

UN INDIA DIGEST

News and updates from the
26 entities of the UN Country Team



UNITED NATIONS
INDIA



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Breaking barriers with menstrual hygiene awareness
Photo: UNICEF

Extending a helping hand to asylum-seekers

The UN Refugee Agency has recently introduced an identity card for asylum-seekers arriving in India. The card with a QR code, which can be authenticated using a mobile app, Verify Plus, is among services that UNHCR is offering to new arrivals, along with protection, assistance and counseling. More than 47,000 people are registered with UNHCR in India. Areti Sianni, UNHCR India's Chief of Mission, and UN Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp met many young asylum-seekers during a recent visit to a support centre in New Delhi and heard their stories of resilience and overcoming obstacles.



Photo: UNIC/Blassy Boben

Moulding India's midwives with hands-on training



Photo: UNV

UN Volunteers serving with UNICEF and UNFPA, are empowering India's new cadre of midwives through the Government's Midwifery Services Initiative. Through practical, hands-on training using 3D models, these UN Volunteers are equipping apprentice midwives with comprehensive skills in pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care. The training helps professional midwives to assess labor, identify complications, and learn birthing techniques through a hands-on model that goes beyond theory, making them adept at handling complex births.



Photo: UNODC

A blueprint to fortify justice and security in South Asia

Over 1.6 billion people live in South Asia, where two-fifths of the population are youth and the region faces threats like drugs, crime, corruption, terrorism, and the climate crisis. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime unveiled a new programme to improve border security, combat illicit finances, enhance law enforcement, provide drug treatment, and prevent extremism in South Asia. Running from 2024 to 2028, the initiative focuses on strengthening justice systems, the rule of law, health care, peace, and regional cooperation.

Local Indian women leaders champion SDGs

Three inspiring elected women representatives from India's Panchayati Raj system – Supriya Das Datta (Tripura), Kunuku Hema Kumari (Andhra Pradesh) and Neeru Yadav (Rajasthan) – were recognized at UN Headquarters in New York during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development. The event, titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way," was organized by India's Permanent Mission to the UN, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and India's Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It highlighted the work of women in championing causes that foster inclusive development and further the SDGs within their communities.



Photo: Permanent Mission of India to the UN



Photo: UNICEF

UNICEF India turns 75

Over seven and a half decades, UNICEF in India has been an active development and humanitarian partner to support the Government of India realize children's rights to life, health, safety, and well-being. UNICEF started working in India in May 1949 with three staff members. Today, the organization is working in 17 states, supporting more than 90 per cent of children in the country. From helping set up the country's first penicillin plant to supporting development of the national immunization programme to providing medical and logistical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government and the people of India to safeguard child rights and wellbeing.

Photo of the month



Photo: UNIC/Shachi Chaturvedi

UN Resident Coordinator in India ad interim Andrea Wojnar pays tribute to fallen UN Peacekeepers at the National War Memorial on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers

Girls in ICT for an equal future of tech

The International Telecommunication Union's flagship Girls in ICT initiative has been launched in India, with support from the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Education, Centre for Development of Telematics and UN agencies. Through May, June and July, ITU will hold a series of training sessions across subjects such as coding, cybersecurity and emerging technologies aimed at students — especially girls and young women from the ages 12-24 — in partnership with the government agencies and private sector. During the launch, students interacted with organizations and shared their ideas with senior representatives from UNODC, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF and IFAD.



Photo: UNIC/Rohit Karan



Photo: ITU



Three literary treasures enter prestigious UNESCO list

Three literary masterpieces from India have just been added to the 2024 Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific's Regional Register. *Ramcharitmanas*, composed by Goswami Tulsidas in the 16th century, is considered one of the greatest works of Hindu literature. *Panchatantra*, by Pandit Vishnu Sharma, is a compilation of animal fables. *Sahridayaloka-Locana*, dating to the 9th and 10th centuries AD, includes text on poetics and dramaturgy. The register aims to help safeguard documentary heritage that is important to humankind.

UNDP to support India's first livestock vaccine cold chain app

The storage and distribution of vaccines for livestock in India is set to advance significantly to a new partnership between UNDP and the Government of India. In collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, UNDP will support and strengthen India's first animal vaccine supply chain management system, ensuring communities and animals are protected while mitigating risks at the human-animal-environment interface.



Photo: UNDP

UN News Hindi: Monthly highlights



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At a glance

5 June: World Environment Day

- "A Moment of Truth" – Secretary-General's address on climate change in New York
- World Meteorological Organization's report on global forecasts for next 5 years
- Celebration of World Environment Day at UN House, New Delhi

20 June: World Refugee Day

21 June: International Day of Yoga

26 June: Global SDG progress report released

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