

Child Nutrition Report 2025 released by UNICEF

Report highlights **alarming global rise of unhealthy diets and childhood obesity**, largely driven by **proliferation and aggressive marketing of ultra-processed foods (UPF) and beverages**.

Key Findings of the Report

- **5% children under-5 years** of age and **20% children and adolescents aged 5–19 years** is now living with overweight, a number that has **doubled since 2000**.
- In 2025, **prevalence of obesity was 9.4%** whereas **prevalence of underweight was 9.2%** among school-age children and adolescents.
- **Regional Concentration:** More than half of all affected children live in three regions: **East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia**.
 - ⌚ In **South Asia**, since 2000, prevalence of overweight among those aged 5-19 **increased almost fivefold by 2022**.
- **Key Drivers:**
 - ⌚ **Availability and Affordability of UPFs:** UPFs are often cheaper than nutritious foods due to agricultural subsidies for key ingredients (corn, soy, wheat) and long shelf-lives, making them an accessible option for low-income families, etc.
 - ⌚ **Aggressive and Unregulated Marketing:** Targeted digital marketing, surrogate advertisements through influencers blurring distinction between content and ads, etc.
 - ⌚ **Policy Gaps:** Only **7%** have mandatory **front-of-pack nutrition labelling**, only **8%** have **food subsidies for healthy foods**, etc.



Key Recommendations

- **Protect Breastfeeding:** Implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, including restrictions on digital marketing.
- **Transform Food Environments:** Implement comprehensive, mandatory measures, including restrictions on the availability and marketing of unhealthy foods, taxes, and front-of-pack labeling.
- **Promote Nutritious Foods:** Improve the availability and affordability of nutritious foods through redirected subsidies and strengthened local food systems.
- **Others:** Strengthen Social Protection to increase access to nutritious diets for low-income families, social and behaviour change initiatives to build public demand for healthy food environments, etc.

C.P. Radhakrishnan elected as the 15th Vice-President of India

About the Office of the Vice President

- The Vice-President of India is the **second-highest constitutional office in the country**.
 - ⌚ The **Constitution does not specify** who performs the Vice President's duties when the office falls vacant.
- **Article 63:** India shall have a Vice-President.
- **Article 64:** The Vice-President shall be the **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.
- **Article 65:** The **Vice-President acts as President**, during **casual vacancy** in the office of the President.

Election Procedure of the Vice President

- **Nomination:** Requires 20 proposers and 20 seconders with ₹15,000 deposit and certified copy of the entry showing his name in the current electoral roll.
- **Voting:** By an Electoral College, which consists of the members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (both elected and nominated members).
 - ⌚ Voting is with the **system of proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote, and the voting at such an election shall be by secret ballot under **Article 66**.
 - ⌚ The value of **every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election** has the same value i.e. **1**.
- **No Whip:** Provisions of the Anti-Defection Law are not applicable.

Eligibility for Vice-President (Article 66)

- Is a **citizen of India**.
- Has **completed the age of 35 years**.
- Is qualified for **election as a member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)**.
- Must not hold any **office of profit under the Government of India** or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority.

Prime Minister of Nepal resigned as the 'Gen Z' protests turn violent

The protests and demonstrations escalated into **violent attacks on government buildings and prominent politicians' homes**, ultimately forcing the **Prime Minister's resignation** and leaving the **country without a clear government**.

Reasons for Crisis in Nepal

- **Gen Z Discontent:** Due to widespread frustration over corruption and extravagant lifestyles and privileges of political leaders and their families, lack of accountability and high unemployment.
- **Suppression of Dissent:** Government's ban on **26 social media platforms** removed Gen Z's main channel for expression, triggering major protests.
- **Extreme State Response:** Authorities responded with excessive force, including firing on protesters, which further inflamed public anger.

India's Troubled Neighbourhood and Its Impact

- **Regional Instability:** In Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal show South Asia's political fragility.
- **Spillover Risks for India:** Neighbouring turmoil disrupts India's trade, markets, supply chains, and remittances.
- **Refugee and Migration Concerns:** Refugee inflows from crises create humanitarian and border management challenges.
- **Security Implications:** Instability heightens India's border security and diplomatic stabilization needs.
- **Diplomatic Challenges:** Prolonged unrest strains India's strategic, economic, and cultural ties with neighbours.

Conclusion

In the backdrop of the significance of the Nepal's political stability for India, the **Prime Minister of India held a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security** and stated that **stability, peace and prosperity of Nepal are of utmost importance for India**.



Centre Seeks Report on Tribal Rights Concerns in Great Nicobar Island Project (GNIP)

The concerns were related to Tribal Council complaints of **identification and settlement of tribal people's rights** under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA)**.

About GNIP

- **Clearance:** The project was granted **in-principal forest clearance and environmental clearance in 2022** under the **Holistic Development of Islands program (HDIP)**.
- **Nodal agency:** Led by **NITI Aayog** and implemented through **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)**.
- **Area:** 130.75 Sq km of forest land is diverted (50% reserved for green development with no tree felling).
- **Infrastructure Projects:** The project plan encompasses developing an **international container transshipment terminal (ICTT)** at the Galathea Bay, a **greenfield international airport**, a **township**, and a **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant**.

Issues related to GNIP

- **Tribal Rights:** GNI is home to the **Shompens (PVTG)** and **Nicobarese**.
- **Biodiversity:** Galathea Bay is one of the primary nesting sites in the world of the endangered **Leatherback Turtles** and the **Nicobar Megapode**, listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

About Forest Rights Act, 2006

- Officially known as **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act**.
- **Objective:** To undo historical injustice occurred to forest dwelling communities.
- **Key Features:**
 - ⊕ Forest Rights Recognized as **Individual Rights and Community Rights**.
 - ◆ The **right to community** tenures of **habitat and habitation** over customary territories **used by PVTGs** include **not only habitation, but also social, economic, spiritual, sacred, religious and other purposes**.
 - ⊕ **Forest Rights Committee (District Level Committee)** is envisaged to ensure that the claims are verified and addressed.

Swachh Vayu Sarveshan Award 2025 announced by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The award recognizes best-performing cities under **Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2025**, conducted across 130 cities under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.

Swachh Vayu Sarveshan Award 2025

- **Population based Categories:** Category 1 (Population >10 lakh), Category 2 (Population 3–10 lakh) and Category 3 (Population <3 lakh).
- **Total Awards: 11 best-performing cities** were awarded out of 130 NCAP cities-
 - ⊕ **Category 1 (Population >10 lakh):** Indore (1st Rank)>Jabalpur (2nd Rank)>Agra & Surat (3rd Rank).
 - ⊕ **Category 2 (Population 3–10 lakh):** Amravati (1st Rank) >Jhansi & Moradabad (2nd Rank)> Alwar (3rd Rank).
 - ⊕ **Category 3 (Population <3 lakh):** Dewas (1st Rank)> Parwanoo (2nd Rank)>Angul (3rd Rank).
- **Ranking Criteria:** Biomass & Municipal Solid Waste Burning, Road dust, Dust from Construction & Demolition Waste, Vehicular Emissions, Emissions from Industries, IEC activities, Improvement in PM10 concentrations, etc.

About NCAP

- **Genesis:** Launched by **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** in 2019.
- **Objective:** To **improve air quality in 131 cities** (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders.
- **Target:** To achieve **reduction in PM10 level up to 40%** or achievement of national ambient air quality standards (60 µg/m³) by 2025-26 from the levels of 2019-20.
- **Implementing Body:** **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** at the national level.
- **PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities):** Launched to **monitor the implementation of NCAP**.

Also in News



Section 29A of RPA, 1951

ECI has decided to verify antecedents of founding members at registration stage itself for **associations seeking registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951**.

Section 29A of RPA 1951

- Parties must apply to the Election Commission **within 30 days of formation**.
- Applications are made as per **ECI guidelines** under **Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 29A**.
- **Mandatory Pledge:** Association or body shall bear **true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as established by law, and to the principles of socialism, secularism, and democracy, and would uphold the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India**.
- **Decision of the Election Commission** regarding registration is final.



UK India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB)

UKIIFB marked its **first anniversary by launching a report**.

➤ **Recommendations Report Include:**

- ⊕ Aligning the Indian procurement process with globally recognised frameworks.
- ⊕ India will also need to address **operational risks for projects and the perception of unpredictability and opacity** in construction.

About UKIIFB

- It is a collaborative initiative led jointly by **NITI Aayog and the City of London**.
- It is aimed at **unlocking infrastructure investment and leveraging the City of London's expertise** in structuring and phasing major infrastructure projects.
- ⊕ The partnership seeks to secure long-term investment for vital infrastructure sectors in India.



National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation

Coal India Limited and **National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)** signed MoU aimed at empowering tribal students enrolled in **Eklavya Model Residential Schools**.

About NSTFDC

- **Set up in 2001** under the **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India**.
- **Objective:** To work for socio-economic and educational upliftment of STs, to provide better self-employment avenues so that they can become economically independent and self-reliant.
- It also provides **grants for conducting training and skill development programs** for tribal youth.



EU Expands India Seafood Export Access

Recently, **European Union's approved 102 additional Indian fishery establishments** to export seafood to EU member nations.

Significance of the Expansion

- Expected to **increase India's seafood exports to the EU by 20%**.
- Reflects growing international confidence in **India's food safety and quality assurance systems**.
- It is expected to specifically benefit **exports of aquaculture shrimps and Cephalopods**, which include squid, cuttlefish, and octopus.





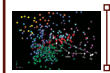
India Energy Stack

Ministry of Power Initiates Stakeholder Survey to Build India Energy Stack (IES)

- The survey aims to gather insights on **organizational profile, readiness** to participate in the IES ecosystem.

About IES

- It is conceptualized by the **Ministry of Power as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for the power sector.
- **Aim:** To enable a connected, intelligent, and interoperable energy ecosystem.
- It will define open standards and interoperability frameworks.
- **Utility Intelligence Platform** will be developed to unlock data from various systems to drive innovation and efficiency.



CLAMP (Climate Leaf Analysis Multivariate Program)

A study of fossil leaves from **Nagaland** revealed how **Antarctica** shaped the Indian Monsoons. This was done through CLAMP Method.

About CLAMP (Climate Leaf Analysis Multivariate Program)

- CLAMP uses fossil leaves as "**climate fingerprints**" to decode how Earth's climate looked in the past.
- It is used to **reconstruct past climates** (temperature, rainfall, humidity) by studying the shape, size, and margins of fossilized leaves.
- It helps in **paleoclimate studies**, especially where other climate records (like ice cores or sediments) are missing.
- Useful in predicting **future climate responses** by comparing past warming/cooling events with present trends.



Vembanad Lake

Unchecked tourism, luxury houseboats, and decades of encroachment are threatening the Vembanad Lake.

About Vembanad Lake

- It is India's **longest lake**, its **largest tropical wetland ecosystem**.
- It is **largest Ramsar site** spanning multiple districts in Kerala.
- Fed by 10 rivers, it includes the **Thanneermukkom salt water barrier**, India's largest mud regulator, vital for agriculture.
- It's a prime **backwater tourism hub**, famous for **Kettuvallams** and the **Nehru Trophy Boat Race**.



Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL)

Nobel laureate **Michael Kremer** found **PAL software** used in **Andhra Pradesh's government schools** led to a doubling of learning rates among those who used it.

About PAL

- It means a learning approach that **adapts to the individual needs of a learner**.
- It helps them learn according to their **own learning levels, preferences, and style**.
- It mainly necessitates a change away from traditional one-size-fits-all teaching approaches and towards a more **flexible and adaptive paradigm**.

Personality in News



Govind Ballabh Pant (10 September 1887- 7 March 1961)

Indian Freedom fighter **Birth Anniversary celebrated.**

About Govind Ballabh Pant

- Born in **Almora, Uttarakhand**.
- He started **Kumaon Parishad** in 1916.
- Got elected to the **United Provinces Legislative Council** on a **Swaraj Party** ticket in 1923.

Key Contributions

- Took part in the **Salt March, Quit India Movement** and was arrested in 1930 for planning the **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- He was the **first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Linguistic Reorganization of States:** During his tenure as India's home minister from 1955 to 1961.
- **Rewards and recognition:** Received **Bharat Ratna in 1957**.

Values: Courage, Integrity, Compassion, etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI