



GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION



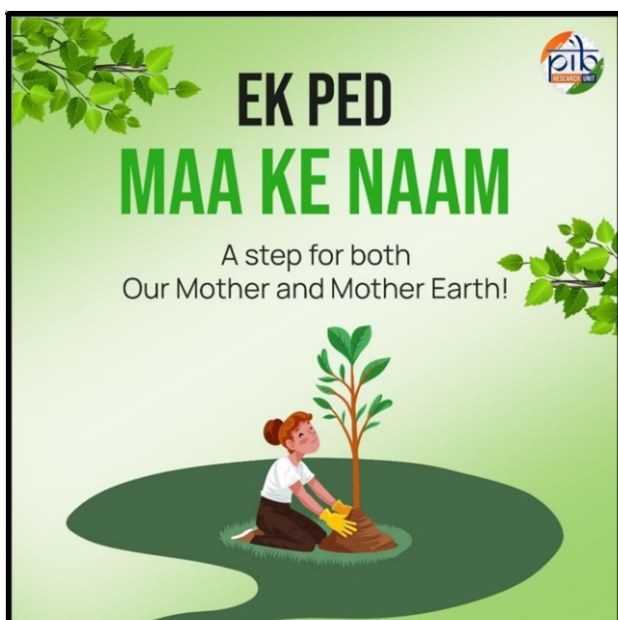
01 FORESTRY

India Secures 9th Spot Globally in Forest Cover

India has achieved a significant environmental milestone by securing the **ninth position globally in total forest area**, according to the **Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025**. The recognition highlights India's sustained efforts toward afforestation, reforestation, and forest resource management. This progress reflects the nation's growing commitment to environmental stewardship, biodiversity conservation, and its long-term vision of achieving inclusive and ecologically balanced sustainable development.



Source: <https://cgcurrentaffairs.com/category/currentaffairs/geography/>



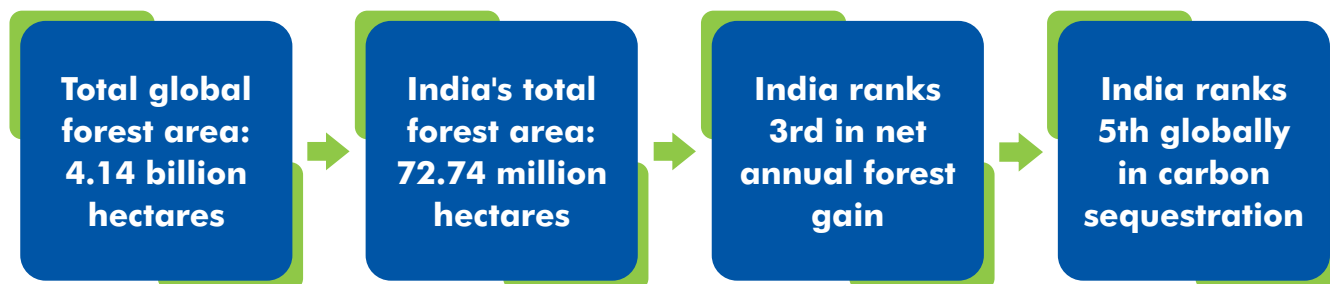
Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelId=153209&ModuleId=3>

The FAO's assessment acknowledges India's consistent expansion of forest cover through effective implementation of policy measures and large-scale conservation programmes. India's rise in global ranking showcases the success of community-driven forestry initiatives and the government's emphasis on planned reforestation. The **country's expanding bamboo plantations, covering nearly 11.8 million hectares**, have also contributed substantially to enhancing carbon absorption capacity and supporting local livelihoods.

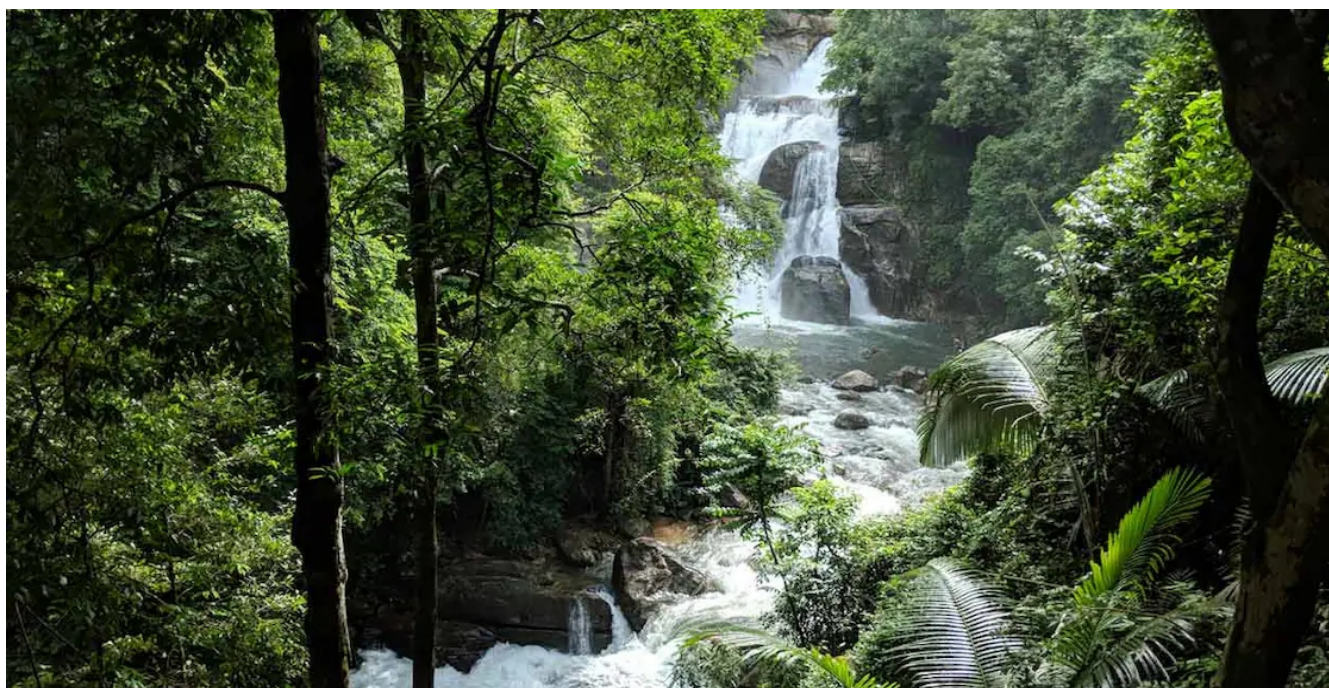
Government initiatives such as the National Mission for a Green India, the Green India Campaign, and the participatory movement "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" have mobilized citizens across regions to plant and protect trees. These

initiatives have strengthened the link between environmental preservation and rural development by promoting both ecological and economic benefits. Through these collective efforts, India continues to demonstrate that inclusive participation can drive large-scale ecological change.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA'S GLOBAL FOREST RANKING (FAO 2025)



India's achievement also reinforces its contribution to global climate action. Forests serve as vital carbon sinks, and India's strong performance in carbon sequestration underscores its role in combatting climate change and protecting ecosystem services. The **expanding forest area enhances biodiversity, supports water conservation, and contributes to the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities**, further aligning with the country's sustainable development goals and national climate targets.



Source: <https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-forest-area-fao-report-annual-forest-area-gain-global-forest-resources-assessment-bhupender-yadav-11761131086120.html>

However, maintaining this momentum requires continued vigilance and adaptive policy measures. With global deforestation still a pressing concern, India must **focus on improving forest quality, restoring degraded lands, and ensuring sustainable forest governance**. Its rise to the ninth global position stands as both a milestone and a responsibility—showcasing the power of policy, participation, and persistence in building a greener future.

02 TRANSPORT

Federal Transport Planning Authority Set to Streamline National Infrastructure Development

India is taking a major step toward integrated infrastructure planning with the proposed establishment of the **Federal Transport Planning Authority (FTPA)** in **2025**. This new body will operate under the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** and coordinate across multiple ministries—covering **railways, highways, aviation, shipping, and urban transport**—to streamline planning, approvals, and execution of national infrastructure projects.



Source: <https://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/sectors/others/india-to-set-up-federal-transport-planning-authority-to-streamline-infrastructure-development>

The move comes amid growing recognition that fragmented planning has led to under-utilized assets and inefficiencies. Despite record investments in infrastructure, several **airports, ports, and metro systems** remain underused, while logistics bottlenecks persist due to lack of inter-modal coordination. The new authority is expected to bring coherence to transport policies that are currently governed by separate ministries with overlapping jurisdictions.

STRATEGIES OF FTPA



Inspired by international best practices such as **Transport for London** and **Seoul's Metropolitan Transport Commission**, the FTPA will emphasize **multimodal integration**, urban-rural connectivity, and efficiency in public spending. It will also **leverage geospatial tools and digital dashboards** to monitor project progress and utilization in real time. The use of integrated digital systems will enable faster decision-making, improve accountability, and create transparent evaluation mechanisms for future projects.



Source: https://urbandesignlab.in/howmultimodaltransportandtodayreshapingglobalcityconnections/?srltid=AfmBOoqmcs0dQrkZeyjsQnD55W9BDMh79ivzStQh_DYr2bdnptl51Uvm

The Cabinet is expected to **consider the proposal within the next three to six months**, making it one of the most significant institutional reforms in India's infrastructure governance since the launch of **PM Gati Shakti in 2021**. While Gati Shakti focussed on mapping and inter-departmental coordination, the FTPA will extend this approach to **long-term strategic planning** and performance evaluation. The proposed authority also aims to enhance coordination with state governments, ensuring that national and regional priorities align effectively.



Source: <https://www.maritimegateway.com/pm-gatishakti-national-master-plan-completes-3-years/>

Overall, the **Federal Transport Planning Authority (2025)** marks a shift from fragmented expansion to a more **systemic and coordinated model** of development. If implemented effectively, it could enhance efficiency, optimize resource use, and strengthen India's infrastructure readiness for the future. This reform underscores the government's broader ambition to achieve sustainable and connected growth as part of its **Vision 2047** agenda.

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03 INFRASTRUCTURE

Great Nicobar Project Set to Transform India into a Global Maritime Trade Hub

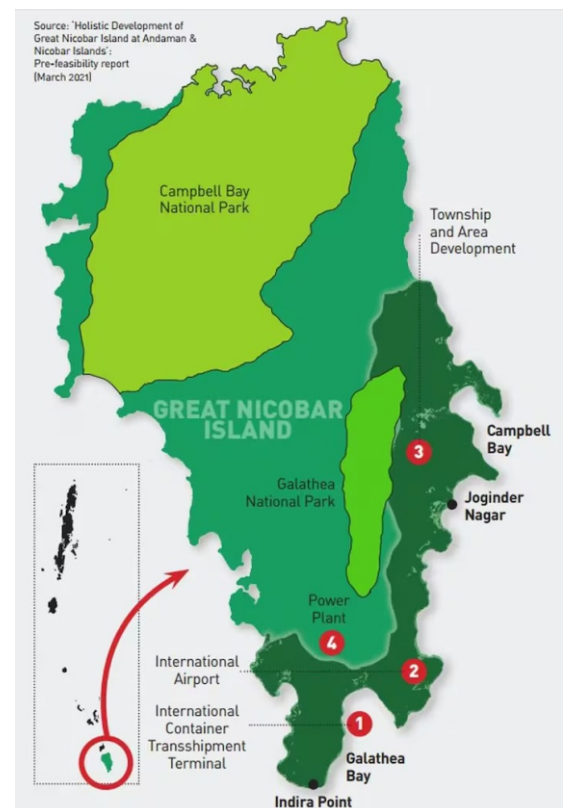
India's strategic infrastructure ambitions have entered a decisive phase with the **Great Nicobar Island Development Project**, envisioned to position the nation as a leading global maritime trade hub. Announced by Union Home Minister, **during India Maritime Week 2025, the USD 5 billion initiative** is projected to "increase the country's maritime world trade many times over."



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/great-nicobar-project-will-boost-indias-maritime-global-trade-says-amit-shah/article70209108.ece>

Located at the southern tip of the Great Nicobar Island in the Andaman & Nicobar archipelago, the project focuses on developing deep-draft ports, transshipment terminals, and modern logistics infrastructure. Its strategic position near the **Malacca Strait, one of the busiest global shipping lanes**, will enable India to become a vital link between the Indo-Pacific region and the Global South. Once completed, the port is expected to handle some of the world's largest cargo vessels, making it a **key node in international shipping routes**.

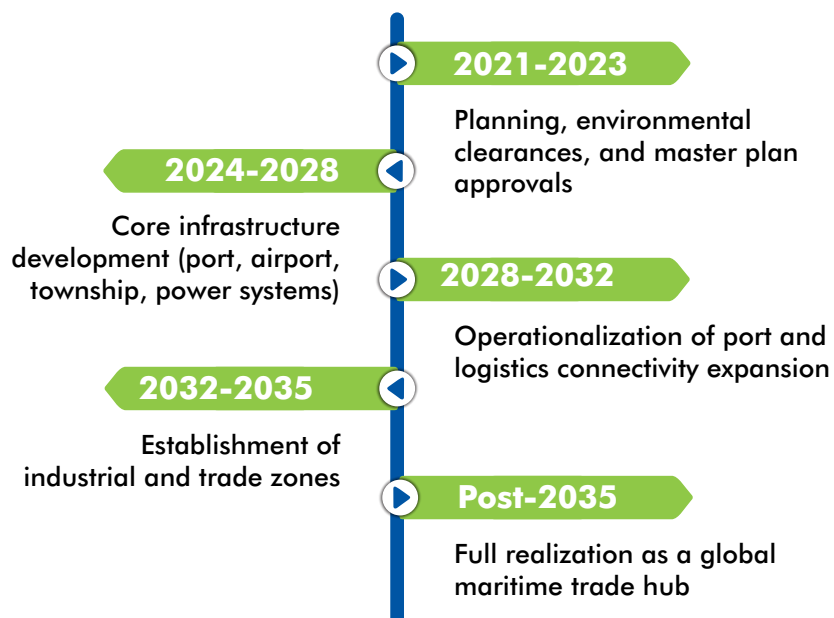
According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, this development aligns with India's broader maritime vision of ensuring security, stability, and self-reliance. The project is expected to **propel India among the top five nations in ship-building** and triple its cargo-handling capacity to nearly 10,000 MMTPA. It also seeks to transform India from a predominantly regional shipping participant into a major global logistics gateway. This initiative is further supported by efforts to **modernize coastal infrastructure across India's vast coastline**.



Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/great-nicobar-port-project-controversy-sonia-gandhi-bjp-attack-row-ecology-legal-human-rights-concern-explained-2784301-2025-09-10>

Beyond maritime trade, the project carries significant economic and employment potential, with **estimated investment opportunities worth Rs 10 lakh crore** across port infrastructure, ship manufacturing, and logistics support sectors. It is also expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect **jobs in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands**. Environmental safeguards and sustainable practices have been integrated into the design to ensure minimal ecological disruption.

PHASES OF THE GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Source: https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/11-firms-expressed-interest-in-port-project-in-great-nicobar-island-govt-124010300727_1.html

Thus, the Great Nicobar Project marks a transformative leap in India's maritime policy. By combining infrastructure expansion, strategic geography, and institutional reforms, it aims to cement **India's position as a global maritime hub—linking East and West** through sustainable, high-capacity trade corridors.

04 WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Supreme Court and UNICEF India Unite to Safeguard the Girl Child and Build a Safer India

The **Supreme Court of India**, in collaboration with **UNICEF India**, has launched a landmark initiative to strengthen the protection and empowerment of girls nationwide. The **10th National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on “Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for Her in India”** was held on **October 11–12, 2025**. The event marked a key step towards uniting judicial, governmental, and social stakeholders in addressing challenges faced by girl children in India.

Presided over by Chief Justice B. R. Gavai and chaired by Justice B. V. Nagarathna, who leads the Supreme Court's Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC), the consultation brought together representatives from the judiciary, Women and Child Development departments, law enforcement, and education sectors. The forum reaffirmed a shared commitment to ensure every girl in India is protected from exploitation and given education. A major outcome was **the launch of a Handbook on Child Rights and the Law** to guide stakeholders on child-centric justice delivery.



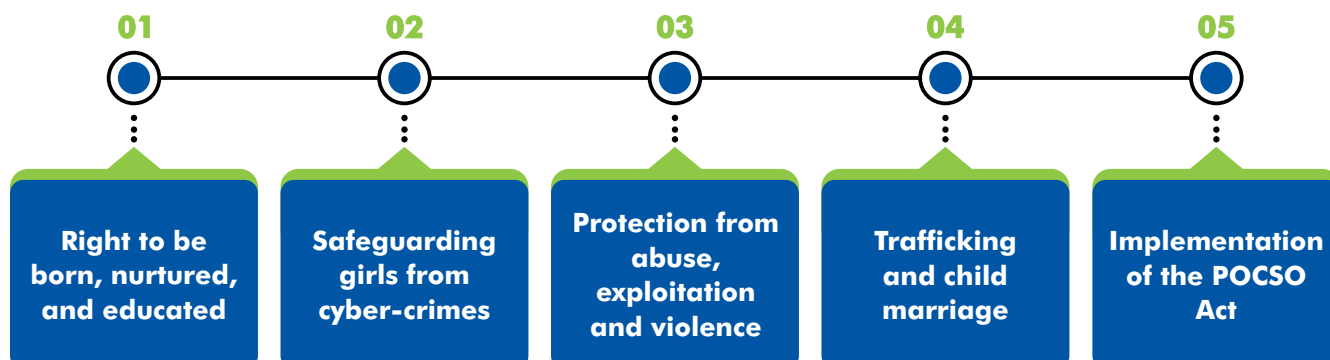
Source: <https://www.sci.gov.in/supreme-court-of-india-to-organise-a-two-day-national-annual-stakeholders-consultation-on-safeguarding-the-girl-child-towards-a-safer-and-enabling-environment-for-her-in-india-on-11/>



Source: <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/justice-jb-pardiwala-address-on-safeguarding-rights-of-girl-child-306622>

Chief Justice Gavai highlighted the **growing vulnerability of girls in the digital age**, stressing that while technology empowers, it also exposes them to cyberbullying and deepfakes. He called for specialized training of police, educators, and judicial officers to address technology-enabled crimes. Justice Nagarathna urged authorities to **explore legislative measures against AI-driven child abuse and deepfake pornography**, stressing the need for stronger preventive frameworks.

CRITICAL AREAS COVERED



UNICEF India reiterated its collaboration in strengthening institutional mechanisms, raising awareness, and promoting safer digital environments for children. The partnership aims to empower young girls to navigate the digital world confidently while promoting equal opportunities for growth. The consultation underscored that progress for children requires the convergence of law, policy, and technology.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development noted that the initiative reflects shared responsibility between the judiciary, government, and civil society. By aligning law, policy, and digital governance, the **Supreme Court and UNICEF India have shown that safeguarding the girl child is central to building a just and safer India** for generations.



Source: <https://supremetoday.ai/doc/news/supreme-court-leads-national-consultation-on-safeguarding-the-girl-child-202510113170966d86b>

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05 NORTH-EAST CORNER

AI SPARK Paving the Way for Meghalaya's Digital Hub Ambition

Meghalaya is charting a new digital course with its latest initiative, **"AI SPARK: Accelerating Meghalaya Startups,"** designed to position the state as the next technology hub of the Northeast. The workshop, **held at the Shillong Technology Park in Umsawli**, was organized by the **Department of Information Technology and Communication in collaboration with the Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH)**. It marked a strategic step toward integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the state's startup and governance ecosystems.



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rahulpait_h_when-you-land-in-shillong-the-firstthingactivity7389866263663263744-UXvz/



In his welcome address, **SHRI. K.L. NONGBRI**, MCS, Joint Secretary, Department of IT&C, Government of Meghalaya said the workshop follows the government's visit to T-Hub, Hyderabad, and supports the Chief Minister's vision for the state

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=845363381351982&set=pcb.845363501351970>

At the heart of this vision is the plan to **establish a state-run incubation centre on the T-Hub model**, providing a dynamic space for collaboration between entrepreneurs, investors, and technology experts. The centre aims to serve as a catalyst for nurturing innovation and scaling startups across sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and logistics. By creating a plug-and-play environment for ideation and experimentation, **Meghalaya hopes to replicate the success of Hyderabad's T-Hub and empower local innovators.**

The state's PRIME (Promotion and Incubation of Market-Driven Enterprises) Initiative provides a strong foundation for this transformation. PRIME has already mentored and funded numerous startups across Meghalaya, promoting entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. Through AI SPARK, the **government seeks to**

extend PRIME's success by infusing advanced technologies such as AI, machine learning, and data analytics into startup operations, ensuring that innovation aligns with market and governance needs.



PRIME

M E G H A L A Y A



Source: <https://invest.meghalaya.gov.in/Documents/Consolidated%20Startup%20Information.pdf>

During the AI SPARK event, several local startups showcased AI-driven solutions while engaging with industry mentors and investors. Officials reiterated that AI should be viewed as an enabler of inclusive growth, capable of reshaping governance, improving public services, and expanding digital opportunities across the state.

THREE STARTUPS SHOWCASED AT AI SPARK



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AI Human Hybrid
Emergency Care Solutions



SOLIPSIS DESIGN PVT. LTD.

Specializes in design and
product prototyping



PRAGNA INTELLIGENCE

Developed India's Unified
Compound Risk Intelligence
Platform

With heavy investments in digital infrastructure, fiber connectivity, and skill development, Meghalaya is steadily advancing its goal of becoming the digital hub of the Northeast. Together, AI SPARK and the PRIME Initiative underscore the state's commitment to building a technology-driven, innovation-ready economy that transforms Meghalaya from a technology consumer into a regional creator of digital excellence.

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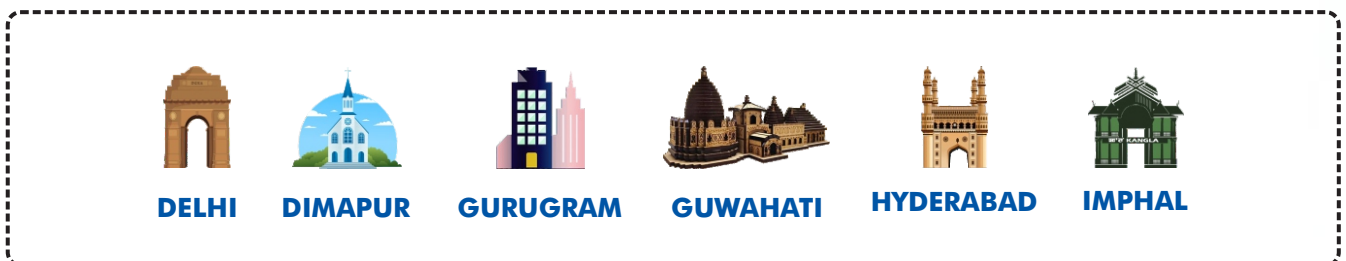
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