather events.
- Focus on **diversification, sustainable practices, and technological interventions**.
- Enhances **food security, farmer incomes, and risk mitigation**.
- Encourages adoption of **drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation, and soil health management**.
- Integrates schemes supporting **natural farming, crop insurance, and digital agriculture**.
- Strengthens resilience against **climate variability and environmental degradation**.
- Reflects governance focus on **sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, and climate adaptation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Climate Change and Agriculture

- Agriculture is highly vulnerable to **temperature rise, erratic rainfall, and extreme events**.
- Impacts include **crop failure, reduced productivity, and income instability**.

Resilient Production Systems

- I. Involve **adaptive practices and technologies** to sustain output under stress conditions.
- II. Include:
 - A. Crop diversification
 - B. Integrated farming systems
 - C. Water-use efficiency

Policy Support

- I. Linked to initiatives such as:
 - A. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
 - B. **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**
 - C. Promotion of **natural and organic farming**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Climate Resilience:** Focus on adapting to climate variability.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Soil health, water conservation, crop diversification.
- **Technology Use:** Digital agriculture and improved seeds.

- **Risk Mitigation:** Crop insurance and advisory systems.
- **Food Security:** Ensures stable production.
- **Farmer Welfare:** Improves income stability.
- **Way Forward:** Scale climate-smart practices, invest in research, and strengthen extension services.

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PMFBY:** Crop insurance scheme.
- **NMSA:** National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture.
- **Climate-Resilient Crops:** Drought/heat tolerant varieties.
- **Concept:** Sustainable and adaptive agriculture.
- **Objective:** Food security and farmer resilience.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Climate-resilient agriculture includes crop diversification and water-use efficiency.
2. PMFBY provides insurance coverage to farmers against crop loss.
3. Resilient agricultural systems eliminate all climate risks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2.ATL SARTHI & MENTOR INDIA ACADEMY LAUNCHED IN TELANGANA TO POWER SCHOOL-TO-STARTUP INNOVATION



- ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy aim to **enhance mentorship and capacity building** in school innovation labs.
- Targets strengthening **379 Atal Tinkering Labs** in Telangana.
- Focus on bridging the gap between **school education and startup ecosystem**.
- Provides **structured guidance, training, and mentorship networks**.
- Encourages **innovation, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving skills among students**.
- Supports India's vision of **innovation-driven economy and startup culture**.
- Reflects governance focus on **skill development, STEM education, and youth empowerment**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog.
- Promotes **innovation and entrepreneurship across India**.

Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)

- Set up in schools to foster **STEM learning, creativity, and innovation**.
- Provide tools like **3D printers, robotics kits, and IoT devices**.

Mentor India Initiative

- Connects students with **industry experts, professionals, and innovators**.
- Builds a **mentorship ecosystem for innovation support**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Launch:** ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy.
- **Coverage:** 379 ATLs in Telangana.
- **Mentorship:** Strengthened through structured programs.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** School-to-startup pipeline.
- **Skill Development:** Focus on STEM and entrepreneurship.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Encourages innovation culture.
- **Way Forward:** Expand to other states, enhance industry linkages, and scale mentorship networks.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **AIM:** Atal Innovation Mission.
- **ATL:** School-based innovation labs.
- **Mentor India:** Mentorship initiative under AIM.
- **Location:** Telangana.
- **Objective:** Promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Atal Innovation Mission is an initiative under NITI Aayog.
2. Atal Tinkering Labs are established to promote innovation among school students.
3. Mentor India initiative focuses only on higher education institutions.

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)

3. AI-DRIVEN TRANSFORMATION IN PHARMACEUTICALS: GOVERNMENT PUSH UNDER SĀDHANA SAPTAH 2026



- The webinar focused on leveraging **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to enhance drug discovery, clinical trials, and supply chain efficiency.
- It aligns with India's vision of becoming a **global pharmaceutical innovation hub**.
- AI adoption can reduce **time and cost of drug development**, improving healthcare accessibility.
- The initiative reflects the government's push towards **digital transformation in healthcare governance**.
- It strengthens **public-private collaboration** in emerging technologies.
- The move also supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by boosting domestic capabilities in pharma innovation.
- Ethical AI use, regulatory readiness, and data security remain critical considerations.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Artificial Intelligence in Pharmaceuticals

- I. AI refers to machine-based systems capable of **learning, reasoning, and decision-making**.
- II. In pharma, AI is used for:
 - A. **Drug discovery** (predicting molecular interactions)
 - B. **Clinical trials optimization**
 - C. **Personalized medicine**

Institutional Framework

- I. The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** operates under the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- II. Key initiatives:
 - A. **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals**
 - B. Promotion of **bulk drug parks**

Government Push for Digital Health

- Linked with initiatives like:
 - **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**
 - Expansion of **health-tech ecosystem in India**

Global Context

- Countries like the **USA and China** are heavily investing in **AI-based drug innovation**.
- India aims to position itself as a **cost-effective and innovation-driven pharma leader**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technological Integration:** AI tools to accelerate drug discovery and improve efficiency.
- **Institutional Mechanism:** Government-led initiatives promoting collaboration between industry and academia.
- **Economic Impact:** Reduction in R&D costs and faster market access for drugs.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens India's position as the "pharmacy of the world."
- **Healthcare Impact:** Enhances precision medicine and patient outcomes.
- **Challenges:** Data privacy concerns, lack of skilled workforce, regulatory gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Develop robust AI regulations, invest in skilling, and foster innovation ecosystems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Department of Pharmaceuticals:** Under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- **PLI Scheme:** Incentivizes domestic manufacturing in key sectors
- **AI Definition:** Machines simulating human intelligence processes
- **NDHM:** Aims to create a digital health ecosystem in India
- **Bulk Drug Parks:** Reduce dependency on imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

- **Key Benefit of AI in Pharma:** Reduces drug discovery timeline significantly
- **Term: Personalized Medicine** – Treatment tailored to individual genetic profile

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Artificial Intelligence can significantly reduce the time required for drug discovery.
2. The Department of Pharmaceuticals functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme aims to boost domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

4. CDS REVIEWS OPERATIONAL READINESS OF CHINAR CORPS IN JAMMU & KASHMIR



- The review underscores India's focus on **maintaining high operational preparedness** in sensitive border regions.
- The **Chinar Corps** plays a critical role in **counter-terrorism operations** in Jammu & Kashmir.
- It reflects the importance of **integrated defence leadership under the CDS structure**.

- Such assessments ensure **real-time readiness against evolving security threats**.
- The move strengthens **civil-military coordination and national security architecture**.
- It also highlights the emphasis on **troop morale, modernization, and strategic vigilance**.
- The visit aligns with India's broader goal of ensuring **internal security and border stability**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- The post of CDS was created in **2019** following recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee**.
- Acts as the **principal military advisor** to the Government of India.
- Facilitates **jointness among the three armed forces**.

Chinar Corps (XV Corps)

- The **Chinar Corps** is a formation of the Indian Army.
- Headquarters: Srinagar.
- Responsible for **counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir Valley**.
- Plays a key role in **maintaining internal security and border vigilance**.

Operational Readiness

- I. Refers to the ability of armed forces to **respond effectively to threats at short notice**.

- II. Includes:
 - A. Combat preparedness
 - B. Logistics and infrastructure
 - C. Intelligence coordination

Strategic Context: Jammu & Kashmir

- I. Region remains sensitive due to:
 - A. **Cross-border terrorism**
 - B. **Line of Control (LoC) tensions**
- II. Continuous monitoring is essential for **national security stability**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Leadership Oversight:** CDS directly assessed preparedness and operational efficiency.
- **Strategic Region:** Focus on Kashmir Valley, a high-security priority zone.
- **Operational Focus:** Counter-insurgency and anti-terror operations.
- **Force Integration:** Reinforces jointness and coordination among armed forces.
- **Troop Morale:** Interaction with soldiers boosts confidence and motivation.
- **Security Significance:** Ensures readiness against cross-border threats.
- **Way Forward:** Continued modernization, intelligence integration, and surveillance enhancement.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CDS Creation Year:** 2019
- **First CDS:** Bipin Rawat
- **Chinar Corps:** Also known as XV Corps
- **Headquarters:** Srinagar

- **LoC:** Line of Control – de facto border between India and Pakistan
- **Kargil Review Committee:** Recommended defence reforms post Kargil War
- **Operational Readiness:** Ability of forces to undertake missions effectively at short notice

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief of Defence Staff is the principal military advisor to the Government of India.
2. The Chinar Corps operates primarily in the northeastern region of India.
3. The post of CDS was created following the Kargil Review Committee recommendations.

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)

5. UNNAT KRISHI MAHOTSAV 2026: BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND FARMER OUTREACH



- The Mahotsav focuses on dissemination of **modern agricultural technologies and best practices**.
- It seeks to bridge the gap between **research institutions and farmers**.
- The initiative strengthens **extension services and capacity building in agriculture**.
- It contributes to improving **productivity, sustainability, and farmer income**.
- The event aligns with national priorities like **doubling farmers' income and climate-resilient agriculture**.
- It also promotes **agri-innovation, mechanization, and diversification**.
- Overall, it reflects a governance approach emphasizing **grassroots outreach and knowledge transfer**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Agricultural Extension System

- I. Refers to the system that **transfers knowledge and technologies** from research labs to farmers.
- II. Key role in:
 - A. Improving crop productivity
 - B. Promoting sustainable practices
 - C. Enhancing rural livelihoods

Institutional Framework

- I. Agriculture is a **State Subject** under the Constitution (State List).
- II. However, the Union Government supports through:
 - A. **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**
 - B. Research via institutions like Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Government Initiatives in Agriculture

- **PM-KISAN** for income support
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)** for irrigation
- **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**

Importance of Agri-Exhibitions

- Facilitate **technology demonstration**
- Encourage **farmer-scientist interaction**
- Promote **market linkages and innovation adoption**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Capacity Building:** Training sessions for farmers on modern techniques.
- **Technological Outreach:** Demonstration of advanced tools, seeds, and practices.
- **Institutional Participation:** Involvement of scientists, experts, and agri-organizations.
- **Economic Impact:** Enhances productivity and farmer income potential.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Promotes climate-resilient and resource-efficient farming.
- **Challenges:** Limited awareness, digital divide, and adoption barriers among small farmers.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen extension networks, promote local language training, and ensure last-mile delivery.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Raisen:** District in Madhya Pradesh
- **ICAR:** Apex body for agricultural research in India
- **Agriculture Subject:** Falls under State List (Seventh Schedule)
- **PM-KISAN:** Direct income support scheme for farmers
- **PMKSY:** Focus on "Har Khet Ko Pani"
- **NMSA:** Promotes climate-resilient agriculture
- **Extension Services:** Link between lab research and field application

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Agriculture is listed under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
2. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is responsible for agricultural research in India.
3. Agricultural exhibitions primarily aim at regulating agricultural markets.

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: (a)

1. SAIL STRENGTHENS NAVAL SELF-RELIANCE WITH INDIGENOUS STEEL FOR INS TARAGIRI



- SAIL's supply of special steel for INS Taragiri reflects growing **domestic capability in critical defence materials**.
- It reduces dependence on **foreign imports for strategic naval assets**.
- The move strengthens India's **defence industrial base and supply chain resilience**.
- It aligns with policies promoting **indigenisation in defence production**.
- Indigenous steel enhances **cost efficiency, security, and technological control**.
- It also boosts collaboration between **public sector enterprises and defence forces**.
- Overall, it contributes to India's goal of becoming a **global defence manufacturing hub**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Taragiri

- I. INS Taragiri is part of the **Project 17A stealth frigates** of the Indian Navy.
- II. Built using advanced **stealth technology for reduced radar signature**.
- III. Designed for:
 - A. Anti-submarine warfare
 - B. Anti-air warfare
 - C. Surface combat operations

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

- A Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking under the **Ministry of Steel**.
- Plays a key role in supplying **special-grade steel for defence and infrastructure sectors**.

Defence Indigenisation

- I. Focus on reducing import dependence through:
 - A. **Make in India** initiative
 - B. **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)**
- II. Encourages domestic manufacturing of:
 - A. Warships
 - B. Aircraft
 - C. Critical materials like special steel

Strategic Importance of Special Steel

- I. Used in defence due to:
 - A. High strength and durability

- B. Resistance to extreme conditions
- C. Enhanced survivability of platforms

- **Special Steel:** High-performance steel used in defence applications
- **Stealth Technology:** Reduces detectability by radar and sensors

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indigenisation Push:** Use of domestically produced steel in naval platforms.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Reduces reliance on foreign suppliers for critical materials.
- **Technological Capability:** Demonstrates India's progress in advanced metallurgy.
- **Defence Manufacturing:** Strengthens domestic defence production ecosystem.
- **Economic Impact:** Supports PSU growth and job creation.
- **Security Advantage:** Ensures supply chain reliability during conflicts.
- **Way Forward:** Expand indigenous capabilities in high-end materials and defence technologies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SAIL:** Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Steel
- **Project 17A:** Advanced stealth frigate programme
- **INS Taragiri:** Third ship of Project 17A class
- **Make in India:** Initiative to boost domestic manufacturing
- **DAP:** Governs defence procurement in India

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Taragiri is part of the Project 17A stealth frigate programme.
2. Steel Authority of India Limited functions under the Ministry of Defence.
3. Defence indigenisation aims to reduce dependence on imports of military equipment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

2. BHARAT TRIBES FEST 2026 CONCLUDES: CELEBRATING TRIBAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



- The festival served as a platform to showcase **tribal art, handicrafts, and traditional products**.
- It boosted **market access and income opportunities for tribal communities**.
- The initiative strengthens **inclusive growth and socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribes**.
- It aligns with government efforts to promote **“Vocal for Local” and tribal self-reliance**.
- Recognition of artisans enhances **motivation and preservation of indigenous knowledge systems**.
- The fest also facilitates **direct buyer-seller interaction**, reducing intermediaries.
- Overall, it contributes to **cultural preservation alongside economic empowerment**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

TRIFED

- I. TRIFED functions under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- II. Established in **1987** to support **tribal livelihoods through marketing of products**.
- III. Implements initiatives like:
 - A. **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras**
 - B. **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**

Tribal Economy in India

- I. Tribal communities depend on:
 - A. **Forest produce**
 - B. Handicrafts and handlooms
- II. Challenges include:
 - A. Limited market access
 - B. Exploitation by middlemen

Government Initiatives

- **Van Dhan Yojana:** Value addition to forest produce
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** Education for tribal students
- **Digital platforms for tribal products** (e-commerce integration)

Cultural Significance

- I. Tribal art reflects:
 - A. **Local traditions and identity**
 - B. Sustainable and eco-friendly practices

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Economic Empowerment:** Direct income generation for tribal artisans.
- **Institutional Mechanism:** TRIFED's role in marketing and promotion.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Promotion of traditional art forms and crafts.
- **Market Linkages:** Direct interface between artisans and consumers.
- **Inclusive Development:** Focus on upliftment of Scheduled Tribes.
- **Challenges:** Limited scalability, logistics issues, and digital divide.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen e-commerce integration, branding, and global outreach.

1. TRIFED operates under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. Minor Forest Produce includes timber-based forest products.
3. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras aim to promote value addition to forest produce.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

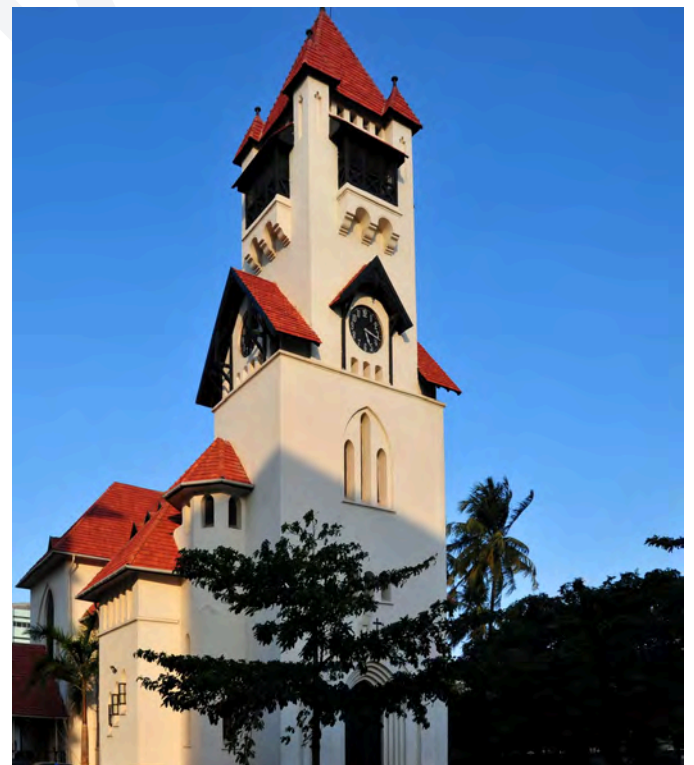
PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **TRIFED:** Established in 1987 under Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras:** Promote value addition to Minor Forest Produce
- **MSP for MFP:** Ensures fair price to tribal gatherers
- **Scheduled Tribes:** Recognized under Article 342 of the Constitution
- **EMRS:** Residential schools for tribal students
- **Minor Forest Produce (MFP):** Non-timber forest products like honey, bamboo, lac
- **Vocal for Local:** Promotes indigenous products

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

3.INS TRIKAND'S PORT CALL AT DAR-ES-SALAAM: STRENGTHENING INDIA-TANZANIA MARITIME TIES



- The port call reflects India's growing engagement in the **Western Indian Ocean Region (WIOR)**.
- It strengthens **defence diplomacy and naval cooperation** with African nations.
- Such visits promote **interoperability and mutual understanding between navies**.
- The move aligns with India's vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.
- It enhances India's role as a **net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The engagement also supports **trade security and maritime stability**.
- Overall, it deepens India–Africa relations with a focus on **strategic and economic cooperation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Trikand

- I. INS Trikand is a **Talwar-class stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy.
- II. Equipped with advanced:
 - A. Surface-to-air missiles
 - B. Anti-submarine warfare systems
- III. Plays a key role in **blue-water naval operations**.

India–Tanzania Relations

- I. Tanzania is a key partner in **East Africa**.
- II. Cooperation areas:
 - A. Maritime security
 - B. Trade and capacity building

- III. Strategic due to proximity to **major sea lanes in the Indian Ocean**.

SAGAR Doctrine

- I. India's maritime vision: **Security and Growth for All in the Region**.
- II. Focuses on:
 - A. Regional cooperation
 - B. Maritime safety
 - C. Sustainable development

Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- I. Critical for:
 - A. **Global trade routes (sea lanes of communication)**
 - B. Energy transportation
- II. Increasing geopolitical importance due to **major power competition**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Defence Diplomacy:** Strengthens bilateral naval relations with Tanzania.
- **Strategic Presence:** Reinforces India's role in the Western Indian Ocean.
- **Operational Cooperation:** Enhances interoperability through joint exercises.
- **Economic Significance:** Secures vital sea lanes and trade routes.
- **Geopolitical Importance:** Counters external influence in the IOR.
- **Soft Power:** Goodwill visits promote cultural and diplomatic ties.
- **Way Forward:** Expand naval partnerships and deepen maritime collaboration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Trikand:** Talwar-class stealth frigate
- **Dar-es-Salaam:** Largest city and port of Tanzania
- **SAGAR Doctrine:** India's maritime policy framework
- **IOR:** Indian Ocean Region – key global trade corridor
- **Talwar-class:** Built with stealth features and multi-role capabilities
- **Blue-water Navy:** Capability to operate globally across deep oceans
- **Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs):** Vital maritime trade routes

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Trikand is a Talwar-class stealth frigate of the Indian Navy.
2. SAGAR doctrine focuses only on military dominance in the Indian Ocean Region.
3. Dar-es-Salaam is a major port city in Tanzania.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4. NATIONAL MARITIME DAY 2026: INDIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO MARITIME STRENGTH AND TRADE SECURITY



- National Maritime Day underscores the significance of **shipping and maritime infrastructure in India's economy**.
- Around **90% of India's trade by volume** is carried through maritime routes.
- The message emphasizes strengthening **port-led development and maritime security**.
- It aligns with initiatives like the Sagarmala **Programme** to modernize ports and logistics.
- The maritime sector is crucial for **energy security and global trade connectivity**.
- It also highlights the role of seafarers and maritime professionals in nation-building.
- Overall, it reflects a governance focus on the blue **economy and strategic maritime capability**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Maritime Day

- I. Celebrated annually on **April 5**.
- II. Marks the 1919 journey of **SS Loyalty** from Mumbai to London.
- III. Recognizes contributions of:
 - A. Seafarers
 - B. Shipping industry

Maritime Sector in India

- I. India has a coastline of over **7,500 km**.
- II. Hosts **12 major ports and 200+ non-major ports**.
- III. Key for:
 - A. International trade
 - B. Coastal shipping

Sagarmala Programme

- I. Launched in **2015** to promote **port-led development**.
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Port modernization
 - B. Connectivity enhancement
 - C. Coastal community development

Blue Economy

- I. Sustainable use of ocean resources for:
 - A. Economic growth
 - B. Livelihoods
 - C. Environmental sustainability

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Economic Backbone:** Maritime transport handles the majority of India's trade.
- **Strategic Importance:** Ensures energy security and supply chain resilience.
- **Infrastructure Push:** Focus on port modernization under Sagarmala.
- **Cultural Significance:** Honors seafarers and maritime heritage.
- **Geopolitical Role:** Strengthens India's presence in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Challenges:** Port congestion, environmental concerns, and global competition.
- **Way Forward:** Enhance logistics efficiency, green shipping, and maritime innovation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **National Maritime Day:** April 5
- **SS Loyalty:** First Indian-owned steamship (1919 voyage)
- **Coastline Length:** ~7,500 km
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Port-led development initiative (2015)
- **Major Ports:** 12 (administered by central government)
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable ocean-based economic development
- **Maritime Trade Share:** ~90% by volume

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. National Maritime Day in India is celebrated on April 5.
2. Sagarmala Programme focuses on port-led development.
3. SS Loyalty was the first foreign-owned steamship to sail from India.

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)

1. ADVANCING INDIA'S FISHERIES SECTOR: TOWARDS BLUE ECONOMY AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY



- India is promoting fisheries as a key driver of **economic growth, exports, and employment**.
- The sector supports **millions of livelihoods**, especially in coastal and rural areas.
- Government initiatives aim to improve **productivity, sustainability, and value addition**.
- It contributes significantly to **nutrition security and protein intake**.
- Emphasis on **modernization, cold chain development, and digital tracking systems**.
- Strengthens India's position as a **leading global fish producer and exporter**.
- Reflects integrated governance focusing on **sustainable resource management and inclusive development**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Fisheries Sector in India

- I. India is among the **top fish-producing countries globally**.
- II. Includes:
 - A. **Marine fisheries**
 - B. **Inland fisheries and aquaculture**
- III. Provides employment to **over 28 million people**.

Key Government Initiative

- I. **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):**
 - A. Launched in **2020**
 - B. Aims for **holistic development of fisheries sector**
 - C. Focus on:
 1. Infrastructure
 2. Value chain efficiency
 3. Export enhancement

Blue Economy Concept

- I. Sustainable use of ocean resources for:
 - A. Economic growth
 - B. Livelihood improvement
 - C. Ecosystem health

Institutional Framework

- Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of **Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- Works with states for **policy implementation and capacity building**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Economic Contribution:** Significant role in GDP and export earnings.
- **Livelihood Security:** Supports millions of fishers and allied workers.
- **Infrastructure Push:** Cold chains, fishing harbours, and processing units.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Promotion of responsible fishing practices.
- **Technological Integration:** Use of digital tools and modern aquaculture methods.
- **Challenges:** Overfishing, climate change impacts, and post-harvest losses.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen regulation, promote deep-sea fishing, and enhance global competitiveness.

1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana was launched in 2020.
2. The fisheries sector in India includes only marine fishing activities.
3. Blue Economy emphasizes sustainable use of ocean resources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

2. INDIAN COAST GUARD BOOST: KEEL LAYING OF FPV-4 & PLATE CUTTING OF FPV-7



- The ceremonies signify advancement in building **Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** for coastal security.
- FPVs are crucial for **surveillance, interdiction, and search & rescue operations.**
- The initiative supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.**

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PMMSY:** Launched in 2020 for fisheries sector development
- **Employment:** ~28 million people dependent on fisheries
- **Types:** Marine + Inland fisheries
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable ocean resource utilization
- **Export Potential:** India is a major seafood exporter
- **Ministry:** Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- **Key Issue:** Overfishing and climate change impacts

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

- It enhances India's capacity to address **maritime threats like smuggling, piracy, and illegal fishing**.
- The development strengthens **maritime governance and law enforcement at sea**.
- It also promotes the domestic **shipbuilding industry and technological capability**.
- Overall, it contributes to securing India's **coastline and maritime interests**.

- **Keel Laying:** Marks the formal beginning of ship construction.
- **Plate Cutting:** First stage in shipbuilding, involving cutting of steel plates.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Coast Guard

- I. The Indian Coast Guard was established in **1978**.
- II. Functions under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- III. Roles include:
 - A. Maritime law enforcement
 - B. Search and rescue
 - C. Marine environment protection

Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)

- I. Medium-sized, high-speed vessels used for:
 - A. Coastal patrol
 - B. Anti-smuggling operations
 - C. Monitoring Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- II. Equipped with:
 - A. Advanced navigation and communication systems

Shipbuilding Milestones

Maritime Security Context

- I. India has a coastline of over **7,500 km**.
- II. Faces challenges like:
 - A. Illegal fishing
 - B. Drug trafficking
 - C. Maritime terrorism

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indigenisation:** Domestic construction of FPVs strengthens self-reliance.
- **Operational Capability:** Enhances surveillance and rapid response at sea.
- **Strategic Importance:** Secures coastal areas and EEZ.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts shipbuilding industry and employment.
- **Security Role:** Addresses non-traditional maritime threats.
- **Challenges:** Technology gaps, maintenance costs, and coordination issues.
- **Way Forward:** Invest in advanced shipbuilding tech and integrated coastal security systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Indian Coast Guard:** Established in 1978 under Ministry of Defence
- **FPV:** Fast Patrol Vessel for coastal surveillance

- **EEZ:** Up to 200 nautical miles from coastline
- **Keel Laying:** Start of ship construction
- **Plate Cutting:** Initial stage of shipbuilding
- **Coastline Length:** ~7,500 km
- **Key Threats:** Smuggling, piracy, illegal fishing

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Coast Guard functions under the Ministry of Defence.
2. Fast Patrol Vessels are primarily used for deep-sea submarine warfare.
3. Keel laying marks the beginning of ship construction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3.SUMMER CROPS SOWN AREA 2026: AGRICULTURAL MOMENTUM AND SEASONAL TRENDS



- The report indicates trends in **sowing area for summer (Zaid) crops**, reflecting agricultural momentum.
- It helps assess **crop diversification, irrigation efficiency, and farmer response**.
- Increased area under certain crops may boost **food security and price stability**.
- The data is crucial for **policy planning, procurement, and supply chain management**.
- It reflects the role of **irrigation and climate conditions in crop patterns**.
- The update supports evidence-based governance in **agriculture and rural development**.
- Overall, it aids in monitoring **seasonal agricultural productivity and economic outcomes**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Zaid Season (Summer Crops)

- I. Crops grown between:
 - A. **Rabi and Kharif seasons** (March–June)
- II. Major crops include:
 - A. Rice (summer paddy)
 - B. Pulses (moong)
 - C. Oilseeds

Cropping Seasons in India

- **Kharif:** Monsoon crops (June–October)
- **Rabi:** Winter crops (October–March)
- **Zaid:** Short summer season crops

Factors Influencing Summer Crops

- I. Availability of:
 - A. **Irrigation facilities**
 - B. **Groundwater resources**
- II. Climate conditions:
 - A. Temperature and rainfall patterns

Institutional Framework

- I. Data released by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- II. Used for:
 - A. Policy formulation
 - B. Market intervention strategies

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Seasonal Monitoring:** Tracks real-time progress of crop sowing.

- **Food Security:** Helps ensure adequate production of essential crops.
- **Policy Relevance:** Guides procurement and price stabilization measures.
- **Irrigation Dependency:** Summer crops heavily rely on irrigation infrastructure.
- **Economic Impact:** Influences rural income and agricultural GDP.
- **Challenges:** Water scarcity, heat stress, and uneven irrigation access.
- **Way Forward:** Promote micro-irrigation, drought-resistant crops, and efficient water use.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Zaid Season:** March–June (summer crops)
- **Major Crops:** Rice, pulses (moong), oilseeds
- **Cropping Cycles:** Kharif, Rabi, Zaid
- **Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- **Key Factor:** Irrigation availability
- **Moong:** Important summer pulse crop
- **Purpose of Data:** Policy planning and market management

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Zaid crops are grown between the Rabi and Kharif seasons.
2. Summer crops in India are largely dependent on monsoon rainfall.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare releases crop area data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4. MINERAL CONCESSION RULES AMENDED: BOOST TO EFFICIENT MINING AND RESOURCE UTILISATION



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

- The amendment enables miners to include **adjacent (contiguous) mineral-bearing areas** in existing leases.
- It also allows extraction of **associated minerals** found alongside the primary mineral.
- This reduces fragmentation and enhances **scientific mining practices**.
- It improves **ease of doing business in the mining sector**.

- The move can increase **resource efficiency, production output, and revenue generation**.
- It aligns with broader reforms in the **mining sector governance framework**.
- Ensures better utilization of mineral resources while supporting **economic growth and industrial demand**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Mineral Concession Rules, 2016

- I. Framed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- II. Govern:
 - A. Grant of mining leases
 - B. Licensing procedures
 - C. Operational conditions

Key Concepts Introduced

Contiguous Area

- I. Refers to **adjacent land parcels** with mineral deposits.
- II. Inclusion helps:
 - A. Avoid fragmented mining
 - B. Enable large-scale efficient operations

Associated Minerals

- Minerals found **along with the primary mineral** in a deposit.
- Earlier, extraction was restricted, leading to **resource wastage**.

Mining Sector in India

- I. Contributes significantly to:
 - A. **Industrial development**
 - B. Infrastructure growth
- II. Key minerals:
 - A. Coal, iron ore, bauxite, limestone

Reform Context

- I. Government focus on:
 - A. **Transparency in allocation**
 - B. **Ease of doing business**
 - C. **Sustainable mining practices**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regulatory Reform:** Amendment to Mineral Concession Rules enhances flexibility.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Enables extraction of associated minerals, reducing wastage.
- **Operational Advantage:** Inclusion of contiguous areas improves mining scale and planning.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts mineral production and government revenue.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Simplifies procedures for mining leaseholders.
- **Environmental Aspect:** Promotes scientific and integrated mining practices.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen monitoring, ensure sustainability, and adopt advanced mining technologies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Mineral Concession Rules:** Notified under MMDR Act, 1957
- **MMDR Act:** Governs mining sector in India
- **Contiguous Area:** Adjacent mineral-bearing land parcels
- **Associated Minerals:** Occur along with primary mineral
- **Key Minerals:** Coal, iron ore, bauxite
- **Reform Focus:** Transparency and efficiency
- **Mining Role:** Supports industrial and infrastructure sectors

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Mineral Concession Rules are framed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
2. Associated minerals refer to minerals found independently of the primary mineral.
3. Inclusion of contiguous areas in mining leases improves operational efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5. FIRST-EVER ASISSE LAUNCHED: STRENGTHENING DATA ECOSYSTEM FOR INDIA'S SERVICES SECTOR



- ASISSE is designed to collect detailed data on **incorporated service sector enterprises** across India.
- It fills critical gaps in **reliable and structured data for the services sector**, a key contributor to GDP.
- The survey will support **policy formulation, economic planning, and sectoral analysis**.
- It enhances **statistical coverage beyond manufacturing and agriculture**.
- The initiative strengthens India's **data governance and statistical infrastructure**.
- It will improve **investment planning, productivity assessment, and employment analysis**.
- Overall, it aligns with efforts to modernize **official statistics and economic measurement systems**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Services Sector in India

- I. Contributes over **50% to India's GDP**.
- II. Includes:
 - A. IT and IT-enabled services
 - B. Trade, transport, and hospitality
 - C. Financial and professional services

Need for ASISSE

- I. Earlier, detailed surveys existed mainly for:
 - A. Manufacturing (e.g., Annual Survey of Industries)
- II. Lack of granular data in services sector led to:
 - A. Policy gaps
 - B. Inadequate sectoral insights

Institutional Framework

- I. Conducted by the National Statistical Office under MoSPI.
- II. Part of efforts to strengthen:
 - A. **National Accounts Statistics**
 - B. Data-driven governance

Key Concepts

- I. **Incorporated Enterprises:** Companies registered under corporate laws.
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Financial performance
 - B. Employment
 - C. Operational characteristics

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Data Enhancement:** First structured survey of incorporated service enterprises.
- **Policy Utility:** Supports evidence-based economic decision-making.
- **Sector Coverage:** Captures diverse service industries across India.
- **Statistical Reform:** Expands scope beyond traditional sectors like manufacturing.
- **Economic Significance:** Improves GDP estimation and sectoral analysis.
- **Challenges:** Data collection complexity and compliance issues.
- **Way Forward:** Leverage digital tools and ensure robust data validation mechanisms.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ASISSE:** Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises
- **MoSPI:** Ministry responsible for statistics and programme implementation
- **NSO:** National Statistical Office conducts surveys
- **Services Sector Share:** ~50%+ of India's GDP
- **ASI:** Annual Survey of Industries (manufacturing sector)
- **Incorporated Enterprises:** Registered companies under law
- **Purpose:** Improve data quality for policymaking

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. ASISSE is the first survey aimed at collecting data on incorporated services sector enterprises.
2. The National Statistical Office functions under the Ministry of Finance.
3. The services sector contributes more than 50% to India's GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

1. ICAR FORMS TASK FORCE TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE AMID GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS



- The task force aims to assess vulnerabilities in India's **agricultural supply chains and production systems**.
- It will recommend strategies to enhance **resilience against global disruptions** like conflicts and trade shocks.
- The initiative reflects concerns over **food security, input availability, and price volatility**.
- It aligns with India's goal of ensuring **self-sufficiency and sustainable agriculture**.
- The move strengthens **policy preparedness in the face of global uncertainties**.
- It also emphasizes **research-driven decision-making and innovation in agriculture**.
- Overall, it integrates agriculture into the broader framework of **economic and strategic security**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

ICAR

- I. Indian Council of Agricultural Research is the apex body for **agricultural research and education**.
- II. Functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- III. Plays a key role in:
 - A. Crop improvement
 - B. Agricultural innovation
 - C. Extension services

Agricultural Resilience

- I. Refers to the ability of agriculture to:
 - A. **Withstand shocks** (climate, economic, geopolitical)
 - B. **Recover quickly** and sustain productivity

Geopolitical Context

- I. Global disruptions due to:
 - A. Conflicts affecting **fertilizer and food supply chains**
 - B. Trade restrictions and price volatility
- II. Impact on:
 - A. Input costs
 - B. Export-import dynamics

Food Security Framework

- I. Ensuring:
 - A. Availability
 - B. Accessibility
 - C. Affordability of food
- II. Linked to schemes like:

- A. **Public Distribution System (PDS)**
- B. **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. ICAR functions under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. Agricultural resilience refers only to resistance against climate change.
3. National Food Security Act, 2013 aims to ensure food security in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

2.INS SUNAYNA ARRIVES AT MALÉ: BOOSTING INDIA-MALDIVES MARITIME COOPERATION UNDER IOS SAGAR



- The deployment reflects India's commitment to **regional maritime**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Initiative:** Formation of task force for agricultural resilience.
- **Policy Focus:** Address global supply chain disruptions.
- **Research Role:** ICAR to provide scientific and evidence-based inputs.
- **Food Security:** Ensures stable availability of essential commodities.
- **Economic Impact:** Mitigates risks of price volatility and inflation.
- **Challenges:** Climate change, input dependency, and market uncertainties.
- **Way Forward:** Diversify crops, strengthen supply chains, and promote sustainable practices.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ICAR:** Apex agricultural research body in India
- **NFSA, 2013:** Legal framework for food security
- **PDS:** Distribution of subsidized food grains
- **Agricultural Resilience:** Ability to withstand shocks
- **Key Risk Factors:** Climate change, geopolitical conflicts
- **Fertilizer Dependency:** India imports key inputs like potash
- **Food Security Pillars:** Availability, accessibility, affordability

security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- It strengthens bilateral ties with Maldives through **defence diplomacy and cooperation**.
- The IOS SAGAR initiative promotes **collaborative security and mutual assistance among littoral states**.
- It enhances **interoperability and trust between navies**.
- The move aligns with India's broader **Neighbourhood First policy**.
- It contributes to ensuring **safe sea lanes and regional stability**.
- Overall, it reinforces India's role as a **net security provider in the IOR**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Sunayna

- I. INS Sunayna is an **offshore patrol vessel (OPV)** of the Indian Navy.
- II. Used for:
 - A. Maritime surveillance
 - B. Search and rescue operations
 - C. Anti-piracy missions

IOS SAGAR Initiative

- I. IOS stands for **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS)** deployment under **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** vision.
- II. Focuses on:
 - A. Regional cooperation
 - B. Capacity building
 - C. Maritime security

India–Maldives Relations

- I. Maldives is a key maritime neighbour in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- II. Cooperation areas include:
 - A. Defence and security
 - B. Disaster relief
 - C. Infrastructure development

Strategic Importance of Maldives

- I. Located near **major sea lanes of communication (SLOCs)**.
- II. Critical for:
 - A. Trade routes
 - B. Regional security dynamics

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Outreach:** Strengthens India–Maldives maritime partnership.
- **Security Cooperation:** Enhances joint surveillance and capacity building.
- **Regional Stability:** Supports safe and secure Indian Ocean Region.
- **Diplomatic Significance:** Reinforces Neighbourhood First policy.
- **Operational Role:** Demonstrates Indian Navy's blue-water capabilities.
- **Challenges:** Geopolitical competition and regional sensitivities.
- **Way Forward:** Deepen cooperation through joint exercises and infrastructure support.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Sunayna:** Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)
- **Malé:** Capital of Maldives

- **SAGAR:** Security and Growth for All in the Region
- **IOS:** Indian Ocean Ship deployment concept
- **IOR:** Indian Ocean Region
- **SLOCs:** Sea Lanes of Communication
- **Neighbourhood First:** India's foreign policy approach

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Sunayna is an offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy.
2. SAGAR doctrine focuses on regional cooperation and maritime security.
3. Maldives is located outside the Indian Ocean Region.

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)

3. PLISFPI: CATALYSING INDIA'S FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR THROUGH PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVES



- PLISFPI incentivizes companies based on **incremental sales of processed food products**.
- It promotes **branding, innovation, and expansion of food processing capacities**.
- The scheme aims to reduce **post-harvest losses and improve value chains**.
- It enhances India's potential as a **global food processing hub**.
- Encourages investment in **ready-to-eat, marine products, and processed fruits & vegetables**.
- Strengthens **farmer-industry linkages and rural employment generation**.
- Reflects governance focus on **agri-value addition, exports, and income diversification**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

PLISFPI Scheme

- I. Launched in **2021** under the broader **PLI framework**.
- II. Target sectors include:
 - A. Ready-to-eat/ready-to-cook foods
 - B. Marine products
 - C. Processed fruits and vegetables

Food Processing Sector in India

- I. Acts as a bridge between:
 - A. **Agriculture and industry**
- II. Contributes to:
 - A. Employment generation
 - B. Reduction in wastage
- III. India is one of the largest producers of:
 - A. Fruits, vegetables, milk, and cereals

Objectives of PLISFPI

- Increase **value addition in agriculture**
- Enhance **export competitiveness**
- Promote **global food brands from India**

Policy Linkages

- I. Supports:
 - A. **Make in India**
 - B. **Atmanirbhar Bharat**
- II. Complements schemes like:
 - A. **PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME)**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Incentive Mechanism:** Based on incremental production and sales.
- **Value Addition:** Encourages processing of agricultural produce.
- **Export Promotion:** Boosts global competitiveness of Indian food brands.
- **Rural Impact:** Generates employment and increases farmer income.
- **Supply Chain Strengthening:** Reduces post-harvest losses.
- **Challenges:** Infrastructure gaps, logistics issues, and quality standards.
- **Way Forward:** Improve cold chain infrastructure and promote innovation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PLISFPI Launch:** 2021
- **Ministry:** Food Processing Industries
- **PLI Concept:** Incentives based on incremental production
- **Target Products:** Ready-to-eat foods, marine products, processed fruits & vegetables
- **PM-FME Scheme:** Supports micro food processing enterprises
- **Key Goal:** Value addition and export growth
- **Sector Role:** Links agriculture with industry

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. PLISFPI provides incentives based on incremental sales of processed food products.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
3. Food processing sector helps reduce post-harvest losses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4. 'BOB SAMVAD' LAUNCHED: AI-POWERED MULTILINGUAL PLATFORM TRANSFORMS BANKING INTERACTIONS



- 'bob SAMVAD' leverages **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to enable seamless multilingual communication between customers and bank staff.

- It improves **accessibility for diverse linguistic groups**, promoting financial inclusion.
- The initiative enhances **efficiency, accuracy, and speed of customer service** in bank branches.
- It reflects the growing adoption of **AI in financial services and governance**.
- The platform supports **digital transformation in public sector banking**.
- It also reduces dependency on manual processes and improves **customer satisfaction**.
- Overall, it aligns with India's push for **technology-driven financial inclusion and smart governance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Bank of Baroda

- Bank of Baroda is one of India's leading **public sector banks**.
- Established in **1908** and headquartered in Vadodara.
- Provides a wide range of **banking and financial services**.

Artificial Intelligence in Banking

- I. AI applications include:
 - A. Chatbots and virtual assistants
 - B. Fraud detection
 - C. Customer service automation
- II. Enhances:
 - A. Operational efficiency
 - B. Personalization of services

Financial Inclusion in India

- I. Aims to provide:
 - A. **Accessible and affordable financial services**
- II. Supported by initiatives like:
 - A. **Jan Dhan Yojana**
 - B. Digital payment systems

Digital Banking Transformation

- I. Increasing shift towards:
 - A. **Automation and AI integration**
 - B. Customer-centric services

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technological Innovation:** AI-based multilingual platform for banking interactions.
- **Customer Accessibility:** Supports multiple languages, improving inclusivity.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Reduces wait times and improves service quality.
- **Digital Transformation:** Strengthens AI adoption in public sector banks.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Bridges communication gaps for diverse customers.
- **Challenges:** Data privacy, cybersecurity risks, and digital literacy gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen AI governance, enhance security, and expand digital infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Bank of Baroda:** Established in 1908
- **Headquarters:** Vadodara, Gujarat
- **bob SAMVAD:** AI-powered multilingual conversational platform

- **AI Use in Banking:** Customer service, fraud detection, automation
- **Jan Dhan Yojana:** Financial inclusion initiative
- **Key Benefit:** Improved accessibility and efficiency
- **Concern:** Data privacy and cybersecurity

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. 'bob SAMVAD' is an AI-powered platform launched by Bank of Baroda.
2. Artificial Intelligence in banking is used only for fraud detection.
3. Financial inclusion aims to provide accessible financial services to all sections of society.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.REGULARISATION OF UNAUTHORISED COLONIES IN DELHI: 'AS-IS WHERE-IS' APPROACH EXPLAINED



- The scheme seeks to grant **ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies** without altering existing structures.
- It addresses long-standing issues of **tenure insecurity and lack of civic services**.
- Regularisation enhances **access to formal credit, infrastructure, and urban governance**.
- It improves **urban planning integration and service delivery**.
- The initiative has major implications for **housing, urban development, and social equity**.
- It also impacts **municipal revenues through property taxation**.
- Overall, it reflects a governance approach focused on **inclusive urbanisation and legal empowerment**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Unauthorised Colonies

- I. Settlements developed **without approval of planning authorities**.
- II. Common in rapidly urbanizing cities like Delhi.
- III. Issues include:
 - A. Lack of legal ownership
 - B. Poor infrastructure and services

PM-UDAY Scheme

- I. Full form: **Pradhan Mantri Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana**.
- II. Launched in **2019**.
- III. Provides:
 - A. **Property ownership rights**
 - B. Digital mapping and documentation

'As-is Where-is' Basis

- I. Means:
 - A. Colonies are regularised **in their existing form**
 - B. No demolition or structural changes required
- II. Ensures faster implementation and avoids displacement.

Urban Governance Context

- I. Delhi has multiple authorities:
 - A. Delhi Development Authority
 - B. Municipal corporations
- II. Regularisation helps integrate colonies into a formal **urban planning framework**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Legal Empowerment:** Grants ownership rights to residents.
- **Inclusive Urbanisation:** Integrates informal settlements into formal systems.
- **Administrative Simplicity:** 'As-is where-is' avoids structural modifications.
- **Economic Impact:** Enables access to bank loans and increases property value.
- **Governance Benefit:** Expands tax base and improves service delivery.
- **Challenges:** Infrastructure deficits and environmental concerns.
- **Way Forward:** Upgrade services, ensure planned development, and strengthen urban governance.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PM-UDAY:** Launched in 2019 for Delhi's unauthorised colonies
- **'As-is Where-is':** Regularisation without altering existing structures
- **DDA:** Key urban planning authority in Delhi
- **Unauthorised Colonies:** Built without official approval
- **Benefit:** Legal ownership and access to services
- **Urban Issue:** Rapid unplanned urbanisation
- **Outcome:** Improved governance and property rights

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The PM-UDAY scheme provides ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi.
2. 'As-is where-is' basis requires demolition of illegal structures before regularisation.
3. Delhi Development Authority is involved in urban planning in Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

I. INDIA-EGYPT EXERCISE 'CYCLONE': BOOSTING SPECIAL FORCES COOPERATION



- Exercise Cyclone focuses on **special forces training, counter-terrorism, and joint operations.**
- It strengthens **defence cooperation between India and Egypt.**
- The exercise promotes **exchange of best practices and tactical expertise.**
- It enhances **interoperability in complex combat scenarios.**
- Reflects India's growing **strategic engagement with West Asian and African partners.**
- Supports India's vision of expanding **global defence partnerships.**
- Overall, it contributes to **regional and global security cooperation frameworks.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India-Egypt Defence Relations

- I. Egypt is a key partner in:
 - A. **West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region**

- II. Cooperation includes:
 - A. Military training
 - B. Joint exercises
 - C. Defence exchanges

Special Forces Exercises

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Counter-terrorism operations
 - B. Urban warfare
 - C. Hostage rescue
- II. Enhance:
 - A. Tactical coordination
 - B. Combat readiness

Strategic Significance

- I. Egypt's location near:
 - A. Suez Canal – a vital global trade route
- II. Strengthens India's outreach in:
 - A. Mediterranean and African regions

Defence Diplomacy

- I. Joint exercises are key tools for:
 - A. Building trust
 - B. Enhancing military cooperation
 - C. Strengthening geopolitical ties

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Joint Training:** Focus on special forces operations and counter-terrorism.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Deepens India-Egypt defence ties.
- **Operational Readiness:** Enhances combat coordination and preparedness.

- **Geopolitical Outreach:** Expands India's engagement in WANA region.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Sharing of tactics and operational experiences.
- **Challenges:** Coordination differences and operational standardization.
- **Way Forward:** Expand scope of exercises and deepen defence collaboration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Exercise Cyclone:** India–Egypt joint special forces exercise
- **Indian Army:** Land-based branch of Indian Armed Forces
- **Egypt Location:** North Africa, strategic due to Suez Canal
- **Suez Canal:** Connects Mediterranean Sea with Red Sea
- **WANA Region:** West Asia and North Africa
- **Special Forces Role:** Counter-terrorism and high-risk operations
- **Defence Diplomacy:** Military cooperation to strengthen ties

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

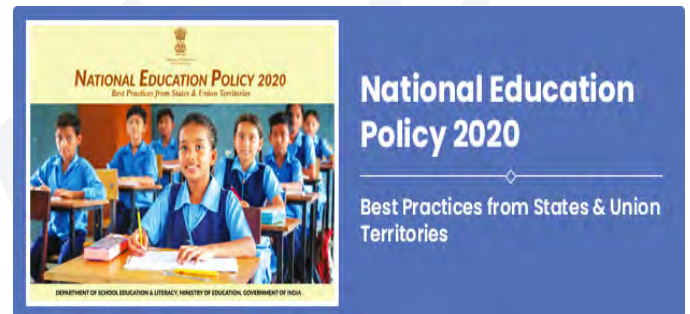
1. Exercise Cyclone is a joint special forces exercise between India and Egypt.
2. The Suez Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean directly with the Indian Ocean.
3. Joint military exercises enhance interoperability between armed forces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

2.CAREER CARDS FOR CWSN LAUNCHED: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GUIDANCE UNDER NEP 2020



- Career Cards provide **information on educational and vocational pathways** tailored for CWSN.
- They help identify **strengths, skills, and suitable career options** for students with disabilities.
- Supports NEP 2020's vision of **inclusive and equitable education**.
- Enhances **employability, skill development, and empowerment** of CWSN.
- Integrates **technology and counseling tools** for better career guidance.
- Facilitates **early intervention, informed choices, and holistic development**.
- Overall, it aligns with India's goal of **inclusive education and skill-based opportunities**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

CWSN and Inclusive Education

- I. Children with Special Needs include:
 - A. Physical disabilities
 - B. Learning difficulties
 - C. Neurodiverse conditions
- II. Inclusive education ensures:
 - A. **Access to learning opportunities**
 - B. **Tailored support mechanisms**

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- I. Emphasizes:
 - A. Inclusive education
 - B. Skill development and vocational training
 - C. Personalized learning approaches

Career Guidance for CWSN

- I. Historically, CWSN had **limited access to career counseling**.
- II. Career Cards aim to:
 - A. Map skills and aptitudes
 - B. Provide vocational pathways
 - C. Empower informed decision-making

Implementation Mechanism

- I. Schools and special education institutions use Career Cards for:
 - A. Student profiling
 - B. Career counseling sessions
 - C. Linking to vocational training and higher education opportunities

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inclusivity:** Focused on differently-abled students for equitable guidance.
- **Skill Mapping:** Identifies student strengths and interests.
- **Vocational Pathways:** Suggests suitable career options and courses.
- **NEP Alignment:** Supports personalized and holistic learning.
- **Empowerment:** Enhances employability and social inclusion.
- **Challenges:** Teacher training, awareness, and accessibility issues.
- **Way Forward:** Scale across schools, integrate digital tools, and strengthen counselor capacity.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CWSN:** Children with Special Needs
- **NEP 2020:** National Education Policy focusing on inclusive education
- **Career Cards:** Tool for personalized career guidance
- **Focus Areas:** Skill mapping, vocational pathways, employability
- **Implementing Bodies:** Schools, special education institutions
- **Goal:** Inclusive, equitable, and skill-oriented education
- **Challenge:** Ensuring access and trained counselors

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Career Cards for CWSN provide personalized career guidance under NEP 2020.
2. NEP 2020 emphasizes inclusivity, skill development, and vocational training.
3. Career Cards are exclusively for students in higher education institutions.

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)

3. INDIA RANKS THIRD GLOBALLY IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLED CAPACITY



- I. India's renewable energy capacity now places it **after China and the USA** globally.
- II. Includes contributions from:
 - A. Solar power
 - B. Wind energy
 - C. Small hydro and biomass

- III. Supports India's **Net Zero and renewable energy targets under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
- IV. Accelerates **green energy transition, energy security, and emission reduction**.
- V. Drives **industrial growth, job creation, and investment in clean energy technologies**.
- VI. Enhances India's **global leadership in climate action and renewable energy adoption**.
- VII. Overall, it reflects a **strategic push for sustainable development and energy self-reliance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Renewable Energy in India

- I. It is governed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- II. Installed capacity includes:
 - A. **Solar:** Utility-scale and rooftop
 - B. **Wind:** Onshore and offshore
 - C. **Biomass & Small Hydro**

Global Context

- I. India ranks **3rd after China and the USA** in renewable energy capacity.
- II. Global renewable trends emphasize:
 - A. Reduction of fossil fuel dependence
 - B. Achievement of climate targets
 - C. Sustainable economic growth

Policy Framework

- I. Key initiatives:

- A. **National Solar Mission**
 - B. **Wind Energy Development Program**
 - C. **Renewable Energy Development Fund**
- II. Supports:
- A. **Make in India for renewable technologies**
 - B. Private sector participation in clean energy

- **Climate Target:** Net Zero by 2070 (India)
- **NDCs:** Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Agreement
- **Policy Programs:** National Solar Mission, Wind Energy Program

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Standing:** Third-largest installed renewable capacity.
- **Energy Security:** Reduces reliance on imported fossil fuels.
- **Climate Action:** Supports India's NDC targets and emission reduction goals.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts green jobs and renewable investments.
- **Technology Advancement:** Promotes solar, wind, biomass innovations.
- **Challenges:** Grid integration, intermittency, and financing constraints.
- **Way Forward:** Expand storage solutions, offshore wind, and hybrid renewable systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MNRE:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- **Installed Capacity:** Total generation capacity connected to the grid
- **Renewable Sources:** Solar, wind, biomass, small hydro
- **Global Ranking:** 3rd (after China and USA)

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India ranks third globally in renewable energy installed capacity.
2. Renewable energy sources in India include solar, wind, biomass, and small hydro.
3. India's renewable energy targets are independent of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

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)

4. CABINET APPROVES REVISED COST AND EQUITY FOR HPCL RAJASTHAN REFINERY



- The revision increases **capital allocation** for HRRL to meet **cost overruns and enhanced project requirements**.
- Supports completion of the **Rajasthan refinery, improving domestic petroleum processing capacity**.
- Enhances **energy security and reduces dependence on imports**.
- The project is aligned with **Make in India and energy infrastructure expansion policies**.
- Promotes **industrial growth, employment, and local economic development** in Rajasthan.
- Strengthens **public-sector investment in strategic energy assets**.
- Overall, it reflects a governance push for **modernizing refining capacity and boosting energy self-reliance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)

- I. A joint venture between:
 - A. **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**
 - B. **Government of Rajasthan**

- II. Refinery capacity: **9 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum)**.
- III. Located at **Pachpadra, Balotra district**, strategically serving western India.

Project Importance

- Reduces **transportation dependence on distant refineries**.
- Supplies refined products to **domestic and regional markets**.
- Contributes to **industrial and infrastructure development** in the region.

Equity and Cost Revision

- I. Cabinet approval allows:
 - A. Increase in **investment in equity by HPCL and Rajasthan government**
 - B. Revision of total **project cost due to inflation and scope changes**
- II. Ensures **financial closure and smooth execution**.

Energy Security Context

- Enhances India's **refining capacity and petroleum self-reliance**.
- Complements **Petroleum & Natural Gas sector initiatives**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Capital Revision:** Updated project cost and equity structure approved.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens domestic refining and energy security.
- **Operational Viability:** Ensures timely completion of HRRL refinery.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts employment and local development in Rajasthan.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports Make in India, energy infrastructure expansion.
- **Challenges:** Cost overruns, project execution delays, and logistics management.
- **Way Forward:** Monitor project milestones, enhance efficiency, and integrate sustainable practices.

2. The Cabinet approval involves revision of project cost and equity investment for HRRL.
3. HRRL refinery is located in Jaipur district of Rajasthan.

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)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **HRRL:** HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited
- **Location:** Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan
- **Refinery Capacity:** 9 MMTPA
- **Equity Partners:** HPCL & Government of Rajasthan
- **Purpose:** Domestic petroleum processing and energy security
- **Cabinet Approval:** Revised project cost and equity allocation
- **Policy Context:** Make in India, energy self-reliance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited is a joint venture between HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan.

5.NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION ACHIEVES 1,000-KM SECURE COMMUNICATION MILESTONE



- The milestone demonstrates India's **capability in long-distance quantum key distribution (QKD)**.
- Strengthens **cybersecurity, secure communication, and strategic technology capabilities**.
- Quantum communication ensures **tamper-proof, highly secure data transfer**.
- Supports India's **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** objectives.
- Promotes **research, innovation, and technological self-reliance** in quantum science.
- Enhances India's position in the global **quantum technology race**.
- Overall, aligns with strategic focus on **secure communication for governance, defense, and critical infrastructure**.

- A. **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**: Ensures unbreakable encryption
- B. **Tamper detection**: Any eavesdropping disrupts the quantum state

Strategic Importance

- I. Applications in:
 - A. Defense communications
 - B. Banking and financial systems
 - C. Critical infrastructure cybersecurity
- II. Helps India reduce dependency on foreign technology in secure communication.

Global Context

- Countries like **China, USA, and EU members** are leading quantum technology development.
- India's achievement signals **rapid progress and global competitiveness**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

- I. Launched to **accelerate quantum technology development** in India.
- II. Managed under the Department of **Science & Technology (DST)**.
- III. Focus areas include:
 - A. Quantum communication
 - B. Quantum computing
 - C. Quantum sensing and metrology

Quantum Communication

- I. Uses **quantum properties of particles** to transmit information.
- II. Key features:

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Milestone Achieved**: 1,000-km quantum-secure communication link.
- **Mission Objective**: Development of secure quantum communication and technologies.
- **Technological Significance**: Quantum Key Distribution ensures unbreakable encryption.
- **Strategic Impact**: Enhances cybersecurity in governance, defense, and critical sectors.

- **Research & Innovation:** Strengthens India's quantum technology ecosystem.
- **Challenges:** Scaling to longer distances, integration with conventional networks.
- **Way Forward:** Expand quantum networks nationwide, promote private sector participation, and advance quantum computing capabilities.

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)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NQM:** National Quantum Mission
- **QKD:** Quantum Key Distribution
- **DST:** Department of Science & Technology, India
- **Quantum Communication:** Tamper-proof data transmission using quantum mechanics
- **Global Leaders:** China, USA, EU in quantum technology
- **Applications:** Cybersecurity, defense, banking, critical infrastructure
- **Mission Goal:** India's self-reliance in quantum technology

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Quantum Mission has achieved 1,000-km secure quantum communication.
2. Quantum Key Distribution ensures tamper-proof encryption.
3. The National Quantum Mission is implemented under the Ministry of Defence.

I.COMMUNITY-LED RAINWATER CONSERVATION TRANSFORMS PRAKASAM DISTRICT



- Villages in Prakasam district adopted **community-led water conservation techniques** such as check dams and percolation tanks.
- The initiative improved **groundwater recharge and water availability**.
- It enhanced **agricultural output and livelihood security** in drought-prone areas.
- Demonstrates the effectiveness of **participatory governance and local resource management**.
- Aligns with national priorities of **water conservation and sustainable development**.
- Reduces dependence on erratic rainfall and mitigates **climate vulnerability**.
- Overall, it highlights a scalable model for **grassroots environmental governance and resilience building**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Rainwater Conservation

- I. Involves collection and storage of rainwater for:
 - A. Groundwater recharge
 - B. Irrigation and domestic use
- II. Techniques include:
 - A. Check dams
 - B. Farm ponds
 - C. Percolation tanks

Water Stress in India

- I. Many regions face:
 - A. Groundwater depletion
 - B. Irregular rainfall patterns
- II. Particularly acute in:
 - A. Semi-arid regions like parts of Andhra Pradesh

Community Participation

- I. Local communities play a key role in:
 - A. Planning
 - B. Implementation
 - C. Maintenance of water structures
- II. Ensures sustainability and ownership.

Policy Linkages

- I. Supports initiatives like:
 - A. **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**
 - B. **Atal Bhujal Yojana**
- II. Focus on **water conservation and groundwater management**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Community Leadership:** Local participation drives success of conservation efforts.
- **Water Security:** Improved groundwater levels and year-round availability.
- **Agricultural Impact:** Increased productivity and crop diversification.
- **Climate Resilience:** Reduces vulnerability to drought and erratic rainfall.
- **Sustainability:** Promotes eco-friendly and low-cost solutions.
- **Challenges:** Maintenance, funding, and scaling across regions.
- **Way Forward:** Institutionalize community participation and expand best practices nationwide.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Prakasam District:** Located in Andhra Pradesh
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Collection and storage of rainwater
- **Key Structures:** Check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:** Water conservation campaign
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Groundwater management scheme
- **Issue:** Groundwater depletion
- **Benefit:** Improved irrigation and water availability

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Rainwater harvesting helps in groundwater recharge.
2. Community participation improves sustainability of water conservation projects.
3. Atal Bhujal Yojana focuses on urban water supply management.

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)

2.DOORDARSHAN–ICCR MoU: EXPANDING GLOBAL FOOTPRINT OF INDIA’S CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

- The MoU enables collaboration to **broadcast Indian cultural programmes globally.**
- It strengthens India’s **soft power projection through media and culture.**
- Facilitates dissemination of **art, heritage, language, and traditions** to international audiences.
- Enhances India’s engagement with **diaspora and foreign communities.**
- Supports the government’s vision of **cultural diplomacy as a strategic tool.**
- Leverages digital and broadcast platforms for **wider global outreach.**
- Overall, it integrates **media, culture, and foreign policy objectives.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Prasar Bharati

- I. Prasar Bharati is India’s **public service broadcaster.**
- II. Established under the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.**

- III. Operates:
 - A. Doordarshan (TV)
 - B. All India Radio (AIR)

ICCR

- I. Indian Council for Cultural Relations functions under the **Ministry of External Affairs.**
- II. Established in **1950.**
- III. Promotes:
 - A. Cultural exchange
 - B. Educational cooperation
 - C. International cultural relations

Cultural Diplomacy

- I. Use of culture to:
 - A. Strengthen international relations
 - B. Build mutual understanding
- II. Tools include:
 - A. Media, art, language, festivals

Soft Power

- I. Refers to the ability to influence through:
 - A. Culture
 - B. Values
 - C. Policies
- II. India’s strengths:
 - A. Yoga, Ayurveda, cinema, classical arts

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Collaboration:** Partnership between Prasar Bharati and ICCR.
- **Global Outreach:** Broadcasting Indian cultural content worldwide.

- **Soft Power:** Strengthens India's cultural diplomacy.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** Connects with global Indian communities.
- **Digital Integration:** Uses modern media platforms for wider reach.
- **Challenges:** Content localization and global competition.
- **Way Forward:** Expand multilingual content and partnerships with global broadcasters.

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

Answer: (a)

3. INDIAN RAILWAYS TO INTRODUCE COMPOSITE SLEEPERS: A STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRACK INFRASTRUCTURE



- **Prasar Bharati:** Public broadcaster (Doordarshan + AIR)
- **ICCR:** Established in 1950 under MEA
- **Prasar Bharati Act:** 1990
- **Soft Power:** Influence through culture and values
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** Tool for international relations
- **AIR:** All India Radio
- **Objective:** Promote Indian culture globally

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Prasar Bharati operates both Doordarshan and All India Radio.
2. ICCR functions under the Ministry of External Affairs.
3. Cultural diplomacy relies solely on economic incentives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Composite sleepers are made from **recycled materials like plastic, rubber, and fiber composites.**
- They offer longer lifespan and require **less maintenance compared to traditional wooden sleepers.**
- Helps reduce dependence on **timber, aiding environmental conservation.**
- Improves **track stability, safety, and operational efficiency.**
- Supports India's push for **green infrastructure and sustainable development.**
- Can be particularly useful in **extreme weather and high-moisture conditions.**

- Overall, it reflects modernization of railway infrastructure with a focus on **innovation and sustainability**.

B. Green infrastructure goals

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Railway Sleepers

- I. Structural components placed under rails to:
 - A. Maintain gauge
 - B. Distribute load
 - C. Provide stability

Types of Sleepers

- **Wooden sleepers:** Traditional, but less durable and eco-sensitive
- **Concrete sleepers:** Widely used, durable but heavy
- **Composite sleepers:** New generation, lightweight and eco-friendly

Advantages of Composite Sleepers

- I. Made from:
 - A. Recycled plastics and industrial waste
- II. Features:
 - A. High durability
 - B. Resistance to corrosion, termites, and moisture
 - C. Lower lifecycle cost

Sustainability Aspect

- I. Reduces:
 - A. Deforestation
 - B. Waste accumulation
- II. Aligns with:
 - A. Circular economy principles

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technological Innovation:** Adoption of composite materials in railway tracks.
- **Environmental Benefit:** Reduces use of timber and promotes recycling.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Longer lifespan and reduced maintenance needs.
- **Safety Enhancement:** Better stability and resilience in diverse conditions.
- **Economic Impact:** Lower lifecycle costs and improved efficiency.
- **Challenges:** Initial cost, scalability, and standardization.
- **Way Forward:** Expand adoption, encourage domestic manufacturing, and ensure quality standards.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Indian Railways:** One of the largest rail networks globally
- **Composite Sleepers:** Made from recycled plastic, rubber, fibers
- **Function:** Support rails and maintain track stability
- **Traditional Types:** Wooden and concrete sleepers
- **Key Advantage:** Durability and eco-friendliness
- **Environmental Benefit:** Reduces deforestation
- **Concept:** Circular economy in infrastructure

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Composite sleepers are made using recycled materials such as plastic and rubber.
2. Composite sleepers completely replace the need for track maintenance.
3. Railway sleepers help maintain track gauge and stability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4.KANDLA PORT PUSHES METHANOL BUNKERING: GREEN SHIFT IN INDIA'S MARITIME SECTOR



**DEENDAYAL PORT AUTHORITY
KANDLA**

- Methanol bunkering enables ships to use **methanol as an alternative marine fuel**.
- It supports decarbonisation of the maritime sector by reducing **greenhouse gas emissions**.
- The initiative strengthens India's position in **green shipping and sustainable port infrastructure**.
- Helps comply with **global environmental norms in shipping**.
- Enhances India's competitiveness in **international maritime trade**.
- Promotes development of **alternative fuel ecosystems and infrastructure**.
- Reflects a governance push toward **clean energy transition in logistics and transport sectors**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Kandla Port (Deendayal Port)

- I. Located in **Gujarat**, one of India's **major ports**.
- II. Handles large volumes of:
 - A. Petroleum
 - B. Chemicals
 - C. Cargo trade

Methanol as Marine Fuel

- I. Alternative fuel with:
 - A. Lower carbon emissions than conventional fuels
 - B. Cleaner combustion properties
- II. Can be produced from:
 - A. Natural gas
 - B. Biomass (green methanol)

Bunkering

- I. Process of:
 - A. Supplying fuel to ships
- II. Infrastructure needed for:
 - A. Storage
 - B. Handling
 - C. Safety compliance

Global Maritime Context

- I. International Maritime Organization (IMO) targets:
 - A. Reduction in shipping emissions
- II. Shift towards:
 - A. LNG, methanol, hydrogen fuels

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Green Initiative:** Adoption of methanol as alternative marine fuel.
- **Strategic Port Role:** Kandla emerges as a green shipping hub.
- **Environmental Impact:** Reduces carbon emissions in maritime transport.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Creation of bunkering facilities.
- **Global Alignment:** Supports IMO decarbonisation targets.
- **Challenges:** High initial investment and fuel supply chain development.
- **Way Forward:** Promote green fuel production and expand bunkering network.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Kandla Port:** Major port in Gujarat (Deendayal Port)
- **Methanol:** Cleaner alternative fuel
- **Bunkering:** Refueling ships
- **IMO:** International Maritime Organization
- **Green Methanol:** Produced from renewable sources
- **Emission Goal:** Reduce carbon footprint of shipping
- **Alternative Fuels:** LNG, methanol, hydrogen

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Methanol can be used as an alternative marine fuel.

2. Bunkering refers to the process of unloading cargo from ships.
3. The International Maritime Organization sets global standards for shipping emissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.NDA & NA EXAM (II) 2025 FINAL RESULTS DECLARED: ENTRY INTO INDIA'S PREMIER DEFENCE ACADEMIES



- The NDA & NA exam is a premier national-level examination for recruitment into the **Army, Navy, and Air Force wings**.
- Conducted by UPSC, it involves **written examination followed by SSB interview**.

- Final selection is based on **merit, medical fitness, and overall performance**.
- The results enable entry into **structured military training and leadership development**.
- It plays a key role in maintaining **quality officer intake in the armed forces**.
- The process ensures **transparency, meritocracy, and national-level competition**.
- Reflects India's robust institutional framework for **defence human resource development**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- I. Union Public Service Commission is a constitutional body under **Article 315**.
- II. Conducts:
 - A. Civil Services Examination
 - B. NDA & NA Examination
 - C. Other recruitment exams

National Defence Academy (NDA)

- I. National Defence Academy is located at Khadakwasla.
- II. Trains cadets for:
 - A. Army
 - B. Navy
 - C. Air Force
- III. Known for **joint services training**.

Indian Naval Academy (INA)

- Indian Naval Academy is located at Ezhimala.
- Trains officers for the **Indian Navy**.

Selection Process

- Written Examination (UPSC)
- Services Selection Board (SSB) Interview
- Medical Examination

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Process:** Conducted by UPSC ensuring merit-based selection.
- **Defence Training:** Entry into NDA and INA for officer training.
- **Joint Services Model:** NDA provides integrated training for three services.
- **Leadership Development:** Focus on discipline, strategy, and leadership skills.
- **National Importance:** Ensures steady inflow of officers into armed forces.
- **Challenges:** High competition and rigorous selection standards.
- **Way Forward:** Continued modernization of training and selection systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **UPSC:** Constitutional body under Article 315
- **NDA Location:** Khadakwasla, Pune
- **INA Location:** Ezhimala, Kerala
- **Exam Stages:** Written + SSB Interview + Medical
- **Purpose:** Officer recruitment for armed forces

- **Training Model:** Joint services training (NDA)
- **SSB:** Assesses personality and leadership qualities

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

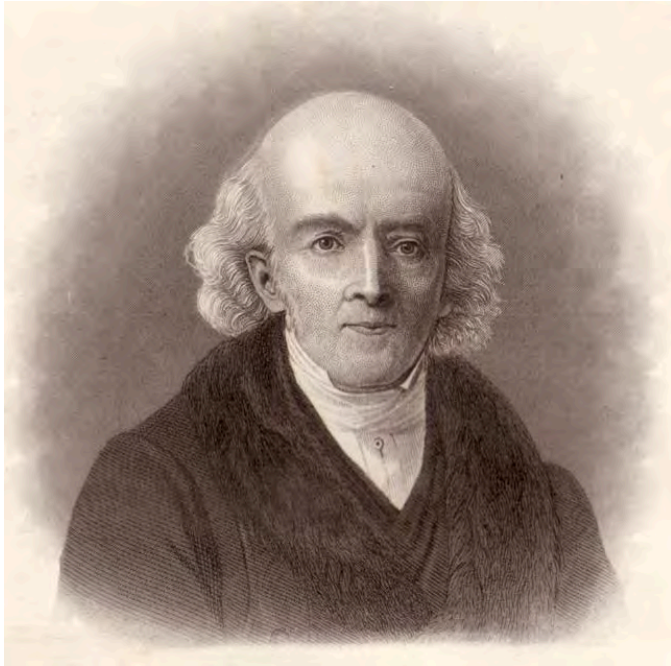
1. Union Public Service Commission is a constitutional body under Article 315.
2. National Defence Academy provides joint training for Army, Navy, and Air Force cadets.
3. Indian Naval Academy is located in Visakhapatnam.

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)

1. WORLD HOMOEOPATHY DAY 2026: AYUSH MINISTRY PROMOTES "HOMOEOPATHY FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTH"



- The celebration highlights the role of **homoeopathy in holistic and sustainable healthcare systems**.
- It emphasizes integration of **traditional medicine with modern healthcare frameworks**.
- Homoeopathy offers **cost-effective and patient-centric treatment options**.
- Supports India's push for **AYUSH-based healthcare and preventive medicine**.
- Promotes research, education, and global acceptance of homoeopathy.
- Aligns with broader goals of **universal health coverage and sustainable development**.

- Reflects governance focus on **integrative medicine and healthcare diversification**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Homoeopathy

- I. System of medicine based on the principle of:
 - A. **"Like cures like"**
- II. Developed by Samuel Hahnemann in the 18th century.
- III. Uses highly diluted substances to trigger the body's **natural healing processes**.

World Homoeopathy Day

- Observed annually on **April 10**.
- Marks the birth anniversary of **Samuel Hahnemann**.

Ministry of Ayush

- I. Ministry of Ayush promotes traditional systems:
 - A. Ayurveda
 - B. Yoga & Naturopathy
 - C. Unani
 - D. Siddha
 - E. Homoeopathy

Role in Healthcare

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Preventive care
 - B. Holistic treatment
- II. Widely practiced in India and several countries globally.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Theme Focus:** Sustainable and holistic healthcare through homoeopathy.
- **Institutional Push:** Ministry of Ayush promoting traditional medicine systems.
- **Healthcare Impact:** Affordable and patient-centric treatment approach.
- **Global Relevance:** Growing acceptance of alternative medicine systems.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports universal health coverage and preventive care.
- **Challenges:** Scientific validation, standardization, and awareness gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen research, integration with modern medicine, and global outreach.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **World Homoeopathy Day:** April 10
- **Founder:** Samuel Hahnemann
- **Principle:** "Like cures like"
- **Ministry of Ayush:** Promotes traditional medicine systems
- **AYUSH Components:** Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy
- **Key Feature:** Highly diluted remedies
- **Focus:** Preventive and holistic healthcare

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. World Homoeopathy Day is observed on April 10.

2. Homoeopathy is based on the principle of "like cures like."
3. The Ministry of Ayush promotes only homoeopathy among traditional medicine systems.

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)

2.VARANASI WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS COOPERATIVE BANKING DIVERSIFICATION & WHITE REVOLUTION 2.0



- The workshop highlighted the need to **diversify cooperative banking services beyond traditional credit.**
- Focus on boosting the dairy sector through **White Revolution 2.0**, enhancing milk production and value chains.
- Emphasized adoption of **digital technologies in cooperative institutions.**

- Aims to strengthen **financial inclusion, rural development, and farmer income**.
- Promotes modernization and professionalization of the **cooperative sector**.
- Aligns with national priorities of **self-reliance and rural economic growth**.
- Reflects governance focus on **revitalizing cooperatives as engines of inclusive development**.

- III. White Revolution 2.0 aims to:
 - A. Enhance productivity
 - B. Improve value addition
 - C. Expand dairy exports

Technology in Cooperatives

- I. Use of:
 - A. Digital platforms
 - B. Fintech solutions
 - C. Data-driven decision making
- II. Improves:
 - A. Transparency
 - B. Efficiency
 - C. Outreach

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Cooperative Sector in India

- I. Based on principles of:
 - A. Voluntary membership
 - B. Democratic control
- II. Plays a key role in:
 - A. Agriculture
 - B. Credit
 - C. Dairy sector

Ministry of Cooperation

- I. Ministry of Cooperation established in **2021**.
- II. Objective:
 - A. Strengthen cooperative movement
 - B. Promote **"Sahkar se Samridhi"**

White Revolution

- I. First White Revolution led to:
 - A. India becoming the **largest milk producer globally**
- II. Associated with:
 - A. Verghese Kurien

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Focus:** Diversification of cooperative banking services.
- **Dairy Sector Boost:** White Revolution 2.0 for increased milk production.
- **Technology Integration:** Digitalization of cooperative institutions.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Expanding credit and services to rural areas.
- **Economic Impact:** Enhances farmer income and rural livelihoods.
- **Challenges:** Governance issues, lack of modernization, and capital constraints.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen institutional capacity, adopt technology, and improve regulatory frameworks.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ministry of Cooperation:** Established in 2021

- **White Revolution:** Dairy development movement
- **Father of White Revolution:** Verghese Kurien
- **India:** Largest milk producer globally
- **Cooperatives:** Member-driven organizations
- **Objective:** Rural development and financial inclusion
- **Key Theme:** Technology-led cooperative expansion

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Cooperation was established in 2021 to strengthen the cooperative movement.
2. White Revolution 2.0 focuses on enhancing dairy productivity and value addition.
3. Cooperative banks in India are not involved in financial inclusion initiatives.

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)

3.DEFENCE SECRETARY ATTENDS DSSC WELLINGTON CONVOCATION: 81ST STAFF COURSE CONCLUDES



- The DSSC convocation marks the completion of **professional military education for mid-level officers**.
- Officers from the **Indian Armed Forces and friendly foreign countries** participated.
- The course enhances **operational planning, jointmanship, and strategic thinking**.
- It strengthens **inter-service coordination and leadership capabilities**.
- Reflects India's emphasis on **capacity building in defence forces**.
- Also promotes **defence diplomacy through international participation**.
- Overall, contributes to **modern, integrated, and professional military leadership**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Defence Services Staff College (DSSC)

- I. Defence Services Staff College is a premier tri-services training institution.
- II. Located in Wellington.
- III. Provides training to:
 - A. Army, Navy, Air Force officers
 - B. Officers from friendly foreign nations

Staff Course

- I. Focuses on:
 - A. Operational planning
 - B. Staff duties
 - C. Joint services coordination
- II. Typically attended by **mid-career officers**.

Professional Military Education

- I. Aims to:
 - A. Develop strategic and operational skills
 - B. Enhance leadership qualities
- II. Essential for:
 - A. Higher command roles

Defence Diplomacy

- I. Participation of foreign officers helps:
 - A. Build trust
 - B. Strengthen international military cooperation

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Training Milestone:** Completion of 81st Staff Course at DSSC.
- **Jointmanship:** Emphasis on inter-service coordination.
- **Leadership Development:** Builds strategic and operational capabilities.
- **International Participation:** Enhances defence diplomacy.
- **Institutional Role:** DSSC as a premier tri-services training centre.
- **Challenges:** Adapting training to modern warfare and emerging technologies.
- **Way Forward:** Integrate new domains like cyber, AI, and space warfare into training.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **DSSC:** Defence Services Staff College
- **Location:** Wellington, Tamil Nadu
- **Course Level:** Mid-career military officers
- **Focus:** Operational planning and staff duties
- **Tri-services:** Army, Navy, Air Force
- **Defence Diplomacy:** Training foreign officers
- **Objective:** Leadership and strategic capability development

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Defence Services Staff College provides training to officers of all three services.
2. DSSC is located in Dehradun.
3. The Staff Course is meant for mid-career military officers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4. INTER-MINISTERIAL BRIEFING ON WEST ASIA: INDIA REVIEWS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



- The briefing evaluated the impact of geopolitical tensions in West Asia on **India's energy security and trade routes**.
- Emphasis on protection and welfare of the **large Indian diaspora in the region**.
- Assessed implications for **oil supply, inflation, and economic stability**.
- Highlighted need for coordinated response across ministries for **crisis preparedness**.
- Reinforces India's proactive approach to **foreign policy and strategic risk management**.
- Reflects the importance of West Asia in India's **external relations and economic interests**.
- Overall, demonstrates integrated governance in handling **global geopolitical uncertainties**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Importance of West Asia for India

- I. Major source of:
 - A. **Crude oil and natural gas imports**
- II. Hosts:
 - A. **Large Indian diaspora (over 8 million)**
- III. Key trade and strategic partner region

Geopolitical Context

- I. Region often faces:
 - A. Conflicts
 - B. Political instability
 - C. Strategic rivalries
- II. Impacts:

- A. Global oil prices
- B. Shipping routes (e.g., Strait of Hormuz)

Institutional Mechanism

- I. Inter-ministerial coordination involves:
 - A. Ministry of External Affairs
 - B. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
 - C. Ministry of Defence
- II. Ensures:
 - A. Comprehensive policy response

India's Foreign Policy Approach

- I. Based on:
 - A. Strategic autonomy
 - B. Balanced engagement with all stakeholders
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Stability and peace in the region

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Review:** Assessment of geopolitical developments in West Asia.
- **Energy Security:** Focus on stable oil and gas supplies.
- **Diaspora Welfare:** Protection of Indian nationals abroad.
- **Economic Impact:** Monitoring inflation and trade disruptions.
- **Policy Coordination:** Inter-ministerial approach to crisis management.
- **Challenges:** Volatility in oil prices and regional instability.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen diplomatic engagement and diversify energy sources.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **West Asia:** Key region for India's energy imports
- **Indian Diaspora:** ~8 million in the region
- **Strait of Hormuz:** Critical oil transit chokepoint
- **Energy Dependency:** India imports majority of crude oil
- **Key Ministries:** MEA, Defence, Petroleum
- **Policy Principle:** Strategic autonomy
- **Risk Factor:** Geopolitical instability

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 a critical chokepoint for global oil trade.
3. India follows a policy of complete alignment with a single bloc in West Asia.

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. AI-DRIVEN DRUG DISCOVERY WORKSHOP: TRANSFORMING PHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATION



- The workshop highlighted the role of **AI in accelerating drug discovery processes**.
- AI helps in **target identification, molecule design, and clinical trial optimization**.
- It reduces **time, cost, and failure rates** in pharmaceutical research.
- Encourages collaboration between **research institutions, industry, and government**.
- Supports India's goal of becoming a **global hub for pharmaceutical innovation**.
- Aligns with advancements in **biotechnology, data science, and precision medicine**.
- Overall, it reflects governance focus on **technology-driven healthcare transformation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

AI in Drug Discovery

- I. Uses machine learning and data analytics to:
 - A. Predict drug-target interactions
 - B. Identify potential compounds
 - C. Optimize clinical trials
- II. Enhances:
 - A. Speed
 - B. Accuracy
 - C. Efficiency

Drug Discovery Process

- I. Traditional stages:
 - A. Target identification
 - B. Lead discovery
 - C. Preclinical testing
 - D. Clinical trials
- II. AI integrates across all stages to improve outcomes.

India's Pharmaceutical Sector

- I. India is known as:
 - A. "Pharmacy of the World"
- II. Strong in:
 - A. Generic drug manufacturing
- III. Moving towards:
 - A. Innovation-driven R&D

Policy and Research Ecosystem

- I. Supported by:
 - A. Government research institutions
 - B. Biotechnology initiatives
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Digital health

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technological Innovation:** AI integration in drug discovery processes.
- **Efficiency Gains:** Reduces cost and time of drug development.
- **Research Collaboration:** Encourages academia-industry partnerships.
- **Healthcare Impact:** Enables development of new and effective medicines.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Positions India in advanced pharmaceutical research.
- **Challenges:** Data quality, regulatory frameworks, and ethical concerns.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen AI infrastructure, regulatory clarity, and skill development.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **AI in Pharma:** Used for molecule design and clinical trials
- **Drug Discovery Stages:** Target → Lead → Preclinical → Clinical
- **India:** Major global supplier of generic medicines
- **Key Benefit:** Faster and cost-effective drug development
- **Emerging Field:** Precision medicine
- **Challenge:** Data privacy and regulation
- **Goal:** Innovation-driven pharmaceutical sector

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Artificial Intelligence can be used in target identification and molecule design in drug discovery.
2. AI completely eliminates the need for clinical trials in drug development.
3. India is known as the “Pharmacy of the World” due to its strong pharmaceutical sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

1. CARI BENGALURU ACHIEVES ISO 15189:2022 ACCREDITATION: FIRST CCRAS INSTITUTE TO DO SO



- ISO 15189:2022 accreditation certifies **quality and competence of medical laboratories**.
- It enhances credibility of **Ayurveda-based diagnostic and research facilities**.
- Strengthens integration of **traditional medicine with modern laboratory standards**.
- Promotes **evidence-based validation of AYUSH systems**.
- Improves reliability of **diagnostic services and research outcomes**.
- Reflects India's push for **global recognition of traditional medicine systems**.
- Overall, supports **quality-driven healthcare and scientific standardization**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI)

- I. Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI) is a premier institute under CCRAS.
- II. Focuses on:
 - A. Clinical research
 - B. Drug development
 - C. Diagnostic advancements in Ayurveda

CCRAS

- I. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Ayush**.
- II. Responsible for:
 - A. Research and development in Ayurveda

ISO 15189:2022

- I. International standard for:
 - A. **Medical laboratory quality and competence**
- II. Covers:
 - A. Technical competence
 - B. Quality management systems

Significance for AYUSH

- I. Enhances:
 - A. Scientific credibility
 - B. Global acceptance
- II. Bridges gap between:
 - A. Traditional knowledge and modern science

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **First Achievement:** CARI Bengaluru becomes the first CCRAS institute with ISO 15189:2022 accreditation.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensures high standards in laboratory testing and diagnostics.
- **Scientific Validation:** Promotes evidence-based Ayurveda research.
- **Global Recognition:** Enhances international credibility of AYUSH systems.
- **Healthcare Impact:** Improves diagnostic reliability and patient care.
- **Challenges:** Standardization across institutions and capacity building.
- **Way Forward:** Expand accreditation to other AYUSH institutes and strengthen research infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CARI:** Central Ayurveda Research Institute
- **Location:** Bengaluru
- **CCRAS:** Autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush
- **ISO 15189:2022:** Standard for medical laboratory quality
- **Fields Covered:** Biochemistry & Haematology
- **Objective:** Ensure competence and reliability of labs
- **Significance:** Global standardization in AYUSH research

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. ISO 15189:2022 relates to quality and competence of medical laboratories.
2. CCRAS functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. CARI Bengaluru is the first CCRAS institute to receive ISO 15189:2022 accreditation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

2.IEVP 2026: INDIA SHOWCASES 'FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY' TO THE WORLD



- IEVP 2026 invited **election officials and observers from multiple countries.**

- It provided insights into India's **electoral management, technology use, and scale of operations.**
- Highlighted the robustness of **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and VVPAT systems.**
- Strengthened India's global image as a **vibrant democracy.**
- Promoted **international cooperation in electoral practices and governance.**
- Reinforced trust in India's **institutional integrity and democratic processes.**
- Overall, reflects India's leadership in **democratic governance and electoral management.**

- B. Demonstrations of election processes

India's Electoral System

- I. One of the largest in the world:
 - A. Over **900 million voters**
- II. Uses:
 - A. **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)**
 - B. **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)**

Democratic Significance

- I. Elections reflect:
 - A. Political participation
 - B. Representation
- II. India often described as:
 - A. **"World's largest democracy"**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- I. Election Commission of India is a constitutional body under **Article 324.**
- II. Responsible for:
 - A. Conduct of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and offices of President & Vice-President

International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP)

- I. Platform to:
 - A. Showcase India's electoral system
 - B. Share best practices with other democracies
- II. Includes:
 - A. Field visits

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Engagement:** Participation of international election observers.
- **Institutional Strength:** Showcases ECI's role in managing elections.
- **Technological Integration:** Use of EVMs and VVPAT systems.
- **Democratic Credibility:** Reinforces India's image as a robust democracy.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Exchange of global electoral best practices.
- **Challenges:** Managing scale, misinformation, and electoral integrity.
- **Way Forward:** Enhance transparency, adopt new technologies, and strengthen voter awareness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ECI:** Constitutional body under Article 324
- **IEVP:** International Election Visitors' Programme
- **EVM:** Electronic Voting Machine
- **VVPAT:** Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail
- **Voter Base:** ~900+ million voters
- **Scope:** Elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, President, Vice-President
- **Tagline:** World's largest democracy

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Election Commission of India is a constitutional body under Article 324.
2. VVPAT allows voters to verify their vote through a paper audit trail.
3. IEVP is conducted to monitor elections only within India without international participation.

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)

3.ADVANCED AGRICULTURE FESTIVAL IN RAISEN: PROMOTING MODERN FARMING PRACTICES IN MADHYA PRADESH



- The festival serves as a platform for **knowledge dissemination on advanced farming techniques.**
- It promotes adoption of **modern technologies, improved seeds, and sustainable practices.**
- Encourages **farmer awareness, skill development, and innovation in agriculture.**
- Facilitates interaction between **farmers, experts, and policymakers.**
- Supports government efforts toward **agricultural productivity and income enhancement.**
- Highlights the role of **extension services and capacity building in rural development.**
- Overall, reflects a push for **technology-driven and sustainable agriculture transformation.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Agricultural Extension Services

- I. Aim to:
 - A. Transfer knowledge from research institutions to farmers
- II. Includes:
 - A. Training programs
 - B. Demonstrations
 - C. Workshops and fairs

Modern Agriculture Practices

- I. Includes:
 - A. Precision farming
 - B. Use of improved seeds and fertilizers
 - C. Mechanization and digital tools

Importance for Madhya Pradesh

- I. A major agricultural state producing:
 - A. Wheat
 - B. Soybean
 - C. Pulses
- II. Needs:
 - A. Technological adoption
 - B. Water management and sustainability

Policy Linkages

- I. Supports initiatives like:
 - A. **Digital Agriculture Mission**
 - B. **PM-Kisan Scheme**
 - C. Agricultural mechanization programs

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Farmer Participation:** Large-scale involvement from across the state.
- **Technology Focus:** Promotion of modern farming techniques.
- **Capacity Building:** Training and awareness for farmers.
- **Productivity Boost:** Aims to enhance yield and efficiency.
- **Policy Integration:** Aligns with national agricultural initiatives.
- **Challenges:** Adoption barriers, cost constraints, and awareness gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen extension services and promote sustainable practices.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Raisen:** District in Madhya Pradesh
- **Extension Services:** Knowledge transfer to farmers
- **Modern Techniques:** Precision farming, mechanization
- **Major Crops (MP):** Wheat, soybean, pulses
- **PM-Kisan:** Income support scheme for farmers
- **Digital Agriculture Mission:** Promotes technology in agriculture
- **Goal:** Increase productivity and farmer income

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Agricultural extension services aim to transfer knowledge to farmers.
2. Precision farming is a traditional method of agriculture.
3. Madhya Pradesh is a major producer of soybean in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4.KUNO NATIONAL PARK WELCOMES CHEETAH CUBS: LANDMARK SUCCESS IN INDIA'S REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM



- The birth of cubs in the wild signifies **successful adaptation and breeding of cheetahs in India.**
- It validates the effectiveness of **Project Cheetah**, aimed at reintroducing the species.
- Strengthens India's efforts in **wildlife conservation and biodiversity restoration.**

- Demonstrates ecological suitability of **Kuno National Park as a habitat.**
- Enhances prospects for **long-term population sustainability of cheetahs.**
- Positions India as a key player in **global species reintroduction initiatives.**
- Overall, it reflects governance focus on **ecosystem restoration and conservation science.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Project Cheetah

- I. Launched to reintroduce cheetahs in India after extinction in **1952.**
- II. Involves translocation from:
 - A. African countries like Namibia and South Africa
- III. Focus:
 - A. Establish viable cheetah population

Kuno National Park

- I. Kuno National Park located in Madhya Pradesh.
- II. Selected due to:
 - A. Suitable prey base
 - B. Adequate habitat and protection

Cheetah Conservation

- I. Cheetah is the **fastest land animal.**
- II. Listed as:
 - A. Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)
- III. Threats:
 - A. Habitat loss
 - B. Human-wildlife conflict

Reintroduction Concept

- I. Process of:
 - A. Restoring species to areas where they became extinct
- II. Requires:
 - A. Habitat suitability
 - B. Genetic diversity
 - C. Long-term monitoring

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Historic Breeding:** First successful birth of cheetah cubs in the wild in India.
- **Conservation Success:** Validates Project Cheetah efforts.
- **Habitat Suitability:** Kuno proves conducive for cheetah survival.
- **Biodiversity Impact:** Strengthens ecosystem restoration initiatives.
- **Global Significance:** Enhances India's role in wildlife conservation.
- **Challenges:** Mortality risks, genetic diversity, and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen monitoring, expand habitats, and ensure community participation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Project Cheetah:** Reintroduction initiative launched in India
- **Extinction Year (India):** 1952
- **Kuno National Park:** Located in Madhya Pradesh
- **Scientific Name:** *Acinonyx jubatus*
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **Origin of Cheetahs:** Namibia, South Africa
- **Concept:** Species reintroduction

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Cheetahs became extinct in India in 1952.
2. Kuno National Park is located in Gujarat.
3. Project Cheetah involves reintroduction of cheetahs from African countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.FROM QUEUES TO QR CODES: INDIA'S DIGITAL PAYMENT REVOLUTION



भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम
NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA

- India has witnessed exponential growth in **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based transactions.**
- QR codes have enabled **instant, low-cost, and accessible payments** even for small vendors.
- Strengthens **financial inclusion and digital economy penetration.**

- Reduces dependence on **cash and improves transaction transparency**.
- Enhances **efficiency in service delivery and governance systems**.
- Positions India as a **global leader in fintech innovation**.
- Overall, represents a shift towards an inclusive, **technology-driven economic ecosystem**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

UPI (Unified Payments Interface)

- I. Developed by National Payments Corporation of India.
- II. Enables:
 - A. Instant fund transfer between bank accounts
- III. Features:
 - A. Interoperability
 - B. Real-time payments
 - C. Mobile-based transactions

QR Code Payments

- I. Quick Response (QR) codes allow:
 - A. Scan-and-pay transactions
- II. Widely used by:
 - A. Small merchants
 - B. Street vendors

Digital Payment Ecosystem

- I. Includes:
 - A. Mobile wallets
 - B. Debit/credit cards
 - C. Internet banking
- II. Supported by:
 - A. **Digital India initiative**
 - B. Fintech innovation

Financial Inclusion

- I. Digital payments help:
 - A. Bring unbanked populations into formal system
 - B. Enable Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technological Shift:** Transition from cash to digital payments.
- **UPI Growth:** Massive increase in real-time transactions.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Access to digital payments for all sections.
- **Economic Transparency:** Reduces black money and enhances traceability.
- **Global Leadership:** India as a fintech innovation hub.
- **Challenges:** Cybersecurity risks and digital literacy gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen security frameworks and expand digital infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **UPI:** Real-time payment system developed by NPCI
- **NPCI:** Umbrella organization for retail payments in India
- **QR Code:** Enables scan-based payments
- **DBT:** Direct Benefit Transfer system
- **Digital India:** Flagship initiative for digital transformation
- **Benefit:** Instant, low-cost transactions
- **Concern:** Cybersecurity and fraud risks

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. UPI enables real-time fund transfer between bank accounts.
2. QR codes are used for scan-based digital payments.
3. National Payments Corporation of India is a private foreign entity.

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)

1. INDIA–UZBEKISTAN EXERCISE 'DUSTLIK': STRENGTHENING MILITARY COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA



- Exercise Dustlik focuses on **counter-terrorism operations and joint military training**.
- Strengthens India's strategic engagement with **Central Asian countries**.
- Enhances **interoperability and coordination between the two armies**.
- Facilitates exchange of **tactics, techniques, and best practices**.
- Supports India's broader **foreign policy outreach in Eurasia**.
- Contributes to regional **security and stability**.
- Overall, reflects India's growing role in **defence diplomacy and multilateral cooperation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Exercise Dustlik

- I. Annual joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan.
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Counter-terrorism
 - B. Urban warfare
 - C. Tactical drills

India–Uzbekistan Relations

- I. Uzbekistan is a key partner in:
 - A. **Central Asia**
- II. Cooperation includes:
 - A. Defence
 - B. Trade
 - C. Cultural exchanges

Strategic Importance of Central Asia

- I. Rich in:
 - A. Energy resources
- II. Important for:
 - A. Connectivity initiatives
 - B. Regional security

Defence Diplomacy

- I. Joint exercises help:
 - A. Build trust
 - B. Enhance military cooperation
 - C. Strengthen geopolitical partnerships

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Joint Exercise:** Dustlik enhances India–Uzbekistan military cooperation.
- **Operational Focus:** Counter-terrorism and tactical training.
- **Strategic Outreach:** Strengthens India's presence in Central Asia.

- **Interoperability:** Improves coordination between armed forces.
- **Security Impact:** Contributes to regional peace and stability.
- **Challenges:** Diverse operational environments and coordination issues.
- **Way Forward:** Expand defence cooperation and joint training initiatives.

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2.CENTRE ADVISES STATES TO ALIGN BONUS POLICIES WITH NUTRITIONAL & AGRICULTURAL PRIORITIES



PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Exercise Dustlik:** India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise
- **Participants:** Indian Army & Uzbekistan Armed Forces
- **Region:** Central Asia
- **Focus:** Counter-terrorism, urban warfare
- **Defence Diplomacy:** Tool for strengthening ties
- **Strategic Importance:** Energy resources and connectivity
- **Objective:** Enhance interoperability

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Exercise Dustlik is conducted between India and Uzbekistan.
2. The exercise focuses on counter-terrorism operations.
3. Uzbekistan is located in South America.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- The advisory encourages states to incentivize cultivation of **nutritionally important and import-dependent crops**.
- Focus on reducing reliance on imports of **edible oils and pulses**.
- Supports India's goals of **nutritional security and self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)**.
- Promotes **crop diversification** away from water-intensive cereals.
- Aligns with sustainable agriculture and **climate-resilient farming practices**.
- Respects federal structure as it is an **advisory, not a directive**.
- Overall, it reflects policy coordination between Centre and States for **agricultural transformation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Crop Bonus Policy

- I. States provide **bonuses over MSP (Minimum Support Price)** to incentivize farmers.
- II. Often used to promote:
 - A. Specific crops
 - B. Regional agricultural priorities

Need for Diversification

- I. Over-dependence on:
 - A. Rice and wheat
- II. Issues:
 - A. Water stress
 - B. Soil degradation
- III. Need to shift towards:
 - A. Pulses, oilseeds, millets

Nutritional Security

- I. Pulses:
 - A. Key protein source
- II. Millets:
 - A. Rich in nutrients and climate-resilient
- III. Oilseeds:
 - A. Reduce edible oil imports

Policy Linkages

- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**
- **International Year of Millets (2023)** legacy push
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Advisory:** Centre suggests aligning state bonus policies with national priorities.
- **Crop Focus:** Pulses, oilseeds, and millets promoted.
- **Nutritional Goal:** Enhance protein and micronutrient availability.
- **Economic Impact:** Reduce import dependence on edible oils and pulses.
- **Sustainability:** Encourages water-efficient and climate-resilient crops.
- **Federal Aspect:** Advisory nature respects state autonomy.
- **Way Forward:** Incentivize diversification, strengthen procurement, and ensure market support.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Department of Expenditure:** Under Ministry of Finance
- **MSP:** Minimum Support Price
- **NFSM:** National Food Security Mission
- **Millets:** Nutri-cereals (e.g., jowar, bajra, ragi)
- **Issue:** High import dependence on edible oils
- **Goal:** Crop diversification
- **Concept:** Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance)

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. States can provide bonuses over MSP to incentivize crop cultivation.
2. Millets are considered water-intensive crops.
3. Promoting oilseeds can help reduce import dependence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3. INDIAN RAILWAYS DRIVES LAST-MILE CONNECTIVITY WITH MASSIVE INVESTMENTS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH



- Indian Railways is expanding infrastructure to **connect remote and unserved areas**.
- Investments target **modernization, electrification, and new rail lines**.
- Enhances **mobility, trade, and access to essential services** for marginalized populations.
- Supports **regional development and economic integration**.
- Plays a key role in achieving **inclusive growth and balanced development**.
- Strengthens logistics efficiency and reduces **transportation costs**.
- Overall, it reflects governance focus on **infrastructure-led development and social inclusion**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Railways

- I. Indian Railways is one of the largest rail networks globally.
- II. Functions under:
 - A. Ministry of Railways
- III. Provides:
 - A. Passenger and freight services across the country

Last-Mile Connectivity

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Extending infrastructure to remote and rural areas
- II. Ensures:
 - A. Access to markets, healthcare, education

Key Initiatives

- **Rail Electrification:** Reducing carbon footprint and fuel dependency
- **Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC):** Improving freight efficiency
- **Station Redevelopment:** Modernizing infrastructure

Inclusive Development

- I. Railways contribute to:
 - A. Regional equity
 - B. Economic opportunities
- II. Connects:
 - A. Rural and urban areas

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** New rail lines and connectivity projects.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Focus on underserved and remote regions.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts trade, logistics, and employment.
- **Sustainability:** Electrification reduces emissions.
- **National Integration:** Connects diverse regions of India.
- **Challenges:** Land acquisition, funding constraints, and project delays.
- **Way Forward:** Accelerate project execution and integrate multimodal transport.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Indian Railways:** One of the largest networks globally
- **Last-Mile Connectivity:** Access to remote areas

- **Rail Electrification:** Reduces fossil fuel dependence
- **Dedicated Freight Corridor:** High-capacity freight routes
- **Station Redevelopment:** Modern infrastructure upgrade
- **Goal:** Inclusive and balanced regional development
- **Benefit:** Lower logistics cost

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Last-mile connectivity refers to extending infrastructure to remote and underserved areas.
2. Rail electrification helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
3. Dedicated Freight Corridors are primarily meant for passenger transport.

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)

4. NCST PUSHES FOR TRIBAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AT CHAKMA YUVA SAMVAD IN DELHI



- The event highlighted challenges faced by **tribal youth in education, employment, and integration**.
- Called for targeted policies to improve **skill development and livelihood opportunities**.
- Emphasized strengthening access to **education, digital resources, and entrepreneurship support**.
- Reinforced the importance of **inclusive governance and tribal welfare frameworks**.
- Promoted engagement with communities like the **Chakma tribe**.
- Aligns with constitutional commitments for **Scheduled Tribes' upliftment**.
- Overall, it reflects governance focus on **inclusive growth and social justice**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

- I. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is a constitutional body under **Article 338A**.
- II. Functions include:
 - A. Safeguarding rights of Scheduled Tribes
 - B. Monitoring welfare programs
 - C. Advising government on tribal issues

Scheduled Tribes in India

- I. Recognized under:
 - A. Article 342
- II. Face issues like:
 - A. Socio-economic marginalization
 - B. Limited access to education and employment

Chakma Community

- I. A tribal community primarily found in:
 - A. Northeastern India
- II. Has unique:
 - A. Cultural and linguistic identity

Government Initiatives

- I. **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**
- II. **Van Dhan Yojana**
- III. Focus on:
 - A. Education, livelihood, and skill development

- The programme provided a platform for **young women to engage in parliamentary-style debates and discussions.**
- Focus on enhancing **leadership, political awareness, and civic engagement** among youth.
- Encourages participation in **policy discourse and democratic institutions.**
- Strengthens the vision of **gender equality and women empowerment.**
- Builds capacity for future **women leaders in governance and public life.**
- Promotes awareness about **constitutional values and democratic functioning.**
- Overall, it reflects governance focus on **inclusive political participation and youth empowerment.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Youth Parliament Programme

- I. Simulates:
 - A. Parliamentary proceedings
- II. Aims to:
 - A. Educate youth about legislative processes
 - B. Promote democratic values

Nari Shakti Initiative

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Women empowerment
 - B. Gender equality
- II. Encourages:
 - A. Active participation of women in governance

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- I. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports promotes:
 - A. Youth development
 - B. Civic engagement programs

Constitutional Values

- I. Encourages:
 - A. Equality (Article 14)
 - B. Participation in democracy
- II. Strengthens:
 - A. Democratic institutions

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Nationwide Reach:** Conducted across 17 zones.
- **Women Empowerment:** Focus on leadership and participation.
- **Democratic Learning:** Simulated parliamentary debates.
- **Youth Engagement:** Encourages civic awareness.
- **Gender Equality:** Promotes inclusive governance.
- **Challenges:** Ensuring sustained participation and outreach.
- **Way Forward:** Expand programs and integrate with formal education.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Nari Shakti:** Refers to women empowerment
- **Youth Parliament:** Simulation of legislative proceedings
- **Ministry:** Youth Affairs and Sports
- **Article 14:** Equality before law

- **Objective:** Civic awareness and leadership development
- **Scope:** Nationwide participation
- **Focus:** Women in governance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Youth Parliament programmes aim to simulate legislative proceedings.
2. Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law.
3. Nari Shakti Youth Parliament is exclusively for male participants.

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)

I. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MARKET (e-NAM): DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS



- e-NAM is an online platform integrating **APMC mandis across states into a unified national market.**
- Enables farmers to **sell produce beyond local mandis**, improving price realization.
- Promotes **transparent auctioning and real-time price discovery.**
- Reduces the role of intermediaries, enhancing **farmer income and efficiency.**
- Supports **inter-state trade and better supply chain integration.**
- Aligns with Digital India and agricultural modernization goals.
- Overall, strengthens **market-led agricultural growth and governance reforms.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

e-NAM Platform

- I. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) launched in **2016.**
- II. Implemented by:
 - A. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)
- III. Objective:
 - A. Create a unified national agricultural market

APMC Mandis

- I. Regulated markets under state laws.
- II. Farmers traditionally sell produce via:
 - A. Commission agents
- III. Issues:
 - A. Fragmentation
 - B. Limited competition

Key Features of e-NAM

- Electronic bidding
- Quality assaying
- Online payment
- Integration of mandis

Policy Linkages

- I. Supports:
 - A. Agricultural market reforms
 - B. Doubling farmers' income
- II. Complementary to:
 - A. Digital Agriculture Mission

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Digital Platform:** Online trading of agricultural commodities.

- **Market Integration:** Links APMC mandis across states.
- **Farmer Benefit:** Better price discovery and reduced intermediaries.
- **Transparency:** Real-time auctions and payments.
- **Trade Efficiency:** Promotes inter-state agricultural trade.
- **Challenges:** Digital literacy, infrastructure gaps, and state-level reforms.
- **Way Forward:** Expand mandi integration, improve logistics, and enhance farmer awareness.

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)

2.CPI (BASE 2024=100) – MARCH 2026: RETAIL INFLATION TRENDS RELEASED



National Statistical Office

- CPI indicates the **average change in prices of goods and services consumed by households.**
- The revised base year **2024=100** reflects updated consumption patterns and improves accuracy.
- Inflation trends directly influence **monetary policy decisions by RBI.**
- Food inflation remains a **key driver of overall CPI fluctuations.**
- Impacts **household purchasing power, savings, and consumption behavior.**
- Plays a crucial role in **fiscal planning, subsidies, and welfare schemes.**
- Overall, CPI is central to assessing **macroeconomic stability and inflation management.**

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **e-NAM Launch Year:** 2016
- **Implementing Agency:** SFAC
- **Type:** Online agricultural trading platform
- **APMC:** Regulated agricultural markets
- **Key Feature:** Electronic bidding and payment
- **Goal:** Unified national market
- **Benefit:** Better price realization for farmers

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. e-NAM integrates APMC mandis into a unified national agricultural market.
2. e-NAM is implemented by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium.
3. e-NAM eliminates the need for any physical mandi infrastructure.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- I. Measures:
 - A. Retail inflation at the consumer level
- II. Categories:
 - A. CPI (Rural)
 - B. CPI (Urban)
 - C. CPI (Combined)

Base Year Revision

- I. Updated periodically to:
 - A. Reflect current consumption basket
 - B. Improve statistical accuracy
- II. Current base:
 - A. **2024 = 100**

Institutional Framework

- I. Compiled by:
 - A. National Statistical Office
- II. Used by:
 - A. Reserve Bank of India for inflation targeting

Inflation Targeting

- I. RBI follows:
 - A. **Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework**
- II. Target:
 - A. **4% ± 2% band**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inflation Measure:** CPI tracks retail price changes.
- **Updated Base:** 2024 base improves relevance and accuracy.
- **Policy Tool:** Guides RBI's interest rate decisions.
- **Household Impact:** Reflects cost of living and purchasing power.
- **Economic Indicator:** Influences growth, investment, and consumption.
- **Challenges:** Food and fuel price volatility.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen supply chains and stabilize inflation expectations.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CPI:** Retail inflation indicator
- **Base Year:** 2024 = 100
- **Compiled by:** National Statistical Office (NSO)
- **RBI Target:** 4% ± 2%
- **Types:** Rural, Urban, Combined
- **Major Components:** Food, fuel, housing, core
- **Use:** Monetary policy & economic planning

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Consumer Price Index measures retail inflation in an economy.
2. CPI is compiled by the National Statistical Office.

- The Reserve Bank of India uses CPI as a key indicator for inflation targeting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1, 2 and 3
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 only

Answer: (a)

3.ANRF'S 'SARAL AI': SIMPLIFYING SCIENCE COMMUNICATION THROUGH MULTILINGUAL AI



- SARAL AI will transform **technical research papers into easy-to-understand content.**
- Focus on dissemination through **social media and digital platforms.**
- Supports accessibility in **multiple Indian languages**, promoting inclusivity.
- Bridges the gap between **scientific research and public understanding.**
- Encourages **science communication and citizen engagement.**
- Aligns with India's push for **AI-driven innovation and knowledge democratization.**

- Overall, enhances **research outreach, policy awareness, and public participation in science.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

- Anusandhan National Research Foundation established to:
 - Promote research and innovation
 - Strengthen India's scientific ecosystem

SARAL AI Platform

- AI-based tool for:
 - Simplifying complex academic content
- Outputs:
 - Short summaries
 - Infographics
 - Multilingual social media content

Science Communication

- Critical for:
 - Public awareness
 - Policy understanding
- Challenges:
 - Technical complexity
 - Language barriers

Digital & AI Ecosystem

- Supports:
 - Digital India
 - AI innovation ecosystem

- II. Encourages:
- A. Wider knowledge dissemination

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Innovation Tool:** SARAL AI simplifies research publications.
- **Multilingual Access:** Content available in various Indian languages.
- **Public Engagement:** Enhances science communication.
- **Digital Outreach:** Uses social media platforms for dissemination.
- **Research Impact:** Improves visibility and accessibility of research.
- **Challenges:** Accuracy, contextual interpretation, and bias in AI outputs.
- **Way Forward:** Ensure validation mechanisms and expand AI capabilities.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ANRF:** Apex body for research and innovation
- **SARAL AI:** AI-based science communication platform
- **Objective:** Simplify research into accessible formats
- **Medium:** Social media and digital platforms
- **Key Feature:** Multilingual output
- **Challenge:** AI bias and accuracy
- **Goal:** Democratization of knowledge

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. SARAL AI aims to simplify complex research publications into accessible formats.
2. ANRF is responsible for promoting research and innovation in India.
3. SARAL AI is designed only for English-language content.

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)

4.LABOUR MINISTRY PARTNERS WITH PORTER & GIGIN TO BOOST JOB LINKAGES VIA NCS PORTAL



- The MoUs aim to integrate private job platforms with the **NCS portal** for wider job access.

- Enhances employment opportunities in **gig economy and last-mile logistics services**.
- Facilitates **real-time job matching between employers and job seekers**.
- Supports formalization and visibility of **informal and gig workforce**.
- Strengthens government efforts toward **employment generation and digital labour markets**.
- Promotes **public-private collaboration in employment services**.
- Overall, reflects a shift towards **technology-driven labour market integration and inclusive employment**.

- A. Logistics
- B. Delivery services
- C. Platform-based work

Private Partners

- I. Porter:
 - A. Provides on-demand logistics services
- II. Gigin Technologies:
 - A. Focuses on gig and blue-collar jobs

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Public-Private Partnership:** Collaboration with private job platforms.
- **Employment Boost:** Expands opportunities in gig and logistics sectors.
- **Digital Integration:** Strengthens NCS portal capabilities.
- **Labour Market Efficiency:** Real-time job matching.
- **Inclusivity:** Supports informal and gig workforce.
- **Challenges:** Job security, social protection, and regulation of gig work.
- **Way Forward:** Develop labour codes and social security frameworks for gig workers.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Career Service (NCS) Portal

- I. National Career Service Portal is a digital platform for:
 - A. Job matching
 - B. Career counseling
- II. Connects:
 - A. Job seekers and employers

Ministry of Labour & Employment

- I. Ministry of Labour & Employment responsible for:
 - A. Labour welfare
 - B. Employment generation policies

Gig Economy

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Short-term, flexible jobs
- II. Sectors include:

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NCS Portal:** Digital employment platform
- **Ministry:** Labour & Employment
- **Gig Economy:** Short-term, flexible jobs
- **Porter:** Logistics platform

- **Gigin:** Gig job platform
- **Objective:** Job matching and employment generation
- **Concern:** Social security for gig workers

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. National Career Service Portal connects job seekers with employers.
2. Gig economy refers to long-term permanent employment contracts.
3. The Ministry of Labour & Employment is responsible for employment policies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.NCC LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE CYBER SECURITY PROGRAMME: BUILDING DIGITAL DEFENDERS AMONG YOUTH



- The programme aims to equip NCC cadets with **fundamental and advanced cyber security skills**.
- Focus areas include **cyber hygiene, threat awareness, and safe digital practices**.
- Encourages youth participation in **national cyber security efforts**.
- Supports India's push toward a **secure digital ecosystem and cyber resilience**.
- Enhances employability and skills in **emerging technology domains**.
- Aligns with broader initiatives on **Digital India and cyber awareness**.
- Overall, strengthens **human resource capacity in cyber security and national preparedness**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

- I. National Cadet Corps is a youth development organization under the Ministry of Defence.
- II. Objectives:
 - A. Discipline
 - B. Leadership
 - C. Nation-building

Cyber Security in India

- I. Increasing dependence on:
 - A. Digital platforms
- II. Threats include:
 - A. Cyber attacks
 - B. Data breaches
 - C. Phishing and malware

Need for Capacity Building

- I. Growing cyber threats require:
 - A. Skilled workforce
 - B. Public awareness
- II. Youth play a key role in:
 - A. Digital safety and innovation

Policy Linkages

- I. **Digital India Programme**
- II. National Cyber Security Policy (2013)
- III. Focus on:
 - A. Cyber resilience and awareness

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Skill Development:** Training NCC cadets in cyber security.

- **Digital Awareness:** Promotes safe online practices.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Builds future cyber professionals.
- **National Security:** Strengthens cyber resilience.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports Digital India initiatives.
- **Challenges:** Rapidly evolving cyber threats and skill gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Continuous training and integration with formal education.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NCC:** Youth organization under Ministry of Defence
- **Cyber Security:** Protection of digital systems and data
- **Digital India:** Initiative for digital transformation
- **Threats:** Phishing, malware, hacking
- **Policy:** National Cyber Security Policy (2013)
- **Focus:** Awareness and capacity building
- **Goal:** Cyber resilience

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Cadet Corps functions under the Ministry of Defence.
2. Cyber security capacity building involves training individuals in digital safety and threat management.
3. The National Cyber Security Policy of India was introduced in 2003.

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)

1. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR'S LEGACY CELEBRATED: FOUNDATION OF MODERN INDIA REITERATED BY LOK SABHA SPEAKER



- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's contributions to **constitutionalism, social justice, and democracy** were emphasized.
- Recognized as the **chief architect of the Indian Constitution**.
- His ideas shaped **fundamental rights, equality, and inclusive governance**.
- Advocated for **social reforms, abolition of caste discrimination, and empowerment of marginalized sections**.
- Continues to influence India's **policy framework and democratic ethos**.

- Reinforces the importance of **constitutional values in governance**.
- Overall, highlights Ambedkar's enduring role in **nation-building and social transformation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

- I. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was:
 - A. Chairman of Drafting Committee of Constitution
 - B. Social reformer and economist

Constitutional Contributions

- I. Key provisions influenced:
 - A. Fundamental Rights
 - B. Directive Principles of State Policy
 - C. Safeguards for marginalized communities

Social Justice Vision

- I. Advocated:
 - A. Equality and dignity
 - B. Abolition of untouchability
- II. Instrumental in:
 - A. Article 17 (Abolition of Untouchability)

Institutional Legacy

- I. Strengthened:
 - A. Parliamentary democracy
 - B. Rule of law
- II. Emphasized:
 - A. Constitutional morality

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Nation Builder:** Ambedkar laid the foundation of modern India.
- **Constitution Maker:** Chief architect of Indian Constitution.
- **Social Reformer:** Fought caste discrimination and inequality.
- **Democratic Vision:** Advocated equality and justice.
- **Institutional Impact:** Strengthened democratic institutions.
- **Challenges:** Continuing social inequality and discrimination.
- **Way Forward:** Uphold constitutional values and ensure inclusive development.

2. Article 17 of the Constitution abolishes untouchability.
3. Ambedkar opposed the idea of social equality.

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)

2.NAAS BRAINSTORMING ON FERTILIZER ATMANIRBHARTA: ROADMAP FOR SELF-RELIANT AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ambedkar:** Chairman of Drafting Committee
- **Article 17:** Abolition of Untouchability
- **Fundamental Rights:** Equality, freedom, justice
- **Directive Principles:** Social and economic goals
- **Concept:** Constitutional morality
- **Role:** Social reformer and economist
- **Legacy:** Inclusive governance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution.



- The session aimed to strategize for **self-reliance in fertilizer production and supply**.
- Addressed India's heavy dependence on **imports of urea, DAP, and potash**.
- Emphasized adoption of **sustainable and alternative fertilizers** like bio-fertilizers.
- Highlighted need for **efficient nutrient management and balanced fertilization**.
- Supports agricultural productivity while reducing **fiscal burden of subsidies**.
- Aligns with national priorities of **food security and sustainable agriculture**.
- Overall, reflects policy focus on **resilient agri-input systems and economic self-reliance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Fertilizer Sector in India

- I. India is one of the largest consumers of fertilizers.
- II. Key types:
 - A. Nitrogen (Urea)
 - B. Phosphatic (DAP)
 - C. Potassic fertilizers

Import Dependence

- I. High reliance on imports for:
 - A. Phosphorus and Potash
- II. Leads to:
 - A. Supply vulnerability
 - B. Price fluctuations

Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Fertilizers

- I. Focus on:

- A. Domestic production
 - B. Alternative nutrient sources
- II. Includes:
 - A. Nano-fertilizers
 - B. Bio-fertilizers

Sustainable Agriculture

- I. Promotes:
 - A. Balanced fertilizer use
 - B. Soil health improvement
- II. Linked to:
 - A. Soil Health Card Scheme

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Focus:** Roadmap for fertilizer self-reliance.
- **Import Reduction:** Decreasing dependence on global markets.
- **Sustainability:** Promotion of eco-friendly fertilizers.
- **Agricultural Impact:** Ensures nutrient security and productivity.
- **Economic Aspect:** Reduces subsidy burden.
- **Challenges:** Raw material availability and technological gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Invest in R&D, promote alternatives, and ensure efficient distribution.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NAAS:** National Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- **Key Fertilizers:** Urea, DAP, Potash
- **Issue:** High import dependence
- **Alternatives:** Bio-fertilizers, nano-fertilizers

- **Scheme:** Soil Health Card
- **Goal:** Nutrient security
- **Concept:** Aatmanirbhar Bharat

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India is heavily dependent on imports for potash fertilizers.
2. Bio-fertilizers are considered environmentally sustainable alternatives.
3. Urea is a phosphatic fertilizer.

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)

3.DR JITENDRA SINGH STRESSES STRONG CLINICAL FOUNDATION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION DESPITE AI ADVANCEMENTS



- Emphasized that **AI cannot replace fundamental clinical skills and human judgment** in medicine.
- Called for strengthening **clinical training, patient interaction, and diagnostic abilities**.
- AI should act as a **support tool rather than a substitute for doctors**.
- Ensures maintenance of **quality, ethics, and patient-centric care**.
- Aligns with evolving medical education under **technology integration**.
- Highlights importance of **human touch in healthcare delivery**.
- Overall, it reflects the need for **balanced integration of AI with traditional medical training**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Medical Education in India

- I. Governed by:
 - A. National Medical Commission
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Clinical training
 - B. Ethical practice
 - C. Patient care

Role of AI in Healthcare

- I. Applications include:
 - A. Diagnosis support
 - B. Imaging analysis
 - C. Predictive analytics
- II. Benefits:
 - A. Efficiency
 - B. Accuracy
- III. Limitations:
 - A. Lack of human judgment and empathy

Clinical Foundation

- I. Core components:
 - A. Patient examination
 - B. Case history analysis
 - C. Clinical reasoning

Policy Context

- I. Integration of AI aligned with:
 - A. Digital health initiatives
 - B. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Human-Centric Care:** Clinical skills remain fundamental.
- **AI as Support:** Technology complements, not replaces doctors.
- **Education Reform:** Strengthen clinical training.
- **Healthcare Quality:** Ensures ethical and patient-focused care.
- **Technological Balance:** Integrate AI without compromising fundamentals.
- **Challenges:** Over-reliance on AI and skill dilution.
- **Way Forward:** Blend AI education with strong clinical exposure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NMC:** Regulates medical education in India
- **AI in Healthcare:** Diagnostic and predictive tools
- **Clinical Skills:** Examination and patient interaction
- **ABDM:** Digital health ecosystem
- **Concern:** Overdependence on AI
- **Goal:** Balanced medical training
- **Focus:** Human judgment and ethics

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Artificial Intelligence can completely replace clinical judgment in healthcare.
2. The National Medical Commission regulates medical education in India.

3. Clinical foundation includes patient examination and diagnostic reasoning.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

4. MISSION POSHAN 2.0: STRENGTHENING INDIA'S NUTRITION ECOSYSTEM FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT



- Mission Poshan 2.0 integrates various nutrition schemes into a **comprehensive nutrition support programme.**

- Targets reduction of **malnutrition, stunting, wasting, and anaemia.**
- Focuses on the first **1000 days of life** for improved child development outcomes.
- Strengthens **Anganwadi services and supplementary nutrition delivery.**
- Promotes **behavioural change and community participation.**
- Uses digital tools for **real-time monitoring and transparency.**
- Overall, it enhances India's progress towards **nutrition security and human capital development.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Mission Poshan 2.0

- I. Mission Poshan 2.0 launched by Government of India.
- II. Integrates:
 - A. **ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services)**
 - B. **POSHAN Abhiyaan**
- III. Focus on:
 - A. Nutrition support and service delivery

Target Beneficiaries

- Pregnant women
- Lactating mothers
- Children (0–6 years)
- Adolescent girls

Anganwadi System

- I. Backbone of nutrition delivery:
 - A. Supplementary nutrition
 - B. Health check-ups

C. Early childhood care

- **Goal:** Nutrition security

Nutrition Challenges in India

- I. High prevalence of:
 - A. Stunting
 - B. Wasting
 - C. Anaemia
- II. Linked to:
 - A. Poverty, sanitation, and awareness

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Integrated Approach:** Convergence of multiple nutrition schemes.
- **Targeted Intervention:** Focus on women and children.
- **Service Delivery:** Strengthening Anganwadi centres.
- **Technology Use:** Real-time monitoring systems.
- **Behavioural Change:** Community awareness and participation.
- **Challenges:** Implementation gaps and regional disparities.
- **Way Forward:** Improve infrastructure, awareness, and inter-sectoral coordination.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Mission Poshan 2.0:** Integrated nutrition programme
- **Ministry:** Women and Child Development
- **Components:** ICDS + POSHAN Abhiyaan
- **Focus:** First 1000 days
- **Delivery:** Anganwadi centres
- **Issues:** Stunting, wasting, anaemia

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Mission Poshan 2.0 integrates ICDS and POSHAN Abhiyaan.
2. The scheme focuses only on elderly population.
3. Anganwadi centres play a key role in delivering nutrition services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

**5.INDIA PHARMA 2026 CONCLUDES:
PUSH FOR FUNDING,
INFRASTRUCTURE & SPEED TO
BOOST PHARMA INNOVATION**



- Stakeholders called for increased **investment in pharmaceutical R&D and innovation.**
- Highlighted need for **world-class infrastructure and research ecosystems.**
- Emphasized faster **regulatory approvals to accelerate drug development.**
- Focus on strengthening India's position as a **global pharmaceutical hub.**
- Addressed challenges in **supply chains, APIs, and technology adoption.**
- Encouraged public-private partnerships for **innovation-driven growth.**
- Overall, reflects a strategic push towards **self-reliance and global competitiveness in the pharma sector.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India's Pharmaceutical Sector

- I. India is:
 - A. One of the largest producers of **generic medicines globally**
- II. Known as:
 - A. "Pharmacy of the World"

Key Challenges

- I. Dependence on imports for:
 - A. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)
- II. Issues:
 - A. Infrastructure gaps
 - B. Regulatory delays

Policy Initiatives

- I. **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals**
- II. Promotion of:
 - A. Bulk drug parks
 - B. R&D investments

Innovation Ecosystem

- I. Requires:
 - A. Funding
 - B. Skilled workforce
 - C. Regulatory efficiency

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Funding Push:** Need for increased R&D investment.
- **Infrastructure:** Development of advanced research facilities.
- **Regulatory Reform:** Faster approvals for drug development.
- **Global Positioning:** Strengthen India's pharma leadership.
- **Supply Chain:** Reduce dependence on imported APIs.
- **Challenges:** Cost, compliance, and innovation gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Promote PPPs and strengthen domestic capabilities.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **India Pharma 2026:** Sectoral conference
- **Department:** Pharmaceuticals
- **PLI Scheme:** Incentivizes domestic manufacturing

- **APIs:** Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- **India's Status:** Major generic drug producer
- **Goal:** Self-reliance in pharma
- **Focus:** Innovation and infrastructure

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India is one of the largest producers of generic medicines globally.
2. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) are the inactive components of drugs.
3. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

1.COMMERCE MINISTRY LAUNCHES NEW INTEGRATED WEBSITE: BOOST TO DIGITAL GOVERNANCE & TRADE FACILITATION



- The integrated website consolidates multiple **trade-related services and information portals**.
- Provides a **single-window access** for exporters, businesses, and stakeholders.
- Enhances **ease of doing business and trade facilitation**.
- Improves transparency, accessibility, and **real-time information dissemination**.
- Supports India's push towards **Digital India and e-governance reforms**.
- Facilitates better coordination between **government and industry stakeholders**.
- Overall, strengthens **institutional efficiency and digital public service delivery**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Department of Commerce

- I. Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- II. Responsible for:
 - A. Formulation of foreign trade policy
 - B. Promotion of exports

Digital Governance

- I. Use of digital platforms to:
 - A. Improve service delivery
 - B. Enhance transparency
- II. Key initiatives:
 - A. Digital India
 - B. e-Governance

Trade Facilitation

- I. Simplifies procedures for:
 - A. Exporters and importers
- II. Reduces:
 - A. Transaction costs
 - B. Time delays

Ease of Doing Business

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Regulatory simplification
 - B. Digital access to services

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Single-Window Platform:** Integrated access to trade services.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Improved navigation and accessibility.

- **Transparency:** Real-time information availability.
- **Trade Promotion:** Supports exporters and businesses.
- **Digital Governance:** Strengthens e-governance initiatives.
- **Challenges:** Digital divide and awareness gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Continuous updates and stakeholder engagement.

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2.IOS SAGAR SHIP ARRIVES AT PHUKET: INDIA STRENGTHENS MARITIME OUTREACH IN ASEAN REGION



PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ministry:** Commerce and Industry
- **Department:** Commerce
- **Function:** Foreign trade policy and export promotion
- **Concept:** Trade facilitation
- **Initiative:** Digital governance
- **Benefit:** Ease of doing business
- **Tool:** Integrated website

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Department of Commerce is responsible for foreign trade policy in India.
2. Integrated digital platforms improve ease of doing business.
3. Trade facilitation increases transaction costs for exporters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- The visit underscores India's commitment to **regional maritime cooperation and security**.
- Enhances **defence diplomacy and interoperability** with ASEAN countries.
- Promotes collaboration in **maritime safety, training, and humanitarian assistance**.
- Reflects India's **Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision**.
- Facilitates goodwill and people-to-people contact through port visits.
- Strengthens India's presence in the **strategically important Indo-Pacific region**.
- Overall, highlights India's proactive role in **ensuring a free, open, and secure maritime domain**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR

- I. Deployed for:
 - A. Maritime cooperation
 - B. Training and outreach missions
- II. Part of India's naval diplomacy initiatives

India–Thailand Relations

- I. Based on:
 - A. Historical, cultural, and strategic ties
- II. Cooperation areas:
 - A. Defence
 - B. Trade
 - C. Maritime security

Indo–Pacific Strategy

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Free, open, and inclusive region
- II. Promotes:
 - A. Rule-based maritime order

Act East Policy

- I. Aims to:
 - A. Strengthen engagement with Southeast Asia
- II. Enhances:
 - A. Strategic and economic partnerships

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Naval Diplomacy:** Strengthens India–Thailand maritime relations.
- **Regional Security:** Enhances cooperation in the Indo–Pacific.
- **Strategic Presence:** Expands India's outreach in the ASEAN region.
- **Training & Cooperation:** Focus on joint activities and capacity building.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports Act East Policy.
- **Challenges:** Regional geopolitical tensions and maritime disputes.
- **Way Forward:** Increase joint exercises and multilateral cooperation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Indian Navy:** Maritime defence force
- **Phuket:** Located in Thailand
- **Act East Policy:** Engagement with Southeast Asia
- **Indo–Pacific:** Strategic maritime region
- **Objective:** Maritime security and cooperation
- **Concept:** Naval diplomacy
- **Focus:** Free and open seas

PadhAI–GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Act East Policy focuses on strengthening India's engagement with Southeast Asia.
2. Indo–Pacific strategy emphasizes a free and open maritime region.

3. Phuket is located in Indonesia.

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)

3.LIC LAUNCHES 'MYLIC' & 'SUPER SALES SAATHI' APPS: BOOST TO DIGITAL INSURANCE ECOSYSTEM



- 'MyLIC' app enables customers to **manage policies, pay premiums, and access services digitally.**
- 'Super Sales Saathi' is designed for **LIC agents to improve sales and customer engagement.**
- Enhances **ease of access, transparency, and service delivery** in insurance.
- Promotes **paperless transactions and digital inclusion.**
- Supports India's broader push toward **Digital India and fintech adoption.**
- Strengthens LIC's outreach and operational efficiency in a competitive market.

- Overall, reflects a shift toward **technology-driven, customer-centric financial services.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- I. Life Insurance Corporation of India is India's largest life insurance company.
- II. Established in:
 - A. 1956
- III. Provides:
 - A. Life insurance and financial products

Digital Transformation in Insurance

- I. Shift toward:
 - A. Online platforms and mobile apps
- II. Benefits:
 - A. Convenience
 - B. Faster service delivery
 - C. Reduced paperwork

Fintech Ecosystem

- I. Integration of:
 - A. Finance and technology
- II. Supports:
 - A. Financial inclusion
 - B. Digital payments

Policy Context

- I. Aligns with:
 - A. Digital India initiative
- II. Encourages:

- A. Cashless and paperless services

2. 'MyLIC' application is designed for policyholders to manage their insurance services.
3. 'Super Sales Saathi' is meant exclusively for customers to pay premiums.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Customer App ('MyLIC'):** Policy management and premium payments.
- **Agent App ('Super Sales Saathi'):** Sales support and customer engagement.
- **Digital Access:** Enhances service delivery and transparency.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Expands reach of insurance services.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Streamlines processes for LIC.
- **Challenges:** Digital literacy and cybersecurity risks.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen digital infrastructure and user awareness.

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)

4. HOUSELISTING & HOUSING CENSUS PHASE BEGINS: FIRST STEP TOWARDS INDIA'S POPULATION CENSUS

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **LIC:** Established in 1956
- **Sector:** Life insurance
- **Apps:** MyLIC (customer), Super Sales Saathi (agents)
- **Concept:** Fintech
- **Initiative:** Digital India
- **Benefit:** Paperless transactions
- **Focus:** Customer-centric services



- The houselisting phase collects data on **housing conditions, assets, and amenities.**
- Covers selected regions including **Andaman & Nicobar, Goa, Karnataka, Odisha, and Delhi areas.**
- Serves as a precursor to the **Population Enumeration phase.**

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Life Insurance Corporation of India was established in 1956.

- Data aids in planning for **housing, infrastructure, and welfare schemes**.
- Supports targeted delivery of **government services and socio-economic policies**.
- Ensures updated and reliable **demographic and housing data**.
- Overall, strengthens evidence-based governance and **development planning**.

A. Ministry of Home Affairs

Importance of Houselisting

- I. Provides baseline for:
 - A. Urban planning
 - B. Welfare targeting
- II. Supports:
 - A. Schemes like housing, sanitation, electrification

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Census in India

- I. Conducted under:
 - A. **Census Act, 1948**
- II. Carried out every:
 - A. 10 years
- III. Last Census:
 - A. 2011

Two Phases of Census

- I. **Houselisting & Housing Census**
 - A. Data on:
 1. Housing stock
 2. Amenities (water, sanitation, electricity)
- II. **Population Enumeration**
 - A. Data on:
 1. Demographics
 2. Socio-economic characteristics

Institutional Framework

- I. Conducted by:
 - A. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner
- II. Under:

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Census Phase:** Houselisting marks the first stage of the census process.
- **Coverage:** Multiple states and UTs included.
- **Data Collection:** Housing conditions and amenities.
- **Policy Utility:** Aids infrastructure and welfare planning.
- **Governance Tool:** Enables evidence-based decision-making.
- **Challenges:** Data accuracy, logistics, and manpower.
- **Way Forward:** Use digital tools and ensure comprehensive coverage.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Census Act:** 1948
- **Frequency:** Every 10 years
- **Last Census:** 2011
- **Phases:** Houselisting & Population Enumeration
- **Authority:** Registrar General & Census Commissioner
- **Data:** Housing, demographics
- **Use:** Policy planning

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Houselisting and Housing Census is the first phase of India's Census.
2. Census in India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948.
3. Population Enumeration phase collects data on housing amenities only.

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.MNRE SHOWCASES INDIA'S HYDROGEN STARTUP ECOSYSTEM: PUSH FOR GREEN HYDROGEN INNOVATION



सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTRY OF NEW AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- The exhibition highlighted emerging **startups working in green hydrogen technologies.**

- Showcased innovations in **production, storage, transport, and utilization of hydrogen.**
- Supports India's transition towards **clean energy and decarbonization.**
- Encourages **private sector participation and investment** in the hydrogen economy.
- Aligns with India's **National Green Hydrogen Mission.**
- Strengthens ecosystem for **energy security and sustainable development.**
- Overall, reflects India's ambition to become a **global hub for green hydrogen.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Green Hydrogen

- I. Hydrogen produced using:
 - A. Renewable energy sources (solar, wind)
- II. Emits:
 - A. Zero carbon emissions
- III. Uses:
 - A. Industry, transport, power

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- I. Launched to:
 - A. Promote hydrogen production and exports
- II. Targets:
 - A. Reduce fossil fuel dependence
 - B. Achieve net-zero goals

Role of MNRE

- I. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy responsible for:
 - A. Renewable energy policies
 - B. Clean energy promotion

Startup Ecosystem

- I. Focus areas:
 - A. Electrolysers
 - B. Storage technologies
 - C. Fuel cells

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Innovation Showcase:** Hydrogen startups and technologies displayed.
- **Clean Energy Transition:** Promotes low-carbon energy solutions.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Boosts investment and entrepreneurship.
- **Energy Security:** Reduces fossil fuel dependence.
- **Challenges:** High cost, infrastructure gaps, and technology maturity.
- **Way Forward:** Scale up production, reduce costs, and strengthen R&D.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Green Hydrogen:** Produced using renewable energy
- **MNRE:** Nodal ministry for renewable energy
- **Mission:** National Green Hydrogen Mission
- **Use:** Industry, transport, power
- **Technology:** Electrolysers, fuel cells
- **Goal:** Net-zero emissions
- **Challenge:** High production cost

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy sources.
2. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence.
3. Hydrogen fuel emits carbon dioxide when used.

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)

.1.RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN HIGHLIGHTS INDIA'S SCIENTIFIC MILESTONE: PUSH FOR TECHNOLOGICAL SELF-RELIANCE



- The Chairman underscored India's achievements in **science, technology, and innovation**.
- Highlighted progress towards **self-reliance in critical technologies**.
- Recognized contributions of scientists, institutions, and policymakers.
- Emphasized the importance of **research, innovation, and indigenous capabilities**.
- Linked scientific advancement with **national development and strategic autonomy**.
- Reinforced commitment to **strengthening India's R&D ecosystem**.
- Overall, reflects India's trajectory toward becoming a **global leader in science and technology**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Scientific Progress in India

- I. India has achieved milestones in:
 - A. Space technology
 - B. Nuclear energy
 - C. Digital technologies

Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Technology

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Indigenous development
 - B. Reduced import dependence
- II. Key sectors:
 - A. Defence
 - B. Electronics
 - C. Pharmaceuticals

Institutional Ecosystem

- I. Key institutions:
 - A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 - B. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- II. Promote:
 - A. Innovation and research

Policy Framework

- I. Initiatives:
 - A. National Education Policy 2020
 - B. Digital India
 - C. Startup India

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scientific Milestone:** Recognition of India's technological achievements.
- **Self-Reliance:** Emphasis on indigenous innovation.
- **Institutional Strength:** Role of research organizations.
- **Strategic Importance:** Links science with national security and growth.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** Encourages R&D and startups.
- **Challenges:** Funding gaps and technology dependence.
- **Way Forward:** Invest in R&D and strengthen innovation infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Rajya Sabha Chairman:** Presiding officer of Upper House
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** Self-reliance initiative
- **ISRO:** Space research organization
- **DRDO:** Defence research body
- **Focus:** Indigenous technology
- **Goal:** Strategic autonomy
- **Area:** Science and innovation

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Aatmanirbhar Bharat emphasizes self-reliance in technology and production.
2. ISRO is responsible for India's space research activities.

3. DRDO functions under the Ministry of Agriculture.

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)

2.INDIA EMERGES AS GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY PLAYER: INTEGRATED PUSH ON HYDROGEN, NUCLEAR & INNOVATION



- India is positioning itself as a **key global player in clean energy transition**.
- Strategic focus on **green hydrogen as a future fuel** for decarbonization.
- Expansion of **nuclear energy for reliable, low-carbon baseload power**.
- Strong emphasis on **innovation, R&D, and indigenous technology development**.

- Supports goals of **energy security, climate commitments, and economic growth.**
- Encourages collaboration between **government, industry, and startups.**
- Overall, reflects India's integrated approach toward **sustainable development and global leadership in clean energy.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Clean Energy Transition

- I. Shift from:
 - A. Fossil fuels → Renewable and low-carbon energy
- II. Drivers:
 - A. Climate change commitments
 - B. Energy security

Green Hydrogen

- I. Produced using:
 - A. Renewable energy
- II. Key initiative:
 - A. National Green Hydrogen Mission
- III. Uses:
 - A. Industry, transport, energy storage

Nuclear Energy in India

- I. Provides:
 - A. Reliable baseload power
- II. Managed by:
 - A. Department of Atomic Energy
- III. Role:
 - A. Low-carbon electricity generation

Innovation Ecosystem

- I. Includes:
 - A. Startups
 - B. Research institutions
- II. Supported by:
 - A. Government policies and funding

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Positioning:** India emerging as clean energy leader.
- **Hydrogen Focus:** Development of the green hydrogen ecosystem.
- **Nuclear Energy:** Expansion for stable low-carbon power.
- **Innovation Push:** Strengthening R&D and startups.
- **Energy Security:** Reducing fossil fuel dependence.
- **Challenges:** High costs, technology gaps, and infrastructure needs.
- **Way Forward:** Scale up investments, foster innovation, and enhance global partnerships.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Green Hydrogen:** Renewable-based hydrogen fuel
- **Nuclear Energy:** Low-carbon baseload power
- **DAE:** Department of Atomic Energy
- **Mission:** National Green Hydrogen Mission
- **Goal:** Net-zero emissions
- **Concept:** Energy security
- **Focus:** Innovation and R&D

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy sources.
2. Nuclear energy provides baseload power with low carbon emissions.
3. Clean energy transition increases dependence on fossil fuels.

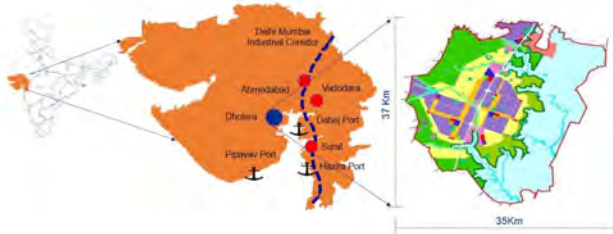
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3.INDIA NOTIFIES FIRST CHIP FABRICATION PLANT AT DHOLERA: MAJOR BOOST TO SEMICONDUCTOR SELF-RELIANCE

Key Facts: Dholera SIR



- The project marks India’s entry into **advanced semiconductor manufacturing (chip fabrication)**.
- Reduces dependence on **imports of semiconductors**, critical for electronics and strategic sectors.
- Strengthens India’s position in **global electronics supply chains**.
- Expected to attract **investment, technology transfer, and job creation**.
- Supports sectors like **telecom, defence, automotive, and digital economy**.
- Aligns with initiatives like **Make in India and Digital India**.
- Overall, it reflects a strategic push toward **technological sovereignty and industrial growth**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Semiconductor Fabrication (Fab)

- I. Process of manufacturing:
 - A. Integrated circuits (chips)
- II. Requires:
 - A. Advanced technology
 - B. High capital investment

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- I. Launched to:
 - A. Promote semiconductor ecosystem
- II. Provides:
 - A. Financial incentives and policy support

Dholera SIR

- I. Dholera Special Investment Region is a planned smart industrial city.
- II. Part of:
 - A. Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)

Strategic Importance

- I. Chips are essential for:
 - A. Electronics
 - B. Defence systems
 - C. Emerging technologies like AI and IoT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **First Fab:** India's entry into semiconductor manufacturing.
- **Strategic Location:** Dholera SIR as industrial hub.
- **Self-Reliance:** Reduces import dependence.
- **Economic Impact:** Investment, jobs, and industrial growth.
- **Supply Chain Role:** Integration into the global chip ecosystem.
- **Challenges:** High cost, technology complexity, and skilled workforce needs.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen R&D, skill development, and global partnerships.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Fab:** Semiconductor manufacturing unit
- **Location:** Dholera SIR, Gujarat
- **Mission:** India Semiconductor Mission

- **Corridor:** Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor
- **Use:** Electronics, defence, AI
- **Challenge:** Capital-intensive industry
- **Goal:** Technological self-reliance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Semiconductor fabrication plants manufacture integrated circuits (chips).
2. Dholera Special Investment Region is part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.
3. Semiconductors are not used in defence applications.

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)

4.INS SUDARSHINI ARRIVES AT CASABLANCA: INDIA EXPANDS MARITIME DIPLOMACY IN AFRICA



- The visit enhances India's **maritime diplomacy and global naval presence**.
- Promotes **bilateral cooperation in training, cultural exchange, and goodwill**.
- Strengthens engagement with **African nations under India's outreach policy**.
- Reflects India's commitment to a **free, open, and inclusive maritime order**.
- Facilitates **people-to-people ties and defence cooperation**.
- Supports India's strategic interests in the **Atlantic and African maritime region**.
- Overall, highlights India's expanding role in **global maritime partnerships and soft power projection**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Sudarshini

- I. INS Sudarshini is a sail training vessel of the Indian Navy.
- II. Used for:
 - A. Training naval cadets
 - B. Promoting maritime heritage

India–Morocco Relations

- I. Cooperation areas:
 - A. Trade
 - B. Culture
 - C. Defence engagement
- II. Growing importance in:
 - A. Africa outreach

Maritime Diplomacy

- I. Use of naval visits to:
 - A. Build international relations
 - B. Enhance cooperation

Strategic Context

- I. India's engagement with Africa aligned with:
 - A. South–South cooperation
 - B. Blue economy initiatives

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Naval Outreach:** Strengthens India–Morocco relations.
- **Training Role:** Ship used for cadet training and diplomacy.
- **Africa Engagement:** Expands India's presence in the African region.

- **Soft Power:** Cultural and goodwill exchange.
- **Strategic Importance:** Enhances maritime partnerships.
- **Challenges:** Geopolitical competition and maritime security concerns.
- **Way Forward:** Deepen naval cooperation and multilateral engagement.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INS Sudarshini:** Sail training ship
- **Location:** Casablanca, Morocco
- **Concept:** Maritime diplomacy
- **Region:** Africa outreach
- **Use:** Training and goodwill missions
- **Policy:** Blue economy, South-South cooperation
- **Objective:** Strengthen bilateral ties

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Sudarshini is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy.
2. Maritime diplomacy involves using naval assets for international engagement.
3. Casablanca is located in Egypt.

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.CAQM INVOKES GRAP STAGE-I IN DELHI-NCR AS AIR QUALITY DETERIORATES



- Stage-I of **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** activated due to rising pollution levels.
- Focus on **preventive measures** like dust control, waste management, and traffic regulation.
- Indicates early-stage deterioration, allowing **timely intervention before severe pollution**.
- Reflects persistent challenges of **urban air pollution in Delhi-NCR**.
- Impacts public health, especially **vulnerable populations**.
- Highlights need for **coordinated multi-agency action**.
- Overall, underscores the urgency of **sustainable urban environmental management**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- I. Framework for:
 - A. Air pollution control in Delhi-NCR

- II. Categorizes pollution into stages:
 - A. Moderate, Poor, Very Poor, Severe, Severe+
- III. Specifies:
 - A. Action measures for each stage

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- I. Commission for Air Quality Management established for:
 - A. Coordinating air pollution control in NCR and adjoining areas

Air Quality Index (AQI)

- I. Scale:
 - A. 0–500
- II. Categories:
 - A. Good (0–50)
 - B. Satisfactory (51–100)
 - C. Moderate (101–200)
 - D. **Poor (201–300)**
 - E. Very Poor (301–400)
 - F. Severe (401–500)

Major Pollution Sources

- Vehicular emissions
- Construction dust
- Biomass burning
- Industrial emissions

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Trigger Level:** AQI in 'Poor' category (201–300).
- **Stage-I Measures:** Dust control, waste management, traffic regulation.

- **Institutional Role:** CAQM coordinates actions.
- **Health Impact:** Respiratory risks increase.
- **Urban Challenge:** Persistent pollution in Delhi–NCR.
- **Challenges:** Enforcement gaps and multiple pollution sources.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen monitoring, public awareness, and long-term emission reduction strategies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CAQM:** Statutory body for NCR air quality
- **GRAP:** Graded Response Action Plan
- **AQI Range (Poor):** 201–300
- **Pollutants:** PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO_x, SO₂
- **Sources:** Vehicles, dust, industries
- **Objective:** Pollution control
- **Approach:** Stage-wise action

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. GRAP is a framework to control air pollution in Delhi–NCR.
2. AQI range of 201–300 falls under the 'Poor' category.
3. CAQM is responsible for coordinating air quality management in NCR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 only

Answer: (a)

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1. RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT SCHEME: STRENGTHENING INTEGRATED WATER GOVERNANCE IN INDIA



- The scheme promotes **basin-level planning and management of water resources**.
- Encourages **inter-state coordination** for equitable and efficient water sharing.
- Focus on **data-driven decision-making and hydrological assessments**.
- Addresses challenges like **water scarcity, floods, and pollution**.
- Supports sustainable development through **integrated water governance**.
- Enhances institutional mechanisms for **river basin organizations**.
- Overall, it strengthens India's approach towards **holistic and sustainable water management**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

River Basin Approach

- I. A river basin includes:
 - A. Entire catchment area drained by a river
- II. Management focuses on:
 - A. Integrated use of water, land, and related resources

Need for River Basin Management

- I. Issues:
 - A. Inter-state river disputes
 - B. Floods and droughts
 - C. Pollution and over-extraction

Institutional Framework

- I. River Basin Organizations (RBOs):
 - A. Facilitate coordination among states
- II. Central agencies support:
 - A. Data, planning, and policy

Policy Linkages

- National Water Policy
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Integrated Approach:** Basin-level planning and management.
- **Inter-State Coordination:** Promotes cooperative federalism.
- **Data-Driven:** Use of hydrological data and technology.

- **Sustainability:** Addresses water scarcity and pollution.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Role of RBOs.
- **Challenges:** Interstate conflicts and governance gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen legal framework and stakeholder participation.

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

Answer: (a)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **River Basin:** Entire drainage area of a river
- **RBMS:** River Basin Management Scheme
- **Approach:** Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- **Issue:** Inter-state water disputes
- **Policy:** National Water Policy
- **Institution:** River Basin Organizations
- **Goal:** Sustainable water use

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. River basin management focuses on integrated use of water and land resources.
2. River Basin Organizations facilitate coordination among states.
3. River basin approach ignores hydrological boundaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

2.SCIENTISTS EXPLORE BLACK HOLES IN DWARF GALAXIES: NEW INSIGHTS INTO COSMIC EVOLUTION



- New studies suggest that even **small dwarf galaxies may host black holes.**
- This challenges the traditional view that **only large galaxies contain massive black holes.**
- Findings help understand the **origin of supermassive black holes.**
- Offers insights into **early universe structure formation and galaxy evolution.**
- Supports theories of **hierarchical growth of galaxies through mergers.**
- Enhances understanding of **cosmic evolution and dark matter distribution.**
- Overall, expands scientific knowledge of **astrophysics and universe formation processes.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Dwarf Galaxies

- I. Small galaxies with:
 - A. Fewer stars and lower mass
- II. Examples:
 - A. Satellite galaxies around larger galaxies

Black Holes

- I. Regions with:
 - A. Extremely strong gravitational pull
- II. Types:
 - A. Stellar-mass
 - B. Supermassive black holes

Scientific Significance

- I. Presence in dwarf galaxies suggests:
 - A. Early formation of black holes
- II. Helps explain:
 - A. Growth of large galaxies over time

Cosmic Evolution

- I. Galaxies evolve through:
 - A. Mergers and accretion
- II. Black holes play a key role in:
 - A. Galaxy dynamics and energy processes

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Discovery:** Black holes may exist in dwarf galaxies.
- **Scientific Shift:** Challenges earlier assumptions.
- **Cosmic Insight:** Helps understand galaxy formation.
- **Early Universe:** Indicates early black hole formation.
- **Astrophysical Impact:** Links to dark matter and evolution.
- **Challenges:** Detection difficulty due to small size.
- **Way Forward:** Advanced telescopes and further research.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Dwarf Galaxy:** Small, low-mass galaxy
- **Black Hole:** Region with strong gravity
- **Types:** Stellar and supermassive
- **Concept:** Galaxy evolution
- **Theory:** Hierarchical merging
- **Tool:** Advanced telescopes
- **Significance:** Early universe study

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Dwarf galaxies are small galaxies with fewer stars.
2. Black holes can exist only in large galaxies.
3. The presence of black holes in dwarf galaxies can help explain galaxy evolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3.KANKARIA COACHING DEPOT ACHIEVES WATER NEUTRALITY: NATURE-BASED SOLUTION IN RAILWAYS



- The depot has achieved **water neutrality**, meaning it recycles and reuses as much water as it consumes.
- Utilizes **nature-based solutions (phytoremediation)** for wastewater treatment.
- Reduces dependency on **freshwater resources** and minimizes wastewater discharge.
- Demonstrates **eco-friendly and cost-effective water management practices**.

- Supports India's goals of **sustainable infrastructure and resource efficiency**.
- Can be replicated across other railway depots and urban facilities.
- Overall, showcases innovation in **environmental governance and green infrastructure**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Water Neutrality

- I. Concept where:
 - A. Water consumption = Water recycled/replenished
- II. Promotes:
 - A. Sustainable water use

Phytoremediation

- I. A natural process using:
 - A. Plants to absorb, filter, and break down pollutants
- II. Benefits:
 - A. Low cost
 - B. Environment-friendly
 - C. Minimal energy requirement

Indian Railways Sustainability Efforts

- I. Indian Railways focusing on:
 - A. Water conservation
 - B. Renewable energy
 - C. Waste management

Urban Water Challenges

- I. Issues:
 - A. Water scarcity
 - B. Pollution

C. Over-extraction of groundwater

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **First Achievement:** India's first water-neutral coaching depot.
- **Nature-Based Solution:** Use of plants for water purification.
- **Sustainability:** Reduces freshwater usage and pollution.
- **Replicability:** Model for other depots and cities.
- **Environmental Impact:** Supports conservation and eco-friendly practices.
- **Challenges:** Maintenance and scalability.
- **Way Forward:** Expand such models across infrastructure projects.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Water Neutrality:** Equal consumption and recycling
- **Technique:** Phytoremediation
- **Location:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- **Sector:** Indian Railways
- **Benefit:** Sustainable water management
- **Issue:** Urban water scarcity
- **Approach:** Nature-based solutions

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

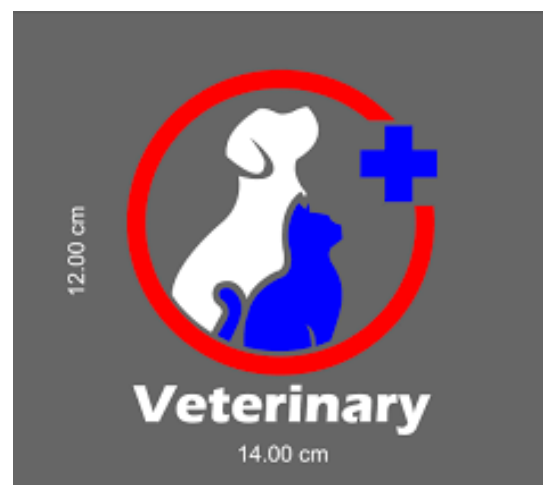
1. Water neutrality implies that water consumption is balanced by recycling or replenishment.
2. Phytoremediation involves using plants to remove pollutants from water or soil.
3. Phytoremediation requires high energy and complex machinery.

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)

4.EMPOWERED COMMITTEE REVIEWS ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS: PUSH FOR STRONGER VETERINARY INFRASTRUCTURE



- The committee assessed progress in **veterinary infrastructure, disease surveillance, and vaccination programmes**.
- Emphasized improving **early detection and control of animal diseases**.
- Highlighted the importance of **One Health approach** linking animal, human, and environmental health.
- Focus on strengthening **laboratories, diagnostic facilities, and field services**.
- Aims to enhance **livestock productivity and farmers' income**.
- Supports prevention of **zoonotic diseases affecting humans**.
- Overall, it reflects integrated governance for **animal health, food security, and public health resilience**.

- A. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- B. Brucellosis
- C. Avian Influenza

Institutional Framework

- I. Coordinated by:
 - A. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- II. Supported by:
 - A. Veterinary institutions and labs

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **System Review:** Assessment of animal health infrastructure.
- **Disease Control:** Focus on surveillance and vaccination.
- **One Health:** Integrated approach for health security.
- **Livestock Impact:** Improves productivity and farmer income.
- **Public Health:** Reduces zoonotic disease risks.
- **Challenges:** Infrastructure gaps and disease spread.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen labs, surveillance, and coordination.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Animal Health Systems in India

- I. Includes:
 - A. Veterinary services
 - B. Disease surveillance
 - C. Vaccination programmes

One Health Approach

- I. Integrates:
 - A. Human health
 - B. Animal health
 - C. Environmental health
- II. Important for:
 - A. Controlling zoonotic diseases

Key Diseases

- I. Examples:

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **One Health:** Human-animal-environment linkage
- **FMD:** Foot and Mouth Disease
- **Brucellosis:** Bacterial zoonotic disease
- **Avian Influenza:** Viral disease in birds
- **Ministry:** Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- **Focus:** Disease surveillance
- **Goal:** Public health safety

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. One Health approach integrates human, animal, and environmental health.
2. Foot and Mouth Disease is a zoonotic disease affecting livestock.
3. Animal health systems have no impact on public health.

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.INDIA AI GLOBAL ACCELERATION PROGRAMME: 10 STARTUPS SELECTED FOR COHORT II



सत्यमेव जयते

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- The programme supports startups in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to expand globally.
- Provides **mentorship, funding access, and international exposure.**

- Focus on cutting-edge domains like **healthcare AI, fintech, and deep tech solutions.**
- Strengthens India's position in the **global AI innovation ecosystem.**
- Encourages **startup-led technological development and entrepreneurship.**
- Aligns with India's vision of becoming a **global AI hub.**
- Overall, boosts **innovation, economic growth, and digital transformation.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

IndiaAI Mission

- I. Government initiative to:
 - A. Promote AI development and adoption
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Research
 - B. Innovation
 - C. Skilling

Startup Ecosystem in India

- I. India among the largest:
 - A. Startup ecosystems globally
- II. Strong presence in:
 - A. Technology and digital sectors

Global Acceleration Programme

- I. Provides:
 - A. Market access
 - B. Networking opportunities
 - C. Business scaling support

Role of AI

- I. Applications:

- A. Healthcare
 - B. Finance
 - C. Agriculture
- II. Drives:
- A. Productivity and innovation

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cohort Selection:** 10 startups chosen for global acceleration.
- **AI Focus:** Cutting-edge technology solutions.
- **Global Exposure:** Access to international markets.
- **Innovation Boost:** Strengthens startup ecosystem.
- **Economic Impact:** Drives digital economy growth.
- **Challenges:** Competition and funding gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Enhance R&D and global partnerships.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **IndiaAI:** AI promotion initiative
- **Ministry:** Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- **Focus:** AI startups
- **Programme:** Global acceleration
- **Domains:** Healthcare, fintech, deep tech
- **Goal:** Global AI leadership
- **Benefit:** Innovation and growth

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. IndiaAI programme aims to promote Artificial Intelligence development in India.
2. Global acceleration programmes help startups expand into international markets.
3. Artificial Intelligence has no application in healthcare.

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)

1. BHARAT MARITIME INSURANCE POOL APPROVED: ₹12,980 CRORE SOVEREIGN BACKING TO SECURE INDIA'S SEA TRADE



- The BMI Pool will provide **comprehensive marine insurance coverage** for ships, cargo, and liabilities.
- Designed to address disruptions caused by **geopolitical tensions, conflicts, and high-risk maritime zones**.
- Reduces reliance on **foreign insurers and volatile global reinsurance markets**.
- Ensures continuity of **India's trade flows, ~90% of which move via sea routes**.
- Strengthens India's **financial resilience and maritime risk management framework**.
- Supports sectors like **shipping, logistics, and ports**, crucial for economic growth.
- Overall, reflects a strategic push toward **Aatmanirbharta in critical financial and trade infrastructure**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Maritime Insurance

- I. Covers risks related to:
 - A. Ship damage (Hull insurance)
 - B. Cargo loss/damage
 - C. Third-party liabilities

Insurance Pool Mechanism

- I. A system where:
 - A. Multiple insurers **share risks collectively**
- II. Useful in:
 - A. High-risk sectors like maritime trade

Sovereign Guarantee

- I. Government assurance to:
 - A. Cover potential losses
- II. Enhances:
 - A. Credibility and stability of the pool

Strategic Context

- I. India's trade:
 - A. ~90% by volume handled via maritime routes
- II. Vulnerable to:
 - A. War risks
 - B. Piracy
 - C. Insurance withdrawal in crisis zones

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Decision:** Cabinet approval for BMI Pool.
- **Financial Strength:** ₹12,980 crore sovereign guarantee.
- **Coverage Scope:** Ships, cargo, and liabilities.
- **Trade Security:** Ensures continuity of maritime trade.
- **Self-Reliance:** Reduces dependence on foreign insurers.
- **Challenges:** Managing high-risk exposures and global volatility.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen domestic reinsurance capacity and global coordination.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **BMI Pool:** Maritime insurance pooling mechanism
- **Guarantee:** ₹12,980 crore
- **Coverage:** Hull, cargo, liability
- **Trade Fact:** ~90% of India's trade (by volume) via sea
- **Concept:** Risk pooling
- **Threats:** War, piracy, geopolitical risks
- **Goal:** Trade resilience and insurance continuity

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Maritime insurance covers ships, cargo, and related liabilities.
2. Insurance pooling helps distribute risks among multiple insurers.

3. Sovereign guarantee reduces the credibility of financial mechanisms.

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)

2.RM-LED IGOM REVIEWS WEST ASIA SITUATION: INDIA STEPS UP STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS



- The IGoM reviewed developments in **West Asia**, a region critical for India's energy and diaspora interests.
- Assessed preparedness in areas like **energy supplies, trade routes, and evacuation planning**.
- Focus on safeguarding **Indian nationals and assets abroad**.

- Evaluated potential impacts on **oil prices, shipping routes, and supply chains**.
- Ensures coordinated response among ministries for **crisis management**.
- Reflects proactive governance in handling **external geopolitical shocks**.
- Overall, highlights India's emphasis on **strategic autonomy, energy security, and citizen protection**.

- A. Impact on shipping and logistics

Policy Framework

- I. Linked to:
 - A. National security strategy
 - B. Disaster and crisis management mechanisms

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

West Asia's Strategic Importance

- I. Key region for:
 - A. India's **energy imports (oil & gas)**
 - B. Large Indian diaspora
- II. Major trade and shipping routes:
 - A. Strait of Hormuz

Inter-Ministerial Group of Ministers (IGoM)

- I. A high-level coordination mechanism:
 - A. Brings together multiple ministries
- II. Ensures:
 - A. Unified response to crises

India's Concerns

- I. Energy security:
 - A. Dependence on imported crude oil
- II. Diaspora safety:
 - A. Millions of Indians working in the region
- III. Trade disruptions:

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategic Review:** Assessment of West Asia developments.
- **Energy Security:** Monitoring oil supply and price risks.
- **Diaspora Protection:** Focus on safety and evacuation plans.
- **Supply Chains:** Ensuring uninterrupted trade routes.
- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** Whole-of-government approach.
- **Challenges:** Geopolitical instability and market volatility.
- **Way Forward:** Diversify energy sources and strengthen contingency planning.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **IGoM:** Inter-Ministerial Group of Ministers
- **Region:** West Asia (Middle East)
- **Key Route:** Strait of Hormuz
- **Concern:** Oil supply disruptions
- **Diaspora:** Large Indian population in Gulf
- **Concept:** Energy security
- **Approach:** Crisis coordination

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. West Asia is crucial for India's energy imports.
2. The Strait of Hormuz is a major global oil transit route.
3. Inter-Ministerial Groups are formed to ensure coordination among different government departments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

3.GOVERNMENT SETS UP TPEC FOR AI GOVERNANCE: EXPERT BODY TO SHAPE INDIA'S AI POLICY FRAMEWORK



- TPEC will guide the development of a **robust, ethical, and accountable AI governance framework.**

- Focus on balancing **innovation with regulation and risk mitigation.**
- Will advise on issues like **data governance, algorithmic transparency, and AI ethics.**
- Supports India's ambition to become a **global leader in Artificial Intelligence.**
- Encourages a **multi-stakeholder approach involving academia, industry, and government.**
- Addresses emerging concerns like **bias, privacy, and misuse of AI technologies.**
- Overall, strengthens India's institutional capacity for **responsible and inclusive AI development.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

AI Governance

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Frameworks to regulate and guide AI development and use
- II. Includes:
 - A. Ethics, accountability, transparency

Need for AI Regulation

- I. Challenges:
 - A. Data privacy concerns
 - B. Algorithmic bias
 - C. Security risks
- II. Requires:
 - A. Balanced regulatory approach

Institutional Role

- I. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology leads digital and AI policy in India.
- II. Works with:
 - A. Experts, industry, and research institutions

Global Context

- I. Countries developing:
 - A. AI governance frameworks
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Responsible AI and digital sovereignty

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Body:** Formation of TPEC for AI governance.
- **Policy Advisory:** Supports regulatory and ethical frameworks.
- **Innovation Balance:** Promotes growth with safeguards.
- **Stakeholder Approach:** Involves academia, industry, and government.
- **Global Positioning:** Strengthens India's AI leadership.
- **Challenges:** Rapid technological change and regulatory gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Develop adaptive, inclusive, and future-ready policies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **TPEC:** Technology and Policy Expert Committee
- **Ministry:** Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- **Focus:** AI governance

- **Issues:** Bias, privacy, transparency
- **Concept:** Responsible AI
- **Approach:** Multi-stakeholder
- **Goal:** Ethical AI ecosystem

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. AI governance includes ethical and regulatory frameworks for artificial intelligence.
2. Algorithmic bias refers to unfair outcomes produced by AI systems.
3. AI governance frameworks discourage innovation.

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)

4.PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED SINE DIE: SESSION CONCLUDES WITHOUT FIXED REASSEMBLY DATE



- Adjournment sine die signifies **end of a parliamentary session without a fixed date for resumption.**
- Conducted by the **Presiding Officers** of respective Houses.
- Usually followed by **formal prorogation by the President.**
- Reflects completion of **legislative business, debates, and discussions.**
- Important procedural step in **parliamentary functioning and legislative cycle.**
- Impacts pending bills, questions, and committee work.
- Overall, highlights functioning of **parliamentary democracy and legislative processes.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Adjournment vs Prorogation vs Dissolution

- I. **Adjournment:**
 - A. Temporary suspension of a sitting
- II. **Adjournment Sine Die:**
 - A. Termination of session without fixing next meeting date
- III. **Prorogation:**
 - A. Formal end of session by the President under **Article 85**
- IV. **Dissolution:**
 - A. Applies only to Lok Sabha
 - B. Ends its tenure and triggers elections

Parliamentary Procedure

- I. Sessions include:
 - A. Budget Session
 - B. Monsoon Session
 - C. Winter Session

Role of Presiding Officers

- I. Speaker (Lok Sabha)
- II. Chairman (Rajya Sabha)
- III. Responsible for:
 - A. Conduct of proceedings and adjournment

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Session End:** Parliament adjourned sine die.
- **Procedural Step:** Precedes prorogation by President.
- **Legislative Cycle:** Concludes current session's business.
- **Institutional Role:** Presiding Officers manage adjournment.
- **Governance Impact:** Pending matters may lapse or carry forward.
- **Challenges:** Disruptions affecting productivity.
- **Way Forward:** Improve legislative efficiency and debate quality.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 85:** President summons and prorogues Parliament
- **Adjournment Sine Die:** No date for next sitting
- **Prorogation:** End of session by President

- **Dissolution:** Ends Lok Sabha term
- **Houses:** Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha
- **Sessions:** Budget, Monsoon, Winter
- **Authority:** Presiding Officers

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Adjournment sine dies ends a session without fixing a date for the next meeting.
2. Prorogation of Parliament is done by the President of India.
3. Dissolution applies to both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

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. WOMEN NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF CSE 2025 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES: BROADER GEOGRAPHICAL INCLUSION IN CIVIL SERVICES



- Women constitute a significant share (~one-third) of **Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2025** successful candidates.
- Indicates progress in **gender inclusion in governance and public administration.**
- Growing participation from **tier-2, tier-3 cities and rural areas.**
- Reflects improved access to **education, digital resources, and coaching platforms.**
- Strengthens diversity and representation in **bureaucratic decision-making.**
- Aligns with broader goals of **inclusive growth and social empowerment.**
- Overall, signals transformation in India's administrative landscape toward **equity and wider opportunity access.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Civil Services Examination (CSE)

- I. Conducted by:
 - A. Union Public Service Commission
- II. Recruits for:
 - A. IAS, IPS, IFS and other services

Gender Inclusion in Civil Services

- I. Increasing representation of:
 - A. Women candidates
- II. Reflects:
 - A. Policy support for women empowerment

Changing Aspirational Geography

- I. Rise of candidates from:
 - A. Rural and non-metro areas
- II. Enabled by:
 - A. Digital learning platforms
 - B. Improved connectivity

Policy Linkages

- I. Initiatives:
 - A. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
 - B. Digital India
- II. Promote:
 - A. Education and access

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gender Representation:** Women form nearly one-third of selected candidates.
- **Geographical Diversity:** Increased participation from non-metro regions.
- **Inclusion:** Reflects broader social empowerment.
- **Digital Enablement:** Role of online education and resources.
- **Governance Impact:** Diverse bureaucracy improves policymaking.
- **Challenges:** Gender gaps in higher positions and access disparities.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen education, mentorship, and inclusive policies.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CSE:** Civil Services Examination
- **Conducting Body:** UPSC
- **Services:** IAS, IPS, IFS
- **Trend:** Rising women participation
- **Policy:** Women empowerment initiatives
- **Factor:** Digital access
- **Outcome:** Inclusive governance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Civil Services Examination is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.
2. Increasing participation of women in civil services contributes to inclusive governance.

3. Civil Services Examination recruits only for the Indian Administrative Service.

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)

I. CTIL HOSTS PANEL ON WTO RULING: FOCUS ON TRANSNATIONAL SUBSIDIES & TRADE LAW



- The discussion focused on recent **World Trade Organization rulings related to subsidies with cross-border implications.**
- Transnational subsidies refer to **state support benefiting entities beyond domestic jurisdiction.**
- Raises concerns about **trade distortions and competitive imbalances.**
- Has implications for India's **industrial policy, export incentives, and compliance with WTO rules.**
- Highlights the evolving nature of **global trade governance and dispute settlement.**
- Encourages policy recalibration to balance **development goals with international obligations.**

- Overall, underscores the need for **strategic trade policy and legal preparedness.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- I. The World Trade Organization regulates global trade rules.
- II. Provides:
 - A. Dispute settlement mechanism
- III. Governs:
 - A. Trade agreements among member countries

Subsidies in Trade

- I. Defined as:
 - A. Financial contributions by governments
- II. Types:
 - A. Domestic subsidies
 - B. Export subsidies

Transnational Subsidies

- I. Subsidies that:
 - A. Benefit firms or operations outside the country providing them
- II. Emerging issue in:
 - A. Global trade law

CTIL

- I. Centre for Trade and Investment Law is a think tank under:
 - A. Ministry of Commerce
- II. Provides:

- A. Legal research and policy inputs on trade

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Panel Discussion:** Focus on WTO ruling.
- **Core Issue:** Transnational subsidies and trade distortions.
- **Policy Impact:** Implications for India's trade strategy.
- **Legal Dimension:** Importance of WTO compliance.
- **Global Context:** Evolving trade governance.
- **Challenges:** Balancing development needs with trade rules.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen legal expertise and strategic policymaking.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **WTO:** Global trade regulator
- **CTIL:** Trade law think tank under Ministry of Commerce
- **Subsidy:** Government financial support
- **Transnational Subsidy:** Cross-border benefit
- **Mechanism:** WTO dispute settlement
- **Issue:** Trade distortion
- **Focus:** Compliance and policy alignment

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The World Trade Organization provides a dispute settlement mechanism for trade disputes.
2. Subsidies in international trade refer to financial contributions by governments.
3. Transnational subsidies only affect domestic industries and have no global impact.

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)

2.INDIA'S FIRST 3D SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGING UNIT IN ODISHA: BOOST TO AI, 5G & DEFENCE TECH



- The facility will focus on **advanced 3D semiconductor packaging**, a critical stage in chip manufacturing.

- Enhances India's capabilities beyond fabrication into **high-value chip assembly and integration**.
- Supports emerging technologies like **Artificial Intelligence, 5G, IoT, and defence electronics**.
- Reduces dependence on **global supply chains for advanced chip packaging**.
- Expected to attract **investment, generate employment, and build skilled workforce**.
- Strengthens India's position in the **global semiconductor value chain**.
- Overall, it reflects a strategic push toward **technological sovereignty and deep-tech manufacturing**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Semiconductor Packaging

- I. Final stage of chip production:
 - A. Protects chips and connects them to devices
- II. Determines:
 - A. Performance, efficiency, and reliability

3D Semiconductor Packaging

- I. Stacks multiple chips vertically:
 - A. Improves speed and reduces power consumption
- II. Used in:
 - A. AI processors
 - B. High-performance computing

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- I. Initiative to:

- A. Develop semiconductor ecosystem
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Fabrication
 - B. Packaging
 - C. Design

Strategic Importance

- I. Chips essential for:
 - A. Electronics
 - B. Defence systems
 - C. Telecom (5G)
- II. Key to:
 - A. Digital economy and national security

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **First-of-its-Kind:** India's first 3D semiconductor packaging unit.
- **Technology Upgrade:** Focus on advanced chip integration.
- **Strategic Sectors:** AI, 5G, and defence technologies.
- **Economic Impact:** Investment, jobs, and skill development.
- **Supply Chain:** Reduces import dependence.
- **Challenges:** High capital, technology complexity, and skill gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen R&D, ecosystem development, and global partnerships.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **3D Packaging:** Vertical stacking of semiconductor chips
- **Location:** Odisha

- **Mission:** India Semiconductor Mission
- **Use:** AI, 5G, defence
- **Stage:** Post-fabrication process
- **Benefit:** Higher performance, lower power consumption
- **Goal:** Technological self-reliance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Semiconductor packaging is the final stage in chip manufacturing.
2. 3D semiconductor packaging involves stacking chips vertically.
3. Semiconductor chips have no role in defence technologies.

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)

3.WHERE HERITAGE MEETS INTELLIGENCE: EMPOWERING ARTISANS THROUGH AI



- AI is being leveraged to **enhance productivity, design innovation, and market access** for artisans.
- Enables **customized designs, demand forecasting, and digital marketing**.
- Bridge the gap between **traditional knowledge and modern technology**.
- Supports artisans in accessing **global markets through e-commerce platforms**.
- Enhances income generation and promotes **inclusive economic growth**.
- Preserves cultural heritage while ensuring **technological adaptation**.
- Overall, it reflects convergence of **culture, technology, and sustainable livelihoods**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Artisan Sector in India

- I. Includes:
 - A. Handloom
 - B. Handicrafts
 - C. Traditional industries
- II. Provides:
 - A. Employment to millions

Role of Artificial Intelligence

- I. Applications:
 - A. Design optimization
 - B. Market analytics
 - C. Supply chain management

Digital Platforms

- I. E-commerce and digital tools:
 - A. Enable direct market access
- II. Reduce:

- A. Middlemen dependency

Policy Linkages

- I. Initiatives:
- A. Digital India
 - B. Skill India
 - C. Vocal for Local
- II. Promote:
- A. Self-reliance and cultural preservation

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technology Integration:** AI applied to traditional crafts.
- **Market Access:** Expansion through digital platforms.
- **Design Innovation:** Data-driven product customization.
- **Livelihood Impact:** Increased income for artisans.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Safeguards traditional heritage.
- **Challenges:** Digital literacy and infrastructure gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Capacity building and tech adoption support.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **AI:** Artificial Intelligence
- **Sector:** Handloom and handicrafts
- **Concept:** Digital inclusion
- **Initiatives:** Digital India, Skill India
- **Benefit:** Market linkage
- **Challenge:** Digital divide
- **Goal:** Inclusive growth

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Artificial Intelligence can be used for design optimization and market analysis in the artisan sector.
2. Digital platforms help artisans access global markets directly.
3. Use of AI leads to loss of traditional cultural heritage.

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)

4. INDIAN HANDLOOM TAKES GLOBAL STAGE: 'VISHWA SUTRA' SHOWCASES HERITAGE AT FEMINA MISS INDIA



- The 'Vishwa Sutra' collection presented **Indian handloom weaves in a modern, global context.**
- Highlights integration of **traditional craftsmanship with contemporary fashion.**
- Enhances global visibility of **India's textile heritage and artisans.**
- Supports initiatives aimed at **promotion of the handloom sector and cultural diplomacy.**
- Provides market opportunities for artisans through **fashion and branding platforms.**
- Aligns with efforts like **Vocal for Local and creative economy promotion.**
- Overall, reflects India's strategy to **blend heritage with global cultural outreach.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Handloom Sector

- I. One of the largest:
 - A. Employment providers after agriculture
- II. Known for:
 - A. Diverse regional weaves and designs

Cultural Significance

- I. Represents:
 - A. Traditional knowledge and heritage
- II. Includes:
 - A. Sarees, fabrics, and artisanal crafts

Fashion as Cultural Diplomacy

- I. Platforms like Femina Miss India 2026 help:
 - A. Showcase cultural identity globally
- II. Enhances:
 - A. Soft power

Government Initiatives

- I. National Handloom Development Programme
- II. India Handloom Brand
- III. Focus on:
 - A. Branding and market linkage

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Showcase:** 'Vishwa Sutra' presents Indian handlooms internationally.
- **Cultural Integration:** Blend of tradition and modern fashion.
- **Artisan Support:** Increased visibility and market access.
- **Soft Power:** Strengthens India's cultural diplomacy.
- **Economic Impact:** Boost to handloom sector.
- **Challenges:** Competition from power looms and global brands.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen branding, innovation, and global outreach.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Sector:** Handloom industry
- **Event:** Femina Miss India
- **Programme:** National Handloom Development Programme
- **Concept:** Cultural diplomacy

- **Brand:** India Handloom Brand
- **Employment:** Second largest after agriculture
- **Goal:** Global promotion of textiles

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The handloom sector is one of the largest employment providers in India after agriculture.
2. Cultural diplomacy involves showcasing national culture on global platforms.
3. Handloom products are entirely machine-made textiles.

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.ACCELERATING HIGH-VALUE CROP DIVERSIFICATION: SHIFTING TOWARDS REMUNERATIVE & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



- Crop diversification aims to move farmers toward **high-value, market-oriented crops**.
- Includes **horticulture (fruits, vegetables), spices, floriculture, pulses, and oilseeds**.
- Enhances **farmer income, export potential, and nutritional outcomes**.
- Reduces risks associated with **monocropping and climate variability**.
- Supports efficient use of **water and soil resources**.
- Encourages value addition through **food processing and supply chains**.
- Overall, promotes a transition toward **resilient, profitable, and sustainable agriculture**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Crop Diversification

- I. Practice of:
 - A. Growing a variety of crops instead of a single crop

- II. Benefits:
 - A. Risk reduction
 - B. Income stability

High-Value Crops

- I. Include:
 - A. Fruits, vegetables, spices, medicinal plants
- II. Characteristics:
 - A. Higher market price
 - B. Greater income potential

Need for Diversification

- I. Issues with traditional farming:
 - A. Overdependence on rice and wheat
 - B. Water stress
 - C. Soil degradation

Policy Linkages

- National Food Security Mission
- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
- PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Income Enhancement:** Higher returns from diversified crops.
- **Nutritional Security:** Promotes balanced diets.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Better use of water and soil.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Reduces dependence on a single crop.
- **Export Potential:** Boosts agri-exports.
- **Challenges:** Market access, storage, and price volatility.

- **Way Forward:** Strengthen value chains, infrastructure, and farmer awareness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Crop Diversification:** Multiple crops cultivation
- **High-Value Crops:** Fruits, vegetables, spices
- **Scheme:** MIDH
- **Issue:** Monocropping risks
- **Benefit:** Higher income
- **Focus:** Sustainability
- **Goal:** Nutritional security

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Crop diversification reduces risks associated with monocropping.
2. High-value crops generally provide higher income compared to staple crops.
3. Crop diversification leads to increased dependence on a single crop.

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)

1. DGGI BUSTS ₹1,825 CRORE GST REFUND FRAUD: MASTERMIND APPREHENDED AT IGI AIRPORT



- The fraud involved **fake firms and fraudulent input tax credit (ITC) claims** to obtain GST refunds.
- Highlights vulnerabilities in **tax compliance and invoice verification systems**.
- DGGI's action reflects strengthening of **tax intelligence and enforcement mechanisms**.
- Ensures protection of **government revenue and fiscal integrity**.
- Demonstrates increasing use of **data analytics and technology in tax enforcement**.
- Acts as deterrence against **economic offences and financial frauds**.

- Overall, reinforces governance focus on **transparency, accountability, and compliance in indirect taxation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

GST Framework

- I. Goods and Services Tax:
 - A. Indirect tax on supply of goods and services
- II. Implemented in:
 - A. 2017

Input Tax Credit (ITC)

- I. Allows businesses to:
 - A. Claim credit for tax paid on inputs
- II. Reduces:
 - A. Tax cascading

GST Refund Mechanism

- I. Refunds provided for:
 - A. Exports
 - B. Excess tax paid
- II. Requires:
 - A. Proper documentation and verification

DGGI

- I. Directorate General of GST Intelligence is the apex intelligence agency for:
 - A. GST enforcement and anti-evasion

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Major Fraud:** ₹1,825 crore GST refund scam.
- **Modus Operandi:** Fake firms and fraudulent ITC claims.
- **Enforcement Action:** Mastermind apprehended by DGGI.
- **Revenue Protection:** Safeguards public finances.
- **Technology Use:** Data analytics in detection.
- **Challenges:** Complex fraud networks and compliance gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen digital verification and enforcement systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **DGGI:** GST intelligence and enforcement agency
- **GST:** Introduced in 2017
- **ITC:** Input Tax Credit
- **Fraud Type:** Fake invoicing
- **Refund:** For exports and excess tax
- **Issue:** Tax evasion
- **Goal:** Compliance and transparency

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Input Tax Credit allows businesses to offset taxes paid on inputs against output tax liability.
2. Directorate General of GST Intelligence is responsible for GST enforcement and anti-evasion.

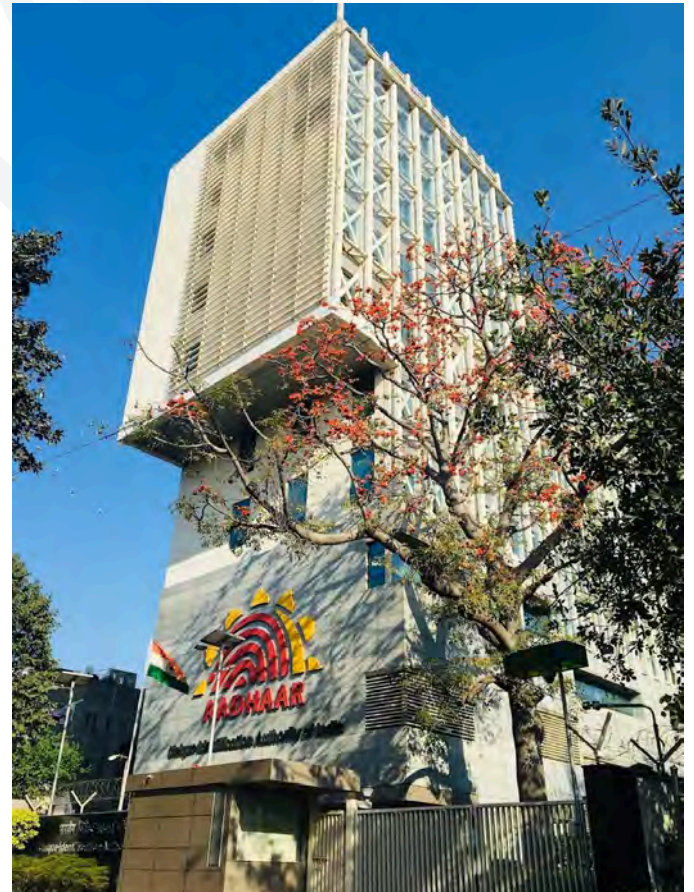
3. GST refund mechanism is applicable only to domestic transactions.

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)

2.100 ENTITIES ONBOARDED FOR AADHAAR OFFLINE VERIFICATION: BOOST TO PRIVACY-PRESERVING DIGITAL AUTHENTICATION



- Aadhaar offline verification enables **identity authentication without accessing the central database**.
- Uses tools like **QR codes, XML files, and offline e-KYC**.
- Strengthens **data privacy and user control over personal information**.
- Facilitates seamless onboarding for services in **banking, telecom, and fintech sectors**.
- Reduces risks of **data breaches and misuse of personal data**.
- Promotes trust in India's **digital public infrastructure (DPI)** ecosystem.
- Overall, advances **secure digital governance and privacy-centric authentication frameworks**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Aadhaar System

- I. Managed by:
 - A. Unique Identification Authority of India
- II. Provides:
 - A. Unique 12-digit identity number

Offline Verification

- I. Allows:
 - A. Identity authentication without internet or database access
- II. Methods:
 - A. Secure QR code
 - B. Offline XML file

e-KYC vs Offline Verification

- I. **e-KYC:**
 - A. Requires real-time authentication with UIDAI database
- II. **Offline Verification:**
 - A. No data sharing with central server

Privacy and Data Protection

- I. Ensures:
 - A. Minimal data exposure
- II. Aligns with:
 - A. Principles of data minimization and consent

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Onboarding Expansion:** 100+ entities using offline verification.
- **Privacy Focus:** No central database access required.
- **Security:** Reduces risk of data breaches.
- **Ease of Use:** Faster onboarding for services.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Strengthens DPI ecosystem.
- **Challenges:** Awareness and technical integration.
- **Way Forward:** Expand adoption and ensure robust data protection frameworks.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **UIDAI:** Aadhaar issuing authority
- **Aadhaar:** 12-digit unique ID
- **Offline Verification:** No database access
- **Tools:** QR code, XML
- **Concept:** Data minimization
- **Use:** Banking, telecom
- **Goal:** Secure authentication

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar offline verification does not require access to the central database.
2. UIDAI is responsible for issuing Aadhaar numbers.
3. Offline Aadhaar verification increases data sharing with third parties.

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)

3.FOOD BUSINESS STARTUP ENABLER PROGRAMME 2.0: BOOSTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN FOOD SECTOR



- FBSEP 2.0 provides **end-to-end support for food startups**, including regulatory guidance and incubation.
- Facilitates compliance with **food safety standards and licensing requirements**.
- Encourages innovation in **food processing, nutrition, and value-added products**.
- Supports **MSMEs and entrepreneurs** in entering the formal food sector.
- Strengthens India's **food processing ecosystem and value chains**.
- Aligns with goals of **Make in India and startup ecosystem growth**.
- Overall, promotes **safe, innovative, and scalable food businesses**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

FSSAI

- I. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is the apex food regulator.
- II. Established under:
 - A. Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

Food Startup Ecosystem

- I. Growing sector with:
 - A. Innovation in processed foods
 - B. Nutrition and health products

Regulatory Support

- I. Startups require:
 - A. Licensing
 - B. Compliance with safety standards
- II. Programme bridges:
 - A. Regulatory gaps

Policy Linkages

- I. Startup India
- II. PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)
- III. Focus:
 - A. Value addition and food security

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Programme Upgrade:** FBSEP 2.0 launched.
- **Startup Support:** Regulatory and incubation assistance.
- **Food Safety:** Ensures compliance with standards.
- **Innovation:** Encourages new food products.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts MSMEs and food sector growth.
- **Challenges:** Compliance costs and awareness gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen outreach and ease of doing business.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **FSSAI:** Food regulator
- **Act:** Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- **Programme:** FBSEP 2.0
- **Focus:** Food startups
- **Scheme:** PMFME
- **Goal:** Food safety and innovation
- **Sector:** Food processing

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. FSSAI is established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. Food Business Startup Enabler Programme supports startups in regulatory compliance.
3. FSSAI is responsible for regulating telecommunications in India.

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)

4. MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTRY & IIT PATNA MoU: BOOST TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT UNDER PM VIKAS



- The MoU focuses on **training, upskilling, and entrepreneurship development**.
- Targets **youth from minority communities** with industry-relevant skills.
- Leverages expertise of Indian Institute of Technology Patna in **technical education and innovation**.
- Aligns with PM VIKAS scheme's goal of **preserving traditional skills while promoting modern employability**.
- Enhances opportunities in sectors like **technology, crafts, and services**.
- Supports inclusive growth and **economic empowerment of minorities**.
- Overall, strengthens integration of **education, skill development, and social inclusion**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

PM VIKAS Scheme

- I. Full form:
 - A. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan
- II. Objective:
 - A. Skill development and entrepreneurship among minorities
- III. Focus:
 - A. Traditional crafts + modern skills

Role of IITs

- I. Institutions like Indian Institute of Technology Patna provide:
 - A. Technical expertise
 - B. Training modules
 - C. Innovation support

Minority Welfare Initiatives

- I. Aim to:
 - A. Improve education and employment opportunities
- II. Promote:
 - A. Inclusive development

Skill Development Ecosystem

- I. Linked with:
 - A. Skill India Mission
 - B. Digital India initiatives

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **MoU Signed:** Between Ministry of Minority Affairs and IIT Patna.
- **Scheme:** PM VIKAS.

- **Focus:** Skill development and entrepreneurship.
- **Target Group:** Minority youth.
- **Institutional Support:** Technical expertise from IIT.
- **Outcome:** रोजगार opportunities and inclusion.
- **Way Forward:** Expand partnerships and scale training programmes.

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

5. UDID CARD HOLDERS CAN TRAVEL IN DIVYANGJAN COACHES IN MAIL/EXPRESS TRAINS

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PM VIKAS:** Skill development scheme for minorities
- **Ministry:** Minority Affairs
- **Partner:** IIT Patna
- **Focus:** Training & entrepreneurship
- **Concept:** Inclusive growth
- **Link:** Skill India
- **Goal:** Economic empowerment

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The PM VIKAS scheme aims at skill development among minority communities.
2. IIT Patna is collaborating to provide technical training under this initiative.
3. The scheme is exclusively focused on agriculture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



- Individuals with disabilities possessing **Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards** can access **designated unreserved coaches**.
- Aims to provide **ease of travel and dignity for Divyangjan passengers**.
- Ensures better **mobility, accessibility, and convenience in long-distance trains**.
- Reduces dependency on **reserved tickets for essential travel**.
- Strengthens inclusive infrastructure under **accessible India initiatives**.
- Reflects commitment toward **social justice and equal opportunity**.

- Overall, it enhances **inclusive public transport and mobility rights**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

UDID (Unique Disability ID)

- I. Issued under:
 - A. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- II. Provides:
 - A. A unique ID for persons with disabilities
- III. Enables:
 - A. Access to government benefits and services

Divyangjan Coaches

- I. Special coaches in trains:
 - A. Reserved for persons with disabilities
- II. Features:
 - A. Accessibility-friendly design

Accessibility in Transport

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Barrier-free infrastructure
- II. Linked to:
 - A. Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

Indian Railways Initiatives

- I. Indian Railways working toward:
 - A. Inclusive transport systems
 - B. Passenger convenience

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Eligibility:** UDID card holders.
- **Facility:** Travel in unreserved Divyangjan coaches.
- **Sector:** Indian Railways.
- **Objective:** Inclusive and accessible transport.
- **Benefit:** Ease of travel and mobility.
- **Challenges:** Awareness and infrastructure gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Expand accessibility features and awareness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **UDID:** Unique Disability ID
- **Authority:** Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- **Coach:** Divyangjan coach
- **Campaign:** Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
- **Sector:** Railways
- **Focus:** Accessibility
- **Goal:** Inclusive mobility

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. UDID card provides a unique identification for persons with disabilities.
2. Divyangjan coaches are designed to facilitate travel for persons with disabilities.
3. UDID cards are issued by the Ministry of Railways.

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)

PadhAI.ai

1. INDIA'S SEAFOOD EXPORTS HIT RECORD ₹72,000 CRORE: BLUE ECONOMY GAINS MOMENTUM



- I. India has achieved record seafood exports, reflecting **robust growth in the fisheries sector**.
- II. Major export items include:
 - A. Shrimp (dominant share)
 - B. Fish and other marine products
- III. Key export destinations:
 - A. USA, China, European Union, Japan
- IV. Growth supported by:
 - A. Improved **cold chain infrastructure**
 - B. Quality standards and certification
- V. Enhances **foreign exchange earnings and coastal livelihoods**.
- VI. Strengthens India's position as a **leading global seafood exporter**.
- VII. Overall, contributes to **economic growth, employment, and trade diversification**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Fisheries Sector in India

- I. One of the fastest-growing:
 - A. Agricultural sectors
- II. Provides:
 - A. Livelihood to millions

Blue Economy

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Sustainable use of ocean resources
- II. Includes:
 - A. Fisheries, marine trade, coastal tourism

Institutional Support

- I. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA):
 - A. Promotes seafood exports
- II. Government schemes:
 - A. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Key Drivers

- Aquaculture expansion
- Technology adoption
- Export-oriented policies

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Record Achievement:** ₹72,000 crore seafood exports.
- **Top Product:** Shrimp dominates exports.
- **Global Markets:** USA, EU, China, Japan.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts forex earnings and employment.
- **Sector Growth:** Strengthens fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Challenges:** Quality standards, climate risks, disease outbreaks.
- **Way Forward:** Sustainable practices and value addition.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MPEDA:** Promotes seafood exports
- **PMMSY:** Fisheries development scheme
- **Top Export:** Shrimp
- **Concept:** Blue economy
- **Markets:** USA, EU, China
- **Benefit:** Foreign exchange
- **Goal:** Sustainable fisheries

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Marine Products Export Development Authority promotes seafood exports from India.
2. Blue economy refers to sustainable use of ocean resources.
3. India's seafood exports consist only of marine fish.

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)

2. INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT OUTREACH: HIGHLIGHTING KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW INCOME TAX ACT, 2025



- The outreach programme educates stakeholders on **provisions and reforms in the new tax law.**
- Emphasis on **simplification of tax structure and procedures.**
- Promotes **voluntary compliance and ease of filing returns.**
- Introduces clarity in **definitions, dispute resolution, and digital processes.**
- Encourages adoption of **technology-driven tax administration.**

- Enhances **taxpayer services and grievance redressal mechanisms**.
- Overall, aims to build a **modern, transparent, and efficient tax system**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Income Tax Act, 2025

- I. Proposed to replace:
 - A. The Income Tax Act, 1961
- II. Objective:
 - A. Simplify tax laws
 - B. Reduce litigation
 - C. Improve compliance

Need for Reform

- I. Issues in old system:
 - A. Complexity
 - B. Multiple exemptions
 - C. High litigation

Digital Transformation

- I. Initiatives:
 - A. Faceless assessment
 - B. E-filing systems
- II. Promotes:
 - A. Transparency and efficiency

Role of Outreach

- I. Helps:
 - A. Taxpayers understand changes
- II. Builds:
 - A. Trust between government and citizens

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Awareness Drive:** Outreach by Income Tax Department.
- **Reform Focus:** Simplification and clarity in tax laws.
- **Digital Push:** Technology-driven tax administration.
- **Compliance:** Encourages voluntary tax payment.
- **Governance:** Reduces disputes and litigation.
- **Challenges:** Transition and awareness gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Continuous engagement and capacity building.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **New Law:** Income Tax Act, 2025
- **Old Law:** Income Tax Act, 1961
- **Authority:** Income Tax Department
- **Concept:** Voluntary compliance
- **Reform:** Simplification
- **Tool:** Faceless assessment
- **Goal:** Transparent taxation

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The new Income Tax Act, 2025 aims to simplify tax laws.
2. Outreach programmes help improve taxpayer awareness and compliance.
3. The Income Tax Act, 1961 is not proposed to be replaced.

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)

3. "CIVILISATIONAL OPENNESS" & INDIA'S FUTURE LEADERSHIP: INSIGHTS FROM CIVIL SERVICES DAY EVENT

- I. India's long history of **cultural exchange, inclusivity, and adaptability** highlighted as a strength.
- II. Civilisational openness refers to:
 - A. Acceptance of diverse ideas, cultures, and influences
- III. Seen as a foundation for **innovation, diplomacy, and global engagement**.
- IV. Encourages policymakers to leverage India's **pluralistic heritage in governance**.
- V. Relevant in the context of **globalization and geopolitical shifts**.
- VI. Strengthens India's **soft power and international influence**.
- VII. Overall, underscores the role of **history and culture in shaping future leadership**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Civilisational Openness

- I. India historically:

- A. Engaged with multiple cultures (trade, migration, ideas)
- II. Examples:
 - A. Influence of Central Asian, Persian, and European traditions

Civil Services Day

- I. Civil Services Day celebrated annually on April 21
- II. Commemorates:
 - A. Role of civil servants in governance

EPFO's RGDE

- I. Initiative by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Governance, reform, and policy discussions

Soft Power

- I. Refers to:
 - A. Influence through culture, values, and diplomacy
- II. India's strengths:
 - A. Heritage, diversity, democratic values

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Key Idea:** Civilisational openness as strength.
- **Speaker:** William Dalrymple.
- **Platform:** EPFO RGDE Season 2.
- **Theme:** Culture shaping global leadership.
- **Policy Relevance:** Inclusive governance and diplomacy.

- **Soft Power:** Cultural influence globally.
- **Way Forward:** Leverage heritage for innovation and global engagement.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Civil Services Day:** April 21
- **EPFO:** Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
- **Concept:** Civilisational openness
- **Term:** Soft power
- **Focus:** Cultural diplomacy
- **Speaker:** William Dalrymple
- **Goal:** Global leadership

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 in India.
2. Soft power refers to influence through culture and values rather than coercion.
3. Civilisational openness discourages cultural exchange.

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)

4.MSME MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS "PM VISHWAKARMA" FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AT CIVIL SERVICES DAY



- The session focused on promoting **traditional artisans and craftspeople** under the **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**.
- Emphasized **skill upgradation, financial support, and market linkages**.
- Aims to ensure **sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment**.
- Encourages preservation of **traditional crafts and indigenous skills**.
- Integrates artisans into the **formal economy and digital ecosystem**.
- Highlights role of MSMEs in **employment generation and inclusive growth**.
- Overall, reinforces commitment to **grassroots entrepreneurship and cultural heritage**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- I. Targets:

- A. Traditional artisans and craftspeople
- II. Provides:
 - A. Skill training
 - B. Toolkits
 - C. Credit support
- III. Focus:
 - A. Enhancing productivity and income

MSME Sector

- I. Backbone of:
 - A. India's economy
- II. Contributes to:
 - A. Employment
 - B. Exports
 - C. GDP

Civil Services Day

- I. Civil Services Day observed annually on April 21
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Governance, innovation, and best practices

Sustainable Livelihood

- I. Ensures:
 - A. Long-term income security
- II. Based on:
 - A. Skills, resources, and market access

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Theme:** Sustainable livelihood through PM Vishwakarma.
- **Focus Group:** Traditional artisans.
- **Support Measures:** Skill, finance, and market linkage.
- **Platform:** Civil Services Day event.
- **Impact:** Employment and inclusion.
- **Challenges:** Awareness, credit access, market competition.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen digital integration and branding support.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **PM Vishwakarma:** Scheme for artisans
- **Ministry:** MSME
- **Event:** Civil Services Day
- **Venue:** Vigyan Bhawan
- **Focus:** Skill and livelihood
- **Sector:** Informal/traditional economy
- **Goal:** Inclusive growth

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The PM Vishwakarma scheme is aimed at supporting traditional artisans and craftspeople.
2. The MSME sector plays a key role in employment generation in India.
3. Civil Services Day is observed on April 21.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

5.SKILL-LED TRANSFORMATION IN BORDER AREAS: MSDE BOOSTS VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME



Ministry of
Skill Development
And Entrepreneurship

सत्यमेव जयते

- I. MSDE is promoting **skill-based training and entrepreneurship** in remote border villages.
- II. Targets youth in **northern border regions** for employment opportunities.
- III. Focus sectors include:
 - A. Tourism
 - B. Handicrafts
 - C. Agriculture and allied activities
- IV. Encourages **local economic development and self-reliance**.
- V. Helps reduce **migration by creating local jobs**.
- VI. Strengthens **border security indirectly through population retention**.
- VII. Overall, integrates **skill development with regional development and national security goals**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)

- I. A centrally sponsored scheme:
 - A. Focused on development of villages along northern borders
- II. Objectives:
 - A. Infrastructure development
 - B. Livelihood creation
 - C. Population retention

Role of MSDE

- I. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship:
 - A. Provides training and skill certification
- II. Works with:
 - A. Training institutes and industry partners

Border Area Challenges

- I. Issues:
 - A. Remoteness
 - B. Lack of infrastructure
 - C. Migration

Strategic Importance

- I. Populated border areas:
 - A. Strengthen national security
- II. Promote:
 - A. Inclusive and balanced regional development

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Programme:** Vibrant Villages Programme.

- **Focus:** Skill development in border areas.
- **Objective:** Livelihood and reverse migration.
- **Sectors:** Tourism, crafts, agriculture.
- **Impact:** Economic empowerment and security.
- **Challenges:** Connectivity and training access.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen infrastructure and market linkages.

Answer: (a)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MSDE:** Skill development ministry
- **Scheme:** Vibrant Villages Programme
- **Focus Area:** Border villages
- **Goal:** Reverse migration
- **Concept:** Skill-led development
- **Benefit:** Employment generation
- **Link:** National security

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Vibrant Villages Programme focuses on development of border villages.
2. Skill development initiatives can help reduce migration from rural areas.
3. The programme is limited only to urban areas.

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

I. RAJASTHAN: SYMBOL OF VALOR, DEDICATION & PATRIOTISM – LOK SABHA SPEAKER



- Rajasthan is highlighted as a land known for **bravery, sacrifice, and strong national spirit**.
- Its history is marked by **warrior traditions and resistance against invasions**.
- The contribution of people from Rajasthan to **armed forces and national service** is significant.
- Rich cultural heritage reinforces values of **honour, duty, and resilience**.
- Such recognition strengthens **regional pride and national unity**.
- Encourages youth to draw inspiration from **historical legacy**.
- Overall, it reflects the role of **history and culture in nation-building**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Historical Significance of Rajasthan

- I. Known for:
 - A. Rajput valor and warrior culture
- II. Key figures:
 - A. Maharana Pratap
 - B. Prithviraj Chauhan

Cultural Heritage

- I. Includes:
 - A. Forts, palaces, and folk traditions
- II. UNESCO sites:
 - A. Hill Forts of Rajasthan

Contribution to Armed Forces

- I. Rajasthan has:
 - A. Strong representation in Indian armed forces
- II. Tradition of:
 - A. Military service

National Integration

- I. Cultural pride contributes to:
 - A. Unity in diversity

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Recognition:** Rajasthan's legacy of valor.
- **Speaker:** Om Birla.
- **Historical Pride:** Rajput traditions.
- **Cultural Identity:** Heritage and values.
- **National Role:** Contribution to defence.
- **Inspiration:** Youth engagement.

- **Way Forward:** Preserve heritage and promote national unity.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **State:** Rajasthan
- **Known For:** Valor and heritage
- **Figures:** Maharana Pratap, Prithviraj Chauhan
- **Sites:** Hill Forts (UNESCO)
- **Concept:** National integration
- **Value:** Patriotism
- **Theme:** Cultural legacy

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Rajasthan is historically associated with Rajput warrior traditions.
2. Hill Forts of Rajasthan are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
3. Rajasthan has no contribution to India's armed forces.

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)

2.TWISTS, FINGERS & FRACTURES: NEW DISCOVERY IN FLOWING CLAY DYNAMICS



- I. Research reveals that flowing clay can form:
 - A. **Finger-like patterns**
 - B. **Fracture-like structures**
- II. These patterns emerge due to complex **interactions between viscosity, stress, and flow dynamics.**
- III. Challenges conventional understanding of **soft material flow behavior.**
- IV. Helps explain natural phenomena like:
 - A. Landslides
 - B. Mudflows
- V. Has applications in:
 - A. Construction
 - B. Ceramics
 - C. Oil and gas industries
- VI. Overall, enhances knowledge of **non-Newtonian materials and fluid dynamics.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Clay as a Material

- I. A **non-Newtonian substance**:
 - A. Does not follow simple fluid flow laws
- II. Properties:
 - A. Can behave like both solid and liquid

Flow Dynamics

- I. Governed by:
 - A. Stress
 - B. Strain
 - C. Viscosity

Observed Patterns

- I. **Fingering**:
 - A. Branch-like flow structures
- II. **Fracturing**:
 - A. Cracks forming under stress

Scientific Significance

- I. Helps in:
 - A. Predicting geological hazards
 - B. Designing industrial processes

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Discovery**: New flow patterns in clay.
- **Types**: Finger-like and fracture structures.
- **Scientific Field**: Fluid dynamics and material science.
- **Applications**: Geology, engineering, industry.

- **Impact**: Better prediction of natural hazards.
- **Challenge**: Complex modeling of non-Newtonian materials.
- **Way Forward**: Further experimental and theoretical research.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Non-Newtonian Fluid**: Variable viscosity
- **Clay Behavior**: Solid + liquid properties
- **Patterns**: Fingering and fracturing
- **Field**: Fluid dynamics
- **Application**: Landslides, industry
- **Concept**: Stress-strain interaction
- **Goal**: Hazard prediction

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Clay behaves as a non-Newtonian material.
2. Fingering patterns can occur in flowing materials under certain conditions.
3. Non-Newtonian fluids always have constant viscosity.

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)

3.INDIA'S WIND ENERGY SURGE: RECORD 6.1 GW ADDITION IN 2025-26



- I. The addition of 6.1 GW reflects **accelerated growth in the wind power sector**.
- II. Strengthens India's position among **leading global renewable energy producers**.
- III. Supports targets of **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030**.
- IV. Contributes to reduction of **carbon emissions and climate commitments**.
- V. Driven by:
 - A. Policy support
 - B. Private sector participation
 - C. Technological advancements
- VI. Enhances energy security and reduces dependence on **fossil fuels**.
- VII. Overall, signals strong momentum in India's **clean energy transition**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Wind Energy in India

- I. One of the major:
 - A. Renewable energy sources
- II. Key states:
 - A. Tamil Nadu
 - B. Gujarat

- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

Policy Support

- National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes
- Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs)

Global Commitments

- I. India's commitments under:
 - A. Paris Agreement
- II. Target:
 - A. Net-zero emissions by 2070

Challenges

- Land acquisition
- Grid integration
- Intermittency of wind

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Capacity Addition:** 6.1 GW in 2025-26.
- **Sector:** Wind energy.
- **Impact:** Boost to renewable energy targets.
- **Climate Goal:** Supports emission reduction.
- **Drivers:** Policy, investment, technology.
- **Challenges:** Infrastructure and variability.
- **Way Forward:** Improve storage and grid systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Energy Type:** Wind energy

- **Capacity Addition:** 6.1 GW
- **Target:** 500 GW by 2030
- **Agreement:** Paris Agreement
- **Goal:** Net-zero by 2070
- **States:** Tamil Nadu, Gujarat
- **Concept:** Renewable energy

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Wind energy is a renewable source of energy.
2. India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.
3. Wind energy does not contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.

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)

4.CLEAN CAMPUS, ZERO WASTE: SMART SANITATION IN HEALTHCARE



- Healthcare facilities are adopting **smart sanitation practices** to achieve zero waste.
- Focus on **segregation, treatment, recycling, and safe disposal of biomedical waste**.
- Integration of **technology (IoT, automation, data monitoring)** for waste tracking.
- Reduces risk of **infections, environmental pollution, and public health hazards**.
- Promotes sustainable practices like **waste-to-energy and recycling systems**.
- Ensures compliance with **Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016**.
- Overall, strengthens **public health systems and environmental sustainability**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Biomedical Waste

- I. Waste generated from:
 - A. Hospitals, clinics, labs
- II. Includes:
 - A. Infectious and hazardous materials

Smart Sanitation

- I. Use of:
 - A. Sensors, digital monitoring, automation
- II. Improves:
 - A. Efficiency and compliance

Regulatory Framework

- I. Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016:
 - A. Mandate segregation and safe disposal

Swachh Bharat Mission

- I. Swachh Bharat Mission promotes:
 - A. Cleanliness and sanitation
- II. Extended focus:
 - A. Institutional cleanliness

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Goal:** Zero waste healthcare campuses.
- **Approach:** Smart sanitation and digital monitoring.
- **Focus:** Biomedical waste management.
- **Benefit:** Infection control and environmental safety.
- **Technology:** IoT and automation.
- **Challenges:** Infrastructure and compliance gaps.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen monitoring and awareness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Waste Type:** Biomedical waste
- **Rules:** Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016
- **Mission:** Swachh Bharat Mission
- **Concept:** Zero waste
- **Technology:** IoT
- **Goal:** Infection control
- **Focus:** Sustainability

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Biomedical waste includes waste generated from hospitals and laboratories.
2. Smart sanitation involves the use of technology for waste management.
3. Biomedical waste has no impact on public health.

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.INDIA–GERMANY DEFENCE TIES DEEPEN: BILATERAL TALKS IN BERLIN



Discussions aimed at enhancing **defence cooperation and military collaboration**.

- I. Key areas of focus:
 - A. Defence technology and innovation

- B. Joint research and development
- C. Industrial partnerships
- II. Emphasis on **co-development and co-production of defence equipment.**
- III. Strengthens India's push for **Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.**
- IV. Reflects the growing importance of **India–Europe strategic ties.**
- V. Overall, enhances **mutual security cooperation and global strategic alignment.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India–Germany Relations

- I. Strong ties in:
 - A. Trade
 - B. Technology
 - C. Environment
- II. Increasing focus on:
 - A. Strategic and defence cooperation

Defence Cooperation

- I. Includes:
 - A. Technology transfer
 - B. Joint exercises
 - C. Industrial collaboration

Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

- I. Goal:
 - A. Reduce import dependence
- II. Promote:
 - A. Indigenous manufacturing

Geopolitical Context

- I. Growing importance of:
 - A. Indo-Pacific region
- II. Need for:
 - A. Strategic partnerships

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Meeting:** India–Germany defence talks.
- **Location:** Berlin.
- **Focus:** Technology, R&D, industrial collaboration.
- **Policy Link:** Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Impact:** Strengthened strategic partnership.
- **Global Context:** Indo-Pacific and European ties.
- **Way Forward:** Expand joint projects and defence innovation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Minister:** Rajnath Singh
- **Country:** Germany
- **City:** Berlin
- **Concept:** Defence cooperation
- **Policy:** Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- **Focus:** Co-production
- **Goal:** Strategic partnership

PadhAI–GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India and Germany are enhancing defence cooperation through joint initiatives.
2. Aatmanirbhar Bharat aims to promote indigenous defence manufacturing.
3. Defence cooperation has no role in international relations.

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)

1. GREEN ECONOMY: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP LED BY YOUTH



- Transition to a green economy is expected to create **new employment opportunities (“green jobs”)**.
- Encourages **green entrepreneurship** in sectors like renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture.
- Youth is seen as key drivers of **innovation, startups, and climate solutions**.
- Supports India’s commitments to **climate action and sustainable development**.
- Promotes economic growth while ensuring **environmental protection**.
- Aligns with a global shift toward **low-carbon and resource-efficient economies**.
- Overall, positions sustainability as a **major engine of future economic growth**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Green Economy

- I. Economic system that:
 - A. Reduces environmental risks
 - B. Promotes sustainable development

Green Jobs

- I. Jobs that:
 - A. Contribute to preserving or restoring the environment
- II. Examples:
 - A. Renewable energy technicians
 - B. Waste management professionals

Green Entrepreneurship

- I. Businesses focused on:
 - A. Eco-friendly products and services
- II. Areas:
 - A. Clean energy
 - B. Circular economy

Policy Linkages

- I. National Action Plan on Climate Change
- II. International commitments:
 - A. Paris Agreement

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Concept:** Green economy-driven growth.
- **Focus:** Jobs and entrepreneurship.
- **Key Driver:** Youth participation.
- **Sectors:** Renewable energy, waste management, agriculture.
- **Impact:** Sustainable development and climate action.
- **Challenges:** Skill gaps and financing constraints.
- **Way Forward:** Invest in green skills and innovation ecosystems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Green Economy:** Sustainable economic model
- **Green Jobs:** Environment-friendly employment
- **Youth Role:** Innovation and startups
- **Agreement:** Paris Agreement
- **Focus:** Low-carbon growth
- **Concept:** Circular economy
- **Goal:** Sustainability

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Green jobs contribute to environmental sustainability.
2. Green entrepreneurship focuses on eco-friendly business models.
3. Green economy increases environmental degradation.

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)

2.CAQM INSPECTION DRIVE IN DELHI: FOCUS ON ROAD DUST & CLEANING MEASURES



- I. CAQM reviewed implementation of **dust control measures** across key roads and construction sites.
- II. Focus areas:
 - A. Mechanized road sweeping
 - B. Water sprinkling
 - C. Dust suppression systems
- III. Road dust is identified as a major contributor to **PM10 and PM2.5 pollution**.
- IV. Emphasis on strict compliance with **air quality regulations**.
- V. Encourages coordination among civic agencies for **sustained pollution control**.

- VI. Aims to improve **urban air quality and public health**.
- VII. Overall, reinforces the need for **continuous monitoring and preventive action**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

CAQM

- I. Commission for Air Quality Management:
 - A. Statutory body for air quality management in NCR and adjoining areas

Road Dust Pollution

- I. Major urban pollution source:
 - A. From vehicles, construction, and unpaved surfaces
- II. Contributes significantly to:
 - A. Particulate matter levels

Control Measures

- Mechanized sweeping
- Water spraying
- Covering construction materials

Policy Linkages

- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inspection:** Conducted by CAQM.
- **Focus:** Road dust and cleaning measures.
- **Location:** Delhi.
- **Pollutants:** PM10 and PM2.5.
- **Measures:** Sweeping, sprinkling, dust suppression.
- **Challenge:** Enforcement and coordination.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen monitoring and compliance.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CAQM:** Air quality regulator
- **Pollution Type:** Road dust
- **Pollutants:** PM10, PM2.5
- **Plan:** GRAP
- **Programme:** NCAP
- **Method:** Mechanized sweeping
- **Goal:** Clean air

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Road dust is a significant contributor to particulate matter pollution in urban areas.
2. CAQM is responsible for air quality management in Delhi-NCR.
3. Mechanized sweeping has no role in controlling dust pollution.

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)

3.MSP BOOST & PULSE PROCUREMENT EXPANSION: STRENGTHENING AGRI SELF-RELIANCE



- VII. Overall, promotes **sustainable and diversified agricultural growth.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- I. Price announced by government:
 - A. To ensure farmers get minimum profit
- II. Procured by:
 - A. Agencies like Food Corporation of India

Pulse Procurement

- I. Pulses:
 - A. Key source of protein
- II. India:
 - A. Largest producer and consumer
- III. Still imports:
 - A. To meet domestic demand

Need for Diversification

- I. Overdependence on:
 - A. Rice and wheat
- II. Leads to:
 - A. Soil degradation and water stress

Policy Linkages

- National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- PM-AASHA scheme

- I. Enhanced MSP procurement ensures **better price realization for farmers** in Chhattisgarh.
- II. Structured procurement of pulses in Bihar aims to:
 - A. Promote **pulse cultivation**
 - B. Reduce import dependence
- III. Supports diversification toward **protein-rich crops.**
- IV. Strengthens **public procurement systems and farmer income stability.**
- V. Aligns with goals of:
 - A. **Nutritional security**
 - B. **Self-reliance in agriculture**
- VI. Encourages farmers to shift from **cereal-centric cropping patterns.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **State Focus:** Chhattisgarh (MSP), Bihar (pulses).
- **New Initiative:** Structured pulse procurement.
- **Objective:** Farmer income and crop diversification.
- **Nutritional Goal:** Promote protein-rich crops.
- **Economic Impact:** Reduce imports.
- **Challenges:** Procurement infrastructure and awareness.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen supply chains and storage.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MSP:** Minimum Support Price
- **Agency:** Food Corporation of India
- **Crop Focus:** Pulses
- **Scheme:** PM-AASHA
- **Goal:** Self-reliance
- **Issue:** Import dependence
- **Benefit:** Farmer income

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. MSP ensures a minimum price to farmers for their produce.
2. Pulses are an important source of protein in the diet.
3. India does not import pulses.

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)

4.DEFENCE SECRETARY INAUGURATES ADVANCED MEDICAL FACILITIES AT CANTONMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, DELHI



- I. Introduction of **robotic-assisted orthopaedic system** improves precision in surgeries.
- II. The new maternity operation theatre enhances **maternal and child healthcare services**.
- III. Facility upgrade strengthens healthcare support for:
 - A. Armed forces personnel
 - B. Civilians in cantonment areas
- IV. Promotes adoption of **advanced medical technologies in public healthcare**.
- V. Improves **quality, efficiency, and patient outcomes**.
- VI. Reflects focus on **modernizing defence healthcare infrastructure**.

- VII. Overall, contributes to **better healthcare delivery and medical innovation**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Robotic Orthopaedic System

- I. Used for:
 - A. Joint replacement surgeries
- II. Benefits:
 - A. High precision
 - B. Reduced recovery time

Maternity Operation Theatre

- I. Specialized facility for:
 - A. Safe childbirth and surgical procedures
- II. Enhances:
 - A. Maternal and neonatal care

Defence Healthcare System

- I. Provides:
 - A. Medical services to armed forces and families
- II. Includes:
 - A. Military and cantonment hospitals

Healthcare Modernization

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Technology integration
 - B. Infrastructure upgrade

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Facility:** Robotic orthopaedic system introduced.
- **Healthcare Boost:** New maternity OT.
- **Location:** Cantonment General Hospital, Delhi.
- **Beneficiaries:** Armed forces and civilians.
- **Technology:** Robotic-assisted surgery.
- **Impact:** Improved patient outcomes.
- **Way Forward:** Expand advanced healthcare infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **System:** Robotic orthopaedics
- **Facility:** Maternity OT
- **Location:** Delhi cantonment hospital
- **Benefit:** Precision surgery
- **Focus:** Maternal health
- **Sector:** Defence healthcare
- **Goal:** Modernization

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Robotic orthopaedic systems improve precision in surgeries.
2. Maternity operation theatres are used for childbirth-related procedures.
3. Defence healthcare facilities serve only military personnel and not civilians.

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. CGTMSE DRIVES GLOBAL DIALOGUE: BOOSTING COLLATERAL-FREE CREDIT FOR MSEs



- CGTMSE highlighted India's model of **credit guarantees to support small businesses without collateral.**
- Enables MSEs to access **formal credit from banks and financial institutions.**
- Reduces risk for lenders through **government-backed guarantees.**
- Promotes **entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation.**
- Strengthens financial inclusion and supports **MSME sector growth.**

- Showcases India's experience as a **global best practice in credit guarantee systems.**
- Overall, enhances access to finance and contributes to **inclusive economic development.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

CGTMSE

- I. Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises established by:
 - A. Government of India and SIDBI
- II. Objective:
 - A. Provide credit guarantees for MSE loans

Collateral-Free Credit

- I. Loans provided:
 - A. Without requiring assets as security
- II. Encourages:
 - A. First-time entrepreneurs

MSME Sector

- I. Backbone of:
 - A. India's economy
- II. Contributes significantly to:
 - A. Employment and exports

Global Relevance

- I. Credit guarantee systems:
 - A. Used worldwide to support SMEs
- II. India's model gaining:
 - A. International recognition

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institution:** CGTMSE.
- **Focus:** Collateral-free loans.
- **Beneficiaries:** Micro and Small Enterprises.
- **Impact:** Financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.
- **Global Role:** Sharing best practices.
- **Challenge:** Credit risk management.
- **Way Forward:** Expand coverage and awareness.

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

Answer: (a)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CGTMSE:** Credit guarantee institution
- **Sector:** MSMEs
- **Feature:** No collateral loans
- **Partner:** SIDBI
- **Benefit:** Easy credit access
- **Concept:** Financial inclusion
- **Goal:** Entrepreneurship

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

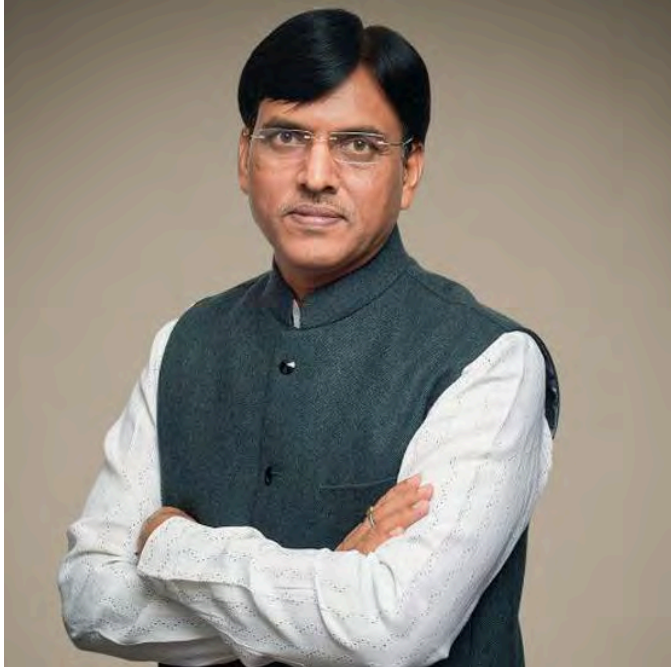
MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. CGTMSE provides credit guarantees for loans to micro and small enterprises.
2. Collateral-free credit means loans are given without requiring assets as security.
3. CGTMSE operates independently without any government involvement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- **Global Role:** Sharing best practices.
- **Challenge:** Credit risk management.
- **Way Forward:** Expand coverage and awareness.

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2. FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR MINING REFORMS: BOOST UNDER SPECIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (FY 2026-27)



PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CGTMSE:** Credit guarantee institution
- **Sector:** MSMEs
- **Feature:** No collateral loans
- **Partner:** SIDBI
- **Benefit:** Easy credit access
- **Concept:** Financial inclusion
- **Goal:** Entrepreneurship

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. CGTMSE provides credit guarantees for loans to micro and small enterprises.
2. Collateral-free credit means loans are given without requiring assets as security.
3. CGTMSE operates independently without any government involvement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- I. States will receive **additional financial support** for implementing key mining reforms.
- II. Incentives linked to:
 - A. Ease of doing business in mining
 - B. Faster clearances and digitization
 - C. Auction of mineral blocks
- III. Encourages **private sector participation and investment**.
- IV. Enhances **revenue generation and resource efficiency**.
- V. Promotes **sustainable and environmentally responsible mining**.
- VI. Aligns with India's push for **critical minerals and industrial growth**.
- VII. Overall, strengthens **cooperative federalism and sectoral reforms**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Mining Sector in India

- I. Crucial for:
 - A. Infrastructure and industrial development
- II. Supplies:
 - A. Coal, iron ore, bauxite, critical minerals

Reform Needs

- I. Issues:
 - A. Delays in approvals
 - B. Regulatory complexity
 - C. Under-exploration

Special Assistance Scheme

- I. Provides:
 - A. Financial support to states for capital expenditure
- II. Encourages:
 - A. Reforms and infrastructure development

Policy Linkages

- Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act
- National Mineral Policy

- **Scheme:** Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment.
- **Focus:** Mining sector reforms.
- **Incentives:** Financial support to states.
- **Objective:** Transparency and efficiency.
- **Impact:** Investment and revenue growth.
- **Challenge:** Environmental concerns and compliance.
- **Way Forward:** Balance growth with sustainability.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Sector:** Mining
- **Scheme:** Special Assistance for Capital Investment
- **Law:** MMDR Act
- **Policy:** National Mineral Policy
- **Focus:** Reform incentives
- **Goal:** Efficient mining
- **Approach:** Cooperative federalism

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Financial incentives are provided to states for implementing mining reforms.
2. The mining sector is important for industrial development.
3. Mining reforms discourage private sector participation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Answer: (a)

3.IPC SIGNS MoUs TO BOOST DRUG QUALITY, RESEARCH & PATIENT SAFETY



सत्यमेव जयते

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Recruitment 2024

Bsc / B.Pharm / M.Pharm/M.Sc / Biotechnology,
Biomedical Engineering

- I. MoUs aim to enhance **collaboration in pharmaceutical standards and research.**
- II. Focus on improving:
 - A. Drug quality assurance
 - B. Pharmacovigilance (drug safety monitoring)
 - C. Regulatory science
- III. Promotes availability of **safe, effective, and affordable medicines.**
- IV. Supports innovation and **capacity building in the pharmaceutical sector.**
- V. Aligns with India's goal of being a **global pharmaceutical hub.**
- VI. Enhances public trust in **healthcare systems and medicines.**

- VII. Overall, contributes to **better healthcare outcomes and patient safety.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

- I. Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission:
 - A. Sets standards for drugs in India
- II. Publishes:
 - A. Indian Pharmacopoeia

PMBI

- I. Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India:
 - A. Implements schemes like Jan Aushadhi
- II. Ensures:
 - A. Affordable medicines

NIPER Hajipur

- I. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Hajipur:
 - A. Premier institute for pharmaceutical education and research

Pharmacovigilance

- I. Monitoring:
 - A. Adverse effects of drugs
- II. Ensures:
 - A. Patient safety

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Agencies:** IPC, PMBI, NIPER Hajipur.
- **Focus:** Drug quality and safety.
- **Areas:** Research, standards, pharmacovigilance.
- **Impact:** Better healthcare outcomes.
- **Sector:** Pharmaceuticals.
- **Challenge:** Ensuring uniform quality standards.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthen research collaboration and regulation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **IPC:** Drug standards body
- **PMBI:** Affordable medicines
- **NIPER:** Pharma education
- **Concept:** Pharmacovigilance
- **Goal:** Patient safety
- **Sector:** Healthcare
- **Focus:** Drug quality

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission sets standards for drugs in India.
2. Pharmacovigilance refers to monitoring adverse drug effects.
3. PMBI is responsible for regulating telecommunications.

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)

4.INDIGENOUS SILICON PHOTONICS SOLUTIONS LAUNCHED IN CHENNAI



- I. Silicon Photonics integrates **optical (light-based) components with silicon chips.**
- II. Enables **high-speed data transmission with lower energy consumption.**
- III. Indigenous development reduces dependence on **imported high-end semiconductor technologies.**
- IV. Key applications:
 - A. Data centers
 - B. 5G/6G communication
 - C. Artificial Intelligence systems
- V. Boosts India's position in **deep-tech innovation and electronics manufacturing.**
- VI. Supports initiatives like:
 - A. Digital India
 - B. Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- VII. Overall, it enhances India's capabilities in **next-generation computing and communication technologies.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Silicon Photonics

- I. Technology combining:
 - A. Photonics (light-based transmission)
 - B. Electronics (silicon chips)
- II. Advantages:
 - A. Faster data transfer
 - B. Energy efficiency

Semiconductor Ecosystem in India

- I. Growing focus on:
 - A. Chip design and fabrication
- II. Supported by:
 - A. Government incentives and policies

Strategic Importance

- I. Critical for:
 - A. Digital infrastructure
 - B. Defence and communication systems

Global Context

- I. Countries investing in:
 - A. Advanced semiconductor technologies
- II. Increasing importance of:
 - A. Supply chain resilience

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Technology:** Silicon Photonics.
- **Location:** Chennai.
- **Feature:** High-speed, energy-efficient data transmission.
- **Application:** AI, telecom, data centers.

- **Impact:** Boost to semiconductor ecosystem.
- **Policy Link:** Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Way Forward:** Scale manufacturing and R&D.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Tech:** Silicon Photonics
- **Concept:** Light-based data transmission
- **Use:** High-speed communication
- **Sector:** Semiconductors
- **Location:** Chennai
- **Goal:** Self-reliance
- **Application:** AI, 5G/6G

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Silicon Photonics uses light for data transmission.
2. It helps in reducing energy consumption in data communication.
3. It has no application in modern communication systems.

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.INS SUDARSHINI MAKES HISTORIC ARRIVAL AT LAS PALMAS, SPAIN



- I. The visit signifies strengthening of **India–Spain maritime and diplomatic ties.**
- II. Part of the Indian Navy's efforts to:
 - A. Promote **international cooperation**
 - B. Enhance **naval goodwill and cultural exchange**
- III. Crew engages in:
 - A. Professional interactions
 - B. Community outreach programmes
- IV. Showcases India's **maritime heritage and naval capabilities.**
- V. Supports India's vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).**
- VI. Enhances India's presence in **global maritime networks.**
- VII. Overall, reinforces India's role as a **responsible maritime partner.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

INS Sudarshini

- I. INS Sudarshini:

- A. Sail training ship of the Indian Navy
- II. Used for:
 - A. Training naval cadets
 - B. Overseas goodwill missions

Las Palmas

- I. Las Palmas:
 - A. Major port city in the Canary Islands
- II. Strategic maritime location

Maritime Diplomacy

- I. Involves:
 - A. Naval visits
 - B. Joint exercises
- II. Builds:
 - A. Trust and cooperation

SAGAR Vision

- I. Security and Growth for All in the Region
- II. Focus on:
 - A. Maritime cooperation and stability

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ship:** INS Sudarshini.
- **Location:** Las Palmas, Spain.
- **Significance:** First-ever visit.

- **Objective:** Maritime diplomacy.
- **Activities:** Training and outreach.
- **Policy Link:** SAGAR.
- **Way Forward:** Expand naval cooperation globally.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ship:** INS Sudarshini
- **Type:** Sail training vessel
- **Location:** Las Palmas
- **Concept:** Maritime diplomacy
- **Vision:** SAGAR
- **Purpose:** Naval training & goodwill
- **Goal:** International cooperation

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INS Sudarshini is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy.
2. Maritime diplomacy includes naval visits and international cooperation.
3. Las Palmas is located in Spain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)