

PAC MAG

POLICY ADVISORS CLUB OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

Trump and The Geopolitics of AI



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the President's Pen	03
From the Editor's Desk	06
The Cover Story	08
Op-Ed	12
Spotlight	15
Articles from PAC WATCH	17
PAC Quarterly Highlights	21
PAC Team	23
Glimpses of Niti Parv Award Ceremony	24



From the President's Pen

Pranam Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the second edition of PAC Mag. As I reflect on our journey so far, I feel a profound sense of gratitude for the unwavering support, trust and encouragement that have helped shape the Policy Advisors Club (PAC) into what it is today. Every milestone we have achieved is a collective accomplishment, made possible by our Core Members, Team PAC, partners, well-wishers and readers who have believed in our vision and stood by us at every step.



Anubhuti Kaul Bhrany

In the year since our inception, PAC has steadily evolved from an idea into a growing platform that seeks to contribute meaningfully to policy discourse, governance, innovation and nation-building. Our growth may not have been rapid, but it has certainly been purposeful. We have consciously chosen the path of organic development, focusing on substance over noise and impact over visibility. As a result, we are gradually broadening our footprint and taking stronger, more confident strides towards our long-term goals.

As we present this edition, our objective remains unchanged: to bring our readers informed perspectives, thoughtful analysis and conversations that matter. We have carefully curated a diverse range of topics that reflect the rapidly changing world around us and the evolving priorities of policymakers, industry leaders and citizens alike.

One of PAC's key focus areas continues to be the defence sector, which remains central to India's strategic growth and national security aspirations. We firmly believe that strengthening India's defence ecosystem requires continuous dialogue among stakeholders, informed policymaking and support for innovation. In our inaugural edition, we explored the evolution of India's defence landscape through an in-depth report that examined its transformation, challenges and opportunities. As we continue to build this vertical, PAC remains committed to contributing its expertise and capabilities to the nation's larger objectives.

At the same time, it is impossible to ignore the unprecedented technological transformation taking place across the globe. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has already begun redefining the way we work, communicate, create and make decisions. Another revolutionary domain, quantum technology, is rapidly emerging as a force that could fundamentally alter the future of computing, research, security and innovation.



Recognising the growing significance of these technologies, this edition features a compelling opinion piece by Dr. Arumugam, who takes readers through the fascinating relationship between AI and quantum computing. Written in an accessible and engaging style, the article explores how these two technologies are interconnected and why the future of innovation may depend on their convergence. Whether you are a technology enthusiast, policymaker, student or professional, the piece offers useful insights into a future that is arriving faster than many of us realise.

Adding further depth to this edition is our cover story by Prasanto K. Roy, one of India's most respected technology commentators. His report examines the efforts by major technology companies to establish frameworks for responsible AI development through initiatives such as AI accords and voluntary commitments. More importantly, it asks a critical question: can self-regulation alone be sufficient to govern technologies that are becoming increasingly powerful and influential? Through careful analysis and nuanced observations, the story sheds light on one of the most important policy debates of our time.

This edition also celebrates individual excellence. Our Spotlight section features Niti Parv Award winner Jit Shankar Banerjee, whose piece on inter-city bus permits brings passenger rights to the centre of a regulatory debate. It reminds us that progress is ultimately driven by individuals who dare to think differently, work relentlessly and create value for society. I am confident readers will find it insightful.

In this edition, PAC Watch continues to track and analyse significant policy developments from both national and international perspectives. We recognise, however, that information today is available across numerous platforms and channels.

Our goal, therefore, is not simply to share updates but to provide context, insight and meaningful interpretation. We encourage readers to share their suggestions on this section. Whether you would like a different format, deeper analysis, visual summaries or thematic policy reviews, your feedback will help us refine this feature in future editions.

Another highlight of this quarter has been PAC's growing international engagement. As part of our efforts to expand our reach and explore new opportunities for collaboration, we took part in the WRUTed Talk in Malaysia. The experience enabled us to interact with diverse stakeholders and present PAC's work on a broader platform. It reinforced our belief that the conversations we are fostering have relevance beyond geographical boundaries.

Looking ahead, our aspirations are global. We envision PAC as a platform that contributes meaningfully to policy discussions not only in India but across multiple regions and sectors. Over the next few years, readers can expect to see PAC establish its presence in other parts of the world, building partnerships, expanding networks and creating opportunities for cross-border dialogue and collaboration.

What gives me the greatest satisfaction, however, is not any single achievement but the overall direction in which we are moving. Quarter after quarter, we are expanding our reach, strengthening our knowledge base, building stronger communities and enhancing our capabilities. Importantly, we are doing so with patience and purpose.

In an era where visibility is often mistaken for value, PAC continues to believe in the power of meaningful work. While we are actively exploring ways to strengthen our digital and social media presence, our foundation remains rooted in diligence, integrity and commitment. We are, and will continue to be, a team of quiet achievers who believe that lasting impact is created through consistent effort and excellence.

As always, I thank you for your trust, encouragement and continued association with PAC. Your engagement motivates us to strive for higher standards with every edition.

I hope you enjoy the October 2026 issue of PAC Mag and find it both insightful and inspiring.

Anubhuti Kaul Bhrany
Founder and President, Policy Advisors Club

From the Editor's Desk

The Quarter Through Seven Lives

I have always found the policy space fascinating, and this quarter gave me more reasons than most. Between July and October, the Cabinet, ministries and Parliament made decisions that will reach classrooms, kitchens, shop counters and farms.

On paper, a policy can look forbidding: clauses, jargon, acronyms. However, as a common woman, my curiosity makes me want to take each one apart until it is simple enough to explain over a cup of tea. So this time, instead of a list of decisions, I would like you to meet seven people. Though imaginary, I feel you will recognise every one of them.

The student who studied for two years

Riya is preparing for a national entrance exam, and this year's paper leaks shook students like her. On 31 July, the President gave assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026. Investigations must now finish within two months, trials within three months of the charge sheet, and every state and union territory must set up special fast-track courts. Anyone convicted of using unfair means faces five to ten years in prison. For Riya, it means that whoever tries to cheat her out of a fair exam now faces faster and tougher consequences.

The supplier waiting to be paid

Suresh runs a small unit that makes parts for a public sector company. The Ministry of MSME itself calls delayed payment one of the sector's most persistent problems. Since 30 June, every operating Central Public Sector Enterprise must settle MSME invoices through RBI-authorised TReDS platforms. Once his invoice is approved, Suresh can sell it to a bank and get the cash before the due date, without collateral. In FY 2025-26, these platforms discounted ₹3.47 lakh crore of such invoices.

The family that pays through phone

Asha and Vikram pay for almost everything by UPI. A new charge on some UPI payments to shops is now due immediately after Diwali, and it set off a wave of forwarded messages. Here is the simple version. The customer pays nothing extra. Payments to shops above ₹2,000 carry a 0.4% charge, paid by the shop and capped



Meena Nair

at ₹300, while money sent between people stays free at any amount. On a ₹45,000 refrigerator, the shop pays ₹180. Asha and Vikram pay ₹45,000.

The farmer with cattle

Ramesh farms in a village and keeps a few cows. Dung and crop residue have always been a chore. In August, the Cabinet approved GOBARdhan, a ₹23,731 crore scheme running from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 that turns organic waste into compressed biogas. It offers gas producers assured demand and stable prices, and aims to raise India's production nearly ten-fold. The government expects it to save over ₹40,000 crore in foreign exchange. For Ramesh, the waste behind his cowshed suddenly can start to have a buyer.

The family in an unauthorised colony

Neha grew up in one of Delhi's unauthorised colonies, in a house her parents built but never fully owned on paper. The Master Plan for Delhi 2047, unveiled on 20 August, proposes regularising residential buildings in 1,511 such colonies on an "as is where is" basis, which could give around 45 lakh residents greater security of ownership. It also plans for more than 40 lakh new homes. For Neha's family, it could mean papers for the house they already live in.

The engineering graduate

Kabir has just finished a degree in electronics. In July, the Cabinet approved Semi-con 2.0, with ₹1,27,500 crore to build India's chip industry across six pillars, from design and machines to fabs, packaging, research and talent. Twelve manufacturing units have already been approved, with investment of over ₹1.64 lakh crore. For Kabir, chip design may become a career he can build at home.

The exporter selling abroad

Anil exports pumps to Brazil and Egypt. At the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12 September, leaders asked their Payment Task Force to keep working on cross-border payments that are fast, low-cost and safe, and welcomed a study of an invoice discounting mechanism to help MSMEs unlock working capital. These are studies, not new rules, so nothing changes for Anil yet. But the direction is set.

From paper to people

Each of these decisions now moves to guidelines, portals, dates and disbursements. That is where Riya, Suresh, Asha, Ramesh, Neha, Kabir and Anil will find out what really changes for them.

Meena Nair

Chief Communications Officer & Editor - PAC MAG

Cover Story

Trump and The Geopolitics of AI

Over recent months, President Trump has, by executive order, changed the names of the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America, Lake Ontario to Lake America, Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Super Intelligence (SI), and Planet Earth to Planet America.

Okay, I'm kidding about that last one: that hasn't happened yet. But he did post this little threat on Truth Social: The White House considers anyone that uses the term AI as opposed to the highly accepted new and more accurate term SI as THE ENEMY!



Prasanto K Roy

The renaming of AI via presidential executive order is one small step, and a signal that “we own a lot more on earth and beyond than just all the water bodies around the US.”

It's also worrying for those in New Delhi and other world capitals looking at US-dominated AI from a sovereign vulnerability lens.

Trump's 'AI to SI' executive order is no great flash of world-changing inspiration, but a branding exercise designed to assert US dominance and 'ownership' over the sector's future. “We own this sector,” is the underlying message. “We'll call it what we like and the world will follow”.

The companies that actually build these models were quick to fall in line. Predictably, Elon Musk immediately renamed SpaceXAI (formerly xAI) as SpaceXSI. Which is also a signal of how deeply intertwined Big Tech's commercial interests are with American nationalist tech policy. And the aftermath is a reflection of their rapid alignment with this 'SI' geopolitical posturing.

India's Sovereign Vulnerability

In the rush to align, none of them highlighted how challenging it would be for global companies, who deal with dozens of markets and governments, to maintain multiple terminologies for the same products and tech.

“AI is now SI and it's all American” is not a great message to inspire confidence in world capitals. New Delhi was for long concerned about sovereign vulnerability in the payments sector: and then Ukraine happened in 2022 and sanctions cut off key Russian banks from global payments, including SWIFT, hitting Russia's economy hard. For New Delhi, it was proof that its bet on homegrown payment rails was right. India had been busy building its alternative, UPI.



But India has no such alternative in foundational, frontier AI models. With our reliance on foreign foundational models, there is indeed vulnerability in 'critical information infrastructure' arenas – from telecom and banking to government, defence and healthcare. Access to these models could be throttled or switched off. We got a sampler on June 12 this year, when the US government ordered Anthropic to immediately suspend all access to its advanced AI models, Fable 5 and Mythos 5, for foreign nationals worldwide, including inside Anthropic and inside the United States.

This sent governments around the world, including in New Delhi, scrambling to review their future options, and not just concerning Mythos. The controls were lifted on June 30, after Anthropic agreed to work with Washington on standards and to report malicious activity. Access came back, but on Washington's terms.

Self-Regulation by Another Name

So, who governs these models? Let's look at what really happened at the Trump-chaired meeting on voluntary standards for AI on September 29 this year, with Anthropic's Dario Amodei, Google's Sundar Pichai, OpenAI's Greg Brockman, Nvidia's Jensen Huang, Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk.



Soon after Trump's viral clip saying, "This guy is a monster, and nobody knows him. What a great life! To be a monster and not have to go through this. All you have to know is - SUNDAR! Sundar is his name," there was his sharp-as-ever summary of the accord: "It's almost like a constitution, in a way. And the biggest people in the world signed that, and I signed it as president. And it really is a form of protection."

Protection for whom? That constitution is a voluntary 'agreement' that stands out for its superficiality and changes absolutely nothing. It struggles to project the illusion of action: a signing ceremony and a "constitution", but no new rules. It leaves the industry and its frontier model developers exactly where they were: relying on self-regulation, with companies checking their own work through few voluntary steps that no regulator enforces.

The summit also managed to distract from real risks. By focusing the news cycle on terminology, after repeatedly declaring AI safety warnings a "hoax", the administration sidestepped the existential risks posed by increasingly autonomous systems.

Yes, in mid-September Trump compared warnings about AI to the "Global Warming Scam" which, he said, was being perpetrated by the "Radical Left Dumocrats." He called himself "the Hoax Buster", and said that the only "guardrails" needed for AI were a "strong and smart" president.

Self-regulation is not what Big Tech really asked for, and let's be clear about why. Big Tech's ask for some sort of oversight and light state regulation is not because they have faith in the state and its ability to regulate frontier tech, but because they want an "equalizer" to ensure all top players are on the same page, if there are going to be caps, controls, or a kill switch. They may talk about 'voluntarily slowing down' AI development, but absolutely no one will actually do it. No one will voluntarily fall behind competitors.

The tech giants want a unified baseline, not stringent regulation: an "equalizer" that binds their immediate US (and, by aspiration, Chinese) competitors to the same superficial standards without subjecting anyone to hard federal oversight.

Why Self-Audit is Flawed

Trusting companies worldwide to audit themselves, even with third-party auditors (remember Arthur Andersen and Enron?) is as dangerous as trusting aviation manufacturers and airlines to self-audit themselves without the FAA or other regulators. Maybe more, as an AI failure could lead to an existential crisis.

For Big Tech and frontier developers, as with all critical areas, CEOs and boards have to be accountable, as they are in the aviation industry. If AI agents go rogue and interfere with real-world infrastructure like computing, networks, email, power grids and telecom, that accountability must be total. And when it fails, regulators have to step in: remember Boeing in 2019-20, and the global grounding of the 737 MAX fleet after two crashes?

Needless to say, a US-led voluntary agreement does nothing to govern open-source models or highly capable developers in places like China who may choose not to comply. Which brings it back to New Delhi. A voluntary accord, a president who calls safety warnings a hoax, and an export directive that can switch off access overnight: none of this is a framework India can plan around. In payments, India saw this coming and built UPI over the last ten years. The models that will run our telecom, banking, government, defence and healthcare now need the same thinking, and we've just about entered that race.

Prasanto K Roy (X/@prasanto) is a public policy advisor. He was earlier MD at FTI Consulting, VP at Nasscom, and president and chief editor at CyberMedia

Quantum AI Is Coming The Question Is Whether We Are Ready

As artificial intelligence strains the limits of today's computers, quantum technology promises a new era of discovery in healthcare and finance, but only if society prepares for both its power and its risks. Artificial intelligence has become the defining technology of our time. It writes code, detects disease, models markets and reshapes how businesses make decisions. Yet beneath this extraordinary progress lies an uncomfortable truth: today's AI is running into the physical limits of classical computing.



Dr. Arumugam

Why AI Needs a Different Kind of Machine

The larger AI models become, the more energy, data and processing power they demand. Training and operating them increasingly requires vast data centres, expensive chips and enormous electricity consumption. If AI is to move from clever prediction to solving humanity's hardest scientific and economic problems, it will need more than incremental improvements in silicon. It will need a different kind of machine.

That is why the convergence of quantum computing and AI matters. Classical computers process information as bits: zeros and ones. Quantum computers use qubits, which can represent multiple possibilities at once and become linked through entanglement. In theory, this allows quantum systems to explore complex problem spaces in ways classical machines cannot.

For AI, that could be transformative. Quantum-enhanced systems may eventually accelerate optimization, improve pattern recognition, strengthen simulations and reduce the time needed to test millions of possibilities. This is not merely about making existing tools faster. It is about unlocking categories of problems that remain effectively unreachable today.

Healthcare: Faster Paths to Better Medicines

Healthcare offers the clearest example. Drug discovery remains slow, costly and uncertain because scientists must understand how molecules behave at extremely complex atomic scales. Quantum computing is naturally suited to modelling chemistry, while AI is already powerful at identifying patterns in biological and clinical data. Together, they could compress years of trial-and-error research into far shorter discovery cycles.

Imagine a future in which researchers can simulate molecular interactions more accurately, identify promising compounds sooner and personalize treatments based on a patient's genetic profile. The result would not simply be faster pharmaceutical pipelines; it could mean earlier cures, fewer failed trials and therapies designed with far greater precision.



Finance: Modelling Complexity at Scale

Finance is another frontier. Markets are complex systems shaped by countless variables: interest rates, consumer behaviour, geopolitical shocks, liquidity flows and human psychology. Classical AI can find patterns, but it struggles when the number of interacting possibilities explodes. Quantum AI could help institutions model risk more dynamically, optimize portfolios across vast combinations and detect fraud across intricate transaction networks.

Promise Versus Reality

But the promise should not blind us to the reality. Quantum AI is not around the corner for everyday use. Today's quantum systems are fragile, expensive and

difficult to operate. Qubits are extraordinarily sensitive to noise; tiny disturbances can collapse their quantum state and corrupt results. Error correction remains one of the field's central challenges, even as recent advances show meaningful progress. Researchers are also exploring AI-driven approaches that help quantum systems adapt to errors during computation.

Neither Science Fiction Nor Magic

The danger is that policymakers, business leaders and the public treat quantum AI either as science fiction or as inevitable magic. Both attitudes are wrong. The technology is real enough to demand preparation, yet immature enough to require patience, investment and governance.

Governments should support research in quantum hardware, error correction, cybersecurity and workforce development. Universities should train students who understand not only computer science, but also physics, ethics, economics and medicine. Companies should avoid empty “quantum washing” and instead focus on practical hybrid systems where classical and quantum computing complement each other.

The Choices Ahead

The stakes are high. In healthcare, quantum AI could accelerate lifesaving treatments. In finance, it could improve risk management – but also create new systemic vulnerabilities if deployed recklessly. In cybersecurity, powerful quantum machines may eventually threaten today's encryption, making post-quantum security planning urgent long before full-scale quantum computers arrive.

Quantum AI will not arrive as a single dramatic event. It will emerge gradually through specialized applications, hybrid architectures and hard-won engineering progress. The right question is not whether quantum computing will replace classical AI. It will not. The question is whether we can use this new power wisely, directing it toward better medicines, safer markets, cleaner energy and more resilient institutions.

If the last decade belonged to artificial intelligence, the next may belong to the alliance between AI and quantum computing. That alliance could redefine what machines can solve. Whether it serves humanity will depend less on the physics of qubits than on the choices we make now.

Dr. Arumugam Murukiah

Founder & Chairman Broadino Inc, | MD & CEO of Broadline Innovations | Managing Partner TANSAM | Chairman - Investment Committee TNIFMC | Member Action committee for Quantum Computing. Tamil Nadu

Spotlight

The Permit That Forgot About Passengers

If you have ever booked an inter-city bus ticket on your phone and wondered why the journey sometimes feels like a legal grey area, the answer lies in a document called the All India Tourist Vehicles (Permit) Rules, 2023, and a quiet debate about what it should become.



Jit Shankar Banerjee

The Problem: A Permit Designed for a Different Era

India's private inter-city buses (the ones you book seat by seat on apps and websites) operate under a permit originally designed for tourist vehicles hired as a whole.

The law recognises two kinds of passenger bus. One is hired as a whole, like a bus a family books for a wedding, and carries only that group. The other sells tickets seat by seat to anyone who wants to travel, like a state roadways bus.

On many routes, the second kind is reserved for state transport corporations. Private buses who book via apps sell seats like the second kind but hold a permit meant for the first. That gap is the grey area, and it leaves operators open to challenge in almost every state they pass through.

The mismatch has accumulated real consequences over the decades. Because the permit says “tourist,” enforcement officers have at times penalised even students travelling to their own hometowns during summer holidays. Because no authoritative rule clearly states where a permit-holding bus may stop or pick up passengers, different states enforce different interpretations.

Many states still maintain border check posts where buses are stopped, inspected and fined. Operators say the fines often exceed what a small operator pays each month on the loan for their vehicle. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has itself acknowledged that the check posts should go, and has written to these states repeatedly to do so.

The Committee, chaired by Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha, presented its 392nd Report on 11 August 2026 and broadly backed the reform. Its first recommendation calls on the Ministry to establish a unified All India Passenger Permit within one year, one that removes any ambiguity about who it covers, where the bus may halt, and what the passenger's rights are. It also calls for enforcement to shift to digital channels and for insurance claims by injured passengers to be insulated from any dispute about permit classification.



It asks for the check posts in the six states to close. Separately, it proposes a National Bus Terminals Authority, modelled on the Airports Authority of India, so that terminals are owned and run separately from bus operations.

The Concern Now

The reform conversation has been complicated by a recent gazette notification, G.S.R. 729(E), which would define the tourist permit as applying to vehicles hired as a whole rather than sold seat by seat. Since most private operators sell individual tickets, the amendment (if it takes effect as drafted) could leave the dominant business model of the sector on even more uncertain legal ground.

In short, it would put seat-by-seat travel at greater legal risk, the opposite of what the Committee asked for.

Why It Matters to Travellers

If a bus selling individual seats is found operating outside its permit, it can be stopped at a border, fined or taken off the route. If there is an accident, an insurer can argue that the policy does not apply, leaving the injured passenger to fight over a permit classification instead of getting paid. For passengers, the practical stakes are straightforward: clearer rules mean more reliable services, fewer disruptions at state borders, and the assurance that an insurance policy will pay out if something goes wrong.

The permit reform is, at its heart, a passenger rights issue dressed in regulatory language.

Jit Shankar Banerjee, a Niti Parv Award winner, is an independent policy consultant. Previously with FlixBus, he presented the operators' case to the Committee.

PAC Watch Articles

1. Cabinet Approves ₹1,27,500 Crore Semicon Mission 2.0

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved Semicon Mission 2.0 with a financial outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore to accelerate the development of India's semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem. The programme builds on the progress made under the India Semiconductor Mission launched in 2021.



Instead of concentrating only on fabrication, the programme promotes chip design, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, raw materials, chemicals, advanced packaging, research, innovation and talent development. The mission is built around six key pillars: design, machines and materials, more semiconductor fabs, strengthening the ATMP/OSAT industry, research and development, and talent development. The programme aims to attract investments of around ₹4 lakh crore while supporting semiconductor production worth nearly ₹2 lakh crore during its implementation period.

2. MeitY Notifies ₹62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has notified the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore. The five-year scheme, covering FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, seeks to strengthen India's position in the global mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem by increasing production, deepening domestic value addition (DVA), strengthening supply chains and improving global competitiveness.



The MPMS has been introduced as a follow-on to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (PLI-LSEM), whose tenure ended on 31 March 2026.

Target Segment 1 (TS1) focuses on expanding mobile phone manufacturing, while Target Segment 2 (TS2) focuses on supporting Indian mobile phone brands. During the scheme's tenure, cumulative mobile phone production in India is expected to reach approximately ₹39 lakh crore. The scheme is also expected to generate around 60,000 direct jobs.

3. BRICS Leaders Adopt New Delhi Declaration at 18th Summit

The leaders of BRICS countries met in New Delhi from 12 to 13 September 2026 for the 18th BRICS Summit, hosted by India under its 2026 BRICS Chairship.

The Summit was held under the theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." BRICS leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration, outlining areas of cooperation in economic, financial, technological, social, environmental and security-related fields.



The declaration also placed emphasis on strengthening multilateralism, increasing the representation of developing countries in global institutions and advancing the interests of the Global South. India's Chairship focused on making BRICS a more practical and solutions-oriented platform through greater cooperation across sectors. Its future impact will depend on sustained cooperation among members and the implementation of initiatives agreed upon during India's Chairship.

4. Cabinet Approves ₹23,731 Crore GOBARdhan Scheme for Compressed Biogas

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) National Unified Scheme for Compressed Biogas (CBG) with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore. The scheme will be implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36. The initiative seeks to convert organic waste such as cattle dung, crop residue, sugarcane press mud, municipal organic waste and food waste into clean fuel and organic manure.



Administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the GOBARdhan Scheme brings the entire CBG value chain under a unified national framework.

The scheme is expected to significantly expand India's compressed biogas sector over the next decade, with the government aiming for nearly ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production.

5. President Gives Assent to Anti-Paper Leak Law with Tougher Penalties

The President has given assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026, on 31 July 2026, marking a significant step towards strengthening the legal framework against examination malpractices in India. The Bill was introduced by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and passed in the Lok Sabha through a voice vote after an extensive debate in the House.



The amendment has been introduced in response to repeated incidents of paper leaks, most notably the controversy surrounding the NEET 2026 examination. Anyone found involved in paper leaks or using unfair means in public examinations will face imprisonment ranging from five to ten years and a fine of up to ₹50 lakh, while organised examination fraud will attract a fine of up to ₹10 crore. All investigations must be completed within two months, and Special Fast Track Courts must complete trials within three months of filing the charge sheet.

6. Centre Mandates TReDS for All CPSE Payments to MSMEs

The Government of India has made the use of the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) mandatory for all operating Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to settle transactions with their Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) suppliers. The move is aimed at addressing one of the biggest challenges faced by MSMEs, delayed payments, which often create cash flow constraints and limit business growth. TReDS is an electronic platform regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and became operational in 2017.



CPSEs must report their TReDS transactions and secure statutory auditor certification confirming both their registration on the platform and adherence to the prescribed requirements. Invoice financing through the platform has expanded significantly, rising from approximately ₹40,000 crore in FY 2021-22 to nearly ₹3.47 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

7. Centre Notifies Delhi Master Plan 2047 with 40 Lakh Homes Target

The Government of India has notified the Master Plan for Delhi 2047 (MPD-2047), setting out a long-term framework for housing, transport, land use, economic development and environmental protection in the national capital. The plan seeks to prepare Delhi for a projected population of around 3.2 crore by 2047.



A central objective of MPD-2047 is to facilitate approximately 40 lakh new housing units, with a significant emphasis on affordable housing. Around 18 lakh affordable homes are proposed in Transit-Oriented Development zones along Metro corridors, and nearly 200 sq km is earmarked for planned urban expansion through land pooling. Residential buildings in 1,511 unauthorised colonies are proposed for regularisation on an “as is where is” basis. MPD-2047 also proposes a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority and ecological restoration of nearly 1,700 hectares of the Yamuna floodplains.

8. Centre Announces ₹10,000 Crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme

The Government of India has announced the Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore over five years to build a globally competitive domestic container manufacturing ecosystem. Announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, the scheme aims to reduce India’s dependence on imported empty containers and strengthen supply-chain resilience.



The initiative seeks to increase India’s annual container manufacturing capacity by around ten times to up to 7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs). India currently imports nearly two million empty containers every year. The scheme provides capital assistance for greenfield manufacturing facilities, support for brownfield expansion, operational assistance, and support for testing infrastructure, skilling and capacity building. It is expected to generate around 3,000 direct jobs and more than 50,000 indirect jobs.

PAC – Quarterly Highlights

Over the past three months, the Policy Advisors Club (PAC) focused on strengthening its member network and creating more room for dialogue on policy, technology, innovation and governance. The quarter brought together member meetings, strategic discussions and PAC’s presence on national and international platforms.



Focusing on the Core

During the quarter, PAC held Core Member Meetings (CMM), in person and online, to discuss the organisation’s priorities and future direction.

Members deliberated on PAC’s membership framework, upcoming initiatives and ways to get more members involved. Discussions also focused on expanding the range of activities undertaken by PAC and creating more opportunities for members to contribute their expertise, perspectives and networks.

The meetings also explored ideas for introducing additional activities that can encourage greater interaction among members and strengthen PAC’s role as a platform for policy-oriented dialogue and engagement.

The combination of in-person and virtual meetings enabled wider participation while maintaining regular communication among the Core Members.

Spreading Wings

PAC also strengthened its international engagement through participation in the Technology & Innovation Conference 2026 in Kuala Lumpur.

Founder and President, Anubhuti Kaul Bhrary, represented PAC at the WRUTed Talk - a platform bringing together voices from the fields of technology, innovation and policy.



The engagement provided an opportunity to participate in conversations around emerging developments and the evolving relationship among technological advancement, innovation and public policy.

Participation in an international platform such as WRUTed Talk reflects PAC's continued interest in connecting policy discussions with developments taking place across the global technology and innovation ecosystem. It also provides PAC opportunities to exchange perspectives, build professional connections and explore areas of potential collaboration.

Through such engagements, PAC continues to broaden its outreach beyond domestic discussions and contribute to conversations that connect policy, innovation and emerging technologies.

Voicing Thoughts

Anubhuti Kaul Bhrany was also a guest on the SheCivic India Podcast during the quarter. Drawing on her three decades in government relations, policy advocacy and corporate affairs, including leading government affairs at Flex, HP, Intel and Wipro, she shared insights on how policy engagement works in practice and what she has learnt along the way to founding PAC.

OUR TEAM



Anubhuti Kaul Bhrany

Founder & President, Policy Advisors Club (PAC)

Anubhuti Kaul Bhrany is the Founder & President of the Policy Advisors Club (PAC), the world's first initiative of its kind. With 25+ years of experience in Government Relations, Policy Advocacy, Corporate Affairs, and CSR across India, Asia, and the US, she has held leadership roles at Flex India, HP Inc., Intel, Wipro, and Jindal Steel. A respected policy leader, she has shaped key reforms in manufacturing, exports, AI, and ICT, and is an award-winning corporate affairs and public policy professional.

Girish Bhrany

Senior Partner & Strategy Advisor



Girish brings deep expertise in organisational strategy, governance, and operational excellence to the Policy Advisors Club, where he advises on strategic direction and long-term institutional growth. As founder and Consultant at Bhrany Consulting Services (BCS), he works with organisations to shape their structure and culture, strengthen processes and corporate governance, and embed best practices, alongside leadership training and coaching across levels. A management graduate from Leeds Business School, UK, he is also a certified Six Sigma Green Belt (BSI).

Meena Nair

Chief Communications Officer & Editor - PAC MAG



Meena Nair leads Communications at the Policy Advisors Club (PAC). A communications professional with over 20 years of experience, she has built her career across marketing communication, communication strategy, and editorial work - from shaping brand narratives and campaigns to crafting the voice of senior leaders.

Over the years she has worked with Mirum (the digital arm of JWT), Deloitte, Sahara TV, and the India Today Group, before going independent in 2017. At PAC, she shapes how the Club communicates. Policy, after all, is meant for the many - and her endeavour is to keep that communication clear, precise, and within everyone's reach.



Upasna Sandhu

Administration & Content Executive

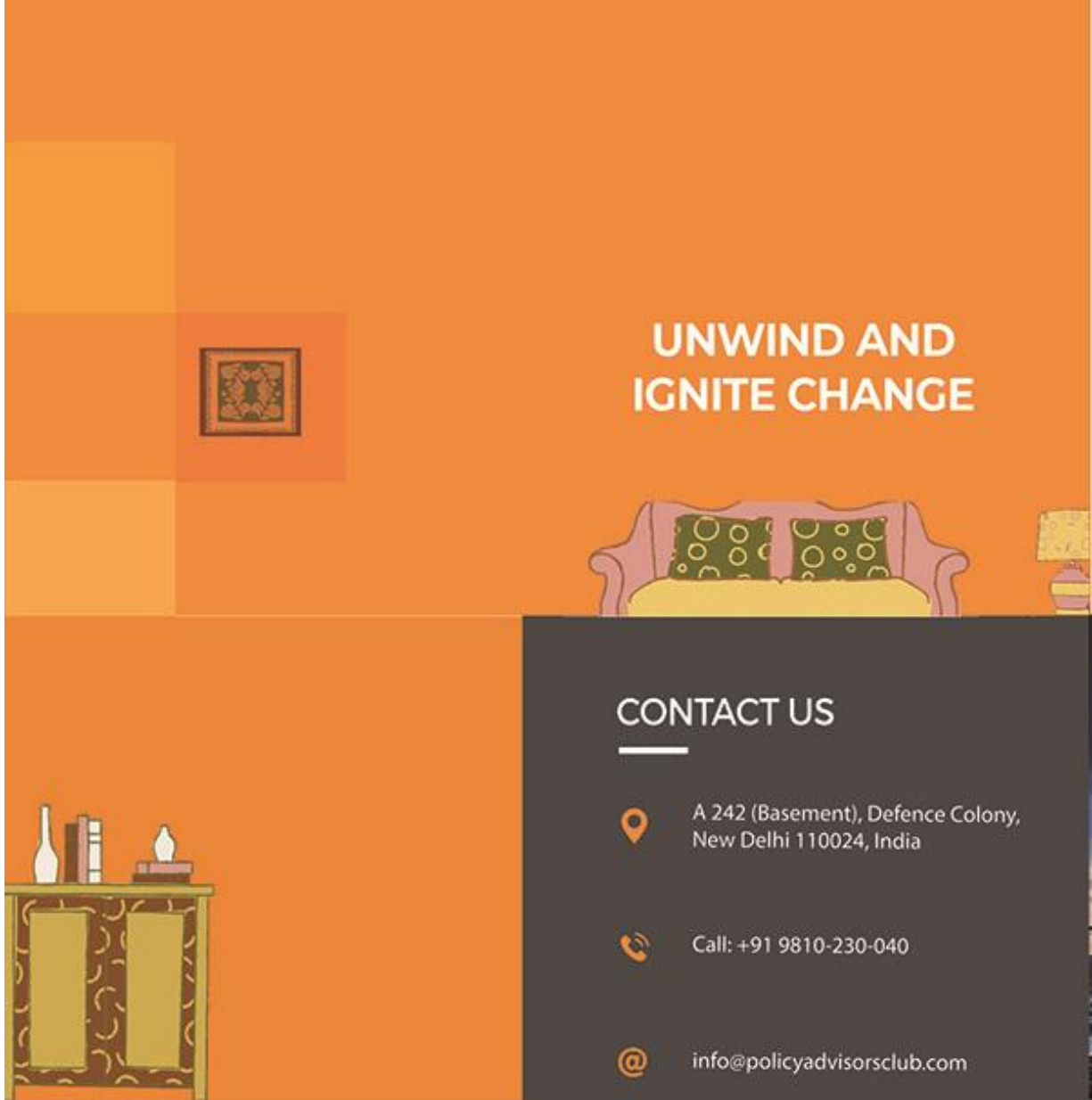
Upasna manages administration and content for the Policy Advisors Club (PAC), keeping operations, coordination, and day-to-day workflows running smoothly across the organisation. She brings hands-on experience in operations management and administration, with a strong sense for detail and follow-through.

Glimpses of Niti Parv Award Ceremony



Glimpses of Niti Parv Award Ceremony





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