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Daily news summary**UPSC daily news summary - 29 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 29 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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The government achieved nearly 78% of its FY27 capital receipts target from disinvestment, while FSSAI proposed mandatory front-of-pack warning labels for processed foods high in fat, sugar, and salt.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- **Disinvestment and Asset Monetisation Target:** Centre achieved ₹62,124 crore (78%) of its ₹80,000-crore FY27 target within five months, driven by LIC stake sales.
- **FSSAI Front-of-Pack Labelling:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India proposed red pictorial warnings on front-of-pack labels for foods exceeding thresholds of fat, sugar, and salt.
- **Javelin Anti-Tank Missile Purchase:** India signed a deal with the US to procure Javelin fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile systems.
- **DPDP Act Compliance in Ed-Tech:** Mandatory verifiable parental consent for minors under the [Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023](#) poses compliance challenges for digital learning platforms.

1. DISINVESTMENT AND ASSET MONETISATION TARGETS**WHY IN NEWS**

- The Central government achieved 78% of its ₹80,000-crore disinvestment and asset monetisation target for FY27 in the first five months.

WHAT IS THE DISINVESTMENT FRAMEWORK?

- Disinvestment involves the sale of government equity stake in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to raise non-debt capital receipts.
- Managed by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) under the Ministry of Finance.

KEY STATUS AND COLLECTIONS

- Total capital receipts under this head reached ₹62,124 crore against the annual target of ₹80,000 crore.

- Primary contribution came from minority stake sales, including ₹31,515 crore raised through an LIC stake sale, alongside ongoing strategic disinvestment processes for IDBI Bank.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Helps bridge the fiscal deficit without increasing market borrowings.
- Reduces government operational footprint in non-strategic commercial sectors while generating resources for capital expenditure.

KEY TERMS

- **Strategic Disinvestment:** Sale of a substantial portion of government shareholding in a CPSE along with transfer of management control.
- **DIPAM:** Nodal department under the Ministry of Finance overseeing public asset management and capital restructuring.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Disinvestment proceeds are categorized as non-debt capital receipts under the Union Budget.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of disinvestment in fiscal consolidation and funding long-term physical infrastructure.

KEY DATA

- **Nodal Department:** DIPAM - DIPAM executes all minority and strategic disinvestment transactions of CPSEs.
- **Receipt Category:** Non-debt Capital Receipt - UPSC tests classification of government budget receipts into revenue versus capital and debt versus non-debt.

[Official source](#)

2. FSSAI FRONT OF PACK LABELLING REGULATIONS

WHY IN NEWS

- FSSAI submitted an affidavit to the Supreme Court proposing front-of-pack red pictorial warning labels for packaged foods high in fat, sugar, and salt (HFSS).

WHAT IS THE REGULATORY CONTEXT?

- FSSAI regulates packaged food standards under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- Earlier regulations required nutritional information on the back of packs, which was criticized for low readability and lack of immediate risk indication.

KEY PROVISIONS PROPOSED

- Mandatory red pictorial warnings on the front of packages exceeding prescribed limits for saturated fat, total sugar, and sodium.
- **Before:** Nutritional composition was printed in fine text on the rear panel without standard threshold warnings.
- **After:** Standardized color-coded warning badges must appear prominently on the front display panel.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Empowers consumers with immediate warning markers to combat rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and cardiovascular disorders.
- Creates clear compliance standards for food processing industries.

KEY TERMS

- **HFSS Foods:** Packaged food items containing high levels of saturated fat, sugar, or sodium above prescribed threshold limits.
- **FSSAI:** Autonomous statutory body established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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PRELIMS FACTS

FSSAI is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Public health interventions to reduce Non-Communicable Diseases through regulatory control over processed foods.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** - Establishes FSSAI and empowers it to enforce food safety rules across India.

- **Administrative Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - Prelims questions often check the ministry governing statutory health regulators.

[Official source](#)

3. FGM 148 JAVELIN ANTI TANK GUIDED MISSILE

WHY IN NEWS

- India signed an agreement with the United States to procure Javelin anti-tank missile systems.

WHAT IS THE JAVELIN SYSTEM?

- Man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system (ATGM) developed in the US.
- Employs automatic infrared guidance that allows the operator to take cover immediately after launch.

KEY CAPABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

- Features top-attack trajectory mode to target the thinner top armor of armored vehicles as well as direct-attack mode for fortified positions.
- Equipped with a tandem shaped-charge warhead designed to penetrate explosive reactive armor (ERA).

WHY IT MATTERS

- Enhances infantry anti-armor firepower in high-altitude mountain terrain along land borders.
- Expands bilateral defense trade and technology cooperation under the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

KEY TERMS

- **Fire-and-Forget:** Missile guidance type that requires no further guidance after launch, allowing the operator to relocate.
- **Tandem Warhead:** Munition using two or more stages of detonation to breach explosive reactive armor before detonating the main charge.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Javelin is an infrared-guided, **fire-and-forget** anti-tank missile system from the US.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of lightweight precision-guided munitions in high-altitude mountain warfare.

KEY DATA

- **Missile Type:** Man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) - Prelims tests technology domains and operational categories of foreign defense acquisitions.
- **Origin:** United States - Standard matching questions in Prelims pair defense platforms with their country of origin.

[Official source](#)

4. DPDP ACT COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES FOR ED TECH**WHY IN NEWS**

- Ed-tech platforms face high compliance operational costs under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 due to strict child data protection obligations.

WHAT IS THE DPDP ACT, 2023?

- Parent statutory framework governing processing of digital personal data in India.
- Establishes Data Protection Board of India and defines duties for Data Fiduciaries processing personal data.

KEY PROVISIONS REGULATING MINORS' DATA

- **Section 9** mandates Data Fiduciaries to obtain verifiable consent from a parent or legal guardian before processing data of children (below 18 years).
- Prohibits tracking, behavioral monitoring, or targeted advertising directed at children.
- **Before:** Digital platforms processed student telemetry and learning analytics under standard terms of service without age-gated verification.
- **After:** Mandatory identity and age-verification systems must be built into onboard workflows.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Protects minors' privacy rights but increases technical and financial overhead for digital learning platforms handling student data.

KEY TERMS

- **Data Fiduciary:** Entity or individual that determines the purpose and means of processing personal data under the DPDP Act.

- **Verifiable Parental Consent:** Mechanism requiring positive identification and consent from a legal guardian prior to processing a child's personal data.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- The **DPDP Act, 2023** defines a child as an individual who has not completed 18 years of age.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Balancing data privacy enforcement with compliance overheads for startups and digital services.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** - Governs data privacy obligations and child consent protocols in India.
- **Child Age Definition:** Below 18 years - Specific threshold defined under **Section 9** of the DPDP Act for requiring parental consent.

[Official source](#)

5. HEALTHCARE SCHEME FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

WHY IN NEWS

- The Delhi Welfare Board announced a comprehensive healthcare scheme providing cashless treatment up to Rs 2 lakh annually for registered construction workers.

WHAT IS THE BOCW FRAMEWORK?

- Enacted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the law provides for safety, health, and welfare measures for unorganised construction labor.
- State Welfare Boards collect a statutory 1% cess on construction projects to build welfare funds for worker benefits.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW COVERAGE

- Provides cashless medical treatment up to Rs 2 lakh annually for around 2.7 lakh registered construction workers.
- Deploys mobile medical vans directly to construction sites to offer on-site 24x7 medical assistance and annual health check-ups.

- Establishes centralized digital health records for seamless tracking of worker medical histories across construction sites.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Unorganised construction workers face high occupational hazards, physical injury risks, and lack structured employer-provided health insurance.
- Ensures active utilization of accumulated BOCW welfare funds, addressing long-standing criticism regarding unspent labor cess balances.

KEY TERMS

- **BOCW Welfare Cess:** A statutory levy collected from builders under the **BOCW Welfare Cess Act, 1996** to fund social security schemes for construction workers.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- BOCW Act, 1996 mandates state-level Welfare Boards to administer collected labor cess for social security.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of dedicated welfare funds in expanding occupational safety and social security nets for unorganised workers.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act, 1996 - Central legislation governing employment conditions, health, and welfare safety net for construction labor.
- **Cess Rate:** 1% to 2% of construction cost - Mandatory welfare collection rate specified under the **Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996**.

[Official source](#)

6. ITAT RULING FEES FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES DTAA

WHY IN NEWS

- The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) ruled that executive search fees do not constitute Fees for Technical Services (FTS) or royalties under bilateral tax treaties.

WHAT IS FEES FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES (FTS)?

- Under **Section 9(1)(vii)** of the Income-tax Act, 1961, FTS refers to payments for managerial, technical, or consultancy services rendered by non-residents.
- Under bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA), taxability as FTS generally requires meeting the **make-available clause** where technical knowledge or skill is transferred to the recipient.

KEY LEGAL PRINCIPLES UPHELD

- Executive search and recruitment services do not involve transferring technical know-how or technology, excluding them from FTS under DTAA provisions.
- Reimbursement of pure costs incurred by a foreign entity without any profit element cannot be subjected to tax additions in India.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Establishes precedent regarding the tax treatment of cross-border managerial consultancy and recruitment fees.
- Reduces tax uncertainty and litigation for multinational service providers operating under tax treaty frameworks.

KEY TERMS

- **Fees for Technical Services (FTS):** Consideration paid for rendering managerial, technical, or consultancy services under statutory tax laws.
- **Make-Available Clause:** A treaty condition where FTS is taxable only if the service provider enables the recipient to independently apply the technology or skill later.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Under most DTAAs, FTS taxation requires the transfer of technical know-how under the make-available principle.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Impact of clear treaty interpretation on reducing international tax disputes and enhancing cross-border business predictability.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Statute:** **Section 9(1)(vii)**, Income-tax Act, 1961 - Defines income deemed to accrue or arise in India through technical and managerial service fees.
- **Quasi-Judicial Body:** Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) - Statutory appellate body established under the Income-tax Act, 1961 to resolve direct tax disputes.

[Official source](#)

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