State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025 Report released by the World Bank Group

As per the report, number of operational **Carbon Pricing (CP)** instruments has grown, from **5 (2005) to 80 presently,** with **India,** Brazil, and Türkiye actively developing them.

Key Highlights of the Report

» **Coverage:** CP covers around **28% of global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions,** with **43 carbon taxes and 37 Emission Trading Systems (ETSs).**

» **Revenue Generation:** Globally, ETSs and carbon taxes continued to generate over **USD 100 billion (2024)** for public budgets.

» **Sector Wise Coverage: Power** followed by **industry sector** have the highest coverage.
  ⊛ **Agriculture** and **Waste** remains largely uncovered.

» **Carbon Credit Supply Vs Demand:** Supply continued to outstrip demand, with almost **1 billion tons** of unretired credits in 2024, globally.
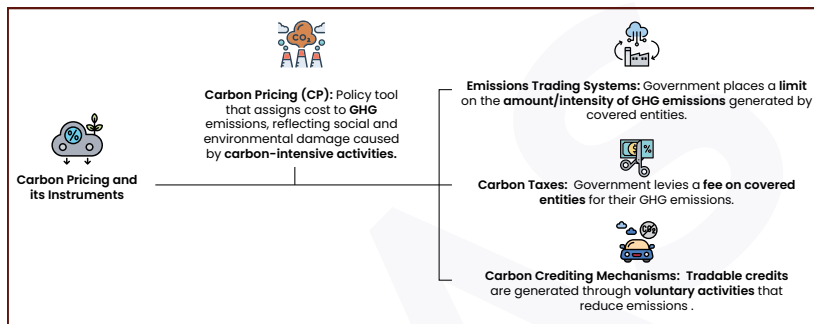
Carbon Pricing and its Instruments

Carbon Pricing (CP): Policy tool that assigns cost to **GHG** emissions, reflecting social and environmental damage caused by **carbon-intensive activities.**

Emissions Trading Systems: Government places a **limit** on the **amount/intensity of GHG emissions** generated by covered entities.

Carbon Taxes: Government levies a **fee on covered entities** for their GHG emissions.

Carbon Crediting Mechanisms: Tradable credits are generated through **voluntary activities** that reduce emissions.

Key Provisions on CP

Global

» **Article 6 of Paris Agreement (CoP 21, UNFCCC):** Provides basis for **facilitating international recognition** of cooperative carbon pricing approaches.
  ⊛ **COP29** (Baku, Azerbaijan), **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)** adopted the final rules for **Article 6.2 (cooperative approaches)** and **Article 6.4 (the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism).**

» **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs): Imposes Carbon price** at the **border** on emissions from **imported goods. E.g., EU's CBAM.**

India

» **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (2023):** Provides two mechanisms,
  ⊛ **Compliance Mechanism: Obligated entities** complies with prescribed GHG emission reduction norms.
  ⊛ **Offset mechanism: Non-obligated entities** registers projects for GHG emission reduction/removal/avoidance for **Carbon Credit Certificates.**

Centre sanctions FRA Cells to facilitate implementation of Forest Rights Act

Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, under the **Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan** (DAJGUA), a Central scheme, has so far sanctioned the setting up of 324 **district-level FRA cells** for implementing the forest rights law.
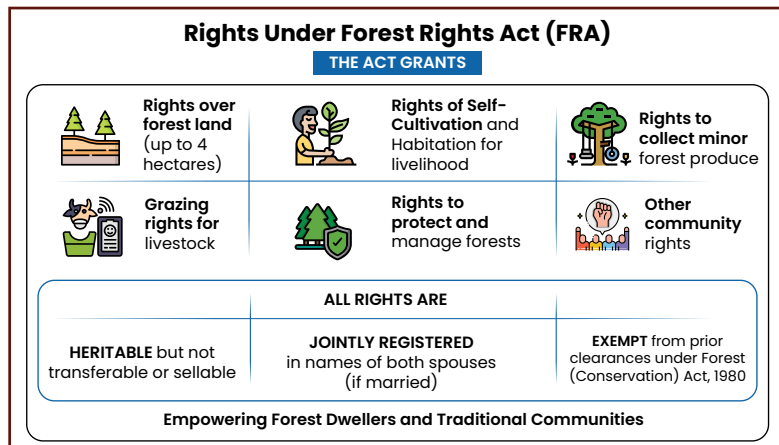
» Additionally, **State-level FRA cells** have also been sanctioned for multiple states and UTs.

About District-level FRA Cells

» **Objective:** To assist with paperwork and data management for FRA claims, without interfering with decisions made by statutory committees.

» **Rules governing the operation** of these cells **flow from the DAJGUA programme** and not the principal legislation of the FRA - The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.**
  ⊛ The principal **law mandates the State government to set up the structure for processing forest rights claims,** which includes -
    ◆ Gram Sabha Forest Rights Committees (FRCs),
    ◆ Sub-Divisional Level Committees (SDLCs),
    ◆ District Level Committees (DLCs), and
    ◆ State Monitoring Committees.

Concerns with the establishment of new Cells

» Creation of a **"parallel FRA mechanism"** outside the purview of principal legislation.

» Adding more committees or cells **may not resolve structural issues in FRA implementation.**
  ⊛ **Key reasons for high pending claims** include **infrequent meetings** of Sub-Divisional and District Level Committees and the **Forest departments' reluctance** to act on approved claims.

Rights Under Forest Rights Act (FRA)

THE ACT GRANTS

Rights over forest land (up to 4 hectares)

Rights of Self-Cultivation and Habitation for livelihood

Rights to collect minor forest produce

Grazing rights for livestock

Rights to protect and manage forests

Other community rights

ALL RIGHTS ARE

HERITABLE but not transferable or sellable

JOINTLY REGISTERED in names of both spouses (if married)

EXEMPT from prior clearances under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Empowering Forest Dwellers and Traditional Communities

Finance Ministry issues Guidelines for direct release of Central Sector Scheme (CSS) Funds

Central Sector (CS) Schemes are fully funded and implemented by the Central Government and relate to subjects listed under the Union List of the Constitution.

Key Guidelines

» **Central Nodal Agency (CNA):** For each Central Sector Scheme, the concerned Ministry or Department will appoint an agency—such as an autonomous body, PSU, or State agency—as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) to implement it.

» **Budgeting and Savings:** Ministries should estimate scheme budgets realistically and flag any savings early, especially by the third quarter.

  ⊝ **Unused funds will lapse at the end of the financial year** and cannot be carried forward.

» **'Just-In-Time' Fund Release:** Funds should be released only when needed, with no more than 25% disbursed at once.

  ⊝ Further releases depend on **using 75% of earlier funds** and meeting all previous conditions.

Significance of these guidelines

» **Efficient Fund Utilization:** By limiting releases to 25% at a time and requiring 75% prior utilization, the system ensures that funds are actually used, not just parked.

Other measures taken to ensure effectiveness of Central Schemes

» **Mandatory use of Public Finance Management System (PFMS):** For fund tracking, real-time monitoring, and control over unspent balances.

» **'Sunset' clauses:** In 2017, Union Ministry of Finance mandated sunset clauses and outcome review for all government schemes.

  ⊝ It aimed to **align the schemes with financial resources cycle** of centre and state governments; these will be **co-terminus with the Finance Commission cycles.**

» **Private Member Bill:** "The Government Legislative Proposals and Schemes (Impact Analysis and Post Implementation Assessment) Bill, 2022" was introduced to bring about accountability and Parliamentary oversight to the legislative and policy-making process and improve the quality of expenditure made by the Union Government.

» **Promotes Accountability:** Linking new fund releases to proper use of earlier funds strengthens financial discipline among implementing agencies.

Union Agriculture Ministry announces Rs. 6,000 crore to strengthen Agri Stack under Digital Agriculture Mission

Announced during the **National Conference on Agri Stack,** it includes ₹4,000 crore for developing **Farmer Registries,** including legal heir systems, and ₹2,000 crore for conducting Digital Crop Surveys.

About Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM)

» Launched in **2024,** to create a **robust digital agriculture ecosystem** for **farmer-centric digital solutions** and making available **timely** and **reliable crop-related information.**

» Envisages the creation of **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for Agriculture such as **Agri Stack, Krishi Decision Support System, Comprehensive Soil Fertility & Profile Map,** etc.
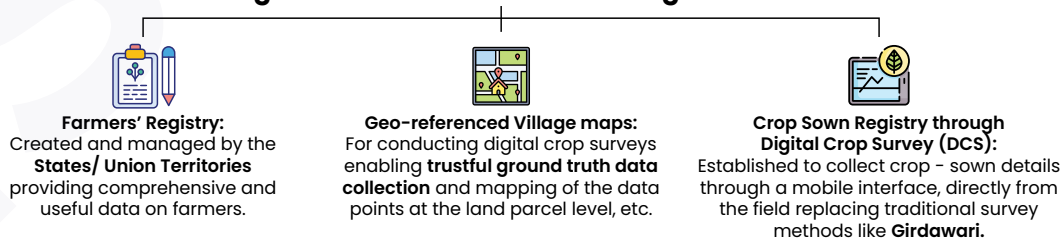
About Agri Stack

» Envisaged as a **digital public good** like **"Aadhar"** with a built in a **'federated architecture'** ensuring **collaboration** between Central and State Governments/UTs.

Other Initiatives on Digital Agriculture

» **Krishi Decision Support System (2024):** Integrates and standardizes **geospatial** and **non-geospatial data,** including satellite, weather, soil, etc.

» **Nationwide Soil Resource Mapping Project:** Initiated by the **Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI),** inventorying soils at **village level.**

» **DGCES (Digital General Crop Estimation Survey):** Streamline and automate the entire **General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES) process.**

Registries or Databases under Agri Stack

Farmers' Registry: Created and managed by the **States/ Union Territories** providing comprehensive and useful data on farmers.

Geo-referenced Village maps: For conducting digital crop surveys enabling **trustful ground truth data collection** and mapping of the data points at the land parcel level, etc.

Crop Sown Registry through Digital Crop Survey (DCS): Established to collect crop - sown details through a mobile interface, directly from the field replacing traditional survey methods like **Girdawari.**

Other Major Highlights of the Conference

» **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):** With Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, and Odisha, and the PSB Alliance with the **National Farmers' Welfare Program Implementation Society (NFWPIS),** enabling digital access to credit services.

» **Introduction of Digitally Verifiable Credential (DVC) or Kisan Pehchan Patra:** Integrated with **DigiLocker,** to generate authenticated credentials for specific land parcels and crops.

Youth Respect Elders but Struggle to Connect, says Report

Recent **demographic shift** and **evolving family structures** have transformed **intergenerational dynamics** where elders feel **devalued** and youth struggle with **differing expectations** requiring effective **Intergenerational Communications** to address these issues.

Key Reasons that Disrupt Intergenerational Communications

- **Generational Gap Perception Index:** Reveals that the **disconnection** is shaped more by **education, dependence, and emotional distance** than by age alone.
- **Communication Barriers:** Both **elders (76%)** and **youth (74%)** identify **busy youth schedules** as the top barrier to interaction.
- **Comfort Levels:** It varies by **topic** and **relationship,** i.e., discussions on **"life advice"** are moderately comfortable for both groups, while **"career or education plans"** are least comfortable.

Recommendations on fostering effective Intergenerational Communications

- **Aging Sensitization:** To be included as curricula in schools/ colleges fostering empathy among youths regarding **emotional realities of aging.**
- **Youth-Led Training Initiatives:** Establishing **"Digital Buddy" programs** to pair tech-savvy youth with elders for patient digital learning.
- **Community-based elder support centres:** Offering holistic services, including emotional counselling, etc.
- **Intergenerational Programs:** Like **"Wisdom Exchange"** programs where elders share traditional skills while youth offer modern knowledge.

Differing Perceptions among Youths and Elders on various Parameters

Parameters	🧑 Youth	👴 Elders
Perception Gap	Associate Elders with **wisdom.**	Feel **emotional neglect** and **loss of autonomy.**
Digital Divide	Elders are **disinterested** in learning digital skills.	Youths are **impatient** and offer **fast explanations.**
Family Vs Formal Care	Increased inclination towards **paid caregivers.**	**Family** as the primary support system.
Aspirations for Aging	**Independent living** near family or with retirement communities.	**Family** based living in old age.

Massive Forest Fire breaks out in Reasi (Jammu & Kashmir)

Forest fire near NH-144A in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir has spread across hundreds of hectares of forest land and prompted immediate action from forest authorities and emergency services.

About Forest Fires

- It refers to **uncontrolled fires** that spread through vegetation in forest areas, causing **ecological, economic,** and **social damage.**
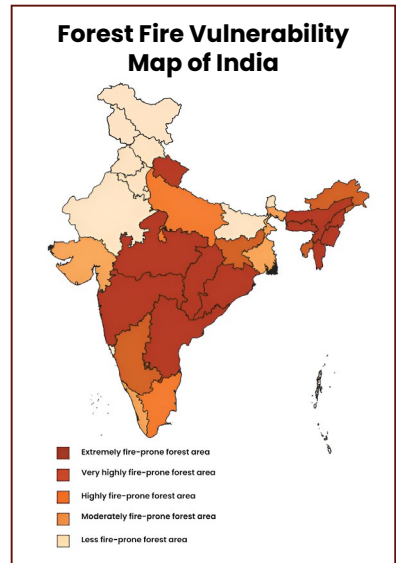- **Causes of Forest Fires**
  - ➡ **Natural Causes:** Lightning, prolonged droughts, etc., make forests more flammable.

Forest Fire Vulnerability Map of India

- Extremely fire-prone forest area
- Very highly fire-prone forest area
- Highly fire-prone forest area
- Moderately fire-prone forest area
- Less fire-prone forest area

  - ➡ **Anthropogenic Causes:**
    - ◆ **Slash-and-Burn Agriculture:** Traditional practices like Jhum cultivation.
    - ◆ **Negligence:** Careless disposal of cigarettes, unattended campfires.
    - ◆ **Climate Change:** Extended dry spells, increased frequency, intensity, and duration of heatwaves due to human-induced climate change, etc.

Existing measures for prevention and mitigation of Forest Fires

- **Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPMFS):** Centrally funded program specifically dedicated to assisting the states in prevention, preparedness, and management of forest fires.
- **National Action Plan on Forest Fires:** Aims to minimize forest fires through community involvement and technology integration.
- **FSI's Forest Fire Alert System (FIRE 2.0):** Uses **MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer)** and **SNPP-VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) satellite data** to issue early alerts.

Also In News

AviList

AviList, the first-ever **unified global checklist** of **bird species** to aid effective bird conservation becomes live.

- It will replace the **International Ornithological Committee (IOC)** and **Clements lists** and will be **updated annually.**

About AviList

- It provides the **most current and authoritative taxonomy** of the world's birds.
- **Collaborative global effort** that included representatives from **BirdLife International,** the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology,** the **American Ornithologists Society,** the **International Ornithologists' Union,** and **Avibase.**
- Includes **11,131 species, 19,879 subspecies,** 2,376 genera, 252 families, and 46 orders.

Shipki La

Recently, **Himachal Pradesh Government** launched border tourism activities at **Shipki-La.**

About Shipki La

- **Elevation: 3,930 meters** on the **India-Tibet Autonomous Region** (in the People's Republic of China) **border.**
- **Location:** Kinnaur district, **Himachal Pradesh.**
  - ➡ It is a **mountain pass** and a **border post.**
- **River: Sutlej (Origin: Raksas tal near Mansarovar)** enters India through this pass.
- **Significance:** Located on the **ancient Silk Route** served as a vital **trade route for centuries.**
  - ➡ It was closed after the Covid outbreak in 2020.

Strait of Hormuz

Recent Israel's strikes against Iran threaten the **maritime trade** through **strategic choke-point Strait of Hormuz.**

About Strait of Hormuz

- Located between **Oman** and Iran.
- It links the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea.**
- It is the **world's most important oil chokepoint**-about 21% of global petroleum liquids consumption.
- **Bordering Nations**
  - **North:** Bordered by Iran.
  - **South:** Bordered by the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Oman's Musandam Peninsula.**

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) will conduct a **detailed probe** into the Air India plane crash at Ahmedabad airport.

About Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

- Established in **2012** as an **attached office under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- It has responsibility to fulfil obligations of the State under **Annex 13 to Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944.**
- **Mandate**
  - **Facilitates investigation and administrative work** of Court or Assessors appointed by the Central Government under **Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017.**
  - **All Accidents and Serious Incidents** involving aircraft with All-up Weight (AUW) more than 2250 Kgs or Turbojet aircraft are investigated by AAIB.

Statins

New study finds the **role of Statins** in bringing down death rate among **Sepsis** patients.

- **Sepsis** (previously called "**blood poisoning**"), is a **life threatening condition** in which the **body's immune system** overreacts to an infection with an exaggerated **inflammation response.**

About Statins

- They are a **group of medicines** for **cardiovascular diseases,** that help lower the level of **Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL)/bad cholesterol** in the blood.
- They have **anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, antioxidative** and **antithrombotic** (prevent blood clots) **properties**
- They help mitigate **excessive inflammatory response,** restore **endothelial function,** and show potential **antimicrobial activities.**

Taxation on Virtual Digital Assets

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is investigating **tax evasion and laundering** of unaccounted income via **Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)** like cryptocurrency.

- **VDAs** refer to **digital assets that use blockchain or cryptographic technology** for transactions.

Taxation Provisions for VDAs

- CBDT's **NUDGE** (Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable) approach: **"Trust first"** philosophy **to encourage voluntary tax disclosure** and update if any income on account of VDA transactions have not been properly declared.
- **Applicable tax rates** (as per **Finance Act 2022**)
  - Flat **30% tax** on VDA gains.
  - **1% TDS** on transfer of VDAs to residents.

Women Political Leaders 2025

According to a **new factsheet by the UN Women,** women are disappearing from political leadership roles globally.

Key Findings

- **Women as head:** Only 25 countries have a woman in either of the top leadership roles.
- **Global:** Only 22.9 per cent of heads of Cabinet ministries are women
- **India's Position:** India ranks 174 out of 181 countries for women in cabinet positions, with women making up just 5.6% of political leaders — among the lowest in the world.
- **Bias in Ministerial Portfolios:** Women are mostly given social sector roles such as Family and children affairs, while men dominate economic and strategic portfolios.

Black Box

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) recovered the **Black Box** from the wreckage of **Air India's Boeing 787.**

About Black Box

- **Comprise two Critical Flight Recording Devices:**
  - **Flight Data Recorder:** Records **important flight parameters** like speed, altitude, engine performance, etc.
  - **Cockpit Voice Recorder:** Records **audio** from the cockpit, including conversations between pilots, alarms, and ambient sounds.
- **Purpose: Records data** during flights and crucial information on **plane crashes.**
- **Colour: Bright orange** to ensure **high visibility.**
- **Material:** Made of **strong substances** (steel or titanium) and are insulated from **extreme heat or cold.**
- **Placing: Tail of the aircraft** where the impact of the crash is the least.

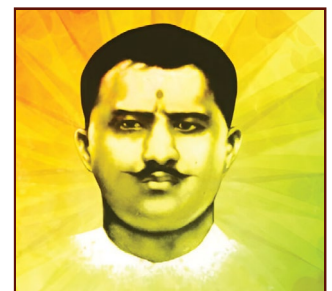**Personality in News** | 📰 **Ram Prasad Bismil (1897 - 1927)**

Eminent freedom fighter and revolutionary leader Ram Prasad Bismil was remembered on his birth anniversary (Jun 11).

About Ram Prasad Bismil

- Born in Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), he was deeply influenced by **Arya Samaj philosophy** from a young age.

Key Contributions

- **Revolutionary Activities:** He emerged as a prominent revolutionary through the **Mainpuri Conspiracy (1918),** where he distributed banned literature to promote nationalist ideas.
- **Founding of HRA:** In 1924, he co-founded the **Hindustan Republican Association** (HRA), later known as **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association** (HSRA), along with **Sachindranath Sanyal** and others.
- **Kakori Conspiracy (1925):** Masterminded the Kakori train robbery.
- **Prison Protest:** While in jail, Bismil and his associates went on a hunger strike, demanding recognition as political prisoners and protesting harsh jail conditions.
- **Literary work:** Composed patriotic poems in Hindi and Urdu under **pen names like Bismil, Ram,** and **Agyat.**
- **Martyrdom:** He was executed on December 19, 1927 after a controversial trial in the Kakori case.

AHMEDABAD   BENGALURU   BHOPAL   CHANDIGARH   DELHI   GUWAHATI   HYDERABAD   JAIPUR   JODHPUR   LUCKNOW   PRAYAGRAJ   PUNE   RANCHI