

UN INDIA DIGEST

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



UNITED NATIONS
INDIA



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Rashtrapati Bhawan lit up in red for a campaign led by UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) to spread awareness about dyslexia. Photo: PIB

WHO certifies India's triumph over trachoma

India has successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health problem, one of only 20 countries to achieve this feat. Trachoma, caused by an infection of the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, is responsible for the blindness of about 1.9 million people worldwide. India's journey to wipe out trachoma began in 1963 led by its Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with support from WHO and UNICEF. The implementation of the WHO-recommended 'SAFE' strategy – Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, Environmental improvement – along with the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have led to this achievement. A series of surveys this year have confirmed that elimination targets have been met. WHO Representative to India Dr Roderico H. Ofrin says the milestone is the result of strong leadership and years of hard work by the country's health workforce.



Photo: WHO

Creating a more inclusive digital future



Photo: ITU

Some 3,700 delegates from 164 countries gathered as New Delhi hosted the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) for the first time. The 10-day conference agreed on resolutions on priorities for standards and capacity development in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the metaverse. Delegates also participated in side events on issues including using AI for good, disaster risk reduction and ending gender inequality, while the Robotics for Good Youth Challenge and the Innovational Exchange engaged both students and entrepreneurs. "It has been the most inclusive WTSA ever," International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin said, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to WTSA delegates to keep "the principles of security, dignity and equity at the centre of our efforts".

'Anywhere access, anytime vaccination' under U-WIN

Universal Immunization Win (U-WIN), a digital health platform developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is set to transform how India handles immunizations for newborns and pregnant women. The registry, supported by UNDP and launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month, aims to help track the vaccination status of expecting mothers and children across India in real-time, leading to higher vaccine coverage and ultimately reducing infant mortality rates. In the lead-up to the launch, UNDP facilitated training for more than a million health workers to enable them to effectively use the platform.



Photo: UNDP



Photo: WFP

WFP bats for climate resilience in India, Sri Lanka

The Ministries of Environment of India and Sri Lanka and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have launched a five-year project to improve food security and strengthen the livelihoods of farming communities facing climate-induced challenges. India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Sri Lanka's Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantation and Community Infrastructure and WFP will jointly implement the Adaptation for Resilience project, with a contribution from the Adaptation Fund.

FAO and World Bank partner to boost animal health

India has received \$25 million from the G20 Pandemic Fund to enhance India's animal health security, crucial for preventing zoonotic diseases – those that can spread from animals to humans. Launched by Union Minister for Animal Husbandry Rajiv Ranjan Singh, this initiative will strengthen laboratories, disease surveillance, and capacity building. A collaboration of implementing entities, the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and FAO, the project focuses on safeguarding human health by tackling animal health risks, ultimately fostering resilient ecosystems and supporting vulnerable communities, particularly women farmers.



Photo: FAO

Photo of the month



Photo: UNFPA

Young girls perform a street play about gender-based violence at a railway terminus in Mumbai as UNFPA officials watch on at an event marking the International Day of the Girl Child.

Underlining the right to food

The right to food, as enshrined in the National Food Security Act, was in the spotlight at a series of public events held by the UN in India to mark World Food Day on 16 October. At a joint event organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), participants discussed challenges such as the need to diversify food sources, the impact of climate change and fair compensation for farmers. They also traced India's transition from the Green Revolution era of food self-sufficiency to its current focus on nutrition security.



Photo: WFP



Photo: UNICEF

Making Indian roads safer for young people

Road crashes claim the lives of children and adolescents every day in India. To enhance road safety, UNICEF brought together more than 30 media professionals in Ahmedabad for a national workshop. The two-day event included group discussions on the need for more informed public discourse about road safety measures and highlighted innovative media strategies to promote safety measures such as speed limits and helmet use.

Celebrating 79 years of India-UN partnership on UN Day

The intertwined histories of the United Nations and India were celebrated as the Organization gathered with partners and friends for the annual marking of UN Day. At a reception at UN House in New Delhi, UN Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp told guests that the UN was privileged to “play a small, humble part in this amazing India story,” citing the country’s progress across multiple fronts ever since it became a founding Member State of the UN. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary said that “India stands ready to work with the UN to find solutions that benefit not just India but the world as a whole.” Reception attendees were also treated to memorable performances of *chhau* and *garba* dance – both have been inscribed on UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Another UN Day discussion was also held on the final day of the ITU’s World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly.



UN in India A story for the ages



Click to watch a short film chronicling the deepening partnership between India and the UN. The two have been an essential part of each other’s journeys since the very start, working together to build a world where no one is left behind.

Tamil Nadu's textile workers say no to gender violence

Tamil Nadu's Government has launched an ambitious initiative to tackle gender-based violence in its textile industry. The [Textile Industry Coalition](#) (TiC), which kicked off in the city of Tirupur, is an initiative convened by UN Women with funding from the European Union and global brands H&M and Target. Under the leadership of the state's Social Welfare Minister Geetha Jeevan, the coalition brings together government, brands, factories, industry bodies, civil society and workers' groups across six major textile districts. International organizations including the ILO, Fairwear, BSR, Catalyst, and Ethical Trading Initiative, are providing expertise on workers' rights and safety. TiC will implement prevention and survivor-centric response measures in six districts by strengthening policies and practices, building capacities of industry stakeholders and addressing discriminatory norms.



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UN Habitat

Urban planning for and by young people

By 2030, 60% of urban residents worldwide will be under the age of 18. UN Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp and UN Habitat India Country Programme Manager Parul Agarwala have lent their voices to a push for the increased participation of young people in urban planning and decision-making. The call took place during World Habitat Day commemorations in New Delhi led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The UN officials said the demographic shift presents a unique opportunity to harness the energy of youth to deal with urban challenges and create sustainable solutions.



Publications

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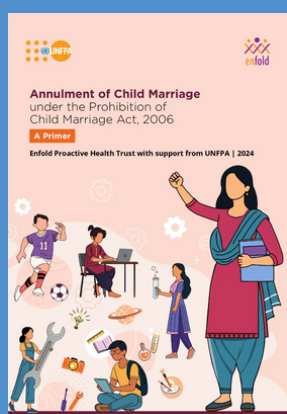
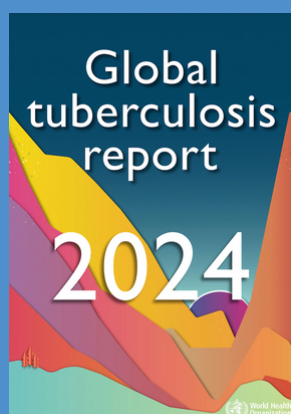




Photo: UN

Gandhi's legacy lives on at UN discussion

Mahatma Gandhi's teachings about non-violence continue to inspire the world, more than 75 years after his death. To commemorate the International Day of Non-violence, observed annually on 2 October, which was Gandhi's birthday, UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), in collaboration with UNESCO's South Asia Regional Office in New Delhi, convened a public discussion on social and emotional learning to explore how Gandhi's legacy impacts us today, including on inclusive development, peacekeeping and education reform.

Circular fashion takes over the runway

The textile industry is the second largest polluter in the world. In response the UN in India is actively finding ways to promote the use of sustainable fashion. One such way is via the Circular Design Challenge, India's largest award in this field. The CDC is a year-long challenge by R|Elan and Lakme Fashion Week. The initiative aims to prioritise circularity in design and encourage designers and manufacturers to regard waste as a resource. Indian designer Ritwik Khanna of RKive City won this year's edition after being selected by a jury that included UN in India Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp and UNDP India's National Advocate for the SDGs, Bhumi Pednekar.



Photo: Circular Design Challenge

UN News Hindi: Monthly highlights



The UN News Hindi team spotlights critical global issues with a regional perspective, bringing you impactful multimedia stories, interviews, explainers, and solution-oriented content that shed light on UN priorities and campaigns. Dive into this month's digest and share these stories with your network!



At a glance

11-22 Nov: United Nations Climate Change conference (COP29), Baku

16 Nov: International Day for Tolerance

14 Nov: World Diabetes Day

18-24 Nov: World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week

19 Nov: World Toilet Day

20 Nov: World Children's Day

25 Nov: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 Nov-10 Dec: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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For more information, visit the UN in India

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