



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th November, 2025



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



www.tathastuics.com



enquiry@tathastuics.com

Plot No.B 22, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060

Topics Covered

- **High-intensity explosion in Capital kills at least 9**
- **Women are 'largest minority', says SC**
- **What South Asia wants from COP 30**
- **India- Bhutan Ties**

High-intensity explosion in Capital kills at least 9

A high-intensity explosion in a slow-moving car outside the Red Fort in central Delhi left at least nine people dead and more than 20 injured on Monday, sparking a nationwide alert and a probe involving multiple agencies.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said **"all possibilities" were being explored and a "thorough investigation will be conducted taking all options into account"**.

He said the **blast occurred in the car around 7 p.m.**, due to which vehicles near it were damaged and a few pedestrians injured.

Severe impact

The impact of the blast was so severe that bodies were charred beyond recognition, with the explosion being heard around three km away.

High-intensity explosion in Capital kills at least 9

Blast took place in a slow-moving vehicle outside Red Fort in Delhi; at least 20 people injured and one person detained; nationwide alert sounded; 'all possibilities' being explored, says Amit Shah

Alisha Dutta
Vijayta Singh
NEW DELHI

A high-intensity explosion in a slow-moving car outside the Red Fort in central Delhi left at least nine people dead and more than 20 injured on Monday, sparking a nationwide alert and a probe involving multiple agencies.

A person in whose name the car was registered was detained in Gurugram, Haryana.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said "all possibilities" were being explored and a "thorough investigation will be conducted taking all options into account". He said the blast occurred in the car around 7 p.m., due to which vehicles near it were damaged and a few pedestrians injured.

"CCTV cameras in nearby areas are being scoured. We will share the details with the public," he said. He later visited the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital where the injured were being treated.

"We are investigating from all angles. Until samples recovered from the site are analysed by the Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL) and the National Security Guard (NSG), it is difficult to say anything. We do not rule out anything," Mr. Shah said.

Severe impact

The impact of the blast was so severe that bodies were charred beyond recognition, with the explosion being heard around three km away.

Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha said, "A slow-moving car stopped at the red light outside Red Fort around 6.52 p.m. The explosion happened in that vehicle,



On alert: (Top) Security personnel at the site of the explosion outside Red Fort in central Delhi on Monday; and members of a bomb disposal squad scanning the luggage of passengers at the Pragati railway station on Monday. (Bottom) A woman is seen at the site of the explosion.

and due to the explosion, vehicles near it were also damaged. All agencies, Forensic Sciences, National Investigation Agency, are here. The situation is being monitored."

According to senior officials, the blast triggered a fire in several vehicles parked nearby, leading to casualties and chaos in the bustling area.

"Condolences to those who have lost their loved

Saw people being blown to pieces, say eyewitnesses

NEW DELHI Shattered glass pieces, dismembered body parts, blood stains and debris of vehicles were scattered outside Red Fort traffic intersection, where a high-intensity explosion killed at least 10 people on Monday. Many people at the site who escaped unhurt and helped in rescuing the wounded spoke about witnessing horrific scenes that left them shaken. **» Page 2**

Oppn. seeks probe into shocking explosion

NEW DELHI Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday urged the Centre to ensure a "prompt and thorough investigation" into the Delhi blast, especially given that it occurred in a high-security zone, while RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said the government must take free and transparent action to reassure the public. **» Page 10**

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 2 & 10

Women are 'largest minority', says SC

Women are 'largest minority', says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said women are the "largest minority" in India and their presence in Parliament is steadily receding.

"Why not give women representation even without reservation," Justice B.V. Nagarathna, the Supreme Court's sole woman judge heading a two-judge Bench, said on Monday.

The Bench, including Justice R. Mahadevan, was hearing a petition filed by Jaya Thakur challenging the provisions of the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam", or the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, granting 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies.

The law was assented to by President Droupadi Murmu in September



Justice B.V. Nagarathna

2023, but is yet to be implemented, senior advocate Shobha Gupta and advocate Varun Thakur, submitted in court.

"Why delay the 'vandan'," Ms. Gupta asked.

"This [the Constitution amendment] was an instance of giving women political justice. Political justice is on par with social and economic justice. Women are the largest minority in the country. Women form 48.44% of the total

population," Justice Nagarathna observed.

She pointed to Article 15 (3) of the Constitution, which mandates the State to take affirmative action and make special provisions for the empowerment of women.

The provisions of the 2023 law would be implemented only after the conduct of the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise – redrawing of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies – to determine seats to be reserved for women.

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies would continue for 15 years and Parliament could later extend the benefit period.

'Long-pending demand'
"A Constitutional amendment cannot be held back

for an uncertain period... For the last 75 years there has been no adequate representation of women in Parliament as well as in the State legislatures. This has been a long-pending demand for decades," the petition submitted.

"When is the next Census? Any date for the Census," Justice Nagarathna asked.

Ms. Gupta said the Act did not give any specific time period about the Census or the delimitation exercise. Senior counsel echoed the court's oral observation about the need for Census as a pre-condition to reserve seats for women.

Justice Nagarathna said the Census would quantify the population, based on which the seats would be scientifically reserved for women.

Context:

- The Supreme Court was hearing a petition by **Jaya Thakur** challenging the delay in implementing the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Constitution 106th Amendment Act, 2023)**.
- The Act provides **33% reservation for women** in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- **Justice B.V. Nagarathna** (the only woman judge on the SC Bench) said:
"Women are the largest minority in India."
- Women make up **48.44% of India's population**, yet their representation in Parliament is declining.
- The judge questioned:

"Why not give women representation even without reservation?"

About the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

- Passed in **2023**, signed by **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- Ensures **33% reservation for women** in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- **Not yet implemented** — because it depends on:

1. **Next Census**

2. **Delimitation exercise** (redrawing of constituencies based on new population data).

- Reservation to last for **15 years**, extendable by Parliament.

The Bench said:

- The **implementation is delayed** for an “uncertain period.”
- Women have had **inadequate political representation for 75 years**.
- The **Census delay** is holding back a major step toward **political justice** for women.

Constitutional Reference

- **Article 15(3):** Allows the State to make special provisions for women’s empowerment (affirmative action).
- Justice Nagarathna said **political justice** is as important as **social and economic justice**.

What South Asia wants from COP30

A decade after the Paris Agreement, the climate crisis has only intensified. South Asia bears the brunt as monsoon floods, landslides and heatwaves. These shocks unfold amid a fractured global order – multilateralism under strain, climate pledges weakened, and trade protectionism rising. The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, yet again, has tested the credibility of global processes. Yet no single actor, however powerful, can halt collective action. Others must and are stepping forward.

Small island-states, emerging economies and coalitions of the willing have taken the lead. Increasingly, this mantle is passing to South Asia, home to nearly two billion people facing an extraordinary diversity of climate risks. Inaction is not an option.

There have been wide consultations (as COP30 Special Envoy for South Asia) with government and civil society representatives across Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. We have listened to localised concerns, recognised many areas of convergence for messages that negotiators are taking to COP30 in Brazil, and identified several opportunities for regional climate cooperation.

South Asia's concerns and priorities

We realised that South Asia's response is pragmatic and collaborative: regional coalitions, investment in renewable energy, climate-resilient agriculture and integration of climate adaptation into development planning. Its climate leadership may be emergent, but it is driven by necessity, experience and the moral imperative to protect its people and signal to the world that action cannot wait. The discussions yielded five concerns and priorities of South Asian countries.

First, implementation remains the Achilles heel of climate action. The gap between what is promised in action and finance, and what is delivered, is glaring. Whether it is in implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or delivering finance, the challenge remains. So far, only 65 countries have submitted enhanced NDCs. Further, a recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) revealed that out of the 203 initiatives assessed (launched since 2015), approximately 5% of the initiatives have achieved their stated goals. This underscores the need for the Global South to harness regional cooperation to create impactful and targeted initiatives.

Climate pledges require robust governance, including a clear plan and timeline for reporting progress. Willing countries can, first, strengthen a regional forum to build a common stance and advance shared action that can be recognised at platforms such as the G-20, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and BRICS. Moreover, ensure governance structures are inclusive, giving voice to the underrepresented, such as subnational governments, local



Arunabha Ghosh
is Special Envoy to COP30 representing South Asia, and the CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)



Jhalak Aggarwal
is Programme Associate, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

There is a need for mutual clarity, mutual cooperation and mutual implementation on climate action, as consultations across South Asia – a region that is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis – show

communities and women. Also, strengthen regional cooperation by sharing knowledge, aligning priorities and scaling technology solutions across borders. Initiatives such as India's Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and Nepal's Sagarmatha Sambaad focused on mountain vulnerabilities, show how focused partnerships can advance both national and regional goals.

Second, climate adaptation must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with emission mitigation. According to the ADB, South Asia could experience an increase in days exceeding 35°C – from around 100 to approximately 200 annually – by 2100. The region-specific economic and non-economic impacts are diverse – Nepal's glacial lake outburst flood, coastal threats in the Maldives, India facing sweltering heatwaves, and Sri Lanka's emerging drylands and water stress.

The support that is needed

What is required is adequate technical, institutional and financial support to develop and implement plans domestically. Mainstreaming locally-led adaptation practices can also complement scientific innovation and strengthen local ownership. Internationally, deliberations must proceed to reach consensus on fundamental, simple, and non-burdensome indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation. These indicators must be multi-dimensional and adaptable for use at regional and national levels, focusing on tracking progress rather than penalising countries with limited capacity.

Third, ambitious action must begin by investing in trust. The past is marred by delayed finances, broken promises and diluted commitments from developed countries. The current geopolitics is not conducive to an ambitious climate outcome. Further, an easy exit from a climate agreement not only leads to increased emissions but also undermines trust in the process. Analysis by the CEEW shows that developed countries are not on track to meet their 2030 NDC target. Hence, developed countries must fulfil their existing pledges and build momentum with ambitious NDCs aligned with 1.5°C, reinstating faith in multilateralism.

Fourth, deliver climate finance that is predictable (sustainable funding), adequate (meets the needs and balanced with mitigation), fairly distributed and accessible (easy, low-transaction cost access with priority for vulnerable countries), and non-debt inducing (grants and highly concessional financing instruments).

For this, the Baku to Belém Roadmap to L3T (\$1.3 trillion) must be underpinned by clear pathways: who delivers, how much, by when, and with what accountability. Without clarity, the \$300 billion adaptation target by 2035 is meaningless. South Asian countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, must call for a tripling of adaptation finance with operational clarity. And, South Asia's needs are urgent.

Dedicated regional allocations from multilateral funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Loss and Damage Fund, and the Adaptation Fund can simplify and amplify access to predictable finance. Most importantly, design and launch a 'South Asian resilience finance facility' to mobilise and channel innovative finance to support domestic priorities and fast-track nature-based solutions.

Fifth, climate transition cannot be left to nation-states alone; non-state actors must become engines of scale. Non-state actors such as sub-national entities, the private sector, civil society, youth, academic institutions, as well as businesses can supplement state efforts toward enhancing ambition. The private sector can unlock finance. Sub-national entities can align with domestic goals and deliver. Civil society can conduct independent assessments to expedite the process of bridging domestic capacity gaps and, regionally, develop a regional compendium to share promising traditional knowledge, practices, and systems across the region. Youth can mobilise urgency, innovation and intergenerational equity into climate solutions. Businesses can mainstream sustainability into markets and value chains. If done right, it can reinforce a cycle of verified action that builds trust and accountability within the multilateral climate governance.

Cut off from technology flows

Ultimately, transformation hinges on the convergence of finance, technology and innovation. There are several examples of innovative solutions being deployed; however, fewer examples demonstrate their ability to deliver systemic transformations. Most of the South Asian countries are still largely excluded from international technology flows. A recent report by the CEEW shows fewer than one in three initiatives focus exclusively solely on Africa, Asia, or Latin America – most span multiple regions or are often clubbed with countries in the Global North. Financially, it is imperative to channel capital towards the climate agenda through blended finance instruments, debt-for-nature swaps and market mechanisms with an explicit focus on vulnerable regions. Digital innovation, including artificial intelligence, big data, digital public infrastructure (DPI), blockchain and remote sensing, can unlock new forms of data cooperation and efficiency.

The time for promises is now over. Delivery will be the only currency of trust at COP30. That delivery must rest on three mutuals: mutual clarity (about responsibilities and pathways), mutual cooperation (that recognises both vulnerabilities and opportunities), and mutual implementation (turning promises into practice, across borders and sectors). South Asia is leading, innovating and demanding that multilateralism be restored to credibility through delivery.

The views expressed are personal

What South Asia wants from COP 30

Global Background

- 10 years after the **Paris Agreement**, the **climate crisis has worsened**.
- South Asia faces **floods, heatwaves, and landslides**.
- **Global cooperation is weakening** — multilateralism under strain, protectionism rising, and U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement again hurt trust.
- Still, other countries and regions (especially South Asia) are stepping up climate action.
- South Asia (2 billion people) faces **diverse climate risks** and cannot afford inaction.

Five Main Concerns & Priorities

(i) Poor Implementation

- Big gap between **promises and delivery** in climate action and finance.
- Only **5% of 203 global initiatives** met their goals.
- South Asia must improve **regional cooperation, governance, inclusivity, and technology sharing**.

(ii) Adaptation Alongside Mitigation

- South Asia could face **200 extremely hot days (35°C+) by 2100**.
- Countries need **technical, financial, and local support** for adaptation.
- Global Goal on Adaptation must focus on **tracking progress**, not punishing poor nations.

(iii) Build Trust

- Developed nations have **broken promises** and delayed finances.
- They must **fulfil past pledges**, set **ambitious 2030 targets**, and **restore faith** in global climate efforts.

(iv) Ensure Fair Climate Finance

- Climate funds must be **predictable, adequate, fair, accessible, and non-debt inducing**.
- Create a **South Asian Resilience Finance Facility** and get **regional allocations** from global climate funds.

(v) Role of Non-State Actors

- Climate action must include **states + non-state actors** (private sector, NGOs, youth, academia).
- Private sector → finance;
 Subnational bodies → implement;
 Civil society → monitor;
 Youth → bring innovation and urgency.

At **COP30**, **delivery** (not promises) will define success.

Requires:

- **Mutual clarity** – clear roles
- **Mutual cooperation** – shared efforts
- **Mutual implementation** – real on-ground results

South Asia is emerging as a **leader of practical climate action**.

Celebrating a sage king, a celebration of India-Bhutan ties

The former King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, turns 70 on November 11, 2025. The father of the current King of Bhutan is popularly known as K4 (the fourth King of the Wangchuck line), while his son Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who sits on the throne at present, is referred to as K5.

Jigme Singye Wangchuck is held in great esteem, awe, pride and reverence by his people who often call him the Bodhisattva King. He ruled Bhutan from the age of 17 years till he abdicated in 2006 in favour of his son.

He is revered almost like a Buddha because he ruled wisely, honestly and literally dragged Bhutan into the 21st century, modernising it in many ways. Now, to mark his 70th birth anniversary, there is a huge celebration in Thimphu on November 11, for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting India's mountainous neighbour.

Two nations, their close ties

Mr. Modi has always given much importance to India's relationship with Bhutan. In 2014, on being elected Prime Minister, he had not merely spoken about Neighbourhood First but had also made Bhutan the first foreign country he visited. Now too, Mr. Modi realises the tremendous significance that the birthday celebrations has for the people of Bhutan and is ensuring that he is with them in this time of joy. His visit is an apt signal of how close the people of India are to the people of Bhutan.

It was K4 who further strengthened Bhutan's relationship with India, during his reign as king, exhibiting great understanding that independent India was a close friend of his nation for which all threats to its independence, sovereignty or way of



Gautam Bambawale

is a former Indian Ambassador to Bhutan and is currently Trustee of the Pune International Centre

Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who turns 70 today, has helped nurture both the modernisation of the mountain kingdom and its relations with India

life came from its north and not from the other direction. It was Jigme Singye Wangchuck who got India's Border Roads Organisation to build, operate and maintain the road network of his country. Today, Bhutanese firms are capable of doing this on their own and have rightly been tasked with this. Again, it was Jigme Singye Wangchuck who saw the potential of generating electricity from Bhutan's rivers and supplying it to India, thereby enabling a steady revenue stream for his nation, which in turn has lifted incomes there.

Hydropower diplomacy

Hydropower cooperation between India and Bhutan has, over the years, developed into one of the strongest and most significant pillars of the relationship between the two countries. Therefore, it is apt, symbolic of this friendship and significant in itself, that the Punatsangchhu II hydroelectric project will be formally inaugurated by Mr. Modi and K5 during the trip. The 1,020 MW project has been generating electricity for some months now, helping Bhutan in further raising its economic profile.

The Punatsangchhu II project, like many of its predecessors, was constructed as a cooperative venture between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan, with India providing the initial capital for it – this is paid off by the project from the income stream generated by the sale of electricity to India at rates which are competitive but adjusted every few years to reflect current realities.

This model has worked well till now but it has been decided that in future, the two countries must tap other sources of capital for such hydropower projects. Now that private capital is

readily available in adequate quantity, future projects are to be done by private firms of India in collaboration with Bhutanese companies. Significantly, Tata Power and Adani Power have readily taken up a few of the projects on offer in Bhutan.

India continues to provide development assistance to Bhutan beyond hydropower whether it is for community development projects or larger schemes that range from infrastructure development to upgrading older institutions and even monasteries.

Issues of national security

K5 continues to seek his father's – K4's – advice on matters of national security. Whether it pertains to the territorial integrity of Bhutan or to the operational readiness of the Royal Bhutan Army (RBA), K4 is always consulted by his son. K4 has a deep understanding of not merely India and how its democracy functions but also about Communist China, what motivates and drives that nation and the implications it has for Bhutan-China relations.

India will always be grateful to K4 for having personally led Operation All Clear in December 2003 where the RBA drove out several hundred cadres of Indian insurgent groups that had taken shelter in the jungles of Bhutan just across Assam and West Bengal. On India's side of the border, the Indian Army was able to easily arrest these Indian insurgent groups and proceed against them as in the law.

Thus, November 11 is not merely the birthday celebration of a sage and wise former King of Bhutan. Mr. Modi's presence at these events in Thimphu also makes it a celebration of India-Bhutan friendship and cooperation.



The former King of Bhutan, **Jigme Singye Wangchuck (K4)**, turns **70 on November 11, 2025**. He is deeply loved by the Bhutanese people and strengthened its democracy before abdicating in 2006 in favour of his son, **King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (K5)**.

During K4's rule, he built **close India-Bhutan ties**, invited India's **Border Roads Organisation** to develop Bhutan's roads, and **promoted hydropower** projects that supply electricity to India and boost Bhutan's income.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi is visiting Bhutan** to attend the celebrations.

The **Punatsangchhu II hydro project**, a major joint venture, will be inaugurated by Mr. Modi and K5 during this visit. Future projects will also involve **Indian private firms like Tata Power and Adani Power**.