

UPSC-CSE 2027/28

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

 **ONE STOP SOLUTION**

By **Faiyaz Sir**

 **The Indian
EXPRESS**

 **THE HINDU**

 **पिब**
PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय

**09
SEPTEMBER**



**COMPLETE
COVERAGE**



**EXAM
FOCUSED**



**ANALYSIS
MADE EASY**



**STATIC + CURRENT
INTEGRATION**

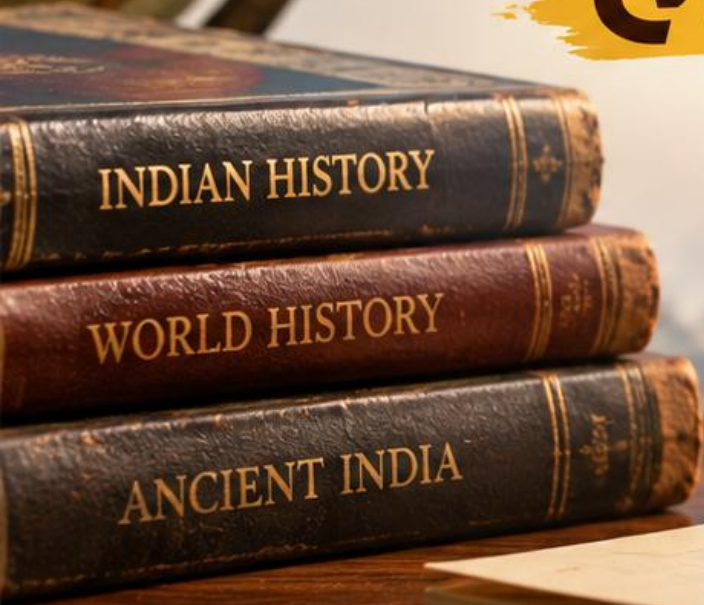


**STAY AHEAD
STAY PREPARED**





इतिहास लिखने के लिए
कलम की नहीं,
हौसलों की ज़रूरत होती है।



आज क्या पढ़ेंगे?

1. **Blue Sky**
2. **DFC**
3. **महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य**



Energy & Environment

नीले आकाश की तरफ भारत का सफर स्वच्छ हवा के लिए जागरूकता से लेकर सक्रियता तक

Posted On: 07 SEP 2026 8:31PM

7 सितंबर को दुनिया भर में मनाया जाने वाला नीले आकाश के लिए स्वच्छ वायु का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस (International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies) वायु प्रदूषण के खिलाफ तत्काल कार्रवाई पर जोर देता है। इस मामले में भारत की ओर से किए जाने वाले बहुआयामी प्रयासों में यहां के 130 शहरों में चलाया जा रहा राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम (NCAP) मुख्य रूप से शामिल है। वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में, देश के 108 शहरों में 2017-18 की तुलना में PM10 के स्तर में कमी दर्ज की गई। इनमें से, 72 शहरों में 20% से अधिक की कमी हासिल हुई, जबकि 26 शहरों में 40% से अधिक की कमी दर्ज की गई। मजबूत निगरानी, स्वच्छ गतिशीलता, शहर-विशिष्ट कार्रवाई और वैज्ञानिक हस्तक्षेप भारत के स्वच्छ वायु प्रयासों को आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं।

स्वच्छ वायु की तरफ: एक वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धता

- नीले आकाशों के लिए स्वच्छ वायु का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस विश्वभर में हर साल 7 सितंबर को मनाया जाता है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने 2019 में वायु प्रदूषण के खिलाफ वैश्विक कार्रवाई को मजबूत करने के लिए इस दिवस को नामित किया था। इसने सभी स्तरों पर सार्वजनिक जागरूकता बढ़ाने और वायु गुणवत्ता में सुधार के कार्यों को बढ़ावा देने और सुविधाजनक बनाने के महत्व पर जोर दिया। भारत इस अवसर को स्वच्छ वायु दिवस के रूप में मनाता है, जो वैश्विक अभियान को अपनी राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं से जोड़ता है।

वायु प्रदूषण को समझना

- वायु प्रदूषण तब होता है जब हानिकारक पदार्थ वायुमंडल में ऐसे स्तरों पर जमा हो जाते हैं जो मानव स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरण को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं। ये प्रदूषक गैसों, तरल बूंदों या ठोस कणों के रूप में मौजूद हो सकते हैं। ये प्राकृतिक प्रक्रियाओं और मानव गतिविधियों दोनों से उत्पन्न हो सकते हैं, जिसमें परिवहन, उद्योग, निर्माण और जलाना सभी शामिल हैं।
- इनमें से, मुख्य वायु प्रदूषक कणिका पदार्थ (Particulate Matter - PM) है, जिसमें हवा में तैरने वाले छोटे ठोस या तरल कण शामिल हैं। उनके आकार के आधार पर, इन कणों को आमतौर पर PM10 और PM2.5 के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जाता है। PM10 का अर्थ है 10 माइक्रोमीटर या उससे कम व्यास वाले कण। PM2.5 का अर्थ है 2.5 माइक्रोमीटर या उससे कम व्यास वाले बारीक कण। संदर्भ के लिए, एक मानव बाल लगभग 100 माइक्रोमीटर चौड़ा होता है, जिससे PM2.5 अत्यंत छोटा होता है— इसकी चौड़ाई पर लगभग 40 बारीक कण रखे जा सकते हैं। उनका छोटा आकार बारीक कणों को श्वसन प्रणाली में गहराई तक प्रवेश करने की अनुमति देता है। कुछ कण रक्तप्रवाह में भी प्रवेश कर सकते हैं, जिससे उनके स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों की संभावना बढ़ जाती है। यह कणिका प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित करने को स्वच्छ वायु और स्वस्थ समुदायों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिकता बनाता है।

वायु प्रदूषण को निर्मूल करने के लिए भारत की कार्रवाई

- **राष्ट्रीय वायु गुणवत्ता निगरानी कार्यक्रम (NAMP)**
- केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने राष्ट्रीय परिवेशी वायु गुणवत्ता निगरानी (NAAQM) कार्यक्रम शुरू किया। बाद में इसका नाम बदलकर NAMP कर दिया गया। इसके उद्देश्य वायु प्रदूषण का नियमित मूल्यांकन करना, शहरी क्षेत्रों में परिवेशी वायु गुणवत्ता की स्थिति और प्रवृत्ति निर्धारित करना, भविष्य के परिवर्तनों का अनुमान लगाना, और निर्धारित परिवेशी वायु गुणवत्ता मानकों और स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों के उल्लंघन को सुनिश्चित करना है।
- मार्च 2026 तक, देश में परिवेशी वायु-गुणवत्ता निगरानी नेटवर्क में वर्तमान में 28 राज्यों और 7 केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के 603 शहरों में 1,646 स्टेशन शामिल हैं, जिनमें मैनुअल स्टेशन और रियल-टाइम स्टेशन दोनों शामिल हैं। मैनुअल स्टेशन नियमित रूप से नमूने एकत्र और विश्लेषण करते हैं, जबकि CAAQMS निरंतर, रियल-टाइम वायु-गुणवत्ता डेटा प्रदान करते हैं।
- समीर(SAMEER) मोबाइल एप्लिकेशन और वेब पोर्टल 292 से अधिक शहरों के लिए निकट रियल-टाइम AQI जानकारी प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे पारदर्शिता और नागरिक जागरूकता बढ़ती है। सभी NCAP शहरों में लोक शिकायत निवारण पोर्टल भी स्थापित किए गए हैं, जो प्रदूषण नियंत्रण प्रयासों में सार्वजनिक भागीदारी को सक्षम बनाते हैं।

वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक (AQI)

- **AQI** नागरिकों के लिए वायु गुणवत्ता को समझने का एक सरल उपकरण है। यह प्रदूषक सांद्रता और उनके संभावित स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों के आधार पर वायु गुणवत्ता को अच्छे से गंभीर श्रेणी तक के 6 श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत करता है। AQI की गणना आठ प्रदूषकों: PM10, PM2.5, NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃, NH₃ और Pb का उपयोग करके की जाती है, जिसमें सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन करने वाला प्रदूषक समग्र AQI निर्धारित करता है।

स्वच्छ वायु प्रगति की डिजिटल ट्रैकिंग

- "PRANA" – देश के गैर-अनुपालन शहरों में वायु-प्रदूषण के विनियमन के लिए पोर्टल, राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम (NCAP) के कार्यान्वयन का प्रबंधन और निगरानी करने के लिए एक निर्मित पोर्टल है। यह शहर वायु कार्रवाई योजना कार्यान्वयन की भौतिक और वित्तीय स्थिति को ट्रैक करने का समर्थन करता है और NCAP के तहत वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन प्रयासों की जानकारी सार्वजनिक रूप से साझा करता है। NCAP के तहत विभिन्न हितधारकों द्वारा विभिन्न गतिविधियों और उनकी प्रगति से संबंधित जानकारी इस पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है, जो भविष्य के नीति निर्णयों में मदद करेगी।

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम (NCAP)

- देश के 130 शहरों में मिशन मोड में वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए, सरकार द्वारा 2019 में NCAP शुरू किया गया था। यह केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों, शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) और अन्य हितधारकों के समन्वित प्रयासों वाला एक बहु-क्षेत्रीय पहल है। NCAP शहर, राज्य और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की स्वच्छ वायु कार्रवाई योजनाओं के माध्यम से स्रोत-विशिष्ट शमन उपायों पर जोर देता है, और इसकी निगरानी केंद्रीय, राज्य और जिला स्तर पर गठित विभिन्न समितियों द्वारा की जाती है।

स्वच्छ वायु सर्वेक्षण

- स्वच्छ वायु सर्वेक्षण NCAP के तहत 130 शहरों का वार्षिक मूल्यांकन होता है। यह MoEFCC की वर्ष 2022-23 में शुरू की गई एक पहल है। यह मूल्यांकन प्रमुख प्रदूषण स्रोतों से निपटने के उपायों और शहर-विशिष्ट स्वच्छ वायु कार्रवाई योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन को कवर करता है। यह वायु गुणवत्ता में सुधार के लिए शहरों के बीच स्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धा, नवाचार और त्वरित कार्रवाई को बढ़ावा देता है।

ग्रेडेड रिस्पोन्स एक्शन प्लान (GRAP)

- GRAP राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र में बिगड़ती वायु गुणवत्ता के प्रबंधन के लिए एक आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया ढांचा है। यह प्रदूषण की गंभीरता के आधार पर ग्रेडेड और लक्षित उपाय लेने के लिए कई सरकारी एजेंसियों को एक साथ लाता है। उपाय तब शुरू किए जाते हैं जब दिल्ली का AQI निर्दिष्ट स्तरों तक पहुंच जाता है या पहुंचने की उम्मीद रहती है। GRAP वायु-गुणवत्ता डेटा, मौसम के पूर्वानुमान और वैज्ञानिक मूल्यांकनों का उपयोग समय पर कार्रवाई को सक्षम बनाने के लिए करता है। इसके चार चरण 'खराब' (AQI 201–300) से 'गंभीर+' (AQI 450 से ऊपर) तक हैं। वायु गुणवत्ता खराब होने पर उपाय प्रगतिशील रूप से सख्त हो जाते हैं। इनमें धूल और उत्सर्जन को नियंत्रित करना, निर्माण और औद्योगिक गतिविधियों को विनियमित करना, और कुछ वाहनों को प्रतिबंधित करना शामिल है। वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM) समूचे एनसीआर में कार्यान्वयन का समन्वय करता है।

प्रश्न 1. 'राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम' (NCAP) और 'नीले आकाश के लिए स्वच्छ वायु का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस' के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. नीले आकाश के लिए स्वच्छ वायु का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष 7 सितंबर को मनाया जाता है, जिसकी घोषणा 2019 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा की गई थी।
2. PM2.5 कणों का व्यास 2.5 माइक्रोमीटर या उससे कम होता है, जो श्वसन प्रणाली में गहराई तक प्रवेश कर सकते हैं।
3. NCAP के तहत देश के प्रमुख शहरों में PM10 के स्तर में कमी लाने के लिए शहर-विशिष्ट कार्य योजनाएं लागू की जा रही हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

Mains अभ्यास प्रश्न

- "भारत में वायु प्रदूषण केवल एक स्थानीय पर्यावरणीय मुद्दा न होकर एक बहुआयामी चुनौती बन गया है।" इस कथन के आलोक में, राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम (NCAP) के तहत भारत सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे प्रयासों और वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन में आने वाली मुख्य चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

PM slams critics as he opens freight corridor

PM inaugurates key sections of Dedicated Freight Corridor connecting U.P. to port in Navi Mumbai

He dismisses Rahul's campaign against his govt. as an 'echo of lies', attempt to mislead the youth

Modi says his opponents will continue to find fault with 'major infrastructure milestones'

Press Trust of India
VADODARA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took a dig at the Opposition over a newly inaugurated dedicated freight corridor, saying critics would still complain like a "naraz fufa" (grumpy uncle) and manufacture grievances, while dismissing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against the government as "jhooth ki goonj" (echo of lies).

Speaking at the inauguration of three key sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai with Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, and marking the project's completion, Mr. Modi praised his administration's pace of execution and called the former UPA regime's working speed "sluggish".

"After 2014, with your blessings, when I reached Delhi, and as soon as we arrived there, we began ac-

celerating this project. Work on the dedicated freight corridor has been completed today," he said.

The "jhooth ki goonj" jibe appeared to mock the *Chhatron Ki Goonj* student dialogue campaign launched by the Congress. Through the campaign, the Congress is trying to corner the BJP on issues such as exam question paper leaks, costly education, irregularities in government recruitment and unemployment.

'Finding fault'

Targeting Mr. Gandhi without naming him, Mr. Modi said opponents would always find fault with major infrastructure milestones such as the newly inaugurated freight corridor.

"Now, the *naraz fufa ji* (grumpy uncle) will start shouting: What will happen to the truck drivers? Where will the trucks go? What about the trucks people have purchased? Now, *fufa ji* has found something



Grand welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the event in Vadodara on Tuesday. PMO

new to complain about," the Prime Minister said.

He pointed to "rapid modernisation" under his decade-long tenure compared to the previous administration's shortcomings.

"After 2014, India built 50,000 modern rail coaches. The previous regime could not build even

50,000 toilets in 10 years," he said.

Taking aim at the Opposition's youth outreach efforts, specifically Mr. Gandhi's *Chhatron Ki Goonj* campaign in Pune last month, the Prime Minister cautioned the youth against "falling for political misdirection".

"At every nook and cor-

ner, you will find people who will try to mislead you through lies, but today's youth will stand with the truth," Mr. Modi said, urging youngsters to align with factual progress over political narrative.

He said the youth could see how focused the government was on working across sectors, including

solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear energy. Describing the dedicated railway freight corridor as the life-line of a rapidly developing nation, the Prime Minister noted that India's economic transformation was accelerating due to the modern freight structure. Earlier, passenger and goods trains were forced to run on the same tracks, which severely hampered both passenger travel and freight movement, but the dedicated corridor altered that dynamic, he said.

Criticising the administrative delays under the previous government, he pointed out that though the concept originated in 2004 and a special purpose vehicle was set up in 2006, files remained stuck without progress until 2014.

"Unfortunately, even these files were not fortunate enough to get a dedicated corridor. Files would get stuck, hang around, wander aimlessly," Mr. Mo-

di said. India is scripting a new saga of manufacturing, spanning "chips to ships", with components, final products and the supply chain for self-reliance being set up in the country, Mr. Modi said.

At an event in Mumbai later in the day, Mr. Modi said the Indian economy's 7.8% real GDP expansion gave confidence to the world at large because the performance came in a challenging quarter when the impact of the West Asia conflict was the highest.

He said India had emerged as a major manufacturer of railway coaches, metro coaches and locomotives in the last decade.

A 100-km journey that earlier took 6.5 hours for a freight train can now be covered in less than half the time, while a 30-hour journey by truck can be completed in 10-12 hours on the Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Prime Minister noted.

(Dedicated Freight Corridor - DFC)

- डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर (DFC) विशेष रूप से केवल मालगाड़ियों (Freight Trains) के आवागमन के लिए बनाए गए उच्च गति और उच्च क्षमता वाले अलग रेलवे ट्रैक हैं। इनका मुख्य उद्देश्य यात्री ट्रेनों और मालगाड़ियों के ट्रैक को अलग करके लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत को घटाना और माल परिवहन को तेज़ बनाना है।

1. भारत में कितने डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर हैं?

- भारत सरकार ने शुरुआती चरण में **2 मुख्य (Operational/Under Construction)** डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर की पहचान की है:
- पूर्वी समर्पित माल गलियारा (Eastern DFC):** लुधियाना (पंजाब) से दानकुनी (पश्चिम बंगाल)।
- पश्चिमी समर्पित माल गलियारा (Western DFC):** दादरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) से जवाहरलाल नेहरू पोर्ट ट्रस्ट (JNPT, मुंबई)।
- (भविष्य की योजनाओं में ईस्ट-कोस्ट कॉरिडोर, ईस्ट-वेस्ट कॉरिडोर और नॉर्थ-साउथ कॉरिडोर भी प्रस्तावित हैं।)

2. वेस्टर्न डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर (Western DFC) क्या है और कहाँ है?

- वेस्टर्न DFC एक 1,504 किलोमीटर लंबा, पूरी तरह से विद्युतीकृत (Electric) डबल-लाइन माल परिवहन कॉरिडोर है। यह उत्तर भारत के औद्योगिक hubs को पश्चिमी तट के प्रमुख बंदरगाहों से जोड़ता है।

- कैसे जोड़ता है:** यह उत्तर प्रदेश के दादरी को महाराष्ट्र के JNPT (नवी मुंबई) से जोड़ता है।

किन राज्यों से गुजरता है (कुल 5 राज्य):

- उत्तर प्रदेश (दादरी, ग्रेटर नोएडा)
- हरियाणा
- राजस्थान
- गुजरात
- महाराष्ट्र

3. वेस्टर्न DFC की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ और क्षमता

- डबल स्टैक कंटेनर:** इस ट्रैक पर एक के ऊपर एक (Double-stack) कंटेनर ले जाने वाली मालगाड़ियाँ चल सकती हैं।
- उच्च गति:** मालगाड़ियों की औसत गति 25 किमी/घंटा से बढ़कर 75–100 किमी/घंटा तक हो जाती है।
- अधिक भार क्षमता:** यह सामान्य रेलवे ट्रैक की तुलना में अधिक भारी (Heavy Axle Load) गाड़ियों को संभालने में सक्षम है।

4. वेस्टर्न DFC के प्रमुख फायदे

- **लॉजिस्टिक्स समय और लागत में कमी:** उत्तर भारत से बंदरगाहों (Ports) तक माल पहुँचाने का समय आधे से भी कम हो जाता है, जिससे निर्यात (Exports) सस्ता और प्रतिस्पर्धी बनता है।
- **दिल्ली-मुंबई इंडस्ट्रियल कॉरिडोर (DMIC) को बढ़ावा:** DFC के दोनों तरफ विकसित हो रहे DMIC प्रोजेक्ट को सीधी लॉजिस्टिक्स सहायता मिलती है, जिससे नए औद्योगिक शहर और मैन्युफैक्चरिंग हब बन रहे हैं।
- **पैसेंजर ट्रेनों की समयबद्धता में सुधार:** मालगाड़ियों के अलग ट्रैक पर जाने से मौजूदा भारतीय रेलवे नेटवर्क पर भीड़ कम हुई है, जिससे यात्री ट्रेनें समय पर चल पाती हैं।
- **पर्यावरण के अनुकूल:** भारी मात्रा में डीजल ट्रकों की निर्भरता कम होने से कार्बन उत्सर्जन (Carbon Footprint) में भारी कमी आती है।
- **बंदरगाहों की क्षमता का बेहतर उपयोग:** गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र के प्रमुख बंदरगाह (जैसे मुंद्रा, कांडला, JNPT) सीधे उत्तर भारत के इनलैंड कंटेनर डिपो (ICD) से जुड़ जाते हैं।

Prelims अभ्यास प्रश्न

प्रश्न 1. 'डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर' (DFC) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. वेस्टर्न DFC उत्तर प्रदेश के दादरी को महाराष्ट्र के जवाहरलाल नेहरू पोर्ट ट्रस्ट (JNPT) से जोड़ता है।
2. DFC ट्रेकों पर डबल-स्टैक कंटेनर ट्रेनें चलाने की क्षमता है।
3. वेस्टर्न डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर केवल तीन राज्यों—उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान और महाराष्ट्र से होकर गुजरता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- A. केवल 1 और 2
- B. केवल 2 और 3
- C. केवल 1 और 3
- D. 1, 2 और 3

Mains अभ्यास प्रश्न

- "डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर (DFC) परियोजना न केवल भारतीय रेलवे के माल ढुलाई नेटवर्क का कायाकल्प करेगी, बल्कि 'पीएम गति शक्ति' और 'मेक इन इंडिया' की सफलता की रीढ़ भी साबित होगी।" वेस्टर्न DFC के विशेष संदर्भ में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

SC mulls pan-India safety rules for student hostels *Amicus Curiae*

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated that it may expand its court-monitored exercise against illegal constructions and unauthorised use of residential premises to examine the safety of student accommodations across the country.

It comes days after seven people were killed in the collapse of an illegally constructed building being used as a paying guest (PG) facility in Delhi.

A Bench said it would take up the matter on Thursday after the court-appointed *amicus curiae* sought a time-bound safety audit of PG facilities, private hostels and other accommodations in and around colleges across Delhi. Senior advocate Ajit Kumar Sinha, the court-appointed *amicus curiae*, told the Bench that he had filed a fresh status report following the Satya Niketan building collapse.

The report, he said, raised "serious concerns" over existing mechanisms for inspecting buildings, identifying dangerous structures and enforcing building bylaws.

Plea for transfer to HC

The report was filed in ongoing proceedings arising from a case in Tamil Nadu concerning construction in violation of land-use norms and building bylaws. In March, the court had widened the scope of the proceedings and sought information from civic bodies in several State capitals, including Lucknow, Jaipur, Chennai and Kolkata, and also Delhi, on



The *amicus curiae* sought a audit of PG facilities, private hostels and other accommodations in Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

action taken against similar violations.

On Tuesday, the Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan also turned down an oral request by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Delhi Police, to allow the Delhi High Court to separately continue hearing a petition seeking a comprehensive probe into the Satya Niketan incident. The High Court had on Monday ordered an inquiry into the tragedy and a safety inspection of PG facilities under the MCD's jurisdiction.

"No. This might have been taken up in the right earnest, but it is overlapping. We will take it up. We already have something in mind... It has to be on a pan-India basis," Justice Amanullah orally remarked.

While Mr. Mehta acknowledged that it was a "horrific" tragedy and that families were grieving the loss of lives, particularly of children, he pointed out that the High Court was already cognisant of the incident and had taken it up

"in the right earnest". The Bench, however, said it would take up the matter on Thursday and indicated that it could thereafter consider transferring the proceedings pending before the High Court to itself.

Safety audit sought

The latest status report, filed through advocate-on-record Govind Jee, pointed out that while the Supreme Court had already constituted a committee to inspect buildings in Lajpat Nagar, Saket, and Malviya Nagar, Satya Niketan did not fall within the scope of the exercise.

It also referred to a building collapse in Satya Niketan in April 2022, which killed two people and injured four. The recurrence of a fatal collapse in the same locality, the report said, raised concerns over the effectiveness of inspection mechanisms.

The report accordingly urged the court to extend monitoring across Delhi, particularly to student accommodation around universities and colleges.

Bengal's BJP leaders oppose appeal for vegetarian *pujo* amid Oppn. fire

Ministers Agnimitra Paul, Dilip Ghosh, Tapas Roy defend people's right to 'eat what they want' after clarification by West Bengal unit chief Samik Bhattacharya; Oppn. takes on BJP over appeal by 'godman' to keep meat away during Durga Puja

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Several Ministers and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders in West Bengal on Tuesday backed State party chief Samik Bhattacharya's rejection of the appeal by Bageshwar Dham chief priest Dharendra Krishna Shastri to keep non-vegetarian food away from Durga Puja pandals.

The statements by ruling party leaders, including Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Paul, Panchayat Minister and former State unit chief Dilip Ghosh, and BJP veteran and former Tripura Governor Nathagata Roy, came on a day when the Opposition tried to corner the government over the issue.

'CM must clarify'

While the Congress lodged a police complaint against Mr. Shastri, Trinamool Congress MLA Kunal Ghosh sought a clarification from Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, who had welcomed Mr. Shastri. "This is not just a matter of filing a complaint. The government is patronising



Congress activists staging a protest outside the Bhowanipur police station against 'godman' Dharendra Krishna Shastri on Tuesday. PTI

all this. Friends of this government come and insult Bengal and Bengalis whenever they wish," he said.

CPI(M) leader Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said the Bageshwar Dham chief priest was not to be blamed for the controversy, but those who had invited him to Bengal.

'A different culture'

Ms. Paul, the Urban Development Minister, said, "Our State party president has clearly said that any

person coming from outside will not understand our culture. In other States, people have vegetarian meals during Durga Puja. Here, we save money so that we can have mutton and fish."

The former State BJP president said there is a tradition of offering animal sacrifice during Durga Puja and Kali Puja, and meat is offered as 'prasad'. Industries Minister Tapas Roy said, "Each religion has its own rules but people will

eat whatever they want."

Mr. Shastri's appeal on September 6 during his two-day visit to Kolkata had prompted criticism of the BJP, which had sought to convince the electorate during the Assembly poll campaign earlier this year that it was not in favour of imposing vegetarianism.

Damage control

On Monday, Mr. Bhattacharya attempted damage control by asserting that "nobody can ask Bengalis to give up non-vegetarian food". Despite their opposition to Mr. Shastri's appeal, none of the BJP leaders have directly criticised the 'godman', saying there is nothing wrong with promoting vegetarianism.

Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, also weighed in on the issue. In an X post on Monday, he stated: "Meat is core to Shakta Hinduism. It is offered to Maa Durga and Maa Kali as part of the ancient rituals. The prasad eaten by the devotees on Navami/Dasami at Durga Puja is meat. Any interference in this sacred ritual will not be tolerated."

Congress files complaints over Shastri's remarks

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Congress leaders in West Bengal on Tuesday filed complaints against Dharendra Krishna Shastri over remarks on food habits during Durga Puja, alleging that they had hurt Bengali sentiments.

South Kolkata District Congress Committee president Pradip Prasad lodged a complaint at Bhowanipur police station. Party workers also protested outside the station demanding an FIR.

Similar complaints were filed at Muchipara police station and, according to the party, across the State.

"Bengali culture, lifestyle, eating habits, or religious practices, or who we believe in, or who we pray to cannot be dictated by a godman like him," said Suman Roy Chaudhuri, a senior Congress leader.

One Nation - One Culture

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

PAC flags failure to transfer ₹9,222 cr. in cess collections

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday expressed concern over the reported failure to transfer cess and levy collections to designated reserve funds, with members questioning the Union Finance Ministry's explanation on the issue and reiterating earlier recommendations that such collections be used only for the purposes for which they were raised.

According to an audit examination for 2024-25, ₹9,222 crore collected through various cesses and levies was not transferred to four designated reserve funds during the year. The findings form part of Paragraph 3.3.1 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG's) Report No. 6 of 2026.

According to sources, PAC chairperson and senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal said the issue had already been flagged by the committee in its 69th report, tabled in August 2023. The report had recommended scientific assessments of the amount



K.C. Venugopal

and duration of cess collections, periodic reviews to evaluate whether intended objectives had been achieved, and regular crediting of cess proceeds to reserve funds. Ignoring the directions of the PAC, which is a parliamentary standing committee, constitutes an insult to Parliament, Mr. Venugopal said.

'Taken from everyone'

He further argued that cess collections should be utilised for the purposes for which they are raised and not to finance the government's budgetary deficit. It is an amount collected from everyone, whether they are income tax payees or not, from the middle-class to the poor, Mr. Venugopal pointed out.

YouTube Homework

- **Other Committies**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



PAC (Public Accounts Committee - लोक लेखा समिति)

- लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) भारतीय संसद की सबसे पुरानी और प्रमुख वित्तीय समितियों में से एक है। इसका मुख्य कार्य यह देखना है कि संसद द्वारा मंजूर किया गया धन उसी काम पर खर्च हुआ है या नहीं जिसके लिए उसे स्वीकृत किया गया था।

1. गठन और संरचना

- स्थापना:** इसकी शुरुआत सबसे पहले 1921 में (भारत सरकार अधिनियम, 1919 के तहत) हुई थी।
- सदस्य संख्या:** इसमें कुल 22 सदस्य होते हैं:
 - 15 सदस्य: लोकसभा से
 - 7 सदस्य: राज्यसभा से
- चुनाव प्रक्रिया:** सदस्यों का चुनाव प्रतिवर्ष अनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व प्रणाली (Proportional Representation) के अनुसार एकल संक्रमणीय मत द्वारा होता है।
- कार्यकाल:** इसके सदस्यों का कार्यकाल 1 वर्ष का होता है।
- अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति:** समिति के अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति लोकसभा अध्यक्ष (Speaker) द्वारा की जाती है। वर्ष 1967 से यह परंपरा चली आ रही है कि इसका अध्यक्ष विपक्ष का नेता या विपक्ष का कोई सदस्य ही होता है।
- प्रतिबंध:** कोई भी मंत्री इस समिति का सदस्य नहीं बन सकता।

2. मुख्य कार्य और भूमिका

- CAG रिपोर्ट की जाँच:** यह भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (CAG) द्वारा प्रस्तुत लेखा-परीक्षा रिपोर्टों (Audit Reports) की विस्तार से जाँच करती है। इसीलिए CAG को PAC का "मित्र, दार्शनिक और मार्गदर्शक" (Friend, Philosopher and Guide) कहा जाता है।
- सरकारी खर्च की वैधता:** यह सुनिश्चित करती है कि सरकारी पैसा नियमानुसार, विवेकपूर्ण तरीके से और बिना किसी फिजूलखर्ची के खर्च किया गया है।
- वित्तीय अनियमितताओं का पर्दाफाश:** सरकारी विभागों द्वारा किए गए किसी भी प्रकार के भ्रष्टाचार, वित्तीय गड़बड़ी या धन के दुरुपयोग की पड़ताल करना।

3. सीमाएँ (Limitations)

- पश्चात-परीक्षा (Post-Mortem examination):** यह समिति खर्च हो जाने के बाद उसकी जाँच करती है, यानी यह किसी खर्च को रोक नहीं सकती।
- सलाहकारी प्रकृति:** इसकी सिफारिशें केवल परामर्श के रूप में होती हैं; वे सरकार पर बाध्यकारी नहीं होतीं।
- सीमित अधिकार:** यह नीतिगत निर्णयों (Policy Decisions) पर सवाल नहीं उठा सकती, केवल नीति के कार्यान्वयन के दौरान हुए खर्च की जाँच कर सकती है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Prelims अभ्यास प्रश्न

प्रश्न. लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इस समिति में कुल 22 सदस्य होते हैं, जिनमें 15 लोकसभा से और 7 राज्यसभा से शामिल होते हैं।
2. केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल का कोई भी मंत्री इस समिति का सदस्य बनने के लिए पात्र नहीं है।
3. समिति के अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति राष्ट्रपति द्वारा की जाती है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- A. केवल 1 और 2
- B. केवल 2 और 3
- C. केवल 1 और 3
- D. 1, 2 और 3

YouTube Homework

- **Space Mission With Other Countries**

Have complete trust in ISRO: French space agency

Hemanth C.S.
PARIS

The French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) has said that it is not perturbed with the back-to-back failures of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)'s workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), and has complete trust in its Indian partner.

The PSLV is scheduled to launch the Indo-French TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment) mission next year. It is a collaborative endeavour between the ISRO and the CNES.

"There is always a risk with launches and we know the risks. You must trust your partners and



The ISRO is scheduled to launch the Indo-French TRISHNA mission on PSLV next year.

trust is very important in space cooperation because we do difficult things together and to do difficult things you trust each other. ISRO is a huge space player in the world, they know what to do. So we trust them for the launch and the satellite also," Lionel Suchet, Chief Operating Officer, CNES, told *The Hindu*.

The PSLV had suffered two setbacks. On January 12, 2026, the PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-N1 earth observation satellite failed to finish its intended trajectory after an anomaly was detected during the end of the third stage of the launch vehicle. On May 18, 2025, the PSLV-C61 mission had also failed due to an anomaly in the third stage of the rocket.

TRISHNA is engineered to deliver high spatial and high temporal resolution monitoring of earth's surface temperature, emissivity, and biophysical and radiation variables for surface energy budgeting at regional to global scale.

(The reporter is in Paris at the invitation of France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to cover the International Space Summit)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



तृष्णा (TRISHNA) मिशन

- **TRISHNA** का पूरा नाम **Thermal InfraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment** (उच्च-संकल्प प्राकृतिक संसाधन आकलन के लिए थर्मल इन्फ्रारेड इमेजिंग सैटेलाइट) है। यह भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) और फ्रांसीसी अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी (CNES) का एक संयुक्त उपग्रह मिशन है।

1. मिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य

- **जल और खाद्य सुरक्षा:** इसका प्राथमिक उद्देश्य जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों की निगरानी करना और वाष्पोत्सर्जन (Evapotranspiration) का सटीक डेटा देकर जल संसाधनों व सिंचाई प्रबंधन को सुचारू बनाना है।
- **उच्च रिजॉल्यूशन निगरानी:** यह उपग्रह पृथ्वी की सतह के तापमान, जल दबाव (Water Stress) और वनस्पति स्वास्थ्य को 57 मीटर के उच्च स्थानिक रिजॉल्यूशन (Spatial Resolution) पर प्रति 3 दिन में मैप करेगा।
- **शहरी सूक्ष्मजलवायु (Urban Microclimate):** यह शहरों में बनने वाले 'अर्बन हीट आइलैंड' (Urban Heat Island) प्रभाव और गर्मी की चेतावनियों को ट्रैक करने में मदद करेगा।
- **अन्य अनुप्रयोग:** ग्लेशियर और बर्फ पिघलने की निगरानी, तटीय व आंतरिक जल निकायों की गुणवत्ता, दावानल (Wildfires) तथा ज्वालामुखीय गतिविधि (Volcanic activity) का अध्ययन करना।

2. पेलोड और तकनीकी विवरण

- TRISHNA उपग्रह में दो मुख्य पेलोड (उपकरण) शामिल हैं:
- **TIR (Thermal InfraRed) Sensor:** इसे फ्रांस की अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी CNES द्वारा विकसित किया जा रहा है। यह सतह के तापमान और थर्मल उत्सर्जन को मापने का काम करेगा।
- **VSWIR (Visible, Near InfraRed & Short Wave InfraRed) Sensor:** इसे भारत के ISRO द्वारा विकसित किया जा रहा है। यह वनस्पति, बादल, बर्फ और सतह परावर्तन की निगरानी करेगा।

3. अन्य प्रमुख तथ्य

- **प्रक्षेपण (Launch):** इसे ISRO के PSLV रॉकेट द्वारा लगभग 761 किमी की ऊँचाई पर सूर्य-तुल्यकालिक कक्षा (Sun-Synchronous Orbit) में स्थापित करने की योजना है।
- **मिशन अवधि:** इसका परिचालन जीवनकाल 5 वर्ष का होगा।
- **भारत-फ्रांस सहयोग:** यह Megha-Tropiques और SARAL उपग्रहों के बाद भारत और फ्रांस के बीच अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण द्विपक्षीय साझेदारी है।

From moon's far side, a satellite to look for the first radio signal

The 21-cm radio signal emitted by neutral hydrogen is like the proverbial needle in a haystack as it is buried beneath foreground radio emissions thousands of times stronger; to isolate it and reveal how the first stars and galaxies formed is a great challenge even for advanced platforms like the planned CosmoCube and India's PRATUSH

Prakash Chandra
KOCHI

Cosmologists are literally over the moon at the prospect of listening to the universe telling its story like never before.

At the heart of this excitement is a small satellite named CosmoCube, which scientists from the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) plan to send to the far side of the moon, which permanently faces away from the earth.

Expected to be launched before the end of this decade, CosmoCube will orbit the moon and use it as a natural shield from radio interference generated on the earth.

Two-year mission

The compact satellite will have around 40 minutes on the lunar far side during its orbit every two hours, when it will be cut off from all radio noise from the earth. This is when it can capture ultra-faint cosmic signals, particularly one emitted by neutral hydrogen atoms – the most abundant element in space.

"While passing behind the moon, the satellite would listen for an extremely faint radio 'whisper' produced by hydrogen in the very young universe, before the first stars and galaxies had fully formed," Eloy de Lera Acedo, head of the Radio Astronomy and Cosmology research group at the University of Cambridge, who is leading the project, said via email.

A study on the CosmoCube project was published in *Nature Astronomy* on August 14.

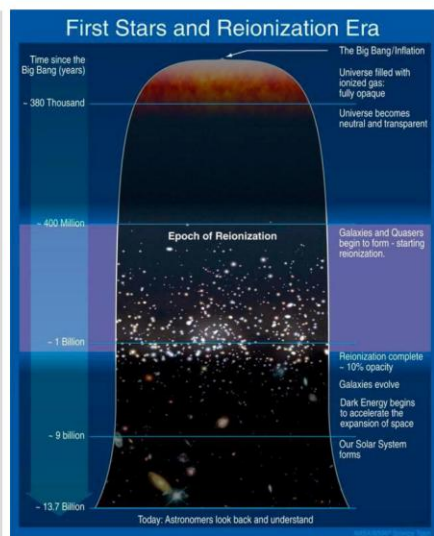
The RAS researchers expect the satellite to gather more than a thousand hours of data during its two-year mission.

"During its scientific observations, CosmoCube would ideally remain radio-silent while behind the moon, so that its own communications did not contaminate the measurement. The recorded data could then be transmitted to the earth during a different part of its orbit," Dr. de Lera Acedo said.

"The satellite carries a very sensitive and accurately calibrated radio receiver, or radiometer, operating at low frequencies (10-100 MHz) which would separate the incoming radio waves into many frequency channels so that scientists [can] search for the characteristic fingerprint of early hydrogen."

Dark ages

Current models of the universe suggest that once upon a spacetime, right after being engendered by the Big Bang, the



Cosmic dawn: A timeline of the early universe, from the Big Bang to the present. NASA

universe must have been a very dark place filled with neutral hydrogen.

This inky black period is called the Cosmic Dark Ages. It stretched from about 380,000 years to around 200 million years after the Big Bang. The first stars and galaxies were yet to ignite their nuclear furnaces and switch on the lights in the universe, ushering in what is known as the Cosmic Dawn.

Today, we can detect blurred pictures of that infant universe in the cosmic microwave background (CMB), the primeval radiation emitted shortly after the Big Bang.

But no one quite understands what happened during the subsequent Dark Ages as there is nothing for even the state-of-the-art instruments of today to 'see' of that mysterious era.

In that sense, the story of the universe would have been left untold at that point but for a Dutch astronomer, Hendrik van de Hulst. In 1944, Van de Hulst predicted

a rare quantum mechanical phenomenon called a spin-flip transition that could have prompted the neutral hydrogen filling the cosmos to emit a feeble light.

He reckoned that this light could be detected at a specific wavelength of 21 cm. Unlike visible light, this ancient radiation, whose corresponding frequency is 1,420 MHz, penetrates interstellar dust clouds to bring us snapshots from the very beginning of space and time.

(Of course, as the universe expands, this radiation is stretched to wavelengths of many metres by the time it reaches us.)

First lights

In 1951, the U.S. physicists Harold Ewen and Edward Purcell at Harvard University observed the 21-cm radiation for the first time, heralding the age of spectral-line astronomy.

It meant cosmologists could pick up the story of the universe again because they had a means to study the Dark Ages, one of the few periods in cosmic history that has never been directly observed.

Around 150 million to one billion years after the Big Bang, light from the first stars and galaxies split the ubiquitous neutral hydrogen in the cosmos into free electrons and protons. This 'Era of Reionisation' lifted the dark cosmic fog from the universe and made it transparent, traces of which we now see as the cosmic microwave background.

CosmoCube will also help investigate the Hubble tension: the difference in results when we measure the expansion of the universe by studying nearby celestial systems and the CMB of the early universe.

"CosmoCube would not simply make another direct measurement of today's Hubble constant," Dr. de Lera Acedo said. "Instead, it would examine a largely unexplored period between the CMB and the formation of the first stars." This will help cosmologists test some of the new-physics explanations proposed for the Hubble tension, including dark matter (which does not emit or reflect light but accounts for more than 80% of the universe's mass).

'Extraordinary promise'

As Dr. de Lera Acedo put it, "If a model changes the early expansion history, introduces an additional radio background, or allows new interactions between dark matter and ordinary matter, it may leave a measurable signature in the 21-centimetre signal. CosmoCube could provide an independent test of such ideas."

The 21-cm signal from neutral hydrogen is like the proverbial needle in a haystack as it is buried beneath foreground radio emissions probably tens of thousands of times stronger.

To isolate it and reveal how the very first stars and galaxies formed is a formidable challenge even for advanced platforms such as CosmoCube and India's PRATUSH – a proposed radio telescope and radiometer in lunar orbit (its name is short for 'Probing Reionisation of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen').

As Dr. de Lera Acedo said, "That combination, extraordinary scientific promise coupled with extraordinary experimental difficulty, is precisely why the radio-quiet environment behind the moon is so valuable."

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashsat@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Expected to be launched before the end of this decade, CosmoCube will orbit the moon and use it as a natural shield from radio interference generated on the earth

The compact satellite will have around 40 minutes on the lunar far side during its orbit every two hours, when it will be cut off from all radio noise from the earth

CosmoCube will also help investigate the Hubble tension: the difference in results when we measure the expansion of the universe by studying nearby celestial systems and the cosmic microwave background of the early universe

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



COSMOSCUBE और PRATUSH मिशन

- यह दोनों ही भारत की उन्नत खगोल विज्ञान (Astronomy) और अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान (Space Science) से जुड़ी महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजनाएँ हैं, जो ब्रह्मांड की उत्पत्ति और शुरुआती तारों के रहस्यों का अध्ययन करने के लिए डिज़ाइन की जा रही हैं।

1. PRATUSH (प्रत्यूष)

- पूरा नाम:** PRATUSH (Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen)
- क्या है:** यह एक स्पेस-बेस्ड रेडियो टेलीस्कोप (High-Resolution Radio Telescope) मिशन है। इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य ब्रह्मांड के 'डार्क एज' (Dark Ages) और 'कॉस्मिक डॉन' (Cosmic Dawn) के समय हाइड्रोजन गैस से निकले अति-सूक्ष्म 21-सेमी रेडियो संकेतों (21-cm Signal) का पता लगाना है, जब ब्रह्मांड में पहले तारों और आकाशगंगाओं का निर्माण होना शुरू हुआ था।
- कौन चला रहा है:** इसे रमन रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (RRI, बेंगलुरु) द्वारा भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) के सहयोग से विकसित और संचालित किया जा रहा है।
- कब लॉन्च होगा:** इसे 2028-2029 के आसपास लॉन्च करने की योजना है। इसे चंद्रमा की कक्षा (Lunar Orbit) या चंद्रमा के सुदूर हिस्से (Far side of the Moon) पर स्थापित किया जाएगा ताकि पृथ्वी के वायुमंडल और रेडियो हस्तक्षेप (Radio Interference) से बचा जा सके।

2. COSMOSCUBE (कॉसमॉसक्यूब)

- क्या है:** यह एक क्यूबसैट (CubeSat) आधारित छोटा अंतरिक्ष टेलीस्कोप मिशन है। यह मुख्य रूप से PRATUSH मिशन का एक पथप्रदर्शक/प्रौद्योगिकी प्रदर्शक (Pathfinder/Technology Demonstrator) है। इसका उद्देश्य अंतरिक्ष के बेहद शांत वातावरण में जाकर 21-सेमी सिग्नल का सटीक डेटा जुटाना और रेडियो फ्रिक्वेंसी तकनीकों का परीक्षण करना है।
- कौन चला रहा है:** इसे भी मुख्य रूप से RRI (रमन रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट) और ISRO के वैज्ञानिक व शोधकर्ता मिलकर तैयार कर रहे हैं।
- कब लॉन्च होगा:** इसे PRATUSH से पहले एक छोटे मिशन के रूप में 2025-2026 की समयावधि के दौरान पृथ्वी की निचली कक्षा (Low Earth Orbit - LEO) में लॉन्च किए जाने की संभावना है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Perilous retreat

Gram sabhas must have a veto on issues relating to tribal land

Tribal organisations should recognise the Indian state's attempt to lower the legal barriers erected by the Forest Rights Act (FRA) as a threat to their survival. The Committee on Public Undertakings' suggestion that a project require the consent of only most, rather than all, gram sabhas affected by that project, as the FRA intends in spirit, portends a significant jurisprudential change. A regime that deems the acquiescence of 70%-75% of affected gram sabhas to suffice will reduce gram sabhas from democratic bodies protecting the constitutional rights of its specific inhabitants to corporate stakeholders. If the rule enters force, a project developer may bypass the consent of a village located directly within a proposed reservoir, say, while ensuring that less affected villages have provided their no-objection certificates. The matter is of a piece with the political fight over classifying tribal communities: by altering the demographic composition of who qualifies as a community member, the state will have an easier time splitting a village assembly and engineering consent. The refusal of the Tribal Affairs Ministry to claim jurisdiction over this issue creates a dangerous regulatory vacuum that leaves the Centre and State governments unchecked to rewrite the rules by which forested land is diverted for non-forest use. While the FRA does not include a clause requiring a no-objection certificate from every affected gram sabha, it is untrue that there is at present no legal requirement that gram sabha decisions can be bypassed.

The government has been rapidly scaling up energy infrastructure, including the long-stalled Teesta-IV project, to meet macroeconomic goals while, in a previous avatar, having passed the FRA to undo "historical injustices" meted out to forest-dependent communities. But the path the state seems willing to pursue, hewing to the notion that the consent requirement was never part of the FRA, is plainly ignoble. If the Environment Ministry entertains the idea, it must change the relevant rules or legislation openly and democratically. The Tribal Affairs Ministry resorting to a technicality, between the FRA and the Environment Ministry's rules, to recuse itself is hardly better as the bureaucratic manoeuvre could strip forest-dependent communities of their most potent legal instrument. The foundation of these communities' livelihoods, culture, identity, and political autonomy is land, so they have fought to resist displacement and dispossession and to secure customary collective ownership. In recognition of the social and environment services ST communities continue to render in India and their contribution to national development, including helping meet India's climate commitments, the Centre and States must also strengthen the powers conferred by the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement and Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Acts to gram sabhas in Scheduled Areas.

Forest Rights Act 2006

India-Japan defence cooperation breaks new ground

The August 2026 visit of Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi to India marks an important moment in the evolution of a partnership that has often been more developed institutionally than operationally. The agreements that were announced suggest that New Delhi and Tokyo are now attempting to connect these disparate strands into a more coherent security relationship, having spent more than a decade building the institutional vocabulary of defence cooperation through annual dialogues, the 2+2 mechanism, exercises, logistics arrangements and defence technology discussions.

Convergence into operational capability

This matters because the India-Japan defence relationship has reached a stage where additional declarations of strategic convergence have diminishing returns. Both countries already share concerns about coercive attempts to alter the status quo, the security of maritime commons and the growing militarisation of the Indo-Pacific. The challenge has been translating these convergences into arrangements that improve their ability to operate together. The new maritime framework seeks to address this issue.

The emphasis on information sharing and Maritime Domain Awareness is significant as India and Japan occupy critical positions at opposite ends of the Indo-Pacific's principal maritime theatre. Japan's immediate security concerns are concentrated in the East China Sea and the waters surrounding Taiwan, while India's geographical position gives it a central role in the Indian Ocean maritime space. A closer information-sharing architecture could gradually create a more continuous strategic picture across these interconnected maritime spaces. The objective is to develop greater awareness, interoperability, and operational familiarity between the two major maritime powers.

The discussions on naval shipbuilding may prove equally important with an exploration of joint development in naval shipbuilding and



Harsh V. Pant

Vice-President at the
Observer Research
Foundation



Pratinashree Basu

Associate Fellow –
Indo-Pacific
at the Observer
Research Foundation

India and Japan
are advancing a
broader
Indo-Pacific
partnership
beyond
China-centric
security
concerns

design by combining Japanese technological expertise with Indian production capabilities. There was also agreement to deepen discussions on Japan's use of Indian production capabilities under the 'Make in India' framework and to move towards reciprocal arrangements for ship repair facilities. This could address a long-standing weakness in the bilateral relationship by giving a fillip to defence-industrial cooperation, which has consistently lagged behind strategic and political convergence.

The proposed transfer of Japan's UNICORN integrated communications antenna system remains the most visible symbol of this effort. While the Japanese Ministry of Defence describes UNICORN as the first defence equipment transfer project between the two countries, the project itself is not new. A memorandum of understanding for the co-development of UNICORN masts, involving Bharat Electronics Limited, was signed in November 2024. The August meeting therefore represented a further step towards implementation rather than the initiation of a new project. New Delhi and Tokyo have struggled to convert their 2015 agreement on defence equipment and technology transfer into concrete outcomes. The commitment now to early implementation, alongside plans to deepen cooperation between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation and Japan's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency, suggests a recognition that credibility today depends on delivering projects rather than solely identifying possibilities.

On exercises

Japan's fighter aircraft are participating in the Veer Guardian exercise in India (September 9-22, 2026) for the first time. The two sides have agreed to increase the complexity of bilateral exercises, integrate unmanned systems and explore exercises organised at short notice. They also discussed cooperation between special operations forces and India's future integrated theatre commands. These initiatives point

towards a defence relationship increasingly concerned with operational preparedness.

Before travelling to New Delhi, Mr. Koizumi visited the Western Naval Command in Mumbai and INS Chennai. His visit thus extended beyond the familiar strategic geography of the Bay of Bengal and the Strait of Malacca. The western seaboard is central to India's wider maritime interests, encompassing critical sea lanes, energy flows and India's growing responsibilities in the western Indian Ocean.

The broader regional context is impossible to ignore. The joint statement reiterated opposition to unilateral actions that impede freedom of navigation or seek to alter the status quo through force or coercion. Neither country needed to name China for the strategic message to be clear. Yet, the significance of India-Japan cooperation lies precisely in its ability to move beyond a China-centric agenda. Maritime security, resilient supply chains, defence industrial capacity, logistics and third-country cooperation are all becoming components of a wider regional security architecture.

Building a more resilient partnership

The visit also plugs into a broader moment of impetus in India-Japan relations. Coming soon after the July 2026 Annual Summit, which expanded cooperation across economic security, critical technologies and resilient supply chains, the defence ministerial engagement demonstrates that security is increasingly intertwined with the wider strategic partnership. Defence cooperation can provide the connective tissue between these agendas, linking India's industrial capabilities and Japan's technological strengths while reinforcing their shared interest in shaping a more resilient Indo-Pacific. The real test will now be implementation. India and Japan are building the strategic foundations, with Mr. Koizumi's visit suggesting that both are finally beginning to focus on the harder task, which is converting strategic convergence into usable capability.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



YouTube Homework

- IIP

Notebook makers seek govt. aid to avert 'existential crisis'

'Duty-free import of low-cost notebooks from ASEAN region, unintended consequences of GST rate revisions last year are hurting the sector'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The All India Notebook Manufacturers Association has appealed to the government for support to prevent the domestic notebook industry from facing an "existential crisis."

In its letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the association said the crisis had been triggered by two developments: India's free trade agreement (FTA) with Southeast Asian countries and the government's revision of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates in September 2025.

As a solution, the Association has proposed that the Government introduce a Minimum Import Price (MIP) for notebooks, initiate anti-dumping investigations into notebook imports from Indonesia, streamline export refund mechanisms, and investigate alleged anti-profiteering by domestic paper mills. It said these measures are essential to aid in the survival of the domestic industry, which it added comprised 1,500 units across the country, and employed 1.25 lakh people.

"The most immediate threat to the survival of the domestic notebook manufacturing sector is the import of low-cost finished



Fair pricing: It has been proposed that a Minimum Import Price be introduced for notebooks. K.K. MUSTAFAH

notebooks from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region," the association said in its letter, reviewed by *The Hindu*. "The current international trade agreements, coupled with domestic tax rationalisation efforts has inadvertently constructed a highly asymmetrical trading environment that actively penalises domestic production while incentivising imports," it added.

Under the current ASEAN FTA, imports of finished paper products, including exercise books, graph books and laboratory notebooks are permitted to enter the Indian market free of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) from countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. "While Free Trade Agreements are fundamentally designed to foster reciprocal and equitable trade, the specific situation of the global paper industry has allowed Southeast

Asian nations, particularly Indonesia, to heavily exploit this specific tariff line," the letter said.

It added that Indonesian paper manufacturers benefit from economies of scale, state-subsidised forestry programmes, and highly vertically integrated supply chains that extend from pulp extraction to the final assembly of finished notebooks.

"This structural disadvantage was further worsened after the 56th GST Council meeting," the letter went on to say. "In a well-intentioned effort to support the education sector and reduce the financial burden on students, the Government revised the GST structure for exercise books and notebooks from 12% to a Nil rate (fully exempt)."

However, this resulted in an inverted duty structure that added to domestic notebook manufacturers' costs.

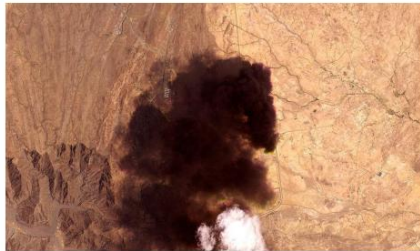
महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

Saudi oil facilities on fire after Houthi attacks

Associated Press
CAIRO

The Houthi rebel group in Yemen launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, wounding more than 70 people and igniting fires at oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom, authorities said.

Weeks of clashes have added pressure to limited global oil supplies as the Houthis target a shipping route Saudi Arabia has used to transport oil to world markets while the Strait of Hormuz is throttled by the U.S.-Iran war. Tuesday's attacks hit Saudi oil facilities connected to an alternative route, the Bab el-Mandeb, a strategic waterway off the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.



Smoke rising from the Saudi Aramco oil depot, after reported attacks by Houthis, in Abha Bulk, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday. REUTERS

The attacks came hours after the rebels blamed Saudi Arabia for an air strike that hit a prison in Yemen's northern province of Jawf. At least seven people, including a child, were killed and seven others were wounded.

The rebels hit "civilian and economic facilities" in the Saudi cities of Abha, Ja-

zan, Najran and Khamis Mushait, said Major General Turki al-Malki, a spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen.

Seventy-three people were wounded, including women and children, he said, calling the attacks a "serious escalation" and vowing retaliation.

The Houthi attacks ignited fires at several oil facilities and utilities in Saudi Arabia's southern region, the kingdom's Energy Ministry said, adding that operations at the oil facilities and utilities were temporarily suspended.

The southern region houses major oil facilities, including a 4,00,000-barrel-per-day oil refinery in Jazan, which is one of Saudi Arabia's largest. The Houthis previously attacked the Abha airport.

The Ministry said firefighters were battling the fires on Tuesday morning.

Saudi retaliation

Later, the Houthis said Saudi Arabia retaliated with strikes. "Saudi aggression" hit Taiz province, where deadly fighting has raged for days, and Marib

province, the Houthis' *Al-masirah* TV station said.

In a recorded video statement, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the Houthis military spokesman, said they fired dozens of ballistic missiles and drones at oil and economic facilities, as well as an air base in southern Saudi Arabia.

He said they targeted Jazan City for Primary and Downstream Industries, a major industrial and logistics hub on Saudi Arabia's southwestern Red Sea coast. The rebels also aimed at Aramco facilities in Najran and Abha, as well as King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait.

Mr. Saree blamed Saudi Arabia for the escalation, warning that "every aggression against our country and people will be met with a firm response."



Russia welcomes India's efforts to end Ukraine war

Both India and Russia want peaceful end to the war that has gone on for four-and-a-half years, says Kremlin spokesperson, adding Indian citizens deployed on the frontline will be sent back

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

A week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his call for an end to the long-running Ukraine-Russia war on the sidelines of the SCO summit, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov in a virtual press interaction with the Indian media said on Tuesday that both India and Russia want a peaceful end to the war that has continued for more than four-and-a-half years.

Mr. Peskov gave a positive outlook of the upcoming BRICS summit in India on September 12 and 13 and announced that President Vladimir Putin will hold talks with Prime Minister Modi ahead of the summit on September 11.

Welcoming India's contribution to end the war, he said: "We know the position of India on the Ukrainian conflict, and to a great extent, it corresponds with our own position, because we do want the solution to the Ukrainian conflict by



Boosting ties: Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin will hold talks ahead of the BRICS summit in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

peaceful means, and Russia is open to this process."

Mr. Peskov added: "We welcome the willingness of the Indian side to contribute."

He noted that there are Indian citizens who are on the frontlines in Ukraine, saying that Russia has asked for a list of such individuals who India claims were fraudulently lured to fight in Ukraine on Russia's behalf. "They will be sent back," said Mr. Peskov.

The External Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said there are 24 Indian citizens

who continue to remain deployed in Russian forces and are engaged in frontline.

Mr. Peskov said Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin will meet ahead of the BRICS summit, and added: "Like always, they will touch on the bilateral agenda. Trade and economic cooperation have a very wide scope."

He referred to the challenges of sanctions from the U.S. for Indian energy purchase from Russia and said, "You know that lots of issues cannot be discussed publicly, having some un-

friendly countries that are trying to put obstacles in the way of further development of our cooperation. So it is being discussed discreetly, but in a very, very constructive manner."

India has been arguing that purchase of Russian oil is a policy that is taken keeping in mind domestic energy requirements. Mr. Peskov exuded confidence about increase in the bilateral energy trade and said, "I won't give you a figure. Every month, we have a new record."

On the expectations and challenges before the BRICS summit that will be chaired by India this time, Mr. Peskov said BRICS is not "anti-western" and that it is a grouping of countries who share an outlook.

Earlier in May 2026, strong differences between Iran and the UAE had prevented the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting from coming out with a joint statement and there are lingering feelings that these differences could hamper a joint statement at the summit as well.

India takes up 'anomalies' in new UN world map with officials concerned

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday that it has taken up the "anomalies" in the world map, used extensively in the United Nations General Assembly during the discussion on the India-backed "Correct the Map" resolution, with the persons concerned. The map depicted India's Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as distinct regions caught between unspecified Indian and Chinese claim lines.

In the Ministry's bi-weekly briefing, spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that India had voted for the principle behind the "Correct the Map" resolution but had not endorsed any map. The resolution seeks to correct distortions in commonly used world maps, "which are seen as misrepresenting the relative size of continents and contribute to a diminished perception of Africa and other equatorial regions", as per the UN.

The Hindu reported on Tuesday that the map released on July 1 by UN Geospatial, and which remains on the UN



Geospatial website, did not use the traditional UN cartographical markers like "Indian line" and "Chinese line" while demarcating Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, thereby creating ambiguity regarding the status of the two regions.

The map showed the Line of Control between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir as a dotted line and gave an explanation for it.

However, it did not give explanations for not clearly specifying the Chinese and Indian claim lines in Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as the UN had done in previously published maps.

India's stance

Responding to a question on this, Mr. Jaiswal said, "We have endorsed the principle of equalising

maps, but not of any map. There may be maps for consultation. We have taken up the anomalies with the concerned persons".

"India voted in favour of the resolution and has issued its clarification there. The UN has not endorsed any map," said Mr. Jaiswal.

The "Correct the Map" resolution was passed on September 4.

Following the passing of the resolution, Mr. Jaiswal had said on Sunday that India had voted in favour of the "underlying principle of promoting equal-area cartographic representation", adding, "India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map. Any inaccurate or misleading depiction is unacceptable."

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

U.K. govt. bans trade with illegal Israeli settlements in West Bank

France, Canada join the British administration in ban; U.K. says the move is to keep alive possibility of a 'two State solution'; Israeli President said the decision would fall 'on the wrong side of history'; British consulate in Jerusalem to be shut down

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

For one of its first foreign policy moves, the administration of U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham has announced a ban on trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. France and Canada joined the U.K. in its move.

Together these three countries issued a joint statement with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden confirming their intention to introduce new restrictions on trade with illegal settlements.

Some of these countries

have already sanctioned trade with illegal West Bank settlements and some have sanctions in process.

The U.K. government has said the move is to keep alive the possibility of a 'two State solution'. British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband told the U.K. House of Commons that Canada and France have joined the U.K. in banning such trade. The British government position was that settlers in the West Bank had engaged in ethnic cleansing, Mr. Miliband said.

He added that a new sanctions regime on illegal settlements would be in place within six to nine



Ed Miliband

months. The sanctions would also include construction, infrastructure financing and real estate companies that assist in settlements. Mr. Miliband announced that the official view of the British government was that the settle-

ments were unlawful, as he called out settler violence and the record number of settlements built under the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the last four years.

Mr. Miliband said the U.K. continued to support trade with 'Green Line Israel' and warned against anti-Semitism in Britain.

The economic impact of the sanctions, however, is likely to be minimal. Only a small proportion of the \$8.12 billion in bilateral trade between the U.K. and Israel originates in the West Bank.

Israel had issued tenders for 1,200 settlements in the so-called E1 area,

east of Jerusalem. Such a settlement would split the West Bank into two parts, making a contiguous Palestinian state virtually impossible. East Jerusalem and the West Bank are considered occupied territory under international law.

Israeli President said the U.K. decision would fall "on the wrong side of history" as he accused the U.K. of interference in the upcoming Knesset elections. The British consulate in Jerusalem would be shut down, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee called the move an "irrational action" in a BBC Radio 4 interview.



महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Navy chief to visit Australia and New Zealand from today

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan will undertake an official visit to Australia and New Zealand beginning Wednesday aimed at further strengthening India's bilateral naval cooperation with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN).

According to the Indian Navy, during his visit to Australia, Admiral Swaminathan will hold discussions with Vice Admiral Matthew Buckley, Chief of Navy of the Royal Australian Navy, and engage with Australia's defence leadership, including Admiral Mark Hammond, Chief of the Defence Force, and Vice Admiral Justin Jones, Commander Joint Operations.

The Navy chief's visit comes amid growing momentum in India-Australia relations following the Third India-Australia Annual Summit held in July 2026 and the Second India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in June.

Expanding ties

The two countries have

steadily expanded defence and security cooperation, particularly in maritime security and regional engagement.

The CNS's discussions are expected to review ongoing naval cooperation and explore ways to enhance operational interaction, interoperability, information sharing, training and professional exchanges between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.

In New Zealand, the Naval Chief will meet Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of Navy of the Royal New Zealand Navy, and engage with senior New Zealand defence leadership.

The visit follows renewed momentum in India-New Zealand ties after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited New Zealand in July 2026, during which the two countries elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership and agreed to deepen cooperation in several areas, including defence and maritime security.

The Navy chief's visit to the two countries underscores India's growing maritime engagement with Australia and New Zealand.

YouTube Homework

- **CDS**
- **Army Chief**
- **Air Force Chief**

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



Vinai Kumar Saxena

Murmu gives Ladakh L-G additional charge of J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday granted Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena the additional charge of Jammu and Kashmir, ahead of the oath-taking ceremony of the new Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

“The President is pleased to appoint Mr. Saxena, Lt. Governor of Ladakh to discharge the functions of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to his duties, during the absence, on leave, of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of J&K,” a statement said.

Mr. Saxena is likely to administer the oath of office to Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati as the new Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday.

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



रक्षा मंत्रालय



आईएएफ ड्रोनथॉन 2026

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 08 SEP 2026 3:12PM by PIB Delhi

भारतीय वायु सेना ड्रोनथॉन-2026 का आयोजन कर रही है, जिसका उद्देश्य घरेलू निर्माताओं को मानवरहित हवाई प्रणालियों (यूएस) और मानवरहित हवाई प्रणालियों की प्रतिकार (सीयूएस) में अपनी क्षमताओं और प्रगति को प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर प्रदान करना है। इस आयोजन का उद्देश्य हितधारकों को उभरती हुई ड्रोन और काउंटर ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकियों के साथ-साथ उनके परिचालन प्रदर्शन को देखने और आपसी ज्ञानवर्धन को बढ़ावा देने में सहायता करना है।

यह आयोजन 14 से 16 सितंबर 2026 तक जैसलमेर के पोखरण रेंज में आयोजित किया जाएगा। इसमें स्थिर प्रदर्शन और लाइव प्रदर्शन शामिल होंगे। इससे समकालीन समाधानों की पहचान करने और उनकी युद्ध प्रभावशीलता का मूल्यांकन करने में मदद मिलेगी। प्रमुख फोकस क्षेत्रों में निगरानी और टोही, ऑटोनोमस ऑपरेशन, समूह प्रौद्योगिकी और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्धकला शामिल हैं।

आत्मनिर्भर भारत के राष्ट्रीय विजन के अनुरूप, ड्रोनथॉन-2026 का उद्देश्य उद्योग विशेषज्ञों, स्टार्टअप्स और नवप्रवर्तकों को एकीकृत करके स्वदेशी रक्षा प्रणाली को मजबूत करना है। इन पहलों के माध्यम से, भारतीय वायु सेना तेजी से बदलते प्राचालनगत परिवेश में सुरक्षा चुनौतियों का सामना करने में सक्षम, प्रौद्योगिकीय रूप से उन्नत, स्वदेशी और भविष्य के लिए तैयार बल के निर्माण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य



प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय



प्रधानमंत्री ने मुंबई में ग्लोबल फिनटेक फेस्ट (जीएफएफ) 2026 के उद्घाटन के दौरान अपने संबोधन की झलकियां साझा कीं

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 08 SEP 2026 9:14PM by PIB Delhi

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने मुंबई में ग्लोबल फिनटेक फेस्ट (जीएफएफ) 2026 के उद्घाटन के दौरान अपने संबोधन की झलकियां साझा की हैं।

एक्स पोस्ट में अपने संदेशों के क्रम में श्री मोदी ने कहा;

“मुंबई में ग्लोबल फिनटेक फेस्ट 2026 को संबोधित किया।

भारत की उल्लेखनीय फिनटेक यात्रा और यूपीआई की सफलता के बारे में बात की।

इन क्षेत्रों में कार्य की आवश्यकता है:

यूपीआई का वैश्विक विस्तार बढ़ाना।

फिनटेक के दायरे को भुगतान से आगे बढ़ाकर ऋण, बीमा, बचत, निवेश और पेंशन तक ले जाना।

एजेंटिक एआई, टोकनाइजेशन और कांटम का उपयोग करना।

उच्चस्तरीय साइबर सुरक्षा और नैतिक डेटा संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करना।

अधिक मजबूत फिनटेक उपभोक्ता संरक्षण सूचकांक तथा अधिक नवाचार को बढ़ावा देना।”



Narendra Modi

@narendramodi · Follow



Addressed the Global FinTech Fest 2026 in Mumbai.

Spoke about India's remarkable FinTech journey and the success of UPI.

Called for:

Expanding UPI's global footprint.

Overview

- **Blue Sky Day**
- **DFC**
- **Delhi Building Collapse**
- **One Nation one Culture**
- **PAC**
- **TRISHNA**
- **COSMOSCUBE & PRATUSH**
- **Forest Rights Act 2006**
- **India-Japan Defence Agreement**
- **Notebook Makers Crisis**
- **UK & Israel**
- **UN Map & India**
- **Saudi Arab and Houthies**
- **Navy Chief**
- **LG of J&K**
- **IAF Dronthon**

Thank You
Result Mitra