VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

4th November 2026

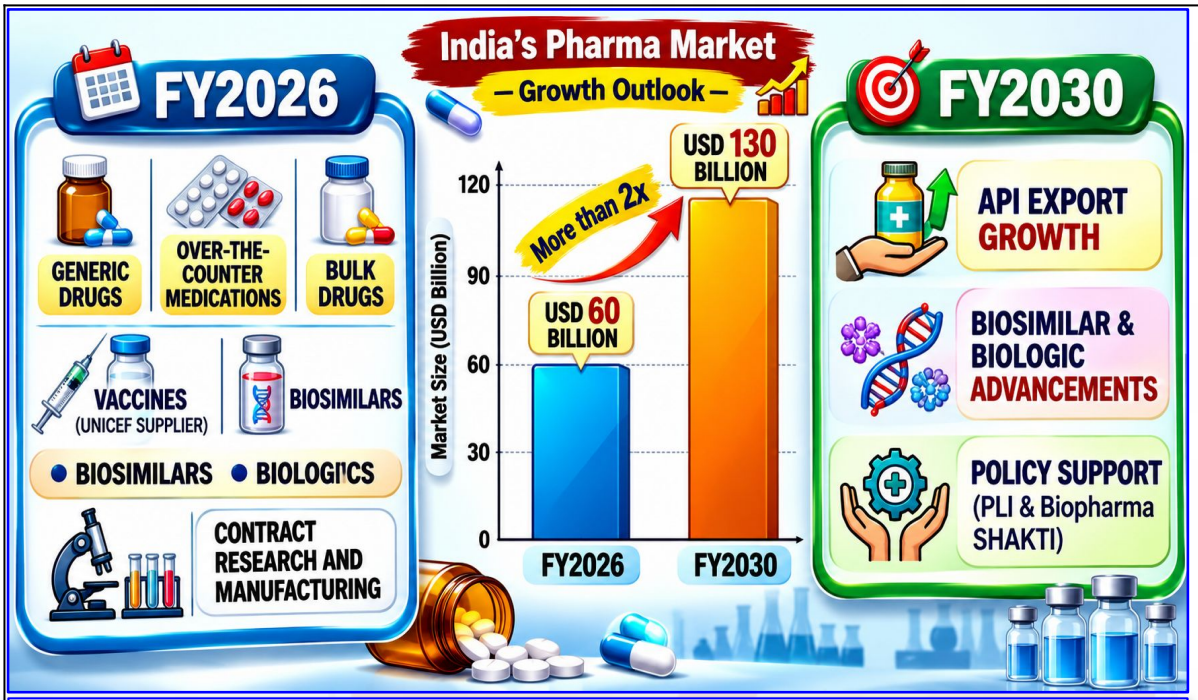


The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

10 New Import hubs for Drugs

CONTEXT: Union Health ministry has proposed expanding the network of entry points for drugs & medical devices into India for improve movement of medical products.



POLICY & REGULATORY BRIEF: KEY TAKEAWAYS

01 The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed a draft amendment to Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945 , announced on 3 November 2026 .

02 10 new import locations are proposed, including ICDs in Haryana , Uttar Pradesh , Gujarat , Telangana , and Karnataka .

03 SEZ Bommasandra (Karnataka) and Noida International Airport (UP) are among the newly proposed entry points.

04 The amendment aims to cut inland transport distances, reduce logistics costs, and minimise delays for imported medicines and medical devices.

05 The new gateways will join an existing network that includes ICDs Dhannad and Tihi in Madhya Pradesh , among others.

The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

10 New Import hubs for Drugs

CONTEXT: Union Health ministry has proposed expanding the network of entry points for drugs & medical devices into India for improve movement of medical products.

Pillar 2 : India as "The Pharmacy of the World" :

India's Domestic & Global Pharmaceutical Footprint :	
Volume & Global Position	*Ranks 3rd globally by production volume and 14th by value*
"Pharmacy of the World"	*Supplies >80% of global antiretrovirals used to treat HIV/AIDS.*
Vaccine Dominance	• *55–60% of UNICEF's global vaccine supply.* • *99% of WHO's DPT vaccine requirements.* • *52% of global BCG vaccines and 45% of measles vaccines*
Manufacturing Hub	*Home to ~3,000 drug companies and ~10,500 manufacturing facilities.*
Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)	*Over 500 active API producers, contributing 57% of WHO-prequalified APIs and ~8% of the global market*

India's Pharmaceutical Export Footprint :

- **Record Export Volumes: ₹2.74 lakh crore ($31.11 billion)** in FY26
- **Global Market Reach:** Drugs exported to **over 200 nations**
- **World's Largest Generic Provider:** Supplies **20% of global generic exports by volume**; ranks **12th largest exporter** of medical goods globally
- **FDI Destination: Top 10 most attractive sectors** for FDI
- **Drug Formulations & Biologicals:** Dominates exports at **74.2% of total value** (₹2.03 lakh crore / $23.08 billion)
- **Vaccines (Fastest Growing Segment):** Surged **26.4% to reach ₹13,255.50 crore ($1.5 billion)**
- **Humanitarian & Global Aid Supply**



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

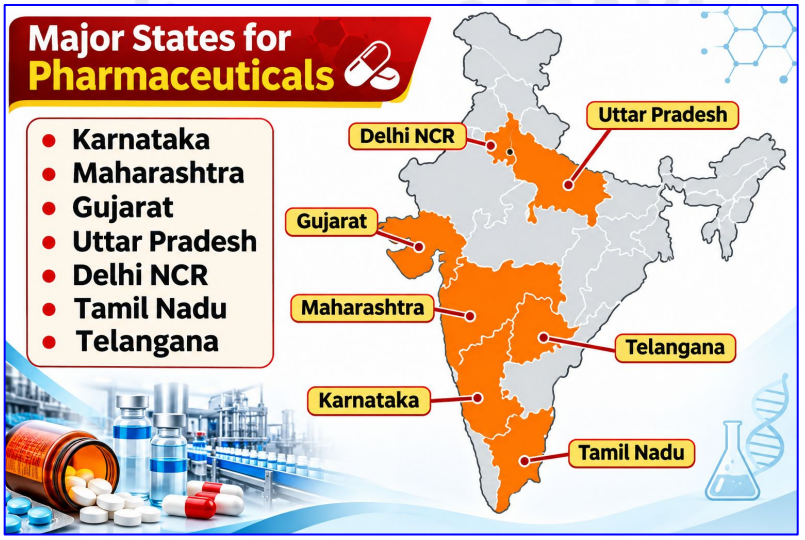
10 New Import hubs for Drugs

CONTEXT: Union Health ministry has proposed expanding the network of entry points for drugs & medical devices into India for improve movement of medical products.

Pillar 3 : Key Policy, Investment & Market Indicators

Initiatives for Pharma :

- **Biopharma SHAKTI :** Targeting biologics, biosimilars, NIPER scaling
- **R&D & Bulk Drug Push :** API & Bulk Drug Parks
- **MedTech Expansion :** MedTech PLI for device parks targeting $20B in exports by FY30
- **Jan Aushadhi Kendras :** 16,900+ operational outlets
- **Digital Health (ABDM):** 73.98+ crore ABHA accounts
- **FDI & Deal Flow :** 100% automatic FDI for Greenfield



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

10 New Import hubs for Drugs

CONTEXT: Union Health ministry has proposed expanding the network of entry points for drugs & medical devices into India for improve movement of medical products.

Pillar 4 : Structural Challenges in Indian Pharmaceutical sector :

Upstream Raw Material Exposure (API & Key Intermediaries)

- ***Heavy import dependency : Importing ~$4.35 billion in bulk drugs annually***
- ***73% of raw material imports are concentrated in a single sourcing market***

Underinvestment in Core Biopharma R&D

- ***Domestic firms allocate 7% to 8% of annual revenues to R&D***
- ***Lags behind global innovator benchmarks (15% to 25% allocation)***

Emerging challenges :

- ***Capital-Intensive Compliance & Facility Upgrades : US FDA warning letters, revised WHO-GMP Schedule M norms***
- ***Margin Compression & Price Realization Pressures : National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM/ DPCO)***
- ***Fragmented Cross-Border Regulatory Architecture : US FDA, European Medicines Agency, UK MHRA, and emerging economy regulators)***

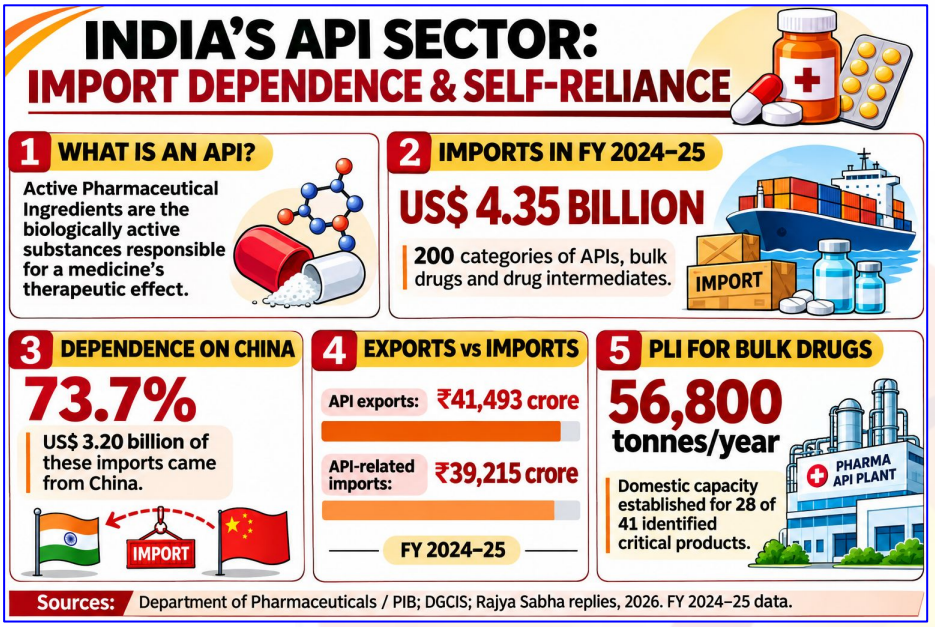


The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

10 New Import hubs for Drugs

CONTEXT: Union Health ministry has proposed expanding the network of entry points for drugs & medical devices into India for improve movement of medical products.



90% reliance on Essential antibiotics like Penicillin & Azithromycin

Reason for Reliance	*Impact*
• *Cost efficient production by China* • *Government subsidies & strong infrastructure* • *High cost, regulatory delays & infrastructure gaps in Indian supply chain*	• *Supply chain vulnerabilities* • *Rising cost & price volatility* • *Dependency risks leads to reduced Export competitiveness*

The ideal way forward :

- *Biomanufacturing & Advanced Modalities*
- *Regulatory Modernization & Compliance*
- *Platform-Led R&D & Academic Ties*
- *CDMO Integration & Value-Chain Expansion*
- *Supply Resilience & Industry 4.0 Convergence*

Mains Practise Question

Question : ***What are the key challenges being faced by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry? Provide suggestive measures that shall be adopted to ensure India's status as "Pharmacy of the World". (15 Marks, 250 Words)***



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

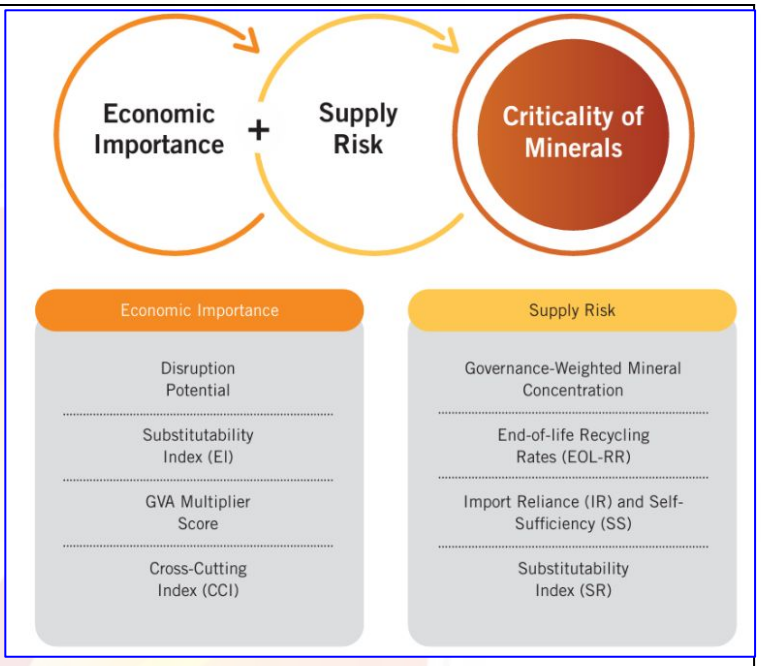
2800 crore CAPEX for Critical Minerals

CONTEXT: The government plans a ₹2,800-crore capex scheme to boost domestic processing of critical minerals like lithium and nickel to reduce China dependence.

Pillar 1: What Defines a Critical Mineral?

International Energy Agency (IEA):

- ***Essential to economic or national security***
- ***Essential function in manufacturing, where absence would have significant consequences***
- ***Supply chain must be vulnerable to disruption (e.g., geopolitical risk, demand spikes, limited producer diversity)***
- ***Fuel minerals (oil, gas, coal, uranium) and common construction materials are excluded***



Five core objectives of Critical Minerals:

- ***Supporting Economic Growth: Promoting competitiveness and job creation***
- ***Driving Research and Innovation***
- ***Enhancing Global Security: Strengthening partnerships with allies***
- ***Raw Material Security***
- ***Promoting Climate Action***



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

2800 crore CAPEX for Critical Minerals

CONTEXT: The government plans a ₹2,800-crore capex scheme to boost domestic processing of critical minerals like lithium and nickel to reduce China dependence.

Parameter	Critical Minerals (CM)	Rare Earth Elements (REEs)
Definition	Minerals essential for economic or national security, with supply chain vulnerable to disruption.	A specific subset of Critical Minerals with unique properties, often used in advanced technology.
Composition	Diverse list. Varies by nation; typically includes ~50+ minerals.	Set group of 17 elements (lanthanides, scandium, yttrium).
Key Characteristics	Broad, dynamic list based on economic importance and supply risk.	Chemically similar, typically found mixed together in low-grade ore.
Primary Focus / Examples	Focus on diversified industrial use. **Examples:** Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Graphite, Copper.	Specific tech-enabling uses. **Examples:** Neodymium (magnets), Praseodymium, Dysprosium, Cerium.
Abundance & Extraction Challenge	Abundance varies. **Challenge:** Geopolitical concentration, high-volume extraction logistics.	Relatively abundant, but "rare" concentration. **Challenge:** Diffused, complex separation, hydrometallurgy refinement.

95. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct ?

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below :

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 4

Mineral	*Importance*	*Import Dependency*
Bismuth	*Pharmaceutical and chemicals*	*85.6%*
Lithium	*EV batteries and energy storage*	*82%*
Silicon	*Semiconductor & solar panels*	*76%*
Titanium	*Aerospace & defence applications*	*50%*
Tellurium	*Solar power & thermoelectric devices*	*42%*

The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

2800 crore CAPEX for Critical Minerals

CONTEXT: The government plans a ₹2,800-crore capex scheme to boost domestic processing of critical minerals like lithium and nickel to reduce China dependence.

Pillar 3 : Reserves of Citical Minerals :

Extraction & Reserve Distribution (Upstream)	Midstream Processing & Refining Bottleneck	India's Reserve Position
• **Cobalt :** DRC Holds 55% of global reserves & 74% of global mine production • **Nickel:** Indonesia Holds 42% of global reserves & 54% of global mine production • **Lithium Triangle** (CAB) & Australia • **Rare Earth Elements** (REEs) : China holds 44 million metric tons (~58% of global reserves)	**Dominance of China :** • REE : China processes ~95% of global refined rare earths • Cobalt: China refines 67% of the world's battery-grade cobalt • Lithium: China refines ~58% of the world's battery-grade lithium • Nickel: China refines ~35% of battery grade nickel	• India holds significant reserves of Monazite beach sands • Hard rock reserves for Lithium, Cobalt, and Nickel remain domestically constrained

Pillar 4 : Underlying Issues?

Structural Constraints & Challenges

- **Deficit in High-Purity Processing Capabilities :** Lacks commercial-scale midstream smelting, chemical purification, and hydrometallurgical refining facilities
- **Shallow Exploration Depth & Regulatory Friction :** lagging behind deep-seated deposit extraction techniques used in Australia or Canada
- Extreme Import Vulnerability in Key Battery Metals
- Nascent Recycling Ecosystem
- Remote Location & Complex Logistics Economics



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

2800 crore CAPEX for Critical Minerals

CONTEXT: The government plans a ₹2,800-crore capex scheme to boost domestic processing of critical minerals like lithium and nickel to reduce China dependence.

Pillar 5 : Steps taken :

Steps taken :

- **KABIL : To secure overseas Mineral assets**
- **GSI + CSIR = Promotion of Circular Economy**
- **PLI for extraction of Critical Minerals**
- **100% FDI under Automatic route**

National Critical Mineral Mission 2024

- Fast track regulatory approval process
- Financial incentive to private companies
- Acquire critical mineral assets abroad
- Enhance trade with resource rich countries
- Mineral processing parks
- Centre for Excellence on Critical Minerals

Mines & Minerals Act 2023:

- Private sector = 6 out of 12 atomic minerals
- Prospective stage exploration : Allow drilling & subsurface excavation
- National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) : Funding G4-G1 explorations
- Under SinMine Owners : Sell 50% of annual mineral including coal in open market

Mains Practise Question

Question : Why Critical minerals are essential for India's Energy & National Security? What are the steps taken by Government of India? (150 words, 10 marks)



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Mains Value Addition

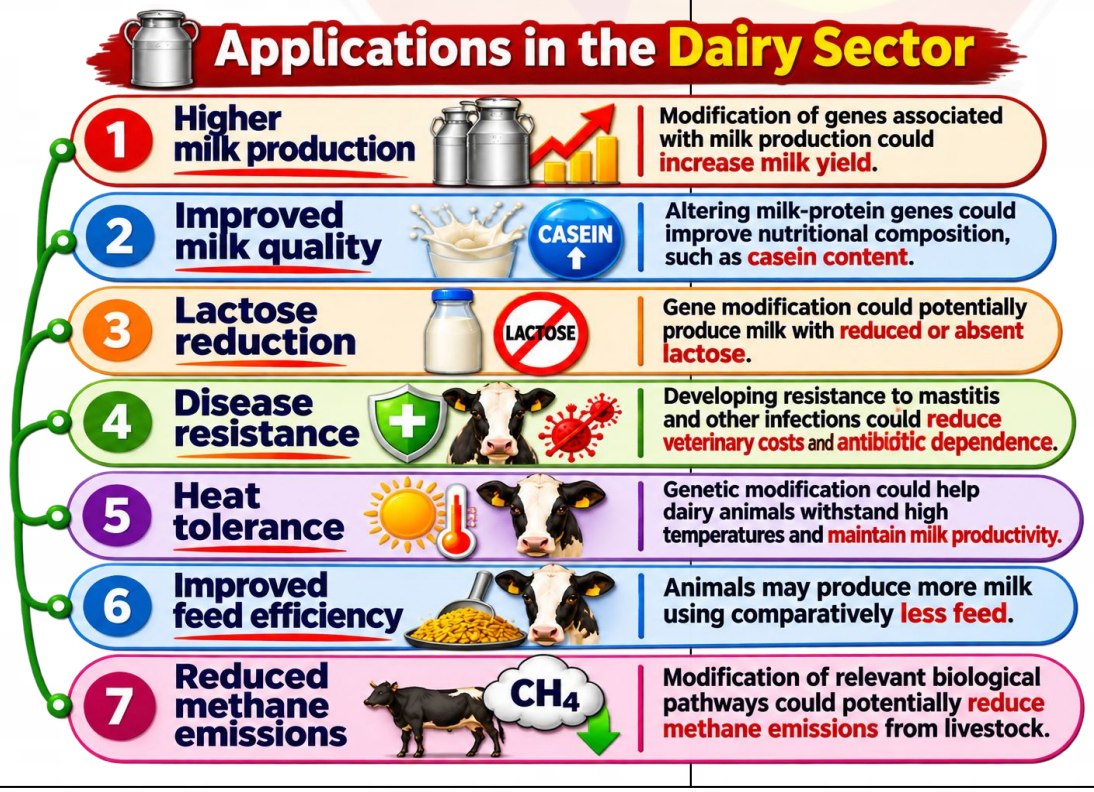
Newspaper: *Indian Express* **Page Number:** *13*

Genetically Modified Animals :

- *Whose genetic material (DNA) has been deliberately altered using genetic engineering techniques*
- *To introduce, remove or modify specific genes in order to obtain desirable characteristics that may not arise through conventional breeding*
- *Example : Rosie was a genetically modified cow developed to produce milk containing human alpha-lactalbumin : a protein found in human breast milk*

Data for Dairy Sector in India : (PIB Report, September 2026)

- *Value of output : ₹12.21 lakh crore in 2023–24 contributing 5% to the national economy*
- *Employment : Sector supports more than 8 crore rural households (70% workforce is women)*
- *India ranks 1st globally in milk production (25% global milk production)*
- *Key for India's export sector : $407.12 million exports in 2025-26*
- *White Revolution 2.0 : Establish 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies by 2028*



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Mains Value Addition

Newspaper: *Indian Express* ***Page Number:*** *13*

Key Takeaways	
1.	India continues to hold **1st position** in **global milk production** and contributes nearly a **quarter** of the world's supply.
2.	**Currently, dairy is the largest agricultural product in India, contributing 5 percent to** the national economy and directly employing more than **8** crore farmers.
3.	Milk production rose by **63.56%** from **146.3 million tonnes** to **239.30 million tonnes in 10 years**. Per capita supply has gone up by **48%**, with more than **471 grams** a **day** in 2023–24.
4.	In 2024-25, a total of **565.55 lakh** artificial inseminations were carried out across the country.



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

What is the Public Accounts Committee?

SYLLABUS: ***Prelims:*** *Parliament & its functions*
Newspaper: *The Hindu****; Page Number:*** *4*

Crux of News :

- ***Lok Sabha Speaker : Public Accounts Committees (PAC) in Parliament and State legislatures ensure that public money was used efficiently and for the right purposes***
- ***Highlighted the distinctive democratic convention of appointing a Member of the Opposition as the Chairperson of the PAC***

Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business in LS

Rules 308-312	***Financial Committees :*** • ***Public Accounts committee*** • ***Estimate committee*** • ***Committee on Public Undertaking***
Rules 331 A - B	• ***Business Advisory Committee*** • ***Committee on Private Member Bills*** • ***Rules Committee***
Rules 331 C - U	• ***24 Department related Standing Committees***
Prelims Points	• ***Members : Elected by House or Nominated by Speaker*** • ***Report : Speaker or Chairman*** • ***Secretariat : Provided by LS & RS***

Characteristic Features :

- ***No minister is part of any Financial Comm***
- ***Chairman of all Financial Comm is from Lok Sabha***
- ***Member of all Committees are elected by respective Houses***
- ***Thus all parties get due representation in it***

Prelims 2027 :

- ***Committee which doesn't exist in Rajya Sabha :***
  - **Committee on Private Member Bill**
  - **Committee on Absence of Members**



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

What is the Public Accounts Committee?

SYLLABUS: ***Prelims:*** *Parliament & its functions*
Newspaper: *The Hindu****; Page Number:*** *4*

Public Accounts	Public Undertaking	Estimate
1921 : GOI Act 1919	1964 : Krishna Menon Committee	1921 : GOI Act 1919
22 members (15 LS + 7 RS)	22 members (15 LS + 7 RS)	30 members (All from LS)
Chairman : LS Convention : Opposition	Chairman : LS Invariably Ruling party	Chairman : LS
No Minister	No Minister	No Minister
CAG's Report on Appropriation & Finance	CAG's Report on Public Undertakings	Discussion on Budget's Provisions
Term : 1 Year	Term : 1 Year	Term : 1 Year
Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
Not executive body : Can't issue order	Not executive body : Can't issue order	Not executive body : Can't issue order

Other "Standing Committees" :

Department Related Standing Committee

- 24 DRSC
- Secure accountability of Executive
- 16 in Lok Sabha & 8 in Rajya Sabha
- 31 member : 21 from Lok Sabha & 10 from Rajya Sabha
- Term : 1 Year
- Minister can NOT become member

Committee under Rajya Sabha

- Commerce + Industry
- Home Affairs
- HRD + Health
- S & T + Environment
- Transport + Tourism + Culture
- Personnel + Public Grievances



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Bachan Singh & death penalty

SYLLABUS: ***Prelims:*** *India Polity*
Newspaper: *The Hindu****; Page Number:*** *9*

What is Death Penalty?

- ***Capital punishment is a criminal punishment in which a person convicted of a serious offence is sentenced by a court to be executed by the State***
- ***Supreme Court has established the "rarest of rare" doctrine : Meaning death should be awarded only in exceptional cases***
- ***Provided under Section 4, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023***

Who can pardon a death sentence in India?

Article 72(1)(c) : The President has the constitutional power to grant a pardon in all cases where a person has been sentenced to death :

- ***Pardon: Completely absolve the person from the punishment and its consequences***
- ***Commute: Replace the death sentence with a lesser punishment, such as life imprisonment***
- ***Remit: Reduce the period or extent of punishment***
- ***Suspend: Temporarily delay the execution of the sentence***
- ***Grant reprieve or respite: Provide temporary relief from the sentence in appropriate circumstances***

Evolution of Supreme Court Precedents :

Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab 1980	***• Upholds death penalty constitutionality; lays down "Rarest of Rare" doctrine. • Focuses on individualised sentencing and reformation possibility.***
Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab 1983	***Categorized crimes into classes; shifted focus heavily toward the severity/nature of the crime***
Ravji v. State of Rajasthan 1995	***Erroneously held that the nature of the crime, not the criminal, matters in sentencing***
Santosh Kumar Bariyar v. State of Maharashtra 2009	***Declared Ravji to be decided in ignorance of Bachan Singh; reiterated that life is foreclosed only if reformation is impossible.***

Evolution of Supreme Court Precedents :

Manoj v. State of Madhya Pradesh 2022	***Issued practical guidelines: mandatory submission of psychiatric reports, jail conduct records, and probation reports prior to sentencing.***
Vasanta Sampat Dupare v. Union of India 2025	***Linked Manoj guidelines to Articles 14 and 21; non-compliant death sentences are unconstitutional and reviewable post-finality.***
Waris v. State of Madhya Pradesh 2026	***Severity of crime alone cannot justify capital punishment if the State fails to lead evidence proving reformation is unachievable.***



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Predictable Climate Finance

SYLLABUS: ***Prelims:*** *Climate Change*
Newspaper: *The Hindu****; Page Number:*** *12*

Why Climate Finance is important for India?

- *6th Assessment Report 2023 by IPCC : World could emit MAX of 130 Billion tonnes of CO2 from 2026*
- *IPCC : "World will breach Paris Agreement target within next 2 decades"*
- *India's mean surface temperature has risen by 1 degree celcius from 1950*
- *LPG Reforms : 0.5 degree celsius since 1991*
- *2025 : 77 heatwave events spanning a cumulative 536 days across the country*

Article 4 of Paris Agreement : *Countries must prepare NDCs to limit global warming upto 2 degree by 2100*

↓

Article 3 : *Each country shall showcase Progression than previous one*

↓

Article 13 : *Report progress on NDCs*

↓

Article 14 : *Periodic Assessment of Collective progress every 5 years*

↓

India announced for period 2030-2035

- ***3rd largest*** *energy & oil consumer*
- *Energy demand = Grow* ***2.5 times*** *by 2047*
- ***25%*** *incremental global demand by 2047 : India*

- *Total Installed Power Capacity =* ***495 GW*** *(June, 2025)*
- *Coal Based TPP =* ***217 GW***
- ***71%*** *Power generation*



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Predictable Climate Finance

SYLLABUS: ***Prelims:*** *Climate Change*
Newspaper: *The Hindu****; Page Number:*** *12*

Article 11 of UNFCCC	***Financial mechanism entrusted to Global Environment Facility (GEF)***
Article 11 of Kyoto Protocol	***Establishment of Adaptation Fund : Developing countries shall access funds through National Institutions***
Cop 16, Cancun 2010	***Green Climate Fund : Low emission 7 climate resilient pathways : $100 Billion annually upto 2020***
Cop 19, Warsaw 2013	***Loss & Damage Fund : Financial assistance in case of "irreversible damage" due to extreme events***
Article 9 of Paris Agreement	**New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) = *$ 100 Billion annually by Annex 1 Countries***

Ahead of COP30, major emitters delay update on climate goals; EU yet to finalise consensus

COP 30 : "Disappointment for Developing Nations":

"Problem Caused By You": Piyush Goyal Challenges Europe's Climate Stance

During a question-and-answer session at the Berlin Global Dialogue 2026, Goyal asked who was responsible for the climate crisis.

- ***Demand of Climate Finance Mobilisation : $ 1 . 3 Trillion / year by 2035***
- ***To meet targets of Paris Agreement***

- ***Developed Nations offered at COP 30 : $ 300 Billion / year***
- ***Irony of Global North : 82% of Carbon Budget***



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Partners for Multilateralism

SYLLABUS: ***Prelims:*** *Important Groupings*
Newspaper: *Indian Express****; Page Number:*** *10*

United Nations :

- UN Charter was signed on 26 June 1945
- 193 member states
- Headquarters : New York, USA

About the Grouping :

- **P4M : It was launched during the 81st UN General Assembly week in New York in September 2026**
- **Founding countries: Co-sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Barbados, Canada, the European Union, India and Kenya**
- **Strengthening cooperation: Strengthen multilateral cooperation & institutions and rules underpinning the international order**
- **Inclusive participation: The initiative brings together countries from both the Global North and Global South, making it a broader platform for international cooperation**
- **Changing global power balance: Reflects the growing influence of developing countries & changing distribution of global power**



The Analyst Handout

4th November, 2026

Daily Quiz

Q1. Identify the specific initiative based on the following information:

1. It explicitly targets biologics and biosimilars.
2. It involves scaling up capacities at National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research.
3. It is distinct from bulk drug park development and medical device PLI schemes.

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

a) Biopharma SHAKTI
b) Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Key Starting Materials
c) National Medical Devices Policy
d) Pharma Vision 2030

Answer: a

Q2. Which of the following factors contribute to China's dominance in battery-grade lithium refining despite not holding majority global reserves?

1. Decades of state-supported investment in refining infrastructure and chemical processing expertise.
2. Control over ~95% of global rare earth refining, creating synergies in separation chemistry applicable to lithium.
3. Exclusive ownership of all global lithium reserves in the Lithium Triangle.
4. Strategic partnerships with mining nations to secure ore flows into Chinese refineries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 2 and 4 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Q3. With reference to the composition and tenure of Parliamentary Financial Committees, consider the following statements:

1. The Public Accounts Committee consists of 22 members.
2. The Committee on Public Undertakings consists of 25 members.
3. The Estimates Committee consists of 22 members, all drawn exclusively from the Lok Sabha.
4. All three committees above serve a two-year term and function as advisory bodies without executive authority.

How many of the given above statements is/are correct?

a) Only one
b) Only two
c) Only three
d) All four

Answer: a

Q4. With reference to Presidential clemency powers under Article 72(1)(c), consider the following details:

Sl. No.	Clemency Type	Definition	Legal Effect
1	Pardon	Complete absolution	Removes punishment AND consequences
2	Commute	Substitution	Replaces death with lesser punishment
3	Remit	Duration reduction	Completely absolves from consequences
4	Suspend	Temporary delay	Execution postponed, sentence unchanged

In how many of the above rows are ALL the details correctly matched?

a) Only one
b) Only two
c) Only three
d) All four

Answer: c



Daily Quiz

Q5. Which of the following formal factors contributed to the formation of P4M in 2026?

1. The need to strengthen multilateral institutions facing credibility crises.
2. The recognition that the changing global power balance requires broader representation.
3. The desire to exclude the European Union from global rule-making processes.
4. The aim to create a platform for cooperation that transcends traditional North-South divides.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: d





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121
Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com