Daily PIB summary

UPSC daily PIB summary - 25 August 2026

UPSC Civil Services · 25 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

Open on wrapexams.com

The Reserve Bank of India's special foreign exchange swap facility achieved record dollar inflows, while key administrative partnerships and road safety initiatives were launched.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- **RBI USD-INR Swap Facility:** Mobilised $73 billion in 11 weeks through FCNR(B) deposits and foreign currency borrowings, leading RBI to advance the window closure date.
- **PM Rahat Scheme & Zero Fatality District:** MoRTH highlighted cashless trauma care up to ₹1.5 lakh for 7 days alongside 100 targeted Zero Fatality Districts.
- **CBN-PHARMEXCIL MoU:** Central Bureau of Narcotics partnered with PHARMEXCIL to streamline legitimate pharmaceutical exports while preventing dual-use chemical diversion under the NDPS Act, 1985.

1. RBI FOREIGN EXCHANGE SWAP FACILITY FCNR DEPOSITS 2026

WHY IN NEWS

- RBI's special USD-INR forex swap facility mobilized $73 billion in eleven weeks, leading RBI to advance its closure date to August 31, 2026.

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL SWAP FACILITY?

- Introduced on June 8, 2026, to attract foreign currency through FCNR(B) deposits, Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCB), and External Commercial Borrowings (ECB).
- Allows banks to swap mobilised US dollars for Indian rupees with the central bank at fixed swap windows, hedging currency risk.

PERFORMANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE

- Raised $73 billion in under 11 weeks, exceeding the $26 billion raised during the 2013 taper-tantrum swap window.
- FCNR(B) deposits contributed $65.40 billion of the total mobilization.
- Strengthens India's foreign exchange reserves and external sector buffers without increasing sovereign debt.

KEY TERMS

- **FCNR(B) Deposit:** Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits maintained by NRIs in designated foreign currencies with fixed returns.
- **FX Swap:** An agreement to exchange currency in the spot market and reverse the transaction at a predetermined future date.

PAPERS

GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- FCNR(B) deposits are exposed to currency risk for the bank, but swap windows transfer or hedge this risk with the RBI.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of deposit swap facilities in defending capital accounts during global financial volatility.

KEY DATA

- **Total Mobilisation:** $73 Billion - Largest and fastest non-resident foreign currency mobilization in Indian financial history.
- **Regulator:** Reserve Bank of India - RBI manages foreign exchange reserves under FEMA, 1999.

Official source

2. PM RAHAT SCHEME CASHLESS TRAUMA CARE ROAD SAFETY

WHY IN NEWS

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways reviewed the PM Rahat Scheme and Zero Fatality District (ZFD) framework at the Regional Manthan Conference.

WHAT ARE PM RAHAT AND ZERO FATALITY DISTRICT INITIATIVES?

- PM Rahat Scheme provides cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh for up to 7 days from the date of a road accident to utilize the 'Golden Hour'.
- Zero Fatality District (ZFD) is a targeted framework deployed across 100 high-fatality districts in 15 states to reduce accident mortality using engineering, enforcement, emergency care, and education.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Addressing the Golden Hour reduces road accident fatalities by up to 50% by eliminating upfront hospital payment delays.
- Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCORS) oversees systemic implementation across state transport departments.

KEY TERMS

- **Golden Hour:** The first hour after a traumatic injury when prompt medical treatment is most likely to prevent death.

PAPERS

GS2, GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- PM Rahat covers road crash trauma care without demanding immediate out-of-pocket payments during the Golden Hour.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Evaluate multi-sectoral strategies required to meet the Stockholm Declaration goal of halving road traffic deaths.

KEY DATA

- **PM Rahat Coverage:** Up to ₹1.5 Lakh for 7 Days - Provides mandatory cashless treatment cap for road crash victims.
- **Overseeing Body:** Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCORS) - Court-mandated body monitoring national road safety enforcement and metrics.

Official source

3. CENTRAL BUREAU OF NARCOTICS PHARMEXCIL MOU NDPS ACT

WHY IN NEWS

- Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) signed a MoU with PHARMEXCIL to promote legitimate pharma exports while enforcing export-import regulations under the NDPS Act, 1985.

WHAT IS THE MANDATE OF CBN AND PHARMEXCIL?

- CBN operates under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, supervising licit opium poppy cultivation and regulating import/export of controlled substances under NDPS Act, 1985.

- PHARMEXCIL was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to promote Indian pharmaceutical exports globally.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT

- Integrates voluntary compliance mechanisms into the pharmaceutical supply chain.
- Prevents the illicit diversion of precursor chemicals, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and controlled medical substances while expediting export clearance.

KEY TERMS

- **Precursor Chemical:** A chemical substance used in the manufacturing of controlled drugs or narcotic substances.

PAPERS

GS2, GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- Central Bureau of Narcotics functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, not Ministry of Home Affairs.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 - Statutory basis for CBN regulatory powers over precursor chemicals and licit opium.
- **CBN Parent Ministry:** Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance - Crucial distinction as CBN is under Finance Ministry, not Home or Health.

Official source