



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

27th August 2025



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



www.tathastuics.com



support@tathastuics.com

HEAD OFFICE: 53/1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BADA BAZAR ROAD,
OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060

Topics Covered

- **The gender angle to India's economic vulnerabilities**
- **Play-based learning for India's future**
- **What is the air drop test conducted by ISRO?**
- **Why has the import duty on cotton been suspended?**
- **Adi Karmayogi Initiative**
- **Illumination at the US open is designed to cut light pollution**
- **Centre finalises National Designated Authority to kick- start carbon markets**
- **Centre finalises National Designated Authority to kick- start carbon markets**

The gender angle to India's economic vulnerabilities

GS3 (Economy – Growth, Employment, Trade) GS1 (Society – Role of Women, Gender Issues)
 GS2 (Governance – Schemes & Policies, Inclusive Growth)

The gender angle to India's economic vulnerabilities

India's economic ascent, which is now valued at \$4.19 trillion, has earned it a firm place in the global growth story. The country is poised to become the world's third-largest economy. Yet, this momentum now faces a formidable disruption – the proposed 50% tariffs by the United States President Donald Trump on Indian exports. Targeting \$40 billion in trade, these tariffs could shave off nearly 1% from India's GDP striking labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems, and leather and footwear which are critical industries that disproportionately employ women.

Unlike China, which has weathered U.S. tariffs through its manufacturing scale and diversified exports, India remains vulnerable. The U.S. accounts for 18% of India's exports; an increase in tariff could lead to 30%-35% cost disadvantage against competitors such as Vietnam leaving Indian exporters exposed. In this moment of crisis, these words appear prescient: "The strength of a nation lies in the strength of its women." India's failure to economically empower half its population is not just a social concern. It is now a strategic liability.

The tariffs threaten to destabilise employment for millions of Indian women. The textiles, gems, leather and footwear sectors, which employ nearly 50 million people, face a projected export decline of up to 50%. Additionally, India's existing low female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has remained stuck between 37% and 41.7% far below the global average and China's 60%. According to the International Monetary Fund, closing the gender gap could boost India's GDP by 27% in the long term. Yet, this is a promise that is stifled by cultural constraints, policy inertia and systemic barriers to employment.

The ticking clock

India is inching closer to its peak of its demographic dividend – a period where the working-age population vastly outnumbered dependents. This window, which could close by 2045, once fuelled growth in China, Japan, and the U.S. – economies now past their prime



Anurodh Lalit Jain

is Vice-Chairman, All India Congress Committee (Minority Department) and a Social Economic Analyst

The imposition of U.S. tariffs that threatens to impact millions of Indian women in labour-intensive sectors is a wake-up call – women need empowerment as economic agents

demographic advantage, with flattening growth curves. India must act to convert this fleeting dividend into sustained prosperity, and this means fully integrating women into the workforce.

Labour participation by rural women has inched up, but mostly in unpaid and low-productivity family work. In urban India, female workforce participation has stagnated. Safety concerns, unreliable public transport, lack of sanitation, and the crushing burden of unpaid care work continue to push women out of schools and jobs.

India risks the fate of Southern European economies such as Italy and Greece, where low FLFPR has placed a long-term drag on growth. The urgency is clear as it is a now-or-never moment.

Lessons from abroad, solutions at home

Global superpowers offer a road map. The U.S. leveraged women's labour during the Second World War with equal pay and childcare. China's post-1978 reforms drove 60% FLFPR through state-backed care and education. Japan raised its FLFPR from 63% to 70%, boosting GDP per capita by 4%. The Netherlands' part-time work model, with equal benefits, suits India, where women prefer such roles. These nations invested in legal protections, care infrastructure, and skills training, which are areas where India lags. Instead of short-term populism or blanket cash transfers, India needs structural reforms that empower women as economic agents.

Karnataka's Shakti scheme, which offers free public bus travel to women, is one such intervention. Since its launch in 2023, female ridership has surged by over 40%. The scheme has enhanced women's mobility for work, education, and enterprise – especially in rural and peri-urban areas. This has enabled more women to gain improved access to job markets, decrease their dependence on male family members, and achieve greater autonomy.

Redirecting spending from broad welfare schemes to targeted programmes such as tax

incentives for female entrepreneurs, digital inclusion drives, and gender-focused skilling platforms can yield more sustainable gains. Formalising gig and part-time work through updated labour codes and social protections would bring millions of women into the formal economy.

Urban Company, a leading gig platform, has onboarded over 15,000 women service providers. These workers earn ₹18,000-₹25,000 in a month, along with access to accident insurance, maternity benefits, and skill development. The platform's emphasis on safety, training and transparent pay highlights how gig work can be empowering particularly for semi-skilled urban women.

On the public side, Rajasthan's Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme has created over four crore person-days of work, with nearly 65% of jobs going to women. Its flexible, neighbourhood-based jobs in sanitation, greening and care work have enabled many first-time workers – especially those restricted by domestic duties – to enter the workforce. These cases show that when the state recognises and supports non-traditional work, it can unlock massive economic value.

A moment of reckoning

The looming U.S. tariff shock should serve as a wake-up call. India's economic vulnerabilities are not just due to external threats. They also stem from internal neglect, especially in tapping the potential of working-age women.

Empowering women is not a social gesture. It is a growth imperative. It is the linchpin of demographic dividend utilisation, export competitiveness and equitable development. If India seeks to become a true global powerhouse, its progress must be built on the shoulders of both its men and women. India stands at a crossroads. It can rise by investing in its women. Or it can falter by ignoring them. One path leads to resilience and inclusive growth. The other path leads to missed opportunities and economic fragility.

Key points from article

Why in News ?

- India's economy is currently **\$4.19 trillion**, on track to become the **3rd largest globally**.
- But, **U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal of 50% tariffs on Indian exports (worth \$40 billion)** threatens labour-intensive industries like **textiles, gems, leather & footwear**.
- These sectors are **women-dominated**, making India's **low female labour force participation (FLFPR: ~37-41.7%) a strategic vulnerability** in addition to a social concern.

(a) Impact of U.S. Tariffs

- Target: \$40B exports → could reduce **India's GDP by ~1%**.
- 30–35% cost disadvantage vs. competitors (e.g., Vietnam).
- 50 million workers, especially women, in risk zones (textiles, gems, leather, footwear).

(b) India's Gendered Economic Weakness

- **FLFPR**: India – 37–41.7% (vs. Global avg ~50%, China ~60%).
- **IMF estimate**: Closing gender gap could add **27% to India's GDP**.
- **Barriers**: cultural norms, safety, transport, sanitation, unpaid care work.

(c) Demographic Dividend Window

- India's demographic advantage **till ~2045**.
- Risk of **"Southern Europe trap"** (Italy, Greece) where low FLFPR hurt long-term growth.

(d) Global Lessons

- **U.S. WWII** – women mobilised with equal pay, childcare.
- **China (1978 reforms)** – FLFPR ~60% due to state care/education.
- **Japan** – FLFPR ↑ 63% → 70%, GDP per capita ↑ 4%.
- **Netherlands** – part-time work with benefits; adaptable to India.

(e) Indian Examples of Progress

- **Karnataka's Shakti scheme (2023)** – free bus travel; +40% women ridership; ↑ mobility, jobs, autonomy.
- **Urban Company (gig economy)** – 15,000 women onboarded; ₹18k–25k/month; safety, maternity, accident insurance.
- **Rajasthan's Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee** – 4+ crore person-days; 65% jobs to women; flexible, neighbourhood-based work.

Way Forward

Structural reforms > populist measures:

- Tax incentives for female entrepreneurs.
- Gender-focused skilling platforms.
- Digital inclusion drives.

Labour Market Reforms:

- Recognise gig & part-time work under labour codes.
- Provide social protection, maternity cover, pensions.

Infrastructure & Safety:

- Expand transport & sanitation facilities.
- Invest in childcare & eldercare to ease unpaid care burden.

Corporate Sector Role:

- Diversity quotas, flexible work models, safe workplaces.

Government Focus:

- Shift welfare spending → targeted empowerment (mobility, skilling, entrepreneurship).

Play-based learning for India's future

GS2 (Governance, Welfare Schemes, Education, Health, Vulnerable Sections)

GS1 (Society – Role of Women, Children, and Social Institutions)

Play-based learning for India's future

If we are to build a Viksit Bharat, we must start where life begins – by nurturing the potential of our youngest citizens. It is in the joyful laughter of a child at an Anganwadi centre, in the rhymes they sing and the blocks they build, that the promise of our nation's future takes shape. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has placed its youngest citizens at the heart of its development journey. Mr. Modi has redefined our national priorities – not only by investing in universities and digital infrastructure, but by recognising the critical importance of the first classroom a child steps into: the Anganwadi.

In today's India, play is no longer just a pastime; it is policy. And the results speak for themselves. Over the past decade, the Modi government has fundamentally reimagined its approach to early childhood development. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises that 85% of brain development occurs before the age of six. If we seek a smarter, healthier, and more productive population, we must invest where in the first six years of life.

Scientific evidence supports this shift. A study by the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at CMC Vellore found that children who received 18 to 24 months of structured early childhood care and education (ECCE) showed significant and lasting IQ gains – up to 19 points by age five, and 5 to 9 points by age nine.

These findings are aligned with global research. As Nobel Laureate Dr. James Heckman famously said, "The earlier, the better – and the smarter the return." His research estimates that investments in early childhood yield returns of 13-18%.

A child's first school

Recognising both the economic and social importance of ECCE, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched Poshan



Annpurna Devi

Union Minister for
Women and Child
Development,
Government of India

Bhi Padhai Bhi – an initiative that transforms Anganwadi Centres into vibrant early learning hubs. For the first time, Anganwadi workers are being systematically trained in ECCE, focusing on activity-based and play-oriented approaches using local and indigenous materials. Budget allocations for teaching-learning materials have also been significantly enhanced, and monthly ECCE days have been institutionalised. Today, the Anganwadi Centre is not just a place for nutrition – it is every child's first school, nurturing curiosity, creativity, and holistic development in the most critical years of life.

Holistic development

To guide this transformation, the Ministry has introduced Aadharshila, the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for children aged 3-6 years. Aadharshila focuses on the holistic development of children – emphasising not only intellectual growth but also emotional, physical, and social well-being. It approaches learning through structured play, allowing children to grow and thrive in a nurturing environment.

Children are instinctively drawn to play – turning every corner of their world into a space for discovery and joy. With the right environment, this instinct becomes the foundation for lifelong learning. Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi nurtures this spirit by providing safe, structured, and stimulating settings where children can thrive through guided play and learning. ECCE plays a foundational role in shaping the future of our nation.

Under the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi initiative, Anganwadi Centres across the nation are being transformed into nurturing spaces for holistic early learning. A structured Aadharshila's 5+1 weekly plan ensures that the day begins with 30 minutes of free play, followed by structured

activities that enhance language, creativity, motor skills, and social interaction. After a nutritious lunch and rest time, the day concludes with outdoor play and conversation that reinforce values and build emotional connections.

This balanced approach to structured and unstructured play is critical, especially in the light of NEP 2020 which has raised the formal school entry age to six years. Structured ECCE ensures that children are ready for school – emotionally, socially, and cognitively. What is truly heartening is the growing trust of parents across the country. Families who once viewed Anganwadis as just nutrition centres now see them as the first stepping stones in their child's educational journey.

Every child deserves a strong start, right from birth. Recognising the foundational importance of the birth-to-three age group, the Ministry has also introduced Navchetna, the National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation. This initiative empowers parents and caregivers with simple, play-based, age-appropriate activities to nurture young minds at home.

Parental involvement is key to a child's development. While families in higher-income households may invest in toys and books, it is the role of the state to act as an equaliser for those with fewer means. Through Navchetna and Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi, we are bridging this gap, ensuring that every child, in every corner of the country, receives the stimulation, care, and nurturing they need to thrive from the very beginning.

If India is to truly become Viksit, our youngest generation must be empowered with the right start in life. Play is not a luxury; it is foundational to learning. The Ministry of Women and Child Development remains committed to ensuring that every child gets the opportunity to learn, grow, and flourish, because building the nation begins with nurturing its youngest citizens.

Anganwadi Centres across the nation are being transformed into nurturing spaces for holistic early learning

Key points from article

Foundational Importance of ECCE (Early Childhood Care & Education)

- ◆ 85% of brain development occurs before age 6 (NEP 2020).
- ◆ Study (CMC Vellore): ECCE improves IQ by **19 points by age 5, and 5–9 points by age 9.**
- Nobel Laureate James Heckman: Investment in early years yields **13–18% returns**

Policy Initiatives under the Government

- **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (2023):** Anganwadi centres transformed into early learning hubs (nutrition + learning).
- Anganwadi workers trained in ECCE; focus on play-based & activity-based learning using local materials.
- Monthly **ECCE Days** institutionalised.
- Increased budget for teaching-learning materials.

Aadharshila – National Curriculum for ECCE (3–6 years)

- Emphasis on **holistic development:** intellectual, emotional, social, and physical.
- 5+1 weekly plan → balance of free play (30 mins), structured activities, outdoor play, rest, conversation.

Navchetna – National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation (0–3 years)

- Focus on **parental involvement** in play-based home learning.
- Bridges socio-economic inequality in access to toys, books, and early stimulation.

Changing Perceptions

- Anganwadis earlier seen only as **nutrition centres**, now seen as **first schools** for children.
- Parents' trust in ECCE increasing, aligning with NEP 2020's new school entry age (6 years).

Way Forward

- **Scaling up Implementation:** Ensure quality ECCE across 14 lakh+ Anganwadi Centres in India.
- **Capacity Building:** Continuous training & incentives for Anganwadi workers.
- **Community & Parental Involvement:** Strengthen awareness on play-based learning.
- **Equity & Access:** Special focus on tribal, rural, and underserved regions.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Data-driven approach to assess ECCE outcomes.
- **Integration with Schooling:** Smooth transition from Anganwadi to primary school.



What is the air drop test conducted by ISRO?

GS-3 Space Technology

What is the air drop test conducted by ISRO?

How was the first Integrated Air Drop Test conducted? Which departments and agencies were involved in it? How are preparations for the Gaganyaan mission coming along? Is it necessary to conduct multiple tests for a crewed space flight? What are India's long term spaceflight goals?

EXPLAINER

Yasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

In August 24, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1), a crucial milestone in the preparation for the country's maiden human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan. A dummy crew capsule weighing nearly five tonnes was dropped from a helicopter to test whether its parachute system could slow it safely for splashdown.

What is IADT-1?

The IADT is designed to evaluate the parachute-based deceleration system that will bring the Gaganyaan crew module down safely after reentry. In IADT-1, the parachutes were expected to deploy in a precise sequence after the module was released from a height of about 3 km. Although the capsule was uncrewed and the drop was conducted from a helicopter, the test simulated the last stages of an actual space mission. In the real scenario, the capsule will first be slowed by atmospheric drag and its heat shields, followed by smaller drogue parachutes and finally the three 25-m main parachutes. The aim was to ensure the capsule slowed to around 8 m/s before splashdown.

How was the test carried out?

For IADT-1, an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter lifted a 4.8-tonne dummy crew module into the air. At the designated altitude, the helicopter released the capsule. From then on, automated systems triggered the sequential deployment of parachutes. ISRO reported that the touchdown conditions matched expectations, demonstrating that the design worked in real-world conditions. The exercise involved extensive modelling, instrumentation, and coordination among multiple agencies.



One step closer: ISRO successfully conducts the first IADT-01 test in Bengaluru on August 24. [ANI](#)

Aside from the Air Force, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) contributed to materials and safety systems. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard prepared for post-splashdown recovery. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Director A. Rajarajan has said that his centre was responsible for nearly "90%" of IADT-1 activities. In a crewed space mission, ascent, descent, and recovery are the riskiest phases. Even after a successful launch and orbital stay, astronauts' survival hinges on whether the capsule can decelerate safely for re-entry and landing. A failure in parachute deployment would be catastrophic. Ground testing is thus indispensable.

Where does IADT lie on the roadmap?

Gaganyaan's ultimate objective is to send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit on a human-rated LVM3 rocket. But before that

happens, ISRO must conduct a series of tests to validate safety systems. Unlike previous satellite or planetary missions, human spaceflight requires human-rating of every system. This involves engineering redundancies, fault detection, and life support. The Crew Escape System tests are to demonstrate whether astronauts can be pulled away from the rocket in case of launch failure. The first such test vehicle flight, TV-D1, took place in October 2023. TV-D2, scheduled next, will attempt a more complex abort scenario.

The uncrewed Gaganyaan-1 (G1) mission will launch a crew module aboard the LVM3 to orbit. The module will house 'Vyommitra', a humanoid robot designed to mimic astronaut operations. The recent IADT-1 success will pave the way for TV-D2 and G1. Further drop tests and subsystem trials, including more IADTs and subsystem checks, will continue in parallel, refining the systems before

astronauts are cleared to fly. In all, by the time the first human flight (H1) has happened, ISRO will have conducted several thousand tests.

Some of the critical systems under development include the environmental control and life support system (ECLSS) for oxygen, temperature, waste management, and fire safety; the integrated vehicle health management system (IVHMS), capable of autonomously detecting faults and triggering abort actions; and the strengthened LVM3 rocket, modified to meet the reliability standards necessary to carry humans. India has also had to indigenise many technologies that were unavailable from abroad, from escape motors to specialised composites. Each subsystem has to pass hundreds of tests before being certified.

What are India's long-term goals?

Gaganyaan is not an end in itself but the foundation of a broader human spaceflight roadmap. The Indian government has announced plans to establish the Bharatya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2035 and to achieve an Indian crewed lunar landing by 2040. These goals will demand repeated flights, extended orbital missions, and deep-space technology. In this regard, while schedules may slip – IADT-1 was originally planned for April 2024 – each milestone will build capability for more ambitious tests. For example, according to ISRO, the TV-D2 mission "will demonstrate Gaganyaan Crew Escape System by simulating an abort scenario. The crew module will separate and descend using thrusters and parachutes before sea splashdown, followed by recovery operations." In tandem, ISRO is currently operating its SpaDeX mission in its extended phase, as the mission's twin satellites successfully demonstrated in-orbit docking in May 2023. This technology will be an important part of the Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and BSV missions. H1 is currently scheduled for 2027 but is likely to be delayed further.

THE GIST

The IADT is designed to evaluate the parachute-based deceleration system that will bring the Gaganyaan crew module down safely after reentry.

Gaganyaan's ultimate objective is to send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit on a human-rated LVM3 rocket.

Gaganyaan is not an end in itself but the foundation of a broader human spaceflight roadmap.

Why has the import duty on cotton been suspended?

GS-3 Economy – Agriculture

Why has the import duty on cotton been suspended?

When was the levy first introduced? Has cotton production been declining in the country?

M. Soundariya Preetha

The story so far:

Cotton, which is the main raw material for the textile industry, is grown by nearly six million farmers in India. In the wake of declining production, the Central government has withdrawn the 11% import duty it introduced in February 2021. However, the last year saw a steep increase in cotton imports, even with the duty in place. On August 18, the government said it is withdrawing the duty till September 30 when the current cotton season will end.

Why was the duty introduced?

The import duty was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2021 Budget, when the country was producing 350 lakh bales of cotton annually against the requirement of 335 lakh bales. While the country was

exporting cotton, there were imports too and the duty was aimed at protecting the interest of cotton growers.

In a move to address the raw material (cotton) shortage faced by the textile industry, the government exempted all varieties of cotton from import duty from April 14, 2022 to September 30, 2022, later extending the exemption until October 31, 2022. According to the Global Trade Research Initiative, cotton imports surged 107.4%, rising from \$579.2 million in FY2023-2024 to \$1.20 billion in FY2024-2025.

What is the current situation?

The overall domestic cotton production is down to 294 lakh bales, the lowest in the last 15 years, against the requirement of 318 lakh bales (including non-mill use). Cotton production in the 2024-2025 cotton season (October to September) is estimated to be nearly 20 lakh bales lesser than the last cotton season. Imports are

also likely to be the highest at about 40 lakh bales, with major supplies coming from Australia (\$258.2 million), the U.S. (\$234.1 million), Brazil (\$180.8 million), and Egypt (\$116.3 million). The Cotton Corporation of India purchased nearly 100 lakh bales of cotton from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the ongoing cotton season spending ₹37,500 crore, and has sold 73 lakh bales in the market. For the 2025-2026 cotton season that will start on October 1, the government has hiked the MSP by 8%. Farmers in the north are expected to start bringing cotton to the market in October and those in central and western States are likely to start supplying after Deepavali.

What does the withdrawal imply?

It is said that only about two lakh bales of imported cotton that are in transit will be available without the duty as it will reach Indian shores by September 30. Several international brands are highlighting that

cotton suppliers and garment manufacturers need to use cotton from these suppliers. When garment exporters compete in the international market, the raw material price was higher because of the duty. They will have a level-playing field without the duty.

However, cotton farmers are not in complete agreement with these views. According to Ravichandran, who cultivates cotton at Thiruvavur in Tamil Nadu, the removal of the duty discourages farmers from cultivating cotton. The removal of the import duty will not help cotton farmers who do not get any support from the government, said Kurubur Shanthakumar, south India convener of Samyukta Kisan Morchha.

What is the long-term solution?

The industry is looking at two major support measures from the government – it wants a stable policy so that the industry can plan for raw material procurement. The government should suspend the duty every year during the non-peak season (April to September) as the farmers would have sold majority of the produce by then.

It also wants 5% interest subvention for working capital that textile mills need to purchase cotton during the peak season. If the mills, especially MSME units, have adequate funds, they can cover the required cotton and government need not spend on MSP operations, says industry.

THE GIST

On August 18, the government said it is withdrawing the import duty till September 30 when the current cotton season will end.

The import duty was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2021 Budget, when the country was producing 350 lakh bales of cotton annually against the requirement of 335 lakh bales.

It is said that only about two lakh bales of imported cotton that are in transit will be available without the duty as it will reach Indian shores by September 30.



Adi Karmayogi Initiative

GS2 (Governance, Welfare Schemes, Education, Health, Vulnerable Sections)

Adi Karmayogi initiative to put tribal 'change leaders' through their paces at village level



ADI KARMAYOGI INDIA'S LARGEST TRIBAL LEADERSHIP MOVEMENT

7 Objectives of Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan:

- ✓ Promote transparent and accountable governance
- ✓ Encourage bottom-up planning and participation
- ✓ Set up proactive grievance and feedback systems
- ✓ Implement national and state schemes collaboratively
- ✓ Conduct local visioning aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047
- ✓ Build leadership from village to state level
- ✓ Ensure last-mile delivery through scheme convergence



Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Lighting candles, role-play, cognitive group tasks, and "knot-tying" and "fish-bowl" exercises – at the core of efforts to create a "cadre" of 20 lakh "change leaders" for tribal villages under the Adi Karmayogi initiative of the Tribal Affairs Ministry is a training programme that conducts such activities for State, district, and block officials.

The programme will be extended to the village level in the coming months.

Government officials told *The Hindu* that the idea was to adopt a "participatory" approach to problem-solving.

This involves driving home messages such as "the solution comes from within", "not dwelling on problems", "initiating action", and "creating opportunity from challenges", according to the Ministry's



Ground work: The first phase involves holding training sessions down to the village level across 324 districts. *X/@TRIBALAFFAIRSIN*

concept note for the initiative, which is being run under the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan programme for last-mile scheme delivery.

The Adi Karmayogi initiative was conceived of earlier this year after a two-day national workshop, where, at a brainstorming session, it was concluded that the reason tribal areas continued to face backwardness was not a lack of schemes for them but a "lack of motivation"

in those implementing them.

'Village vision'

The government, through the training activities mentioned above, intends to create 240 State-level master trainers, 2,750 district-level trainers, and over 15,000 block-level trainers, who will be responsible for taking the training down to 20 lakh village-level officials, volunteers, and community leaders.

Apart from this, the programme

intends to help residents to draw up their own "Village Vision" documents for 2030 for each of the one lakh target villages across over 550 districts, which are to be depicted as "public murals" and will become "aspirational blueprints" for the State machinery to follow.

Under the programme, the Ministry said it will also set up one lakh Adi Seva Kendras – meant to act as a single-point interface for villagers trying to access the gamut of welfare schemes meant for them so that 100% saturation can be achieved.

The first phase of the initiative involves holding these training sessions at the village level across 324 districts. Currently, regional training sessions are conducted where State-level master trainers are trained.

Most of the State-level sessions are also conducted

for training district-level trainers, following which block-level and village-level training will take place, according to officials. Once the sessions reach the village level, each session will have 15 volunteers to participate in them.

Prescribed activities

At these training sessions, the "prescribed" activities include a "lighting the candle" exercise to encourage participants not to "curse darkness" but "bring the light".

A "fish bowl exercise" asks participants to imagine themselves as fish in a bowl and get to know each other.

The "village scenario role play" exercise involves imagining a village of animal rears trying to solve water scarcity after the state machinery fails to act and the Deputy Commissioner's staff is rushed to find a solution.

Illumination at the US open is designed to cut light pollution

GS-3 Environment - Pollution



Stadium LED lights, approved by the city government, illuminate the US Open night. The stadium is located in New York, at the US Open Tennis Center in New York, at the US Open Tennis Center in New York, at the US Open Tennis Center in New York.

Illumination at US Open is designed to cut light pollution

Associated Press

When the crowd lights flickered on at the U.S. Open, tennis fans were treated to a new sight: stadium lights that were designed to cut light pollution.

The stadium lights, which were approved by a city government, are the first of their kind in the world. They are designed to be as bright as possible, but also to be as energy-efficient as possible.

The lights are designed to be as bright as possible, but also to be as energy-efficient as possible. They are designed to be as bright as possible, but also to be as energy-efficient as possible.

The lights are designed to be as bright as possible, but also to be as energy-efficient as possible.

Light Pollution

What is it?

Artificial light at night... which lights up the environment + creates 'sky glow'

Affects feeding, navigation, migration

Direct light + sky glow affects wildlife

Animals use moon + star light to navigate

Obscures moon and stars

Wastes energy

Why is it a problem?

What can we do?

Only use outdoor lights when needed

Choose warmer colours

For functional lighting: keep it directional



Centre finalises National Designated Authority to kick- start carbon markets

GS-3 Environment

National Designated Authority (NDA) established by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Aim: Enable a carbon **emissions trading regime in India**.

Creation of NDA is a **mandatory requirement under Article 6 of the 2015 Paris Agreement**.

NDA is a **21-member committee**, headed by the **Secretary of MoEFCC**.

Core Responsibilities:

- Recommending activities for trading emission reduction units.
- Authorizing the use of these units for achieving **India's NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)**.

India's NDC targets: Reduce **emission intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels).

Article 6 of Paris Agreement:

- Provides framework for **emissions trading regime**.
- Long-standing point of contention, finally settled at **COP29 (Baku, Azerbaijan, Nov 2024)**.

Centre finalises National Designated Authority to kick-start carbon markets

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced a National Designated Authority (NDA), a mandatory requirement under the provisions of the 2015 Paris Agreement, to enable a carbon emissions trading regime.

Within the Paris Agreement, a section called Article 6 defines the contours under which such an emissions trading regime or a market can take shape. A long-standing bone of contention among countries, Article 6 was finally passed at the 29th edition of the climate COP in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024.

The creation of an NDA is a mandatory requirement under Article 6.

A notification from the Environment Ministry on

The authority is a mandatory body to be set up under the provisions of 2015 Paris Agreement

Friday lays out the composition of the NDA, which is a 21-member committee headed by the Secretary of the Environment Ministry. Representatives include officials from the Ministries of External Affairs, Steel, and Renewable Energy, and NITI Aayog.

The NDA's responsibilities include recommending to the Union government a list of activities that can be considered for the trading of emission reduction units from projects under Article 6, modifying them from time to time in line with national sustainable goals, country-specific criteria and other national

priorities; receive projects or activities for evaluation, approval and authorisation; and authorise the use of emission reduction units from projects for use towards achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

The NDC refers to commitments by countries to reduce emissions by diverting their energy consumption towards renewable energy sources and taking action to reduce carbon concentrations in the atmosphere.

India's NDC commits to reducing its GDP's emission intensity by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels, achieving 50% electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and creating an additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030 through afforestation.

