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Daily PIB summary**UPSC daily PIB summary - 29 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 29 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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The Central Government expanded key initiatives across environmental protection, public health monitoring, Eurasian diplomacy, and public examination reforms.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- PARIVARTAN Scheme launched to replace over two lakh legacy commercial vehicles across Delhi-NCR with BS-VI and electric vehicles.
- Union Health Ministry reviewed district action plans in 33 high-burden districts targeting complete malaria elimination by 2030.
- Prime Minister scheduled a bilateral visit to Uzbekistan and attendance at the 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek.
- High-Powered Task Force chaired by Nandan Nilekani sought public inputs on structural reforms for national public examinations.

1. PARIVARTAN SCHEME DELHI-NCR VEHICLE FLEET MODERNISATION**WHY IN NEWS**

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways expanded the implementation framework of the PARIVARTAN Scheme to replace over two lakh legacy commercial vehicles in the National Capital Region.

WHAT IS THE PARIVARTAN SCHEME?

- Stands for Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions, with an outlay of 9,585 crore rupees.
- Targets the replacement of commercial trucks and buses conforming to Bharat Stage-IV or earlier norms registered in Delhi and NCR districts of Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Funded through the National Capital Region Planning Board under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

KEY FEATURES AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS

- Provides financial incentives to beneficiaries purchasing new BS-VI compliant diesel or CNG vehicles, or electric vehicles.
- Onboards commercial banks and non-banking financial companies to extend **interest subvention** on vehicle purchase loans.
- Integrates vehicle original equipment manufacturers to offer direct discounts to registered commercial fleet owners through a dedicated portal.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Addresses vehicular emissions, which form a major constituent of seasonal winter air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
- Accelerates the phase-out of legacy heavy diesel vehicles in favour of cleaner combustion standards and electric mobility.

KEY TERMS

- **Interest Subvention:** A financial subsidy provided by the government to reduce the interest burden on loans taken by targeted beneficiaries.
- **BS-VI Emission Norms:** India's vehicular emission standards equivalent to Euro 6 that mandate stringent limits on nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- PARIVARTAN Scheme targets replacement of BS-IV or older commercial trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR with BS-VI or electric vehicles.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Examine the effectiveness of economic incentive schemes in mitigating regional air pollution in urban agglomerations.

KEY DATA

- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways - Nodal ministry responsible for regulatory standards and fleet modernization policy.
- **Funding Agency:** National Capital Region Planning Board - Statutory body under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs providing financial support for regional infrastructure.
- **Total Outlay:** 9,585 crore rupees - Financial size allocated for transitioning legacy commercial transport in NCR.

[Official source](#)

2. INDIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS NATIONAL MALARIA ELIMINATION TARGET 2030

WHY IN NEWS

- Union Health Ministry reviewed progress under District Action Plans in 33 remaining high-burden districts to meet the national malaria elimination target by 2030.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL MALARIA ELIMINATION STRATEGY?

- Aims to achieve zero indigenous transmission of malaria across India by 2030, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3.3.
- Coordinated by the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control under the National Health Mission.
- Shifted focus from general vector control to localized area-specific micro-planning at district and village levels.

PROGRESS AND CURRENT STATUS

- Malaria cases and mortality in India declined by nearly 80 percent between 2015 and 2025.
- Number of high-burden districts reduced from 155 to 33 over the same decade.
- Over 160 districts reported zero indigenous malaria cases between 2022 and 2025.
- Remaining 33 high-burden districts across nine States and UTs accounted for 64 percent of cases and 54 percent of malaria deaths in 2025.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Sustaining interruption of local transmission in remote forest and hilly topographies requires micro-level Village Action Plans.
- Prevents vector resurgence and reduces disease burden among vulnerable rural and tribal populations.

KEY TERMS

- **Vector Borne Disease:** An infection transmitted to humans by arthropods such as mosquitoes, ticks, or sandflies.
- **Indigenous Case:** A locally contracted disease case with no history of travel to an endemic area outside the local zone.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to manage malaria elimination.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Analyze the role of micro-level decentralized planning in achieving disease elimination goals in high-burden geographical pockets.

KEY DATA

- **Coordinating Agency:** National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control - Nodal body under MoHFW overseeing vector-borne disease control programs in India.
- **Target Elimination Year:** 2030 - India's committed deadline for eliminating malaria under the Sustainable Development Goals framework.

[Official source](#)

3. PRIME MINISTERS VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN AND 26TH SCO SUMMIT

WHY IN NEWS

- India announced the Prime Minister's state visit to Uzbekistan and attendance at the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Bishkek.

BILATERAL AGENDA WITH UZBEKISTAN

- Focuses on strengthening strategic partnership across trade, investment, defence, digital connectivity, and energy.
- Aligns developmental priorities between Viksit Bharat 2047 and the Uzbekistan-2030 strategic plan.

26TH SCO SUMMIT IN BISHKEK

- Marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- India will emphasize its priorities structured around Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity.
- Provides a multilateral forum to engage Central Asian states on trade corridors, regional security, and counter-terrorism.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Central Asia remains vital to India's **Extended Neighbourhood Policy** for energy security and continental connectivity.
- Engagement within SCO helps preserve strategic balance in Eurasian regional security architectures.

KEY TERMS

- **Extended Neighbourhood Policy:** India's foreign policy outreach focused on building economic, strategic, and political partnerships beyond its immediate land borders.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- India became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2017.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Evaluate the strategic importance of Central Asian partnerships for India's regional trade corridors and security interests.

KEY DATA

- **Multilateral Body:** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation - Eurasian security and political alliance where India became a full member in 2017.
- **2026 SCO Summit Host:** Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic - Venue for the 26th heads of state summit marking 25 years of the SCO.

[Official source](#)**4. NANDAN NILEKANI TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC EXAMINATION REFORMS****WHY IN NEWS**

- High-Powered Task Force constituted by the Central Government invited public inputs to reform the design, security, and governance of public examinations.

WHAT IS THE HIGH-POWERED TASK FORCE?

- Constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani to review systemic vulnerabilities in public entrance and recruitment examinations.
- Examines structural, administrative, and technological security procedures of national testing bodies including the **National Testing Agency**.

KEY AREAS OF EXAMINATION REFORM

- Formulating robust measures for prevention, early detection, and legal redressal of examination paper leaks and technological malpractices.

- Standardizing secure digital and physical examination infrastructure across diverse socio-economic and linguistic regions.
- Creating institutional grievance redressal mechanisms and incorporating student well-being protocols into test administration.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Ensures public trust and institutional credibility in high-stakes merit-based entrance examinations.
- Complements legislative frameworks such as the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act to deter paper leaks.

KEY TERMS

- **National Testing Agency:** An autonomous society under the Department of Higher Education established to conduct standardized entrance tests for educational institutions.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- High-Powered Task Force on public examination reforms is headed by Nandan Nilekani.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Discuss the technological and institutional reforms required to safeguard integrity and transparency in national public examinations.

KEY DATA

- **Task Force Chairman:** Nandan Nilekani - Appointed to lead the expert panel recommending technological and institutional reforms in public examinations.
- **Key Body Under Review:** National Testing Agency - Central autonomous testing agency responsible for conducting major national entrance tests.

[Official source](#)

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