

# Daily Current Affairs

## 08 April 2026

### India's Most Polluted Cities

- Air pollution continues to be a serious problem in India, and a new report has brought fresh concerns. According to the **Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)**, **Gurgaon** was the most polluted city in the country in March, showing how dangerous air quality levels remains in many regions.
- The report stated that Gurgaon recorded the highest pollution level in March, with an average PM2.5 level of 116  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . This level is much higher than the safe limit and can harm people's health, especially children and the elderly.
- Haryana has four cities among the top 10 most polluted cities in India. These include Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Manesar. This shows that air pollution is a major issue among the state.
- Other cities in the top 10 list were **Singrauli, Mandideep, Ghaziabad, Bhiwadi, Noida and Nandesari**, coming from different states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- On the other hand, some states have seen a rise in pollution levels. Odisha had the highest number of cities with increased PM10 levels, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. A few cities in Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also showed rising pollution.



## Russia and China Veto UN Resolution

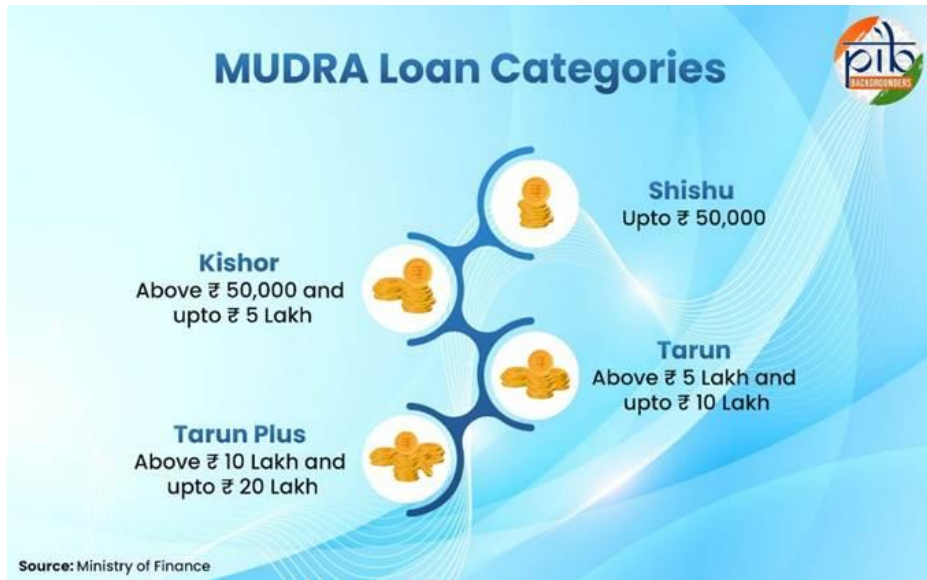
- A resolution was presented at the United Nations Security Council by Bahrain. The aim was to ensure safe movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, which is one of the busiest oil routes in the world.
- The proposal received support from 11 countries. However, Russia and China used their veto power to stop it. Meanwhile, Pakistan and Colombia chose not to vote.
- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil passes. Many Gulf countries on this route to export oil and gas.
- If this route is blocked or unsafe, it can affect global oil prices and supply, which can impact economies worldwide.
- Russia and China did not agree with the resolution. They said that the focus should be on stopping the conflict completely instead of only securing shipping routes. They also blamed the **United States and Israel** for increasing tensions in the region.



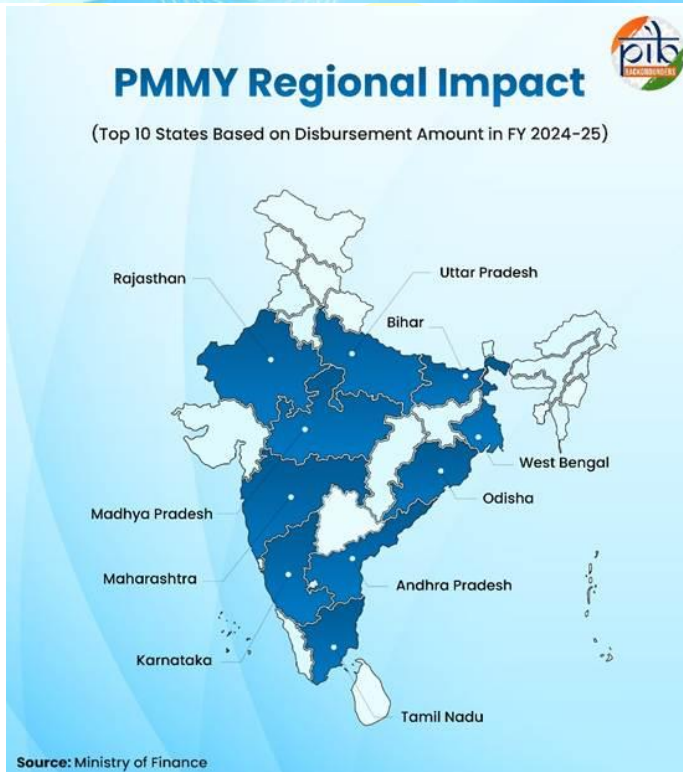
## 11 Years of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana

- PMMY has evolved into a powerful instrument of empowerment and aspiration, with 57 crore+ loans amounting to ₹40.07 lakh crore.
- Easy credit access with four distinct loan categories: Shishu, Kishor, Tarun and TarunPlus.
- Collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh for activities covering manufacturing, trading, services & allied agricultural activities.
- Strengthening financial inclusion with about 60% of loan accounts belonging to women and about 21% to new entrepreneurs in FY 2024-25.
- Over the past decade, PMMY has progressed into a more technology-driven, integrated and sustainable lending framework.
- The Government of India has marked 11 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), highlighting its significant contribution to financial inclusion and grassroots entrepreneurship.
- Launched on **8 April 2015** with the vision of “Funding the Unfunded,” the scheme aims to provide easy and collateral-free credit to micro and small enterprises across the country.
- The scheme operates through a structured network involving MUDRA, lending institutions, and borrowers, ensuring efficient credit delivery at the grassroots level.

- Overall, the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana has strengthened India's micro-enterprise ecosystem, boosted employment opportunities, and contributed to sustainable economic growth by empowering small entrepreneurs across the nation.



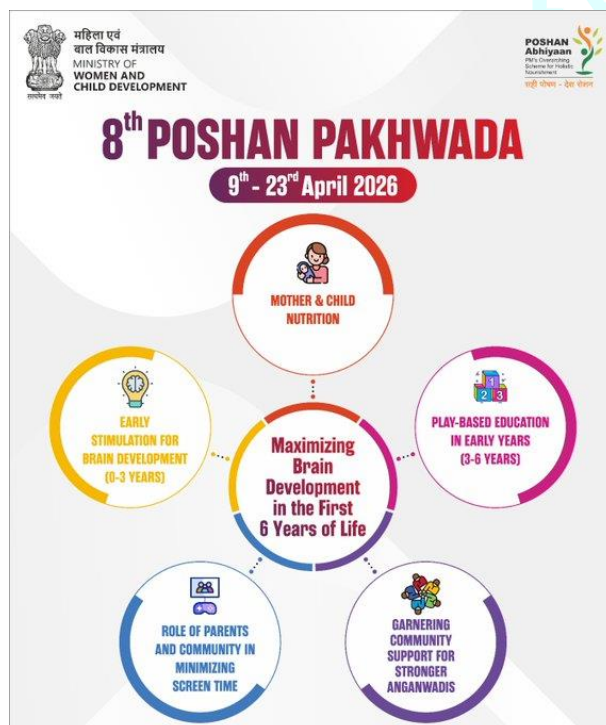
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## National launch of 8th Poshan Pakhwada 2026

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 9th to 23rd April 2026, reaffirming the Government’s commitment to improving nutritional outcomes across the country.
- **The key focus areas under this year’s theme include:**
- Maternal and Child Nutrition – Promoting optimal nutrition during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, and age-appropriate complementary feeding.
- Early Stimulation for Brain Development (0–3 years) – Encouraging responsive caregiving and early learning interactions.
- Play-Based Education in Early Years (3–6 years) – Supporting holistic development and school readiness.
- Role of Parents and Community in Minimising Screen Time – Promoting healthy habits and active engagement.
- Strengthening Anganwadi Centres through Community Participation – Enhancing infrastructure and service delivery through Jan Bhagidari and CSR.
- Through Poshan Pakhwada 2026, the Ministry aims to further strengthen the Jan Andolan by reinforcing that nutrition, care, early learning, and community participation together lay the foundation for a healthy, educated, and empowered India.



## National Quantum Mission Achieves 1,000-km Secure Communication

- Under the National Quantum Mission, a 1,000-km quantum communication network—one of the longest in the world—has been successfully demonstrated within less than two years of its launch, marking rapid progress against the mission’s target of achieving 2,000 km over an eight-year period.
- The milestone, achieved using indigenous technology developed by QNu Labs—a startup supported under the mission and focused on quantum-safe cybersecurity solutions—represents one of the longest quantum key distribution deployments globally since the mission’s launch in October 2024.
- In a parallel push to deepen the country’s quantum ecosystem, the government has expanded support under the National Quantum Mission to nine additional startups, taking the total number of supported ventures to 17.
- The move is aimed at accelerating indigenous capabilities across quantum computing, communication, sensing and materials. The newly supported startups are working on areas ranging from quantum biosensors for disease detection and photon sensing technologies to quantum positioning systems, atomic memory and precision electronic systems.



## NHAI to Develop ‘NHAI Arogya Van’

- In a significant step towards enhancing biodiversity and integrating ecological sustainability in National Highway development, NHAI has taken the initiative to

develop 'Arogya Van', the thematic medicinal tree plantations on vacant land parcels along the National Highways.

- The initiative aims to enrich biodiversity along the National Highways by introducing medicinal tree species that support pollinators, birds and microfauna, thereby strengthening ecosystem resilience.
- Traditionally, plantation activities along National Highways have been undertaken using a mix of native and avenue tree species aimed at greening and ecological stabilization.
- The 'Arogya Van' initiative reinforces NHAI's commitment towards developing environmentally sustainable infrastructure.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which city was reported as the most polluted in India in March 2026?

- A. Delhi
- B. Ghaziabad
- C. Gurgaon
- D. Noida

**Answer: C. Gurgaon**

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**2. The report on air pollution was released by which organization?**

- A. WHO
- B. CPCB
- C. CREA
- D. UNEP

**Answer: C. CREA**

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**3. Which state had four cities among the top 10 most polluted cities?**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Haryana
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Gujarat

**Answer: B. Haryana**

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**4. The Strait of Hormuz is important because it is:**

- A. A major fishing zone
- B. A key global oil shipping route
- C. A military base region
- D. A tourist destination

**Answer: B. A key global oil shipping route**

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**5. Which countries vetoed the UN Security Council resolution on maritime safety?**

- A. USA and UK
- B. Russia and China
- C. France and Germany
- D. India and Japan

**Answer: B. Russia and China**

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**6. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was launched in which year?**

- A. 2012
- B. 2014
- C. 2015

D. 2016

**Answer: C. 2015**

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**7. What is the maximum loan amount under MUDRA Yojana (latest update)?**

A. ₹10 lakh

B. ₹15 lakh

C. ₹20 lakh

D. ₹25 lakh

**Answer: C. ₹20 lakh**

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**8. Poshan Pakhwada 2026 is observed between:**

A. 1–15 April

B. 5–20 April

C. 9–23 April

D. 10–25 April

**Answer: C. 9–23 April**

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**9. Under the National Quantum Mission, India achieved a communication network of:**

A. 500 km

B. 800 km

C. 1000 km

D. 2000 km

**Answer: C. 1000 km**

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**10. The 'Arogya Van' initiative is launched by which organization?**

A. Ministry of Environment

B. NITI Aayog

C. NHAI

D. DRDO

**Answer: C. NHAI**