

# UN INDIA DIGEST

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

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UNITED NATIONS  
INDIA



Snippets from the showcase at Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai from the winner of the R|Elan Circular Design Challenge, India's largest global award for circular fashion supported by United Nations

## Digital solutions to strengthen rabies control

India accounts for nearly one-third of global rabies deaths. In an effort to strengthen rabies prevention and response, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has initiated a pilot of ZooWIN — a digital platform for real-time monitoring of anti-rabies vaccine and anti-snake venom stock and tracking beneficiaries — with technical support from UNDP. Modelled on the successful U-WIN and eVIN systems, ZooWIN aims to ensure the timely availability and administration of life-saving doses, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. UNDP helped establish a dedicated rabies helpline and conducted capacity-building sessions to facilitate smooth implementation. The pilot is being tracked across Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, and Puducherry.



Photo: NCDC

## Historic canals set for new lease of life in Kochi



This painting by a 9th grade student contrasting a heavily polluted canal with one in good ecological health was a winner in a competition organized as part of the UNEP-backed project to restore Kochi's TP Canal. Photo by Aliya M.A./ C-HED

Kerala's port city of Kochi is set to undergo a facelift to revive its once bustling historic canals to fight climate change and flooding. Corporation authorities have roped in UNEP to help revive a canal which runs for about 10 kilometres through the city's central business district and several densely populated residential areas. The initiative is part of UNEP's Generation Restoration Cities initiative and leverages insights from UNEP's Urban NBS spatial Tool for identification and assessment of key environmental data.





Photo: UNIC

## Bolstering the postal network across Asia Pacific

In a world where e-commerce and digital technology are reshaping logistics, postal services have to reinvent themselves. The inaugural Asian-Pacific Postal Leaders Forum, hosted by the Universal Postal Union, a specialized UN Agency, in collaboration with India Post, brought together executives from the postal industry and government representatives to discuss ways to strengthen the postal network. Participants at the high-level Jaipur forum exchanged best practices on postal inclusion and leveraging the network for e-commerce and cross-border remittance facilitation, with a focus on innovative last-mile solutions and effective digitalisation to improve postal services, all with the broader aim of boosting South-South cooperation.

## Upskilling entrepreneurs in rural Tamil Nadu

More than 53,000 jobs have been created in rural pockets of Tamil Nadu in the last few years as the result of the state Government's *Vazhndhu Kattuvom* programme, backed by the World Bank's Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project. The initiative has also helped create 100,000 enterprises, by easing access to finance for small businesses, promoting women-led entrepreneurship and providing vocational training programmes at community skills schools to strengthen sustainable livelihoods.



Photo: World Bank



## Improving disaster preparedness in India

Once shattered by a devastating earthquake 24 years ago, Bhuj has rebuilt itself into a symbol of resilience. At a late-March gathering, experts from the Global South joined state officials to share best practices in disaster management. The convening, the second in a series by Reliance Foundation and the United Nations in India, focused on multi-hazard, localised, and sector-based approaches to improve preparedness, and the speed and effectiveness of early warning and early action. Participants emphasised disability inclusion and the need to reach remote populations, urging technological and cross-sectoral coordination to strengthen community response capacity.



## Youth reporters drive social change in West Bengal

From child marriage to climate action, young reporters in West Bengal are turning their stories into tools for change. With support from UNICEF, these young voices are using the Community Youth Reporter Programme to become the ears and eyes to speak up for their communities. By sharing their own experiences, through evidence based reporting they are making complex issues easier to understand and raising awareness on topics such as child marriage and environmental damage. Through this programme, created with IMAGIN Community Media and the Press Club, Kolkata, these young people are helping to tackle some of the biggest challenges in their areas.



Photo: UNICEF

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Sixty teachers from 19 countries across the Global South swap skills on transforming education at a capacity-building workshop by Ministry of External Affairs and Unesco MGIEP in Varanasi.

Photo: UNESCO MGIEP



Photo: UNODC

## Gender-sensitive responses to harm reduction

Drugs. Gender. Violence. When these collide, the consequences can be deadly. Women and people who use drugs are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence and discrimination, making access to harm reduction services even more challenging. To tackle this, UNODC organized a two-day training in India's North-East, bringing together government officials, social workers, and service providers. The workshop focused on integrating gender-sensitive responses into harm reduction and HIV services, addressing stigma and exclusion, and improving access to legal aid and healthcare. Participants worked together to develop practical strategies for creating safer, more inclusive systems rooted in dignity and care.





## Nurturing partnerships to boost sustainability

United Nations India Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp hailed India's efforts to combat climate change with innovative development practices at the 24th edition of World Sustainable Development Summit. At the summit in New Delhi, hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), global leaders, experts, and policymakers explored ways to foster partnerships between sectors to catalyze SDG progress. "Inequality, environmental degradation, and climate impacts are still felt deeply, particularly in our rural communities," UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Dia Mirza said, highlighting the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on rural areas while UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions Michael Bloomberg stressed on the need to leave a better world for future generations.

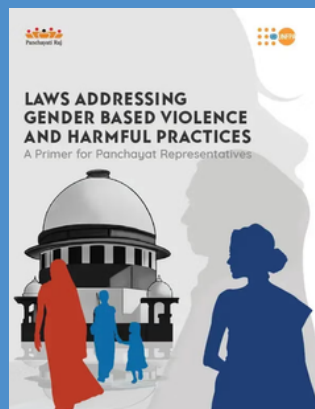
## Infusing panchayat bodies with gender equality

Grassroots governance is closing in on 50:50, with women making up nearly 46% of elected panchayat representatives in India. To strengthen this momentum, UNFPA partnered with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for a workshop to promote women-friendly gram panchayats. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel and Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel urged women panchayat leaders from various states who attended the workshop to take the lead in implementing central government schemes as part of larger efforts to build an inclusive future. A primer for panchayat representatives was launched to help representatives address gender-based violence. Access it below in our publications section.



### Publications

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**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY  
2025**

#IWD2025  
#ForAllWomenAndGirls

# Marching forward for empowerment, rights, equality for all women and girls

From Delhi to Kerala, Jaipur, and Bhopal, as part of One UN celebration, multiple UN agencies in India united on International Women's Day with a powerful message: There can be no progress without gender equality. At a special event to mark the day, women from all walks of life gathered at UN House in New Delhi to celebrate milestones in gender equality and to acknowledge the obstacles that remain on the path to a gender-equal world. Refugee women joined women with disabilities, rural entrepreneurs, changemakers, and members of the LGBTQ+ community to share stories of courage and resilience and to amplify the call for gender equality. UN Women participated in a national conference hosted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu, on the theme *Nari Shakti se Viksit Bharat* (Empowered Women, Developed India). Numerous events took place across India to mark the day: In Kerala, the Department of Women and Child Development and the Kudumbashree National Resource Organisation, with support from UN Women, organized a street play and a gender awareness session for workers in the spice sector in rural hamlets. In Jaipur, UN Women collaborated with state authorities to host a workshop focused on mental health and women's leadership. In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, UN Women and the state's tourism department convened the first regional Safe Cities Forum to identify solutions for making public spaces safer for all.







Photo: WEP

## When women lead, prosperity follows

Closing the gender gap is estimated to give the global economy a US\$ 7 trillion boost. Reflecting this potential, the seventh anniversary of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform — NITI Aayog's initiative to advance women's participation in business — was marked by the celebration of women leaders and their success stories. As a founding member of WEP, the UN has worked closely with the government to help build a network of more than 30,000 women entrepreneurs, supporting them through funding, training, and business opportunities. The anniversary celebration included felicitation of women entrepreneurs and the launch of new programmes to support women working in clean energy and retail sectors.

## South Asia bats for SDG-5 for a gender-equal future

From policy corridors to grassroots networks, the rhythm of change picked up tempo in New Delhi, where leaders from government, business, and civil society across South Asia gathered for the 8th Gender Equality Summit, hosted by the UN Global Compact Network India. The summit echoed a shared urgency to bridge gender gaps, as delegates addressed the hurdles facing women in leadership and mapped out practical steps toward equality. Discussions also explored how to integrate gender perspectives into national development plans through targeted policy action. In a session on policymaking, UNDP India's Deputy Resident Representative Isabelle Tschan highlighted the need for mentorship and role models to unlock prosperity and inclusion.



Photo: UN Global Compact Network



Photo: SheTrades

## New SheTrades hubs look to plug gender gaps in trade

More than 4,500 women entrepreneurs have already been trained through the International Trade Centre's SheTrades initiative, and now, a new hub in India aims to reach even more. Set up by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations in New Delhi, this hub will offer training, coaching, and vital market connections to help women-led businesses break into global trade. Joining a global network of hubs, it will track progress, highlight gender gaps, and push for policy changes that support women in trade, giving them the tools they need to succeed.



## Tomatoes without soil

More than 100 local farmers, including 40% women, in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh have been trained to grow tomatoes—without using soil. The training, facilitated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with support from UNIDO's Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Tokyo, was held at Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology. The farmers were introduced to hydroponics, a water-efficient, high-yield farming technique that has the potential to energize agriculture in regions dealing with resource constraints and water scarcity.



Photo: World Bank

### SPOTLIGHT: Fighting Tuberculosis

#### CALLS TO ACTION



#### General public

- Educate yourself on TB causes, symptoms and prevention;
- Don't believe in myths or misinformation;
- Stand up against TB stigma and discrimination.



#### Health workers

- Incorporate essential TB services into routine health interventions;
- Deliver care that is kind, respectful of human rights and without stigma.



#### Ministries of Health, TB programme managers and other public health leaders

- Allocate resources, especially funding, to improve the quality of TB diagnosis, prevention, treatment and care services and make them more resilient and sustainable;
- Support and empower health workers to deliver high-quality TB services in line with WHO recommendations;
- Ensure adequate training and up-to date information sharing for health workers on the latest WHO recommendations on TB services.



#### Community leaders

- Ensure essential TB services are maintained and affordable in the community;
- Support and empower health workers to provide essential TB services in line with WHO recommendations;
- Combat stigma and discrimination to ensure that everyone feels safe to access TB services.



#### Youth

- Sensitize young people, encourage them to become TB advocates;
- Support TB patients in the community with resources and advice.



**Tuberculosis is the world's deadliest infectious disease, responsible for more than 1 million deaths annually. The World Health Organization used World TB Day on 24 March to call for an urgent investment of resources for TB support services.**

## UN News Hindi South Asia in Focus

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#### 2025: United Nations turns 80

#### At a glance

**6 May:** UNDP's annual Human Development Report release

**15 May:** Midyear update for World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report

**16 May:** International Day of Light [UNESCO]

**17 May:** World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

**19–25 May:** UN Global Road Safety Week

**21 May:** International Tea Day

**22 May:** International Day for Biological Diversity

**29 May:** International Day of UN Peacekeepers

**31 May:** World No-Tobacco Day [WHO]

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