

# UN INDIA DIGEST

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



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Young Gamechangers at a Minecraft Design Studio workshop in Jatni, Odisha. Photo: UN Habitat

## FAO's digital solutions for quality spice production

India's spice industry is being transformed through advanced agricultural and hygiene practices under an initiative led by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Standards and Trade Development Facility, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Spices Board of India. Nearly 2,500 farmers across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are being trained – through community screenings of instructional videos – to enhance the production and export potential of spices such as black pepper, coriander, cumin, and fennel.



Photo: FAO

## Odisha gets its first 24/7 'Grain ATM'



Photo: WFP

India's homegrown 24/7 grain dispensing machine, the 'Grain ATM', was launched by the UN World Food Programme in partnership with the Government of Odisha in Bhubaneswar. This energy-efficient, solar-powered machine, conceptualized by WFP, can dispense up to 50 kilograms of grain in just five minutes, ensuring that marginalized communities have consistent access to their full food entitlements. By reducing wait times by 70%, this innovative machine aims to revolutionize food security by providing universal, around-the-clock access to ration card holders across India.

## Building a just world, one ally at a time

The UP Warriorz Women's Premier League cricket team and actor Zeenat Aman joined UN Women India's efforts to amplify voices promoting gender equality and women's empowerment as part of the [Generation Equality Allyship](#). The initiative, launched at the first-ever Annual Allies Meet, builds on the success of the Generation Equality movement. At a panel discussion, the allies shared insights on leveraging social media as a potent tool to promote gender equality and engage men and boys in the fight for equality.



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UNEP

## Unlocking finance to support clean air solutions

Government officials, experts and industry representatives gathered in New Delhi to explore ways to align climate finance with air quality goals at a national workshop, hosted by the National Productivity Council in collaboration with Massive Earth Foundation and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Participants exchanged ideas on developing bankable projects and the need to integrate air pollution and climate change strategies besides exploring the infrastructure and technology interventions required to improve air quality.

## Job skills training for persons living with HIV

In Gujarat, individuals living with HIV or from HIV-affected families are acquiring [key livelihood skills](#) under a new programme organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Joint UN programme with UNAIDS. With the support of the Gujarat State Network of Positive People (GSNP+), more than 500 people took part in a programme in Surat. Participants were trained in such skills as tailoring and also connected to agencies to explore avenues for jobs.



Photo: ILO

## Photo of the month



Photo: WFP

World Food Programme's Assistant Executive Director for Programme Operations Valerie Guarnieri reviews the agency's nutrition operations at an anganwadi (child care centre) in Odisha.

## Championing climate action at the grassroots

More than 250 young people have called on government officials and stakeholders to empower youth in climate action-related decision-making at a national conference held this past month in Mysuru. Organized by four youth-led organizations associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with support from UNICEF, YuWaah, the conference brought together farmers, migrants, persons with disabilities, community representatives, and children and youth from every state. The Local Conference of Youth was held to discuss ways to improve access to climate finance, while stressing the need to put community youth leaders at the forefront of implementing climate solutions. Young activists took the stage to explore integrating migration considerations into the National Child and Youth Statement as part of a session hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with contributions from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). "I am hopeful that the ideas and perspectives shared by young climate leaders here at LCOY would inspire millions of citizens across the nation," Rita Khanna, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, said at the conference's closing session.



Photo: YuWaah



Photo: IOM



Photo: UNICEF

**UN agencies in India held events across the country on 12 August to mark International Youth Day 2024, celebrating young people who are driving positive change in their communities and inspiring others to contribute to the global efforts to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.**

### **Innovation**

At the Impact with Youth Conclave 2024 in Gujarat, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted the need to harness the energy and innovation of youth. Young participants engaged in skill development sessions on building digital narratives for social change and designing a roadmap for youth participation at the event, which was jointly organized by United Nations India, UNICEF, YuWaah, and Elixir Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.



Photo: UNICEF

### **Mental Health**

UN Volunteers India, Health Volunteers, and France Volontaires held a Youth Adda (gathering of young people) to discuss mental health challenges faced by young people in the digital age. Sixty participants attended the session in New Delhi.



Photo: UNV

## Climate Action

Young climate advocates took the spotlight at the [Odisha Conference of Youth 2024](#), where more than 150 youth leaders, climate experts and policymakers gathered to celebrate changemakers working to drive sustainable change locally. The conference, organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with the UNICEF India-Youth4WaterPlus campaign, saw participants submit recommendations on pressing environmental issues such as heatwaves, conservation, and green skilling.



Photo: UNICEF

## Resilience

UNDP India has partnered with Under25, a student collective, to showcase inspiring stories of young Indians working to drive change. As part of a three-part [video series](#), UNDP highlighted the resilience of young changemakers - [Dimum Pertin](#) from Arunachal Pradesh, who works to revive indigenous crops and [Sandeep Kumar](#), a cancer survivor who developed a platform to help make rural health-care services affordable and accessible and Akashdeep Bansal, who created an app to make digital spaces more inclusive.



Photo: UNICEF

## Awareness

Sixty-four students from 32 schools in Punjab's Jalandhar showcased their creativity at the Jalandhar inter-school vlogging competition hosted under the UNODC [RiseUp4Peace](#) Programme. The students created vlogs to raise awareness against corruption and bribes and to promote integrity.



Photo: UNODC

## 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 special International Youth Day episode, young changemakers share their ideas about building a safer world with UNFPA India representative Andrea Wojnar and UN India Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp.





Photo: UNOPS

## Tapping into good practices for safe water access

UNOPS is ensuring that local communities participate and take ownership of the tap connections provided under Jal Jeevan Mission, the world's largest drinking water project. As part of this, the agency developed and launched the Participatory Approaches Manual, a comprehensive guide on the approaches that have been used in 268 villages across Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu and found to be successful. The manual, unveiled at a workshop in Assam, will be useful for field workers, state and district-level implementers, civil society groups and development agencies working directly on the ground in the water sector.

## UNESCO to boost teacher training across Global South

The directors of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), a UNESCO research institute, and the Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUCTE) in Varanasi have signed an agreement to collaborate on initiatives to enhance the skills of teachers and educators from the Global South. Under the partnership, the two institutes will hold professional development programmes for teachers focused on innovative teaching practices and integrated digital technologies in education. Two in-person pilot training groups of 50 participants each will be trained this November.



Photo: UNESCO MGIEP

## UN News Hindi: Monthly highlights



The UN News Hindi team covers critical global issues with a regional perspective, bringing you impactful multimedia stories on UN priorities and campaigns. Dive into this month's digest and let us know what resonates most with you at [unnewshindi@gmail.com](mailto:unnewshindi@gmail.com)



### At a glance

**2-4 September:** 15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, New Delhi

**12 September:** United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

**15 September:** International Day of Democracy

**21 September:** International Day of Peace

**22-23 September:** Summit of the Future, UN Headquarters

**24-28 September:** UN General Assembly High-Level Week, New York

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Contact the UNIC at: [unic-newdelhi@un.org](mailto:unic-newdelhi@un.org)