

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 11-02-2025

### Table of Content

NITI Aayog Releases Policy Report on State Public Universities (SPUs)

India-UK Defence Collaboration

India's Pharmaceutical Exports Set for 10x Growth

Budget Allocation for Research, Development and Innovation

### NEWS IN SHORT

La Nina

Lymphatic Filariasis

'Bombay' Blood Group

Lumpy Skin Disease Vaccine

PM-AJAY Scheme

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

PM's New 15 Point Programme for Minorities

US's DEI policies

Liquidity Coverage Ratio

Seva Bhoj Yojana

Government Revises Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) Guidelines

## NITI AAYOG RELEASES POLICY REPORT ON STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (SPUS)

### Context

- NITI Aayog launched a policy report titled 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities'.

### About

- The report is a first-of-its kind policy document in the higher education sector focused specifically on **States and State Public Universities (SPUs)**.
  - State Public University (SPU)** is a university established or incorporated by a Provincial Act or by a State Act can be termed a State (Public) University.
- It provides detailed quantitative analysis on vital indicators of Quality, Funding and Financing, Governance and Employability over the last decade across the themes.

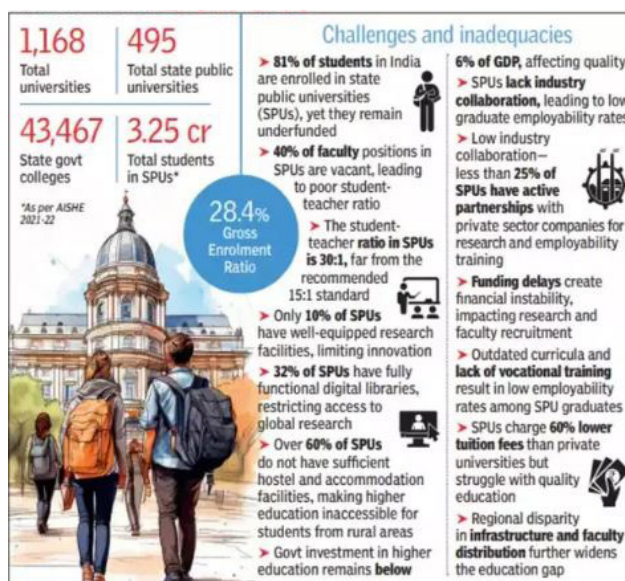
### Key Findings of Report

- Highest Funding:** Maharashtra leads in higher education funding, followed by Bihar and Tamil Nadu.
- Lowest Funding:** Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland have the lowest higher education budgets.
- University Density:** The national average university density is 0.8.
  - Sikkim has the highest density of 10.3, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand.
  - In Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra, density at the state level is below the national average.
- Female Enrolment:** Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have higher female enrolment rates than males.

### Challenges

- Dearth of good quality infrastructure.
- Shortage of faculty and staff.
- Insufficient expenditure on R&D.
- There is a **low enrolment of students at the MTech and Ph.D. levels**, presenting a significant challenge in fostering advanced research and academic growth.
- Courses, syllabus, curriculum not being industry-ready.
- Issues in funding:** They face financial challenges due to dependency on traditional revenue sources such as admission fees and state grants.

- There are administrative delays in fund sanctioning along with the lack of framework for bank loans as major challenges for funding and financing of SPUs.



### Recommendations

- It has presented nearly **80 policy recommendations** to address various issues related to four areas of SPUs: quality of education; funding and financing; governance; and employability among students enrolled in them.
- Increasing the combined investment** of Centre and States on education to 6% of GDP as recommended in NEP 2020.
- Increasing the R&D Investment** (public and private) to 2% of GDP as recommended in the Economic Survey 2017-18.
- Clusters of SPUs **should identify 2 to 3 local issues** and establish Centres of Excellence dedicated to addressing these challenges.
- States may consider establishing a finance agency similar to the **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**, dedicated specifically to SPUs.
  - HEFA is a joint venture of the Centre and Canara Bank set up in 2017.
  - This agency should focus on bolstering infrastructure and research facilities.

Source: TH

## INDIA-UK DEFENCE COLLABORATION

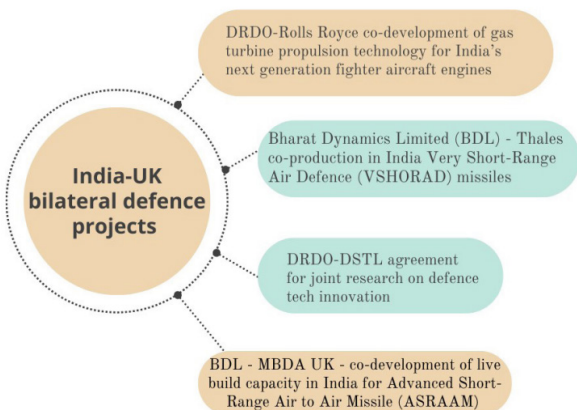
### Context

- India and the United Kingdom have signed multiple agreements aimed at enhancing bilateral defence collaboration.



### Key Agreements and Collaborations

- **Defence Partnership–India (DP-I):** Establishment of a **dedicated programme office** within the UK's Ministry of Defence to serve as a **one-stop hub for bilateral defence collaboration**.
  - ♦ Aims to **facilitate deeper cooperation** and support **economic growth** in both countries.
- **Laser Beam Riding MANPADs (LBRM):** India and the UK signed a contract for the delivery of **Laser Beam Riding Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)**.



- ♦ The initial supply of **High Velocity Missiles (STARStreak) and launchers** is set for delivery this year.
- **Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM):** Focuses on **integrating Indian and British industries** into the **global defence supply chain**.
- **Advanced Short-Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM):** Collaboration to establish an **ASRAAM assembly and testing facility in Hyderabad**.
- **Integrated Full Electric Propulsion (IFEP) System:** A **Statement of Intent** was signed to **design and develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion (IFEP) system** for India's **next-generation Landing Platform Dock (LPD) fleet**.
  - ♦ Both nations are working to establish **India's first maritime Land-Based Testing Facility**, with a goal to deliver the **LPD in water by 2030**.

### Defence Cooperation Between India and UK

- Over the past decade, only about 3% of India's defence acquisitions came from the UK.
- **Modern Collaborative Frameworks:**
  - ♦ **Defence and International Security Partnership (DISP), 2015:** It aims to enhance cooperation in areas such as counter-terrorism, cyber security, and defense manufacturing.

- ♦ **Defense Equipment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** It facilitates collaboration between defense industries of both countries, promoting co-development and co-production initiatives.
- ♦ India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue.
- **Joint Military Exercises and Training:**
  - ♦ Exercise Ajeya Warrior;
  - ♦ Exercise Konkan;
  - ♦ Exercise Cobra Warrior;
  - ♦ Exercise Tarang Shakti.
- **Defense Industrial Collaboration:** A Letter of Arrangement was signed between India's DRDO and the UK's DSTL to collaborate on defense research, emphasizing areas like **Electric Propulsion Systems for the Indian Navy**.
- **Maritime Cooperation:** Promoting freedom of navigation and open access, and improving maritime cooperation, with a new **Maritime Dialogue, Grey and Dark Shipping** information sharing and mechanisms.

### Key Concerns

- India-UK defence cooperation has often been **derailed by the 'three-I' challenge** posed by Indian rules and regulations pertaining to:
  - ♦ Foreign Investment;
  - ♦ Intellectual Property Rights;
  - ♦ Indigenous Content Requirements.

### Strategic Significance

- These agreements represent a significant step forward in **India-U.K. defence cooperation**, particularly in critical areas such as air defence and maritime propulsion.
- It aligns with **India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) vision**, promoting indigenous defence capabilities and technological advancements.

Source: TH

## INDIA'S PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORTS SET FOR 10X GROWTH

### In News

- **India's Pharmaceutical exports** are projected to reach \$350 billion by 2047, a 10-15 times increase from current levels.

### About India's Pharmaceutical industry

- It has gained international recognition as the "**Pharmacy of the World**," particularly for its imperative role in supplying vaccines, essential medicines, and medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- The sector has showcased its innovative capabilities and established itself as a crucial global pharmaceutical value chain member.

### Current Status in the Global Market:

- India is the **largest supplier of generic drugs** globally, accounting for 20% of global sales.
- India ranks **third globally in drug and pharmaceutical production** by volume.
- India exports to approximately 200 countries and territories.
  - ♦ The top five destinations for these exports are the USA, Belgium, South Africa, the UK, and Brazil.
- **India ranks 11th** in pharmaceutical export value, despite being a major global supplier of generics.
- The total annual turnover of pharmaceuticals in FY24 was ₹4.17 lakh crore, growing at an average rate of 10.1 per cent in the last five years.

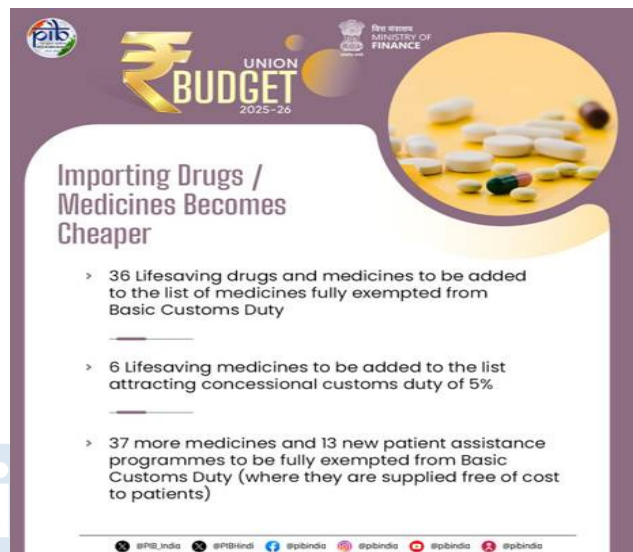
### Export Projections

- India's pharmaceutical exports are expected to grow from \$27 billion in 2023 to \$65 billion by 2030.
- The shift from volume-based to value-driven growth is key to India's pharmaceutical sector.
- Focus areas for growth include **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), biosimilars, and specialty generics**.
  - ♦ **API Market Growth:** India's API exports are projected to grow from \$5 billion to \$80-90 billion by 2047.
    - Global supply chain diversification, particularly due to the U.S. Biosecure Act, presents an opportunity for India to strengthen API production.
  - ♦ **Biosimilars Market Growth:** Indian biosimilar exports, currently valued at \$0.8 billion, are expected to grow fivefold to \$4.2 billion by 2030 and \$30-35 billion by 2047. Increased R&D, regulatory simplifications, and capacity expansion will support this growth.
    - Biosimilars are medications that closely **resemble biologic drugs, produced through living systems** such as yeast, bacteria, or animal cells, and exhibit comparable structure and function.

- ♦ **Generic Formulations Growth:** Generic formulations make up 70% of India's pharmaceutical exports, valued at \$19 billion.
  - These are projected to grow to \$180-190 billion by 2047, with a shift towards higher-margin specialty generics.

### Policy and Strategic Measures

- The Government of India has implemented several initiatives to promote the pharmaceutical sector and boost investment.



- ♦ In September 2020, the government introduced the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for the pharmaceutical sector under the Self-Reliant India initiative, with a financial outlay of worth Rs. 15,000 Crore, and the scheme duration is from 2020-2021 to 2028-29.
- Now, there is a need for targeted policy measures, strengthening the API industry, addressing export barriers, and establishing country-specific export strategies.
- India supplies 55-60% of UNICEF's vaccines but needs to focus more on **high-value markets** via clinical trials and manufacturing investments.
- Regulatory harmonization, expansion of production-linked incentives (PLI), and R&D incentives will be key enablers.

### Challenges

- India is dealing with several challenges, including **tackling intellectual property rights, lack of research and development** etc.
- Understanding the political, economic, sociocultural, technological, environmental, and legal factors is vital for assessing the opportunities and challenges in the pharmaceutical market in India.

**Conclusion and Way Ahead:**

- India is already a global leader in generic drug supply and aims to move up the value chain with specialty generics, biosimilars, and innovative products.
  - This shift could help India secure a position among the top five nations in export value by 2047.
- India has set its goal to be the “healthcare custodian of the world,” with a focus on innovation, R&D, and regulatory processes. And collaboration between academia, industry, and government is key to building a globally competitive pharmaceutical sector.

Source: BS

## BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

**Context**

- The Union Budget has allocated ₹20,000 crore to the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)** for research, development and innovation.

**Background**

- Last year, in the **interim Budget ₹1 lakh crore** was announced for a **fifty-year interest-free loan**.
- It will provide **long-term financing or refinancing** with long tenures and low or nil interest rates.
- This will encourage the **private sector to scale up research and innovation** significantly in sunrise domains.

**Significance**

- This will be a major step towards creating **strategic autonomy in some key technology sectors**.
- The budget introduces several initiatives that align closely with **DBT's mission to advance India's biotechnology sector**.
- The budget's focus on **public-private partnerships, industry collaboration, and technology-driven entrepreneurship** will accelerate innovation in manufacturing, healthcare, sustainability, and strategic sectors.

**India's Spending on R&D:**

- India currently spends **less than 1% of its GDP** on research and development, which is low compared to technologically advanced countries.

- A major reason for this is the limited participation by the private sector — now hovering around 30% — in core research and development.

**Need for Funding in R&D**

- Economic Growth:** Drives new industries, improves productivity, and enhances global competitiveness.
- Technological Advancement:** Facilitates breakthroughs in fields like AI, biotechnology, and renewable energy.
- Social Challenges:** Helps address poverty, healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability issues.
- Job Creation:** Innovation generates employment opportunities and stimulates entrepreneurship.
- Global Positioning:** Positions India as a global leader in science, technology, and knowledge.
- Attracts Investment:** Promotes foreign and domestic investments in research-driven sectors.

**Challenges**

- Funding Issues:** Limited investment in research and development, especially in public institutions.
- Infrastructure Gaps:** Inadequate research facilities and resources in many institutions.
- Brain Drain:** Loss of talent to other countries due to better opportunities abroad.
- Lack of Industry Collaboration:** Limited partnerships between academia and industry for practical innovation.
- Skill Gaps:** Insufficient training and development of skilled researchers and innovators.
- Regulatory Challenges:** Complex regulations and intellectual property issues hinder innovation.

**Government Initiatives**

- The National Geospatial Mission** has been announced with an allocation of Rs 100 crore for FY 2025-2026 to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data.
  - The mission will help implement the National Geospatial Policy 2022, with the goal of making India a world leader in the geospatial sector.
- The National Mission on High Yielding Seeds** will focus on strengthening the research ecosystem and developing high-yielding, pest-resistant, and climate-resilient seeds, aligning with DBT's efforts in agricultural biotechnology.
- National Manufacturing Mission (NMM):** Aligned with the government's '**BioE3 Policy**' for fostering high-performance biomanufacturing, the

NMM announced in the Budget aims to accelerate technology development and commercialisation.

- **The Seaweed Mission and Learn & Earn Program** empower women entrepreneurs, supporting economic inclusion.

### Way Forward

- With the recent initiative Startups and other private sector ventures will obtain seed money for their projects and are expected to get benefitted.
- However to raise R&D spending there is a need to have increased partnership with the private sector.
- Efforts are being made to create better synergies between industry, research labs, and educational institutions in order to broad-base both research activity and the funds to support it.
  - ♦ The Union Finance Minister has also announced several initiatives including the Nuclear Energy Mission, initiatives in clean tech, Atal Tinkering Labs, and the Centre of Excellence on AI in Education.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

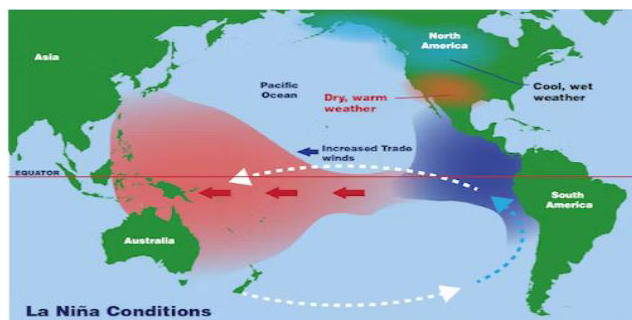
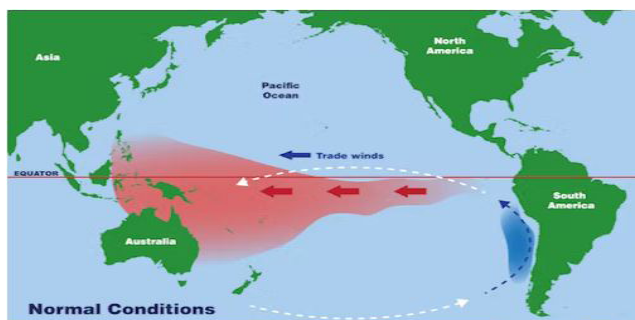
### LA NINA

#### Context

- Despite the arrival of the La Niña phase, the global average surface air temperature breached the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold.

#### What is La Nina?

- It means **Little Girl** in Spanish. La Niña is also sometimes called El Viejo, anti-El Niño, or simply “a cold event.”
- The **trade winds become stronger than usual**, pushing more **warmer waters towards the Indonesian coast**, and making the **eastern Pacific Ocean colder than normal**.



#### Impact on Weather Patterns

- **North America:** La Niña is often associated with colder winters in the northern U.S. and Canada and warmer, drier conditions in the southern U.S. (such as in the southwestern states).
- **South America:** La Niña often causes droughts in countries like Peru and Ecuador while bringing more rain to Brazil.
- **Asia and Oceania:** La Niña tends to bring increased rainfall and a higher risk of flooding to countries like Indonesia, Australia, and parts of Southeast Asia.

#### Impact on India

- **More rainfall** in most regions, leading to a stronger monsoon.
- **Increased risk of flooding** and waterlogging in many parts of the country.
- **Cooler temperatures** during the post-monsoon and winter months.
- **More cyclones** in the Indian Ocean, increasing risks for coastal areas.
- **Possible agricultural disruptions** due to heavy rainfall, floods, and delayed harvesting.

Source: IE

### LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

#### Context

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, launched the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign for **Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) Elimination**.

#### Lymphatic Filariasis

- Commonly known as **elephantiasis** (Haatipaon), it is a serious debilitating disease caused by parasitic worms known as **filarial worms**.
- It is transmitted through the **bite of a Culex mosquito** that breeds in dirty/polluted water.
- Infection is usually **acquired in childhood** causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system with visible manifestations (lymphoedema,



elephantiasis, and scrotal swelling/hydrocele) which occur later in life and can lead to **permanent disability**.

- It is a priority disease that is targeted for elimination by **2027**.
- In India, **90% of LF burden is contributed by 8 states** - Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- Currently there is **no vaccination** available for it.

Source: PIB

## 'BOMBAY' BLOOD GROUP

### In News

- In a rare and complex medical procedure, a 30-year-old woman with the extremely rare 'Bombay' (hh) blood group underwent a successful kidney transplant in India.

### About 'Bombay' Blood Group

- It is one of the rarest blood groups in the world and was first discovered in **Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India**, in 1952 by **Dr. Y.M. Bhende**.
- In the **Bombay blood group (hh phenotype)**, individuals lack the H antigen completely. This means they cannot receive blood from any ABO group, including O.
  - ♦ Most blood groups (A, B, AB, and O) depend on the **presence of the H antigen**, which forms the basis of the ABO system.
- It is more commonly found in **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and some Middle Eastern regions** due to genetic inheritance patterns.

### Blood Transfusion

- People with this blood group can donate blood to any ABO group, but they can only receive blood from another Bombay blood group individual.

BLOOD GROUPS					
	Type A	Type B	Type AB	Type O	Type Bombay O
Antigen (on RBC)	Antigen A	Antigen B	Antigen A + B	Antigen H	No Antigen
Antibody (in plasma)	Anti-B Antibody	Anti-A Antibody	Neither Antibody	Anti-A & Anti-B	Anti-A, Anti-B and Anti-H
Cannot donate	O, B, Bombay O	O, A, Bombay O	O, A, B, Bombay O	Bombay O	
Can donate	A, AB	B, AB	AB	O, A, B, AB	O, A, B, AB Bombay O
Can receive	A, O	B, O	AB, A, B, O	O	Bombay O

Source: IE

## LUMPY SKIN DISEASE VACCINE

### Context

- Biovet, a Bharat Biotech group company, has received Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) licensing for its Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccine, **Biolumpivaxin**.
  - ♦ It is the world's only marker vaccine for LSD.

### Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

- **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** is a viral disease that primarily affects cattle and water buffaloes.
  - ♦ It is caused by the Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV), which belongs to the family **Poxviridae**.
- **Symptoms:** Fever, Nodules on the skin, mucous membranes, and internal organs, Enlarged lymph nodes, Skin edema and Emaciation.
- **Transmission:** LSD is primarily spread through;
  - ♦ Biting insects such as mosquitoes, flies, and ticks,
  - ♦ Direct contact between infected and healthy animals,
  - ♦ Contaminated feed, water, and transport vehicles,
  - ♦ Reproductive material from infected animals.
- **Treatment:** There is no treatment for the virus, but vaccination is the most effective way to control it.
  - ♦ Secondary infections can be treated with antibiotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs).

Source: DH

## PM-AJAY SCHEME

### In News

- Centre reviews progress of PM-AJAY scheme, emphasises inclusive growth for SC communities.

### About PM-AJAY Scheme

- **Definition:** PM-AJAY is a Central sponsored scheme launched in 2021 for the upliftment of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities in India.
- **Objectives:** Reduce poverty through skill development and income-generating initiatives.
  - ♦ Increase literacy rates and encourage SC enrolment in educational institutions, especially in aspirational districts.
- **Core Components:**
  - ♦ **Adarsh Gram Development:** Converts SC-majority villages into model villages with integrated development.

- Focuses on essential infrastructure and socio-economic progress across ten domains, including education, healthcare, and financial inclusion.
- ♦ **Grants-in-Aid:** Funds district and state-level projects for SC livelihood development.
  - Supports sustainable income opportunities for SC communities.
- ♦ **Hostel Construction:** Establishes hostels to support SC students in accessing quality education.
  - Aims to reduce dropout rates and promote higher education.

Source: BS

## EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)

### Context

- Two of the **four-member European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries—Switzerland and Liechtenstein**—are pushing for a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with India.

### About

- EFTA signed a trade agreement with India last year, **committing to a \$100 billion investment over 15 years.**
- **Switzerland** is the largest trading partner of India among the countries in the EFTA region.
- Last year, Switzerland suspended the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) clause in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) originally signed between **India and Switzerland in 1994.**

### European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- It is the intergovernmental organisation of **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.**
- It was set up in **1960** by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.
- **Trade with India:** In 2022, the combined EFTA-India merchandise trade surpassed **USD 6.1 billion.**
  - ♦ The primary imports to the EFTA States consisted of organic chemicals (27.5%), while machinery (17.5%) and pharmaceutical products (11.4%), constituted the main exports to India.

Source: IE

## PM'S NEW 15 POINT PROGRAMME FOR MINORITIES

### In News

- **Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Minorities** is designed to ensure that minority communities benefit from government welfare programmes.

### About 15 Point Programme

- It is a programme which covers various schemes/initiatives of the participating Ministries/Departments .
- It aims to ensure that the underprivileged and weaker sections of six centrally notified minority communities have equal opportunities for availing the various Government welfare Schemes and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Country.
- **Key schemes**
  - ♦ Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
  - ♦ Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
  - ♦ Merit-cum- Means based Scholarship Scheme
  - ♦ National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Loan Schemes
  - ♦ Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan (M/o Education)
  - ♦ Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)- (M/o Rural Development)
  - ♦ Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (M/o Rural Development)
  - ♦ Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (M/o Rural Development)
  - ♦ Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (M/o Housing & Urban Affairs)
  - ♦ Priority Sector Lending by Banks (Department of Financial Services)
  - ♦ Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (Department of Financial Services)
  - ♦ POSHAN Abhiyaan (Ministry of Women & Child Development)
  - ♦ National Health Mission (Department of Health & Family Welfare)
  - ♦ Ayushman Bharat (Department of Health & Family Welfare)
  - ♦ National Rural Drinking Water Programme (Jal Jeevan Mission), (Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation)
- **Objectives:** Enhancing opportunities for education
  - ♦ Ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through



existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment, and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs.

- ♦ Improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes.
- ♦ Prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

Source: PIB

## US'S DEI POLICIES

### In News

- Donald Trump has worked to dismantle **DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)** policies established by his predecessor, Joe Biden.

### About DEI policies

- DEI refers to workplace policies aimed at promoting:
  - ♦ **Diversity** which includes various communities, races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.
  - ♦ **Equity** which deals with Fair and impartial treatment of individuals, especially those from underserved communities.
  - ♦ **Inclusion** which recognizes and utilizes the talents and skills of all employees.
- DEI policies also emphasize accessibility, ensuring facilities and services are usable by everyone, including people with disabilities.
  - ♦ Trump and many conservatives view DEI as discriminatory against white Americans.

### History of DEI:

- DEI efforts have existed since World War II and gained further traction with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- The Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, following George Floyd's death, spurred further DEI support in workplaces.
- A 2023 Pew survey revealed that 56% of US workers view DEI efforts positively.

### Scenario in India

- India does not have a systematic DEI approach like the US, as DEI originated from different socioeconomic contexts.
- India has long had affirmative action policies, including reservations for **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Communities** in education and employment.

- The Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination in public employment based on caste, religion, sex, or place of birth.
- DEI efforts in Indian companies have been in response to movements like #MeToo and the decriminalization of homosexuality.

Source: IE

## LIQUIDITY COVERAGE RATIO

### In News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to defer the implementation of the revised Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms.

### About Liquidity Coverage Ratio

- It is a key regulatory requirement under the **Basel III framework**, designed to ensure that banks maintain an adequate level of **high-quality liquid assets (HQLA)** to meet short-term liquidity needs during financial stress.
  - ♦ **HQLA:** Cash, government securities, and highly liquid instruments that can be quickly converted to cash.
- LCR aims to enhance the banking sector's resilience by ensuring that banks hold sufficient liquid assets to survive a **30-day period of severe liquidity stress**.

### Basel III Requirements

- The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) introduced **LCR in 2010**, post the 2008 financial crisis, to improve banks' liquidity risk management.
- Initially set at **60% in 2015**, it gradually increased to **100% by 2019** for full compliance.

Source: LM

## SEVA BHOJ YOJANA

### In News

- Many Religious Institutions Benefitted under Seva Bhoj Yojana.

### About Seva Bhoj Yojana

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was launched by the Ministry of Culture in August, 2018.
- It provides reimbursement of CGST and Central Government's share of IGST paid by charitable/religious institutions on purchase of specific raw

food items for serving free to at least 5000 people in a calendar month.

- ♦ **It is reimbursed by the concerned GST Authority.**
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Institutions must have been distributing free food to the public/devotees for at least three years and submit a certificate from the District Magistrate.
- **Reimbursement Process:** After verifying the claims, the concerned GST Authority forwards them to the Ministry, which provides the funds to the GST Authority for reimbursement to the institutions.

Source: PIB

## GOVERNMENT REVISES MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME (MIS) GUIDELINES

### Context

- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has revised guidelines for the **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**.

### Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

- MIS is a component of the **PM-AASHA scheme**.
- It is implemented on the request of the State/UT Government for **procurement of various perishable agricultural/horticultural commodities such as tomato, onion and potato etc.** for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not applicable.

### Revised MIS Guidelines

- MIS will be implemented only when there is a minimum reduction of **10%** in the prevailing market price as compared to the previous normal year.
- The procurement/coverage limit of production quantity of crops has been increased from the existing **20 percent to 25 percent**.
- The State has also been given the option to pay the difference between the **Market Intervention Price (MIP)** and the selling price directly into the bank account of the farmers in place of physical procurement.

Source: PIB

