




# MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

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# CENTRE, ASSAM SIGN PEACE PACT WITH ULFA FACTION



# CONTEXT

- On December 29, 2023, the **United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)** signed a peace accord with the **Government of India** and the **Government of Assam**.



## KEY FACTS

- This agreement is a significant milestone in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous, peaceful and developed Northeast
- The peace accord has brought the decades-old **insurgency** a step closer to a complete closure, although the hardline faction of the ULFA, led by **Paresh Baruah**, is still not part of the peace accord.

# KEY HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

- **Indigenous People's Reserved Seats: Ninety-seven** assembly seats in **Assam** are earmarked for indigenous individuals.
- **Regional Investment Commitment:** A pledge of approximately ₹1.5 lakh crore has been made for investment in the region.

- **Constitutional Safeguards:** Measures are in place to safeguard land rights and impose restrictions on migration between constituencies.

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## ABOUT ULFA

- The **ULFA**, formed in **1979**, demanded a "**sovereign Assam**" and carried out a **reign of terror** in the state, including **extortion, kidnappings** and **killings**, especially targeting the state's flourishing tea companies.
- India **banned** ULFA in **1990** and military operations against the group began in 1990, continuing until the present.

- In 2011, ULFA split into two groups.
- Pro talk faction of ULFA joined peace talks with the government in 2011 after an agreement for Suspension of operations was signed.
- Other faction known as ULFA (Independent) has not joined the peace process.



- Centre signed peace deals with rebel **Bodo**, **Dimasa**, **Karbi** and **Adivasi** outfits in Assam since **2020**.
- Last month, a similar peace deal was signed with **Manipur** based insurgent group - **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)**.

# X-RAY POLARIMETER SATELLITE (XPOSAT)

## XPoSat in orbit; to study black holes, neutron stars

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) kicked off the New Year with the launch of the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission on Monday.

The PSLV, in its 60th mission, lifted off at 9.10 a.m. from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota and 22 minutes later launched the XPoSat into an eastward low inclination orbit. The successful launch put India in an elite category as it has become the second nation to send an observatory to study astronomical sources such as black holes, neutron stars among others.

"On January 1, 2024 yet another successful mission of the PSLV has been accomplished. The PSLV-C58 has placed the primary satellite XPoSat in the desired orbit of 650 km with six-degree inclination," ISRO



**Conquering heights:** ISRO launches X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Monday. ANI

Chairman S. Somanath said after the successful launch.

XPoSat is only the second X-ray polarimetry mission in the world, after NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) launched in 2021. It is the first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources. It carries two payloads, namely POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray

Spectroscopy and Timing). POLIX has been developed by the Raman Research Institute and XSPECT by the Space Astronomy Group of URSC, Bengaluru.

During the mission, the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) experiment was also executed to meet the objective of 10 other payloads.

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# CONTEXT

➤ The **X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** was launched into orbit on January 1, 2024, by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** aboard the **PSLV-C58** mission.



**Conquering heights:** ISRO launches X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Monday. ANI

# ABOUT

- The XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific mission for **X-ray polarimetry** launched by **ISRO** and is designed to study **X-ray emissions** from various astronomical sources, including **black holes**, **neutron stars**, and **pulsar wind nebulae**.
- It was delivered into a **low Earth orbit** with an **altitude** of about **650 kilometers** and an **inclination** of approximately 6 degrees

- The successful launch put India in an elite category as it has become the second nation to send an observatory to study astronomical sources such as black holes, neutron stars among others.
- The mission life is expected to be approximately **five years**.

# NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)



# CONTEXT

- NIA achieved a **94.70% conviction rate** in **2023**.



# ABOUT NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY(NIA)

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act was established by the Union government of India after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in November 2008. The NIA functions as India's Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.



# OBJECTIVES

- Aspire to match international standards in **professional investigation** and **counter-terrorism**.
- Focus on rapid and effective trials, and deterrence against terrorism.
- Develop as a **central repository** for all terrorism-related information.

# JURISDICTION

- The agency's jurisdiction covers all of India and extends to Indian citizens abroad.
- It includes government employees irrespective of their location.
- It applies to individuals on Indian-registered ships and aircraft, regardless of location.
- It encompasses offences committed abroad that impact Indian citizens or India's interests.

# NIA (AMENDMENT) ACT 2019

- The NIA is authorized to investigate terror attacks against **Indians** and **Indian interests globally**.
- Its scope includes probing **human trafficking, fake currency, illegal arms, and cyber-terrorism**.
- The law integrates **Section 66-F** of the **IT Act**, targeting cyber-terrorism with potential life imprisonment.

- **Special Courts** established nationwide for trials of offences in various states.
- Appeals from these courts are directed to the High Court, judged by a **two-member bench**.
- **State Governments** can establish additional Special Courts for specific offences.

# E-SCR PORTAL



# CONTEXT

- The **E-SCR portal** has remarkably accelerated its judgement translation process, starting with **2,238** judgments in January 2023 and concluding the year with over **31,000 judgments**.



# WHAT IS E-SCR PORTAL?

- The **Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR)** project is an initiative to provide the **digital version** of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report – '**Supreme Court Reports**
- It represents a significant move towards the **digitization** of the **Indian Judiciary**, aiming to benefit all **justice** system stakeholders.

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