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Daily news summary**Digital Fertiliser Tracking Land Records Integration**

UPSC Civil Services · 31 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- The Government of India is enhancing its digital fertiliser tracking system by directly linking farmer purchases with state land records.
- The system introduces consolidated tracking dashboards and mandatory electronic processing of subsidy bills starting January 2026.

WHAT IS THE NEW TRACKING MECHANISM?

- Integrates point-of-sale fertiliser purchases with digital land ownership records to verify genuine agricultural demand.
- Deploys automated dashboards to monitor real-time movement of soil nutrients across supply chains.
- Mandates electronic processing of all fertiliser subsidy bills to eliminate manual clearing bottlenecks by **January 2026**.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Prevents diversion of subsidised urea and compound fertilisers to non-agricultural industrial applications.
- Enables early detection of regional supply shortfalls and irregular purchasing patterns across districts.
- Improves fiscal targeting by aligning subsidy disbursement directly with verified landholding data.

KEY TERMS

- **Point of Sale (PoS) Device:** Handheld electronic machines installed at retail fertiliser outlets to record buyer biometric and land details before sale.
- **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS):** A government scheme providing fixed annual subsidy rates on non-urea fertilisers based on their nutrient content.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Direct linking of land records with POS machines aims to curb industrial diversion of agricultural urea.
- NBS covers P&K fertilisers, whereas urea price is statutorily controlled by the Centre.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of digital public infrastructure in reforming agricultural input subsidies in India.
- Addressing structural leakages in the fertiliser distribution system while maintaining soil health balance.

KEY DATA

- **Implementation Target:** January 2026 - Deadline set for mandatory electronic processing of fertiliser subsidy bills.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers - Union ministry responsible for fertilizer pricing, supply distribution, and subsidy administration.

[Official source](#)

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