

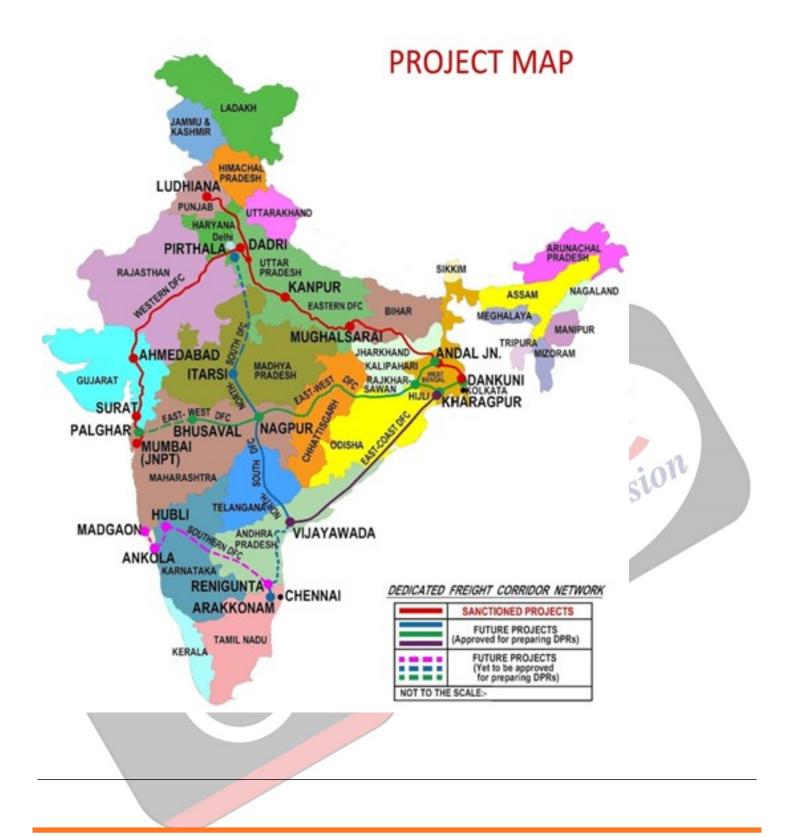
Passenger Trains Begin Operations on DFC | National Current Affairs | 29 Oct 2025

Why in News?

For the first time in Indian Railways history, passenger trains have begun operating on the <u>Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)</u> network.

Key Points

- Traditionally, the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) were designed exclusively for freight transport, aiming to enhance logistics efficiency and reduce congestion on existing railway lines.
- However, due to the heavy rush during Chhath Puja (25th-28th October 2025), the Railways has allowed empty passenger coaching rakes and special trains to run on the DFC for the first time.
- This step enables the operation of a larger number of passenger and express trains during the festive period.
- **DFC** consists of two arms:
 - **Eastern DFC (EDFC):** Ludhiana (Punjab) Dankuni (West Bengal) via Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Approx. 1,839 km). The World Bank is funding a majority of the EDFC.
 - Western DFC (WDFC): Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT), Mumbai Dadri (Approx. 1,506 km). The Japan International Cooperation Agency is funding it.



Terms of Reference of 8th CPC Approved | National Current Affairs | 29 Oct 2025

Why in News?

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for the **8th <u>Central Pay Commission</u>** (CPC), which is responsible for reviewing and recommending revisions in the pay structure and retirement benefits of **central government employees and pensioners**.

Key Points

- About: The formation of the 8th CPC was first announced in January 2025, and its Terms of Reference were approved by the Cabinet on 28th October 2025.
 - The Commission will submit its recommendations within 18 months of its constitution, impacting around 50 lakh central government employees (including defence personnel) and 69 lakh pensioners.
 - The revised pay and pension structures are expected to be implemented from **January 2026**, after the submission of the Commission's report.
- Composition of 8th CPC:

Position	Name / Designation
Chairperson	Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (Former Supreme
	Court Judge)
Part-time Member	Professor Pulak Ghosh (Indian Institute of
	Management, Bangalore)
Member-Secretary	Pankaj Jain (Petroleum Secretary)

- Terms of Reference (ToR): The 8th CPC has been tasked with making recommendations after considering:
 - Economic conditions of the country and the need for fiscal prudence.
 - Availability of resources for developmental expenditure and welfare measures.
 - The unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes (particularly the pre-2004 pension liabilities).
 - The impact on state finances, as state governments often align their pay scales with the Centre.
 - The current emolument structure, benefits, and working conditions of employees in central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) and the private sector.
- Background: The Pay Commission is typically constituted once every 10 years to review and recommend changes in the salary structure, allowances, and pensions of government employees.
 - The 7th CPC was constituted in 2014, and its recommendations were implemented from 1st January 2016.

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/31-10-2025/chhatisgarh/print