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Daily PIB summary**UPSC daily PIB summary - 23 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 23 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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The Union government issued public health safety notifications and strategic security guidelines while advancing international science cooperation frameworks.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- Ministry of Health prohibited FDC cold medications containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for children under four under **Section 26A** of **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- Union Home Ministry mandated a quadrangular approach to border security and zero-encroachment protocols for the Siliguri Corridor.
- 14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meet adopted the Chennai Declaration establishing a humanity-first framework for STI collaboration.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment conducted a national workshop on Mission Zero under the NAMASTE scheme to eliminate sanitation fatalities.
- Indian Air Force completed joint tactical exercises Pitch Black 2026 in Australia and Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia.
- Ministry of Health highlighted AI integration in drug discovery supported by the PRIP and Biopharma SHAKTI schemes.
- CSIR-NIScPR celebrated the 75th anniversary of its Hindi science publication Vigyan Pragati.

1. SECTION 26A RESTRICTIONS ON PEDIATRIC FDC DRUGS**WHY IN NEWS**

- Government prohibited the manufacture, sale, and distribution of all Fixed Dose Combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for children below four years of age.

WHAT IS SECTION 26A OF THE DRUGS AND COSMETICS ACT, 1940?

- Empowers the Central Government to regulate, restrict, or prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution of drugs and cosmetics in the public interest.
- Action is taken when a drug is found to involve risk to human beings or animals without therapeutic justification.

KEY DETAILS OF THE RESTRICTION

- Applies to all Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) combining Chlorpheniramine Maleate (antihistamine) and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride (decongestant).
- Follows recommendations from an **Expert Committee** and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- Mandates a statutory warning on packaging, inserts, and promotional literature explicitly stating the drug is not for children under four.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Prevents severe adverse pediatric drug reactions linked to unproven combination cold medications.
- Enforces strict statutory labeling compliance under Indian pharmaceutical regulatory law.

KEY TERMS

- **Fixed Dose Combination (FDC):** A medicine containing two or more active pharmacological ingredients combined in a fixed ratio of doses.
- **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB):** The statutory apex technical body advising Central and State governments on technical matters arising out of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- **Section 26A** of **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** grants power to prohibit or restrict drugs in public interest.
- DTAB is a statutory body constituted under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Regulatory challenges in monitoring pediatric fixed-dose combinations and enforcing drug safety standards in India.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** - Governs the regulation of import, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs in India.
- **Prohibition Provision:** **Section 26A** - Specific statutory clause empowering the Union government to ban or restrict hazardous drugs.

- **Statutory Advisory Body:** Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) - Highest statutory technical body under the [Drugs and Cosmetics Act](#).

[Official source](#)

2. SILIGURI CORRIDOR SECURITY AND STRATEGIC REVIEW

WHY IN NEWS

- Union Home Minister reviewed Siliguri Corridor security infrastructure and directed the implementation of a quadrangular approach to border security.

WHAT IS THE SILIGURI CORRIDOR?

- Narrow stretch of land in West Bengal, measuring roughly 20-22 km at its narrowest point, connecting North-Eastern States with mainland India.
- Bordered by Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, making it a critical geopolitical and defense choke point.

KEY SECURITY DIRECTIVES ISSUED

- Implementation of a quadrangular approach to border security integrating military, paramilitary, intelligence, and civil administration.
- Establishment of the Standing Focus Group on Siliguri Corridor (SFG-SC) under the Multi Agency Centre (MAC).
- Mandatory anti-encroachment drives and strict measures against demographic changes and illegal immigration.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Ensures uninterrupted territorial sovereignty and critical supply logistics for North-East India.
- Mitigates vulnerabilities arising from cross-border illegal migration and external asymmetric threats.

KEY TERMS

- **Chicken's Neck:** Geopolitical nickname for the strategic Siliguri Corridor connecting the North-Eastern region to mainland India.
- **Multi Agency Centre (MAC):** An intelligence-sharing platform under the Intelligence Bureau to co-ordinate real-time security inputs.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Siliguri Corridor borders Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Multi Agency Centre operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Strategic security imperatives and infrastructure challenges in safeguarding the Siliguri Corridor.

KEY DATA

- **Geographic Choke Point:** Siliguri Corridor - Sole land link connecting India's eight North-Eastern states to the rest of the country.
- **Nodal Intelligence Body:** Multi Agency Centre (MAC) - Pivotal operational framework for inter-agency counter-terrorism and border intelligence coordination.

[Official source](#)

3. CHENNAI DECLARATION 14TH BRICS SCIENCE MINISTERIAL**WHY IN NEWS**

- The 14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meet held under India's chairship unanimously adopted the 'Chennai Declaration'.

WHAT IS THE BRICS STI FRAMEWORK?

- Institutional cooperation mechanism across BRICS nations established to foster collaborative research and technological innovation.
- Operates via 14 thematic Working Groups, the **BRICS Young Scientist Forum**, and joint research framework calls.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE CHENNAI DECLARATION

- Adopts a humanity-first approach to science, technology, and innovation (STI) cooperation.
- Focuses joint resources on Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing, quantum technologies, advanced materials, and biotechnology.
- Prioritizes social inclusiveness and climate sustainability across Global South multilateral research networks.

KEY TERMS

- **BRICS Young Scientist Forum:** A platform established under BRICS STI cooperation to encourage youth-led research and innovation exchanges.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Chennai Declaration pertains to BRICS STI cooperation.
- BRICS STI mechanism includes 14 thematic working groups.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of STI diplomacy in strengthening Global South partnerships within BRICS.

KEY DATA

- **Multilateral Declaration:** Chennai Declaration - Adopted at 14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meet outlining humanity-first STI cooperation.
- **Chairing Country:** **India (2026)** - India hosted and chaired the 14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meet.

[Official source](#)

4. NAMASTE SCHEME MISSION ZERO SANITATION FATALITIES

WHY IN NEWS

- **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organized a national workshop titled 'Mission Zero: Ending Fatalities in Sanitation Work'** under the NAMASTE scheme.

WHAT IS THE NAMASTE SCHEME?

- National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- Aims to eradicate manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks by achieving 100% mechanization of sanitation operations.
- National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) functions as the nodal implementing agency.

KEY OPERATIONAL FOCUS

- Ensuring zero fatalities during sewer and septic tank cleaning across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

- Provision of protective gear, safety equipment, capital support for mechanization, and health insurance to sanitation workers.

KEY TERMS

- **NSKFDC:** National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, a [Section 8](#) non-profit company under MSJE.

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PRELIMS FACTS

NAMASTE scheme is jointly run by MSJE and MoHUA.

NSKFDC acts as the nodal implementation agency for NAMASTE.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Mechanisms required to completely eliminate hazardous manual sanitation work in urban India.

KEY DATA

- **Scheme Name:** NAMASTE Scheme - Joint central scheme aimed at 100% mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning.
- **Nodal Implementing Agency:** NSKFDC - Responsible for executing welfare and mechanization targets under NAMASTE.

[Official source](#)

5. EXERCISES PITCH BLACK 2026 AND UDARA SHAKTI 2026

WHY IN NEWS

- Indian Air Force concluded participation in multilateral Exercise Pitch Black in Australia and bilateral Exercise Udara Shakti in Malaysia.

EXERCISE PITCH BLACK 2026

- Biennial multilateral air combat exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- IAF deployed Rafale fighter aircraft to engage in Large Force Employment (LFE) missions alongside over 20 nations.

EXERCISE UDARA SHAKTI 2026

- Bilateral air combat exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).
- Conducted at Subang, Malaysia, featuring combat maneuvers alongside Su-30MKM and F/A-18 Hornet fighters.

KEY TERMS

- **Large Force Employment (LFE):** Military exercise missions involving high volumes of aircraft operating in coordinated air defense scenarios.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Pitch Black is a multilateral air exercise hosted by Australia.
- Udara Shakti is a bilateral exercise between India and Malaysia.

KEY DATA

- **Exercise Pitch Black:** Multilateral (Host: Australia) - Major Indo-Pacific multilateral air combat exercise involving IAF.
- **Exercise Udara Shakti:** Bilateral (India-Malaysia) - Key bilateral defense engagement between IAF and Royal Malaysian Air Force.

[Official source](#)

6. PRIP AND BIOPHARMA SHAKTI SCHEMES AI HEALTHCARE

WHY IN NEWS

- Union Minister addressed IIMA Healthcare Summit highlighting AI deployment in medicine and key research schemes PRIP and Biopharma SHAKTI.

WHAT IS THE PRIP SCHEME?

- Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) has an outlay of ₹5,000 crore.
- Focuses on strengthening industry-academia research collaboration, modernizing lab infrastructure, and supporting high-value innovation in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

BIOPHARMA SHAKTI MISSION AND AI INFRASTRUCTURE

- Biopharma SHAKTI mission carries an allocation of ₹10,000 crore to scale advanced biopharmaceutical manufacturing.
- Establishment of dedicated AI Healthcare Centres of Excellence at AIIMS New Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh, and AIIMS Rishikesh.
- Mandates safe, ethical, human-in-the-loop AI integration to support clinical judgment rather than replace medical professionals.

KEY TERMS

- **PRIP Scheme:** Union Government scheme providing financial assistance to promote R&D in the pharma and medtech industries.

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PRELIMS FACTS

PRIP scheme focuses on R&D in Pharma-MedTech sectors.

AI CoEs for healthcare are established at AIIMS Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh, and AIIMS Rishikesh.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Ethical considerations and institutional requirements for integrating AI into public healthcare delivery.

KEY DATA

- **Pharma R&D Scheme:** PRIP Scheme (₹5,000 crore) - Flagship scheme supporting high-end pharmaceutical and medical device research.
- **Biopharma Mission:** Biopharma SHAKTI (₹10,000 crore) - National initiative targeted at accelerating biopharmaceutical innovation and production.

[Official source](#)

7. VIGYAN PRAGATI 75TH ANNIVERSARY CSIR NISCP

WHY IN NEWS

- CSIR-NISCP organized the Platinum Jubilee Ceremony marking 75 years of popular Hindi science magazine 'Vigyan Pragati'.

WHAT IS VIGYAN PRAGATI?

- Flagship monthly popular science magazine in Hindi launched in 1952.
- Published by CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR).
- Aims to communicate scientific achievements, foster scientific temper, and popularize basic science among the non-scientific public.

KEY TERMS

- **Scientific Temper:** A spirit of inquiry and reform mandated as a Fundamental Duty under [Article 51A\(h\)](#) of the Constitution of India.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Vigyan Pragati is published by CSIR-NIScPR.
- Developing **scientific temper** is a Fundamental Duty under [Article 51A\(h\)](#).

KEY DATA

- **Publication Name:** Vigyan Pragati - Prominent Hindi popular science monthly published continuously since 1952.
- **Publishing Body:** CSIR-NIScPR - Nodal institute under CSIR responsible for science communication and policy research.

[Official source](#)

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