

UN INDIA DIGEST

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



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Refugee entrepreneurs hand out meals to cyclists at a food festival in Chennai. Photo: UNHCR

India making strides towards SDGs

All states and union territories across India have displayed significant progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDG India Index 2023-24 shows. The report, developed by NITI Aayog with technical support from UNDP and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, tracks improvements in areas ranging from poverty elimination, decent work and economic growth to climate action and life on land. First launched in 2018, the Index promotes competition and collaboration among states and serves as a policy tool to guide further action in India's sustainable development.



Photo: NITI Aayog

Assam's Moidams debut on World Heritage List



Photo: UNESCO

The Moidams of Choraideo, in the foothills of the Patkai Ranges in eastern Assam, have become the 43rd Indian site to be added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. The mound-burial system of the Tai-Ahom Dynasty was added to the World Heritage List alongside 23 properties from around the world, including the Sado Island Gold Mines in Japan and the Via Appia in Italy. Speaking at the World Heritage Committee, being held in India for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged \$1 million to support UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, particularly for heritage conservation in India and across the Global South.

The art of chess for humane prison management

Prison officials are learning the art of more humane jail management through a modified game of chess. In a unique initiative, ex-prisoners working with Project Second Chance and backed by UNODC have developed a game of chess that is based on the experiences of prison staff and inmates. Prison officials playing the game then move their pieces by answering scenario-based questions inspired by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The aim of the initiative, launched at Sudhowala Prisons in Dehradun, is to sensitize officials in better prison management in line with international standards.



Students honour Nelson Mandela's legacy

More than 300 students from schools across Delhi-NCR joined UN in India officials and diplomats to mark 'Nelson Mandela International Day'. Students decked in the colours of the South African flag regaled the audience with songs and exhibited artworks to pay homage to the former South African President's contribution to the struggle for democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

Chit Chaat

Click to watch *Chit Chaat*, a video series of conversations about how the United Nations in India is working on the ground to make a difference. In this episode, UNESCO New Delhi Director Tim Curtis and UN India Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp discuss the World Heritage sites in India that reflect the country's diverse culture.



Photo of the month



Photo: WHO/Ajit Kumar Rao

A WHO officer conducts tests to rule out polio in Chandaul district in Uttar Pradesh.

Youth voices soar at UNFPA's golden jubilee

Youth changemakers from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Odisha shared their inspiring stories of resilience at the 50-year celebration of UNFPA in India. The event, themed 'Youth Power Unleashed,' saw discussions on how technology empowers gender, redefining masculinity and 'my body, my rights'. The advocates were joined by Meera Srivastava, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Speaking at the event, UN Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp stressed the transformative collaboration between UNFPA and India in promoting adolescent and youth reproductive health. "I'm awestruck by the talent that I see in young people in India – their innovation, imagination and intelligence," UNFPA India Representative Andrea M Wojnar said.



Photo: UNFPA



Photo: UNFPA



Photo: UN Women/Mirah Zamin

Promoting STEM careers among tribal women

More than 750 women from tribal-dominated districts of Madhya Pradesh participated in a webinar on mentoring and career advancement for women in STEM, hosted under the UN Women WeSTEM programme, funded by Micron Foundation and co-created by the Madhya Pradesh State Skill Development and Employment Generation Board. The event showcased personal stories from women in these fields and brought together representatives from the government, donors, corporations, and civil society.

Sharing insights on migration flows in the EU-India corridor

The International Labour Organization is stepping up its efforts to help India and the European Union better understand and manage the flow of information that guides movement of workers in the EU-India corridor. In association with the International Center for Migration Policy Development and the Indian Council of World Affairs, under the CDMM-II project, ILO held a workshop on facilitating information-sharing about labour markets and migration. Participants included technical experts and government representatives from India and EU member countries.



Photo: ILO

UN News Hindi: Monthly highlights



The UN News Hindi team covers critical global issues with a regional perspective. Check out the monthly digest. Click [here](#) for more engaging and solution-oriented content drawn from India.



8-9 August: National Workshop: Unlocking finance to support climate and clean air solutions in India

9 August: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

12 August: International Youth Day

15 August: Independence Day

19 August: World Humanitarian Day

At a glance

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For more information, visit the UN in India

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