

Union Minister Highlights India's Dairy & Livestock Leadership at FAO Global Conference in Rome

The minister highlighted India's farmer-centric initiatives, innovations, and transformations driving inclusive growth in the dairy and livestock sector.

Status of Livestock & Dairy Sector in India

- Livestock sector contributes **31% to agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA)** and 5.5% to the national economy.
- India has **world's largest population of livestock**.
- **Ranks first in milk production**, second in egg production, and fifth in meat production globally.
- Livestock sector provides livelihoods to nearly **two-thirds of rural households**.

Key Concerns Related to Livestock Sector

- **Feed and Fodder Issues:** India has only 5% of its cultivable land under fodder production while having 15% of world's livestock.
- **Livestock Insurance:** Only 1% of livestock is insured.
- **Economic Loss Due to Diseases:** E.g., Hemorrhagic Septicemia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Brucellosis, etc.
- **Anti-Microbial Resistance:** India ranks 4th in antibiotics use in animals.
- **Other Issues:** Underutilization of Funds, Low productivity, etc.

Way Forward for Livestock Sector

- **Declare Livestock a Special Sector:** For proper attention and resources.
- **Promote Livestock-based Integrated Farming System (IFS):** To integrate crop cultivation, livestock rearing, and other agricultural activities
- **Breed Improvement Programmes:** To include state-dominant indigenous breeds from all states of the country to prevent their replacement by high-yielding breeds.
- **Other Recommendations:** Create National Fodder Mission, Expand Livestock Insurance, etc.

India's Initiatives for Livestock Sector

- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission:** Focuses on conserving and upgrading indigenous breeds through selective breeding.
- **Livestock Vaccination Programme:** Administering over 1.2 billion doses annually.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund:** USD 3.5 billion fund that supports investments in dairy, breeding, feed plants, and meat processing.
- **MAITRIs and A-HELP:** MAITRIs train local persons to deliver breeding services, and A-HELP empowers rural women to contribute to animal health delivery.

National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2023 Report

The NCRB's **Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2023 Report** highlights that India's **correctional facilities** are in a chronic state of distress, necessitating urgent governance reforms.

Major Issues in India's Prison System

- **Chronic Overcrowding:** National prison occupancy remains critically high at **120.8%**.
- **Undertrial Crisis:** A disproportionately high share of **73.5% undertrial prisoners** strains the system, reflecting **persistent judicial delays**.
- **Mental Health & Deaths:** Rising cases of unnatural custodial deaths, largely due to **suicides**, highlight **neglect of inmates' psychological well-being**.
- **Female Inmates' Vulnerability:** Female Inmates' Vulnerability: Women (**4.1% of inmates**) face **inadequate gender-sensitive facilities**, limited hygiene access, and insufficient medical care.

Initiatives Undertaken for Prison Reforms

- **Model Prison and Correctional Services Act, 2023:** It marks a paradigm shift from a punitive colonial framework to a **reformatory, rehabilitative, and rights-based prison system**.
- **Undertrial Review Committees:** District-level bodies, established by the Supreme Court, to review the cases of undertrial prisoners and recommend actions like release or bail.
- **E-Prisons Project:** A **centralized digital platform for prisoner records**, improving transparency, monitoring, and efficiency.
- **FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) system** of Supreme Court.

Way Forward (Recommendations of Justice Amitava Roy Committee)

- **Speedy Trials:** Establishment of **special fast-track courts** to handle petty offenses and cases pending for over 5 years.
- **Use of Video Conferencing:** For the production of senior citizens and sick prisoners in courts.
- **Gender-Sensitive Reforms:** Establishment of exclusive women's prisons, and medical wards for female inmates; formulation of **welfare schemes for transgender prisoners**, etc.
- **Mandatory segregation** of undertrials, convicts, and first-time offenders within prisons to reduce violence.

National Biodiversity Authority sanctions fund for Red Sanders Conservation under Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Mechanism

Funding, sourced from ABS mechanism, aims to raise one lakh red sanders saplings for **distribution to farmers in Andhra Pradesh**.

About ABS mechanism in India

- **Genesis:** Concept of ABS arises from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992 and its Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, 2010.
- **Definition:** It regulates access to biological resources, while ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits with users and providers (e.g., local communities) of resources.
- **Legal Framework:** India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002 in line with its commitment to CBD to **conserve biological diversity, and ensure its sustainable use**.
- **Implementation:**
 - ⊕ India implements ABS through a **three-tier system**:
 - ◆ **National Biodiversity Authority** (Headquartered in Chennai) at the central level,
 - ◆ **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)** at the state level,
 - ◆ And **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** at the local level.
 - ⊕ These statutory bodies manage access, benefit sharing, and distribution under BD Act.
- **Example:**
 - ⊕ **Kani Tribe (Kerala):** Traditional knowledge about a medicinal plant (**Arogyapacha**) was used to **develop a drug 'Jeevani'**.
 - ⊕ Benefit-sharing agreement ensured **royalty distribution to the Kani tribe**.

About Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood)

- **Habitat:** Native to the Southern Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.
 - ⊕ Grows in dry deciduous forests between 150–900 meters altitude.
- **Uses:** Used in fine furniture, musical instruments, ayurveda and yields a natural red dye.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - ⊕ **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
 - ⊕ **CITES:** Listed in Appendix II.
 - ⊕ Protected under **Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Threats:** Illegal logging & smuggling.



USA's Plan to End Israel-Gaza Conflict

USA released a 20-point peace plan to end the **Israel-Gaza Conflict** (refer to infographic).

Ongoing Israel-Gaza Conflict

- The recent escalation, ongoing for over two years, began with Hamas' Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel, however the origin of go back more than a century.

Historical Context of Conflict

- **Balfour Declaration (1917):** Issued by British supported the establishment of a **Jewish national home** in Palestine. It led to deepening tension where Jews were a minority and Arabs the majority.
- **Creation of Israel:** In 1947, the UN proposed splitting Palestine between Arabs and Jews. Consequently Jews **declared Israel's independence** in 1948.
 - ⊕ **Arabs rejected** the plan, leading to multiple wars.
- **1967 Middle East War:** About a million Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem came under Israel's control.
- **Yom Kippur/Ramadan War of 1973:** It led to **Camp David Accords** in 1978 which marked the first instance of an **Arab country recognizing Israel as a state**.
 - ⊕ Israel returned Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1979 however still has overall control of the West Bank.



Key Highlights of Peace Plan for Gaza

— **Deradicalisation:** Gaza to become a **terror-free zone**.

— Suspension of all military operations.

— **Interfaith Dialogue:** Establish dialogue based on **tolerance and peaceful coexistence**.

— **Sovereignty:** No Israeli occupation or annexation of Gaza.

— **Economic Development:** Creation of a **special economic zone** and **reconstruction plans** to rebuild Gaza.

— **Non-Displacement:** No forced eviction of Gaza residents.

10 years of adopting UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

UN SDGs, also known as Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, promote education, health etc., by 2030.

About SDGs

- The concept of sustainable development was described by the **1987 Brundtland Commission Report** as development that **meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations** to meet their own needs.
- These are a **set of 17 goals with 169 targets** that acknowledge the **need to balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability**.

How India integrated SDGs into its development planning?

- **Pioneering SDG India Index:** Ranks states and union territories, using public data to encourage improvement through competition.
- **Localization of SDGs:** Through the Panchayat Advancement Index, used by over 250,000 village councils.
- **Institutionalized the SDGs:** E.g., several states mapping budgets worth billions of dollars to SDG targets.
- **Running Specific programs** like Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) for back ward regions and adopting whole of society approach.
- **Engaging civil society, academia, and private sector:** Through three rounds of Voluntary National Reviews.

India's Progress in achieving Some SDGs

- **SDG1 (No Poverty):** Over 135 million people have moved out of multidimensional poverty.
- **SDG2 (Zero Hunger):** Prevalence of undernourishment- 13.7%
- **SDG3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** Maternal mortality ratio (Per 100,000 live births) declined to 80.5 from 130 in 2014-16.
- **SDG4 (Quality Education):** Net primary enrollment rate is now 99.9% etc.



National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Releases Crime in India 2023 Report

Key Findings of the Report (compared to 2022)

- **Overall Crime:** **6.24 million cases** (7.2% rise) registered, in 2023 and **crime rate** increased to **448.3** per lakh population (from 422.2 in 2022).
 - ⊕ India witnessed a crime every **five seconds** in 2023.
- **Changing Pattern:** Traditional violent crimes (like rape and dowry deaths) show decline, while **cyber, and urban crimes** are surging.
 - ⊕ **Cybercrimes:** Cybercrime in India rose 31.2% in 2023, with the majority of cases related to fraud, highlighting vulnerabilities from **rapid digitalization without adequate cyber hygiene**.
 - ⊕ **Metropolitan Cities:** Metropolitan cities saw sharper growth (**10.6%**), highlighting urban pressures and reporting improvements. **Delhi** saw the **highest** number of cases.
- **Crime Against Vulnerable Sections:**
 - ⊕ **Women:** Crime Against Women rose marginally (0.7%), yet **domestic cruelty (29.8%)** remains predominant, highlighting persistent **patriarchal challenges**.
 - ⊕ **SCs and STs:** Crimes against scheduled castes (SCs) rose marginally, however, **crimes against scheduled tribes (STs) surged 28.8%** largely due to **ethnic conflicts** in states like Manipur.
 - ⊕ **Children:** Crimes against children rose (**9.2%**), with a **significant share under POCSO**, reflecting both children's **vulnerability and improved reporting** under the Act.

About NCRB

- **Genesis:** **1986** (based on recommendations of the **Tandon Committee**, National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- **Key Functions:**
 - ⊕ It functions as the repository of **information on crime and criminals** to assist the investigators in resolution of crimes.
 - ⊕ It coordinates the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (**CCTNS**).
 - ⊕ It publishes National Crime Statistics i.e. **Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides and Prison Statistics**.

Also In News



Postal Ballot

According to ECI's notification, penultimate round of EVM counting shall be taken up only after complete counting of Postal Ballots.

About Postal Ballot

- Allows voters to **cast their votes on an electronically received postal ballot**, **Avoiding** the need to visit polling stations physically.
- **Legal Framework:** Governed by **Conduct of Election Rules, 1961** and **Representation of People Act, 1951**.
- **Eligibility:** Service voters, special voters, absentee voters (seniors above 85, persons with disabilities, etc.) those under preventive detention, and election duty personnel.
 - ⊕ **Service Voters** include Members of the Armed Forces, central armed police forces, government servants posted abroad, etc.
 - ⊕ **Special voters** include the President, Vice President, Governors, Cabinet Ministers, other high-ranking dignitaries, etc. and their spouses.



Sahyog Portal

X (formerly Twitter) to appeal Karnataka High Court judgement upholding Sahyog portal.

About Sahyog Portal

- **Objective:** Automates the process of sending legal notices to online intermediaries (platforms/ISPs) for the removal or disabling of access to unlawful content.
- **Nodal Agency:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Legal Backing:** Operates under **Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000**, to enforce swift action against cyber-enabled unlawful activities.
- **Significance:** Creates a **centralized platform** for various authorized government agencies to coordinate in real-time with digital platforms, enhancing digital security and governance.



India-Bhutan

India announced two cross-border railway projects to link Bhutan.

- It includes **69-km Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu (Bhutan)** line and the **20-km Banarhat (West Bengal)-Samtse (Bhutan)** line.

Strategic significance

- Enhanced connectivity to **Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC)** provides opportunities for **sustainable economic development** for both countries.
 - GMC is a **Special Administrative Region (SAR)** to operate under the concept of "One Country, Two Systems" with higher **autonomy**.
- Connectivity to **Samtse**, a major **industrial town** of Bhutan will promote **trade**. E.g., Bhutan exports of **dolomite, quartzite**, etc.
 - India is Bhutan's top trading partner** accounting for nearly **80% of Bhutan's total trade**.



Anant Shastra Air Defence System

Indian Army has awarded a contract to Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for development and supply of 'Anant Shastra' air defence system.

About Anant Shastra

- It is an **indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)** system.
- Developed by:** DRDO in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- Capabilities:** Highly mobile and agile with a range of **around 30 km**.
- Integration:** Works alongside MR-SAM, Akash, Spyder, and Sudarshan S-400 systems.
- Deployment:** To be stationed along **western and northern borders** once approved.



Northern White Rhino

Mumbai-based docu-series, **The Resurrection Quest** secured the prestigious **Gold Dolphin** at the **16th Cannes Corporate Media and TV Awards**.

- Northern White Rhino IVF was one of the events captured in the four-part series.

About Northern White Rhino

- Subspecies of the white rhinoceros**, once widespread across Central Africa.
 - Known for its massive size, broad mouth, and **two horns**.
- IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct in the wild).
 - Only two females (**Najin and Fatu**) remain globally, residing in **Oi Pejeta Conservancy (Kenya)**.
- Last Male:** **Sudan** died in 2018, confirming the subspecies' functional extinction and ending natural breeding prospects.
- Conservation Efforts:** Focus on advanced technologies like **In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)**, using cryopreserved sperm and surrogate Southern White Rhino mothers.



Wassenaar Arrangement

Some experts believe that Arrangement is failing to adequately regulate modern technology transfers such as cloud services and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS).

About Wassenaar Arrangement

- Established:** **Multilateral export control regime** established in **1996** at **wassenaar (Netherlands)**.
- Purpose:** Aiming to promote **transparency and responsibility** in the transfer of **conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies**.
- Membership:** Comprises **42 participating states**.
- Control Lists:** Divided into two categories:
 - Munitions List** (covers conventional arms).
 - And Dual-Use Goods and Technologies List** (covers sensitive technologies that have both civilian and military uses).
- India's Membership:** Joined in **2017**.



Gold Tailings

India is exploring new ways to boost domestic gold production by extracting it from gold tailings.

About Gold Tailings

- Definition:** Fine, slurry waste remaining after gold extraction, containing unrecovered metals and hazardous processing chemicals.
- Hazards:** Major risks include **Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)**, **heavy metal** (Arsenic, Lead) **leaching** and catastrophic **Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)** failures.

India's status in Gold

- Production:** In FY 2024-25 domestic gold production was **1.62 tonnes**.
- Reserves:** RBI's official gold reserves reached **880 tonnes** in 2025 (7th globally).
- India is the **world's second-biggest gold consumer** after China.



Bathukamma Festival

Bathukamma Festival celebrations in **Telangana** create **2 Guinness World Records**.

About Bathukamma Festival

- It is a **floral festival** celebrated by the **women folk of Telangana** and some parts of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is celebrated every year for **nine days** during **Durga Navratri**.
- It involves preparation of **Bathukamma** - the **traditional art of flower arrangement** using **seasonal flowers with medicinal values**.
- Bathukamma** means "**come back to life-Mother**" and it is dedicated to **Goddess Parvati**.
- It is declared as **Telangana State Festival**.

Place in News



Vietnam (Capital: Hanoi)

Typhoon Bualoi has caused widespread destruction in **Vietnam**.

Political Features

- Location:** Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia.
- Boundaries:** China (north), Laos and Cambodia (west).
- Maritime Boundaries:** South China Sea (east and south), Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin.
- Government Type:** Socialist Republic; one-party system dominated by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).

Geographical Features

- Climate:** Tropical monsoon.
- Major Rivers:** **Mekong river** in the north and **Red river** in the south. Both rivers form **deltas** while draining into the **South China Sea**.
- The mountains of the **Annam Cordillera** rise over most of the western side of Vietnam.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI