

# NEWS TODAY

## Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) to be Operational by 2027: Union Minister

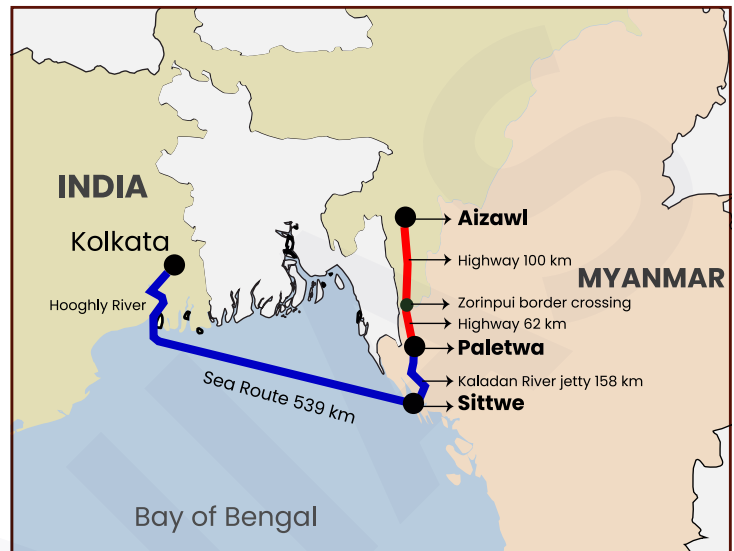
Jointly identified by India and Myanmar, it offers multi-modal transportation of cargo from Eastern Ports of India to Myanmar and to India's North-Eastern Region (NER) through Myanmar.

### About KMTTP

- **Framework Agreement:** Signed in 2008.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Project Development Consultant (PDC):** Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- **Transit Components**
  - ⊕ **Waterway Component:** On Kaladan River from Sittwe Port (Rakhine, Myanmar) to Paletwa in Myanmar.
  - ⊕ **Road Component:** From Paletwa to Zorinpui on India-Myanmar border in Mizoram.

### Significance of KMTTP for India

- **End Geographic Isolation of NER:** Region is connected with rest of India through the "Chicken's Neck" (narrow corridor of just 21 km) and is surrounded by International borders.
- **Aligns with India's Act East Policy (AEP):** Announced in 2014, focuses on India's connectivity with the neighbourhood.
- **Logistics Cost and Time:** Cost and time for transportation of goods from Kolkata to Aizawl would drop by more than 50%.
- **Develop NER as a business hub:** Boost trade, establish export-oriented industries, particularly in sectors like manufacturing and agro-processing.



### Other Connectivity Projects for NER

- **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project:** Connects Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) via Myanmar.
- **Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) :** Between India and Bangladesh allowing Inland vessels/cruises of one country to ply on the designated waterway routes of another.
- **Others:** Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement; MoU for the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports of Bangladesh.

## Patterns of flood in terms of magnitude, size and intensity undergoing changes: IIT Study

IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee have found that riverine floods in India are changing over the past 40 years (1970–2010) based on data from >170 monitoring stations across the country.

### Key Highlights of the study

- **Decline in Flood Magnitude:** 74% of stations showed decreasing flood magnitude trends whereas 26% showcased increasing trends. Larger catchment experienced reduced flood magnitudes
  - ⊕ **Region Specific:-**
    - ◆ **West and Central Ganga basin:** 17% decline per decade in monsoon floods (due to declining precipitation and soil moisture)
    - ◆ **Narmada basin:** Consistent decrease in magnitude of floods (mainly on account of dam construction)
    - ◆ **Marathwada region:** River flows are decreasing at 8% during monsoon and 31% in pre-monsoon season
- **Rise in Pre-Monsoon Flood Intensity:** Malabar Coast (Kerala, Tamil Nadu): Increase of 8% per decade in pre-monsoon flood intensity (due to rising pre-monsoon rainfall). It affects rivers such as Chaliyar, Periyar, Bharathapuzha etc.
- **Shift in Flood Timing:** Upper Ganga (delayed floods), Central India (earlier floods), Southern India (generally sees later floods)

### Implications

- **Reservoir operations & water security:** Declining floods may mean lower reservoir levels affecting water supply, irrigation and hydropower.
- **Overhauling of Flood management system:** Increased focus on early warning, green buffers, smart planning, and resilient infrastructure

## Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems: Report released by FAO

The report provides an assessment on leveraging synergies between youth and Agrifood systems for eliminating unemployment among youth.(15-29).

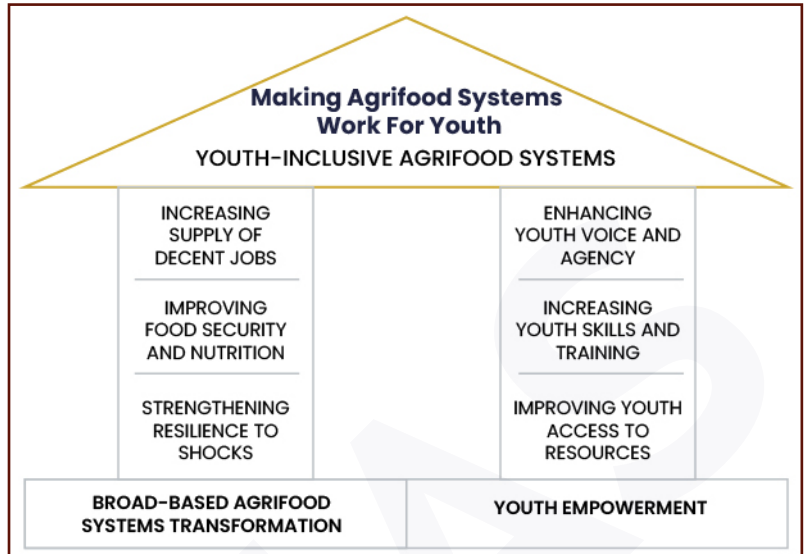
- It becomes important as **~85% of the world's 1.3 billion youth live in lower income countries** and **nearly half of all youth (46%) still live in rural areas.**

### Key Highlights of Report

- **Economic Growth:** Employment could generate a **1.4% boost in global GDP** with **~45%** driven by increased youth participation in agrifood systems.
- **Youth Participation:** 44% of working youth relies on agrifood systems for employment, compared to 38% for working adults.
- **Decline in Working youth in agrifood systems:** It has decreased from **54% (2005) to 44%(2021).**
- **Food insecurity:** It has risen from **16.7%(2014-16) to 24.4%(2021-23).**

### Challenges of Youth participation in Agriculture

- **Social Status:** E.g. Farmers are perceived as having a lower social status.
- **Climate Change:** E.g. Risks associated with it demotivates young people.
- **Skewed Internal Migration:** E.g. In India, **SC/STs individuals aged 16–40 are overrepresented in short-term migration.**
- **Women Inequality:** E.g. Women **relinquish their share of inherited land** in favour of brothers.
- **Landlessness:** E.g. Most young people are landless and start farming on rented land.



## NITI Aayog releases the District SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Index 2023–24 for the North East Region (NER)

The Index ranks **Hnahthial (Mizoram)** as the **best performing district** in NER and places all districts of **Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura** in the **front runner status.**

- This marks a major milestone towards **localising the global goals through bottom up approach and local developmental policy.**

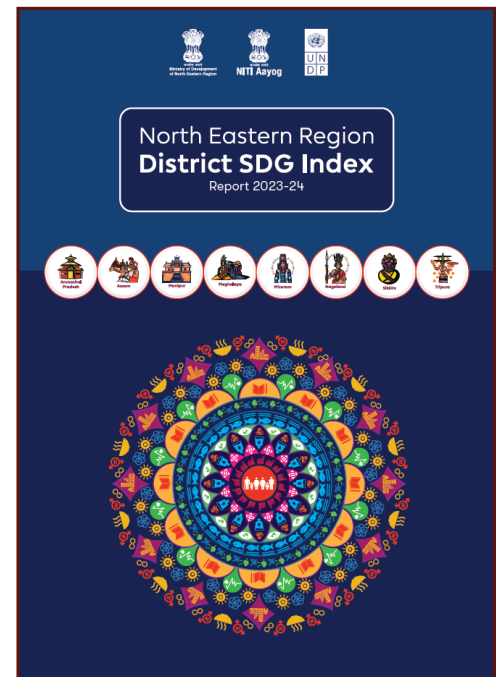
### Significance of Localising the SDG Goals

- **Local spaces as key site of Delivery:** State-level **Vision and Agenda documents** sets targets for implementation and monitors it through **Village Level Monitoring Committee.** E.g. Mizoram.
- **Bottom Up Approach:** Subnational governments acts as a **bridge** between the National government and the communities fostering civil society, academia and private sector participation.
- **Mobilizing Local resources:** By adopting measures **to align state budgets** with SDGs.
- **Address Disparities:** Local achievements would overcome **intra-regional and inter-district disparities** and align it with **national average.**

### Key Challenges with SDG Localisation

- **Financial Constraints:** **Competing priorities** in municipal budgets, where essential services like healthcare and education may take **precedence over sustainability projects.**
- **Intersectionality of Goals:** Local governments may struggle to **balance economic growth** with **environmental sustainability.**
- **Data Quality and Availability:** Lack of **up-to-date socio-economic data** hampers evidence-based decision-making.

**Strengthening local governance** and using **innovative financial mechanism** can help adapt strategies **fitting unique socio-economic and cultural landscapes** promoting SDG Localisation.



### India and SDG Localisation

- **NITI Aayog:** Cooperative and Competitive federalism, SDG India Index, Agenda 2030, etc.
- **Initiatives/Schemes:** **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI),** Central Schemes like **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** and State Schemes like CM's **Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (Assam),** etc.

## Industry 4.0 Technologies could Transform Food Processing: Report

Report by **ASSOCHAM-PwC**, highlights that despite **global food processing market** being valued at **USD 10 trillion (2025)**, food scarcity persists due to high post-harvest losses, limited processing infrastructure, etc.

### Key Challenges with Food Processing Sector

- **Food wastage and foodborne illnesses:** It costs around **\$936 billion** and **\$110 billion USD** respectively annually.
- **Supply Chain Inefficiencies:** India loses **~INR 1.53 trillion** worth of agricultural produce annually due to **post-harvest losses**.
- **Higher Operational and Environmental Costs:** Food processing demands substantial amounts of energy and water.

### Benefits of Next Generation Technologies

- **Role of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning:** **Non-invasive food inspection**, automation of **repetitive tasks** like packaging, labelling, etc.
- **Consumer Market trends:** **Smart foods** developed using innovative processing techniques with **enhanced shelf life** and **nutritional value** are in demand.
- **Supply Chain Transparency:** Using **Blockchain** that allows participants to verify transactions in real-time, ensuring data accuracy.
- **Cater to Rising Population Demands:** World population is to reach **9.8 billion** by **2050 (UN)**.

Despite the benefits, **operational and regulatory challenges** associated with the technological adoption can be overcome by compliance and legislative frameworks like **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act)**, **skilled manpower**, etc.

### Food Processing Sector in India

- **Average Annual Growth Rate (AGR):** **~5.35%** since 8 years until 2022-23.
- **Share of Processed Food export in Agri-Food Export:** **23.4%** in 2023-24.
- **Government Schemes:** **PM Kisan Sampada Yojana**, **Production Linked Incentive Scheme** for Food Processing Industry, etc.

## Also in News



### Enemy Properties Act 1968

Madhya Pradesh High Court dismissed an actor's objection to a government notification notifying his property under Enemy properties act 1968

#### Enemy Property Act, 1968

- It defines an 'enemy' as a country (and its citizens) that committed external aggression against India (i.e., **Pakistan and China**).
- Enemy Property means **any property for the time being belonging to or held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm**.
- It vests these assets to the **Custodian of Enemy Property for India, Ministry of home affairs**.
- The 2017 amendment to the act expanded the definition of enemy to include:
  - ⌚ Legal heir or successor of enemy whether or not citizen of India or the citizen of a country which is not an enemy.
  - ⌚ Enemy who has changed his nationality



### Jaa Mata

Japanese Coast Guard ship, **Itsukushima**, arrived in Chennai for **joint exercise, Jaa Mata**.

**About Jaa Mata** ('See You Later' in Japanese)

- It is a **joint sea exercise** between **Japan** and **India Coast Guard**.
- **Aim:** Enhance **operational capabilities**, **refine combat skills** and **strengthen interoperability** for effective joint operations.



### Guadalupe River

Floods triggered by **heavy rainfall** caused massive damage in parts of **central Texas**, particularly along the **Guadalupe River**.  
**About Guadalupe River**

- **Spring-fed river** rising in North and South Forks in Kerr County, **Texas**.
  - ⌚ Empties into **San Antonio Bay** at the **Gulf of Mexico**.
- **Canyon Reservoir** and **Edwards Aquifer (Balcones Fault Zone – San Antonio Portion)** are a part of its Basin.
- The River and its surrounding areas have historically been prone to flash flooding earning the name as "**Flash Flood Alley**."
  - ⌚ Flash Flood Alley is characterized by **steep terrain**, **high rainfall** and **shallow soil** contributing to flooding.



### Battery Passport

**NITI Aayog** has started deliberations with ministries and departments on proposed **Battery Passport framework**.

- **European Union Batteries Regulation (2023)** also mentioned the need for battery passport for industrial batteries with a capacity greater than 2kWh.

#### About Battery Passport

- **Meaning:** Sort of **Aadhar**, providing every battery with a **unique ID** containing information on the product, including its **origin**, **performance**, **composition**, **end of life**, etc., digitally embedded in a **QR code**.
- **Significance:** Improve safety and quality standards, **accelerate export** of EVs from India, **promote transparent** and **circular supply chain**.





## Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

CDSCO recommended 17 drugs to be flushed down the sink to prevent harm to pets and people.

- These mostly include narcotic drugs such as **fentanyl**, **Tramadol (painkiller)**, **Diazepam**(Anti-anxiety medication) etc.

### About CDSCO

- It is Central Drug Authority under **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
- It discharges functions assigned to the Central Government under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act (1940)**.
  - ⊕ **Regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs.**
- **Functions**
  - ⊕ Regulatory control over import of drugs (**import licensing and regulation**)
  - ⊕ Approval of new drugs and clinical trials
  - ⊕ **Banning of Drugs and Cosmetics**
  - ⊕ Meetings of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) and Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)



## Maize

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare highlighted the **importance of Maize at India Maize Summit 2025**.

### About Maize

- It is a **Kharif crop**, used both as food and fodder.
- Globally, known as "**queen of cereals**" because it has the **highest genetic yields potential** among the cereals.
- **Soil:** Well drained sandy loamy to silt loamy soil. Grows well in **old alluvial soil**.
  - ⊕ **pH value:** 5.5 to 7.5.
- **Temperature:** 21°C to 27°C.
- **Major Growing states:** Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
  - ⊕ Also grown in North America, Brazil, China, Russia, Canada, and Mexico.



## Red Sea

Red Sea cargo ships face new attacks as Houthis (Yemen) claim to have sunk vessel **Red Sea**

- Red Sea marginal sea in the north-west of the **Indian Ocean**.
- It is connected to the **Gulf of Aden** via Strait of **Bab El Mandeb** and to the **Mediterranean sea** via **Suez Canal**.
- **Bordering Nations:** Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea(West), Israel & Jordan(North East) via the **gulf of Aqaba** and Saudi Arabia & Yemen(East).
- Northern Split: Red Sea in its northern part splits into two parts, the **Gulf of Suez** (Northwest) and **Gulf of Aqaba** (Northeast).
- It contains one of the **world's most saline seawater**.
- The Red Sea receives **very little precipitation in any form** and no water enters the Red Sea from rivers.



## Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Mission hits major roadblocks due to funding.

### About JJM

- Launched in 2019 as a **centrally sponsored scheme** under Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Objective: Providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC)**
- Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to **provide safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India, extended from 2024 till 2028.
- **Drinking Water is a State subject**, as such **planning, approval, implementation, operation and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, lies with State governments**.
  - ⊕ **The Government of India** supplements the efforts of the States by providing **technical and financial assistance**.

## Place in News



## Sudan (Capital: Khartoum)

The UN warns of a worsening humanitarian crisis especially in **El Fasher, capital of North Darfur province in Sudan**.

### Political Features

- **Third-largest country in Africa.**
- Land Borders: Egypt (north), Eritrea and Ethiopia (East), South Sudan (South), Central African Republic and Chad (West), and Libya (Northwest).

### Geographic Features

- **Maritime Boundary:** Red Sea
- **Highest peak:** Marrah Mountains
- **Natural Resources:** petroleum, small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold
- The **Nile River** and its tributaries flow from **south to north and drain most of the country**.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI