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Daily PIB summary**Kanda Express Buffer Stock Onion Intervention**

UPSC Civil Services · 28 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Department of Consumer Affairs initiated calibrated market intervention releasing buffer stock onions at ₹35/kg via mobile outlets and rail logistics.

WHAT IS THE MECHANISM?

- Targeted market intervention scheme executed through Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) mechanisms to curb retail food inflation.
- Buffer stocks managed by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), NAFED, and NCCF are deployed to demand centers.

ROLE OF KANDA EXPRESS LOGISTICS

- Utilises dedicated Indian Railways rakes ('Kanda Express') for bulk transport from key producing regions to major consumption urban centers.
- Scaled up movement from 12,000 MT (14 rakes) in 2024-25 to 88,000 MT (86 rakes to 16 cities) in 2025-26, lowering freight transport costs compared to road transit.

KEY TERMS

- **Price Stabilisation Fund:** A central fund set up to absorb price volatility of essential agricultural commodities through strategic buffer procurement and market release.

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PRELIMS FACTS

Price Stabilisation Fund operates under the Department of Consumer Affairs to manage perishables.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of logistics innovation and strategic buffers in mitigating seasonal agri-commodity inflation.

KEY DATA

- **Nodal Department:** Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) - Administers market interventions and essential commodity buffer stocks.
- **Procuring Agencies:** NAFED and NCCF - Central procurement entities executing market stabilization operations.

[Official source](#)

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