

3. Digital Public Infrastructure (Dpi) – S & T

PM Modi highlights India's readiness to share digital public infrastructure with Commonwealth nations India hosted the 28th CSPOC, focusing on AI and parliamentary security, while the PM offered to share India's Digital Public Infrastructure (India Stack) with Commonwealth nations to boost global financial inclusion and service delivery.

1. Context

Event- The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) were hosted by India.

Key Announcement- During the conference, the Prime Minister underscored India's willingness to share its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) with Commonwealth countries to foster cooperation and development.

2. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Definition- DPI refers to a set of foundational digital systems that serve as the technological backbone of modern societies.

Function as a Public Good- It functions as a digital public good because it is designed to be

1. Widely accessible.
2. Non-exclusionary by design.
3. Capable of supporting multiple services across various sectors.

Purpose- Its primary goal is to enable secure and seamless interactions between people, businesses, and governments.

Core Pillars of DPI

Pillar	Function & Significance
Digital Identity Layer	Enables accurate verification of individuals. Ensures services and benefits reach the intended beneficiaries without leakage.
Digital Document Infrastructure	Allows for the storage, access, and verification of official documents. Reduces dependence on physical paperwork and bureaucracy.
Data Exchange & Consent Layer	Facilitates secure and consent-based sharing of data Improves service efficiency while rigorously protecting user autonomy and privacy.
Digital Payments Layer	Enables fast, low-cost, and secure financial transactions. • acts as a catalyst for financial inclusion and economic formalization.
Interoperable Platforms	Ensures multiple service providers can build applications on common "digital rails". Prevents the creation of isolated silos, fostering innovation.

3. India Stack

Definition- India Stack is a set of open and interoperable digital building blocks.

Goal- To enable paperless, cashless, and presence-less delivery of services.

Mechanism- It achieves this by allowing identity verification, digital payments, and secure data sharing at massive scale.

Three Interconnected Layers of India Stack

Identity Layer

Function- Provides secure digital identification and authentication.

Example- Aadhaar, e-KYC (Know Your Customer).

Payment Layer

Function- Facilitates fast, low-cost, and interoperable digital transactions.

Example- Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Aadhaar Payment Bridge.

Data Governance Layer

Function- Manages secure, consent-based data sharing and digital document handling.

Example- DigiLocker and the Account Aggregator framework.

Global Adoption of India Stack

Digital Payments (UPI)- Successfully linked with payment systems in Singapore (PayNow), UAE, and France.

Digital Identity Platforms- The Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) has been adopted by countries such as the Philippines, Morocco, and Ethiopia.

4. Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)

Overview- A forum that brings together Speakers and Presiding Officers of national parliaments from the independent sovereign states of the Commonwealth.

Origin and Establishment

- a. Established in 1969.
- b. Initiative of Lucien Lamoureux, the then Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada.

Objective- To strengthen parliamentary leadership and foster cooperation among member states.

Institutional Structure

Secretariat

- a. Hosted and supported by Canada since its inception.
- b. Provides administrative and institutional assistance for the functioning of CSPOC.

Institutional Status- Functions as an independent body.

No formal affiliation with

- a. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
- b. Commonwealth Secretariat
- c. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Membership & Operations

Membership Criteria- strictly restricted to Speakers and Presiding Officers of national parliaments of sovereign Commonwealth states.

Working Cycle- Operates on a two-year cycle

- a. Full Conference- Held every two years (usually in January).
- b. Standing Committee Meeting- Held in the intervening year.

Governance Structure

Standing Committee- The body responsible for overseeing CSPOC activities.

- a. Composition- 15 members.
- b. Quorum- 5 members.
- c. Chairperson- The Speaker of the lower House of the next host jurisdiction.
- d. Term- From the end of one conference to the end of the next.

Objectives of CSPOC

1. Maintain, foster, and encourage impartiality and fairness on the part of Speakers and Presiding Officers.
2. Promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy in its various forms.
3. Develop and strengthen parliamentary institutions.

5. 28th CSPOC Conference Details

Host- India is the host for the 28th Conference.

Historical Significance- This marks the fourth occasion India has hosted the CSPOC (previous years- 1971, 1986, and 2010).

Key Focus Areas

Technology in Legislation- The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and social media in legislative functioning.

Public Connect- Enhancing public engagement with parliamentary institutions.

Security- Ensuring the safety and security of Members of Parliament.

Source- <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/pm-modi-highlights-indias-readiness-to-share-digital-public-infrastructure-with-commonwealth-nations/>

