



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 **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** 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**.

PROJECT MAP



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 Central Pay Commission (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**.