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Daily PIB summary**UPSC daily PIB summary - 24 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 24 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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Key government initiatives published today focus on sustainable agriculture frameworks, defence manufacturing infrastructure, digital skilling partnerships, and the statutory institutional oversight for sanitation workers.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- **Regenerative Agriculture:** Natural farming coverage reached 8.80 lakh hectares while Per Drop More Crop expanded to 109 lakh hectares nationwide.
- **Defence Manufacturing:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers and Yantra India Limited launched Rs 3,500 crore expansion projects in West Bengal.
- **Skill Development:** NSDC partnered with AWS to deliver AI and cloud literacy training to 150,000 learners across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- **Social Justice:** [National Commission](#) for Safai Karamcharis observed its 33rd Foundation Day, highlighting mechanized sanitation and rehabilitation.

1. REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE IN INDIA**WHY IN NEWS**

- Ministry of Agriculture highlighted the expansion of sustainable farming systems, including natural farming clusters covering 8.80 lakh hectares as of March 2026.

WHAT IS REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE?

- An outcome-focused farming approach that restores soil health, enhances biodiversity, improves watershed health, and sequesters carbon.
- Integrates practices such as zero/minimal tillage, cover cropping, crop rotation, agroforestry, and biological nutrient management.

KEY COMPONENTS AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- National Mission on **Natural Farming** promotes chemical-free, bio-input-based agricultural clusters across states.
- Per Drop More Crop scheme under PMKSY expanded micro-irrigation coverage to 109 lakh hectares by May 2026.

- Over 25.89 crore Soil Health Cards have been issued to optimise crop-specific nutrient application.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Mitigates climate risk for small and marginal farmers by reducing input cost vulnerabilities and soil degradation.
- Improves water-use efficiency and ecological resilience against unpredictable rainfall patterns.

KEY TERMS

- **Natural Farming:** A ecological farming system that excludes synthetic chemical inputs and relies on biological processes and local inputs.
- **Soil Health Card:** A field-specific printed report indicating crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and soil amendments needed for farm holdings.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Per Drop More Crop is implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Examine how regenerative farming practices address land degradation while improving climate resilience for smallholders.

KEY DATA

- **Natural Farming Coverage:** 8.80 lakh hectares - Target metric reflecting official transition to chemical-free farming clusters.
- **Per Drop More Crop:** 109 lakh hectares - Durable micro-irrigation expansion metric under PMKSY.

[Official source](#)

2. DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL BASE EXPANSION GRSE YIL PROJECTS

WHY IN NEWS

- Government initiated five expansion projects worth Rs 3,500 crore for Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers and Yantra India Limited in West Bengal.

WHAT ARE GRSE AND YIL?

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) is a Miniratna Category I Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence specializing in warship building.
- Yantra India Limited (YIL) is one of seven defence PSUs created after the restructuring of the Ordnance Factory Board, specializing in military metallurgy and ordnance components.

SCOPE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

- Establishes three maritime infrastructure facilities at Kidderpore, Shalimar, and Raichak for warship construction and repair.
- Upgrades indigenous metallurgy and production capabilities at YIL's Metal and Steel Factory at Ishapore.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

- Enhances strategic autonomy by strengthening domestic warship building capacity and specialized defence-grade metallurgy.
- Supports local MSME supply chains and defence industrial corridors.

KEY TERMS

- **Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU):** A state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Defence producing equipment and technology for the armed forces.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Yantra India Limited is one of the seven DPSUs formed after corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Discuss the role of Defence PSUs in advancing strategic autonomy and self-reliance in military hardware.

KEY DATA

- **GRSE Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal - Key shipyard entity under Ministry of Defence executing naval platforms.
- **Yantra India Limited Parentage:** **Ordnance Factory Board Restructuring (2021)** - Durable institutional restructuring fact regarding defence DPSUs.

[Official source](#)

3. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS

WHY IN NEWS

- The **National Commission** for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day with a focus on sanitation mechanization and worker welfare.

WHAT IS THE NCSK?

- Established in 1994 under the **National Commission** for **Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**, to evaluate welfare programs and investigate grievances.
- Currently functions as a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, extended periodically through executive notifications.

MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS

- Recommends specific programs to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities, and opportunities for sanitation workers.
- Monitors implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- Inquires into complaints regarding non-implementation of protective gear and compensation provisions.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Acts as the primary federal body overseeing the transition from hazardous manual sewer cleaning to 100% mechanized sanitation.

KEY TERMS

- **Manual Scavenging:** The practice of manually cleaning, carrying, disposing, or handling human excreta from dry latrines and sewers.

PAPERS

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PRELIMS FACTS

- NCSK is currently a non-statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Evaluate the institutional effectiveness of NCSK in achieving total mechanization of sewer cleaning across urban local bodies.

KEY DATA

- **NCSK Legal Status:** Non-statutory body (originally statutory under 1993 Act) - Frequently tested distinction in Polity regarding statutory versus non-statutory bodies.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment - Administrative ministry governing welfare commissions for marginalized categories.

[Official source](#)

4. AWS NSDC CLOUD AND AI SKILLING INITIATIVE

WHY IN NEWS

- National Skill Development Corporation and Amazon Web Services launched a nationwide initiative to train 150,000 youth in cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

WHAT IS THE INITIATIVE?

- A public-private workforce development initiative under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- Delivers foundational digital training to 150,000 learners and intensive job-readiness training to 10,000 youth via the AWS re/Start program.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- Targeted primarily at youth in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to democratize access to global tech credentials.
- Fully online delivery through Cultus Education, culminating in industry certifications and national hackathons.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Bridges the regional divide in high-tier technical skills and aligns vocational training with modern industry demand.

KEY TERMS

- **NSDC:** A public-private partnership entity set up under MSDE to promote skill development through private training institutes.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- NSDC operates as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

KEY DATA

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship - Parent administrative ministry for National Skill Development Corporation.

[Official source](#)

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