DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 22.11.2026

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

Tamil Nadu Sea Ambulance Scheme to Be Launched in April 2027

Context

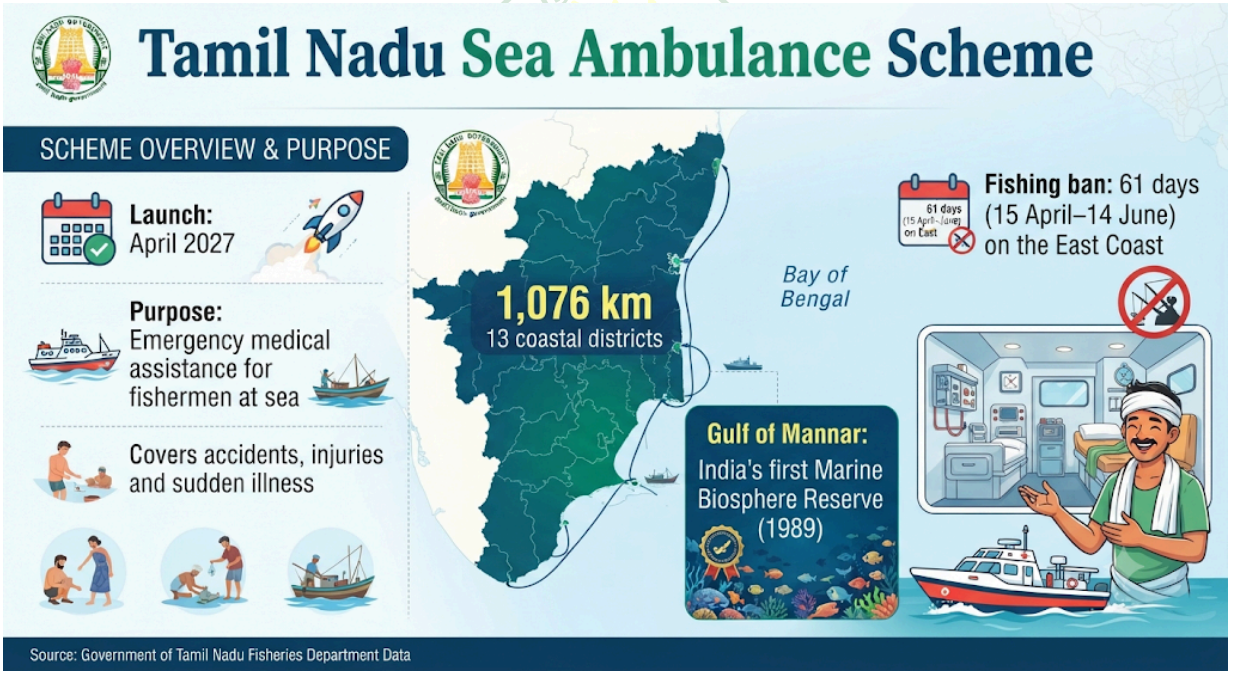
- **Minister for Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, A. Srinath**, said the **Sea Ambulance Scheme** will be implemented from **April 2027**.

Key Points

- **Background:** About **four days earlier**, the **Chief Minister** discussed with the Minister **schemes to support fishermen** and their families.
- **Main Scheme:** The **Sea Ambulance Scheme** – work is under way to launch it in **April 2027**.
- **Purpose: Emergency medical help** for **fishermen at sea** (**accidents, illness, injuries**).

Significance

- Improves **safety** and **emergency care** for **fishermen**.
- Removing **ash deposits** protects **marine ecology** and **fishing grounds**.
- **Inter-State coordination** protects **fishermen's livelihoods**.



Do You Know?

- **Tamil Nadu Coastline:** About **1,076 km**, the **second longest** after **Gujarat**, across **13 coastal districts**.
- **Kasimedu Fishing Harbour** – in **North Chennai**, one of **Tamil Nadu's largest fishing harbours**.
- **Annual Fishing Ban (East Coast): 61 days**, from **15 April to 14 June**, for **fish breeding**.

- **Gulf of Mannar:**
  - **Marine National Park (1986)**, off **Thoothukudi–Ramanathapuram**.
  - **Biosphere Reserve (1989)**, **India's first marine biosphere reserve**.
- **Fly Ash** – a by-product of **coal-fired thermal plants**. India's **Fly Ash Notification (MoEFCC)** mandates **100% fly ash utilisation**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (2020)** – the Centre's **flagship fisheries scheme**.

National Highlights

Wayanad to Become India's First E-Waste-Free Model District

Context

- **Wayanad (Kerala)** will become **India's first e-waste-free model district** on **27 November 2026**.
- A **month-long campaign** collected **97.26 metric tonnes** of **e-waste**.

About the Initiative

- **Coordinated by: Suchitwa Mission** and **Clean Kerala Company**, with **local self-government institutions** and **Haritha Karma Sena**.

How It Works

- **Haritha Karma Sena** collects e-waste from **households**.
- **Clean Kerala Company** collects from **government offices, schools and institutions**.
- The district's **26 local bodies** coordinate **collection** and **community participation**.

Key Features

- **First of its kind** at the **district level**; earlier achievements were at the **village level**.
- **Collection Breakdown:**
  - **38.46 tonnes** through **local bodies**.
  - **58.8 tonnes** from **offices and schools**.
- **Community-based implementation**.
- **Recognition** for participating **local bodies** and **Haritha Karma Sena** members.

Significance

- Shows how **decentralised collection** improves **e-waste management**.
- A **model for other districts**.
- Reduces risks from **toxic components** and **improper disposal**.

Do You Know?

- **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022:** In force from **1 April 2023**; based on **Extended Producer Responsibility**.
- India is the **world's third-largest e-waste generator** (after **China** and the **United States**).
- **Haritha Karma Sena – Kerala's women-led waste collection groups** under **Kudumbashree**.
- **Tamil Nadu link: Chennai** has **e-waste collection drives** by the **Greater Chennai Corporation**; **Tamil Nadu** has several **authorised recyclers**.

Topic: Economy

EPFO Systematic Withdrawal Plan for Retirees

Context

- At its **240th meeting**, the **EPFO Central Board of Trustees**, chaired by **Mansukh Mandaviya**, approved a **Systematic Withdrawal Plan** for **retirees** and eased **PF withdrawal rules**.
- A **voluntary facility** letting retiring members keep their **PF corpus** with **EPFO** and draw it in **instalments** (**monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly**) instead of a **lump sum**.
- **Approved by:** The **Central Board of Trustees** (**Ministry of Labour and Employment**), under the **EPF Act, 1952**.
- **Aim:**
  - **Regular income** for retirees.
  - **Supplement EPS pension**.
  - Prevent **early depletion of savings**.

Key Features

- **Three Withdrawal Options:**
  - **Periodic instalments** (up to **20 years**).
  - **Partial lump sum** plus **scheduled payouts**.
  - **Interest-only withdrawal**, keeping the **principal intact**.
- **Interest Continues:** Unwithdrawn balance earns the prevailing rate (**8.25% for 2025–26**).
- **Exit and Nominee Protection:**
  - Members can **exit** and **withdraw the balance**.
  - **Nominees** can claim the corpus or **continue instalments**.
- **Beneficiaries:** Initially about **6.32 lakh members** aged **55+** with savings over **₹5 lakh** (excluding **exempted PF trusts**).
- **Relaxed Rules:**
  - The **minimum balance** to be kept cut from **25% to 10%**, so up to **90%** can be withdrawn.

- **Unemployment withdrawal** waiting time cut to **two months**.

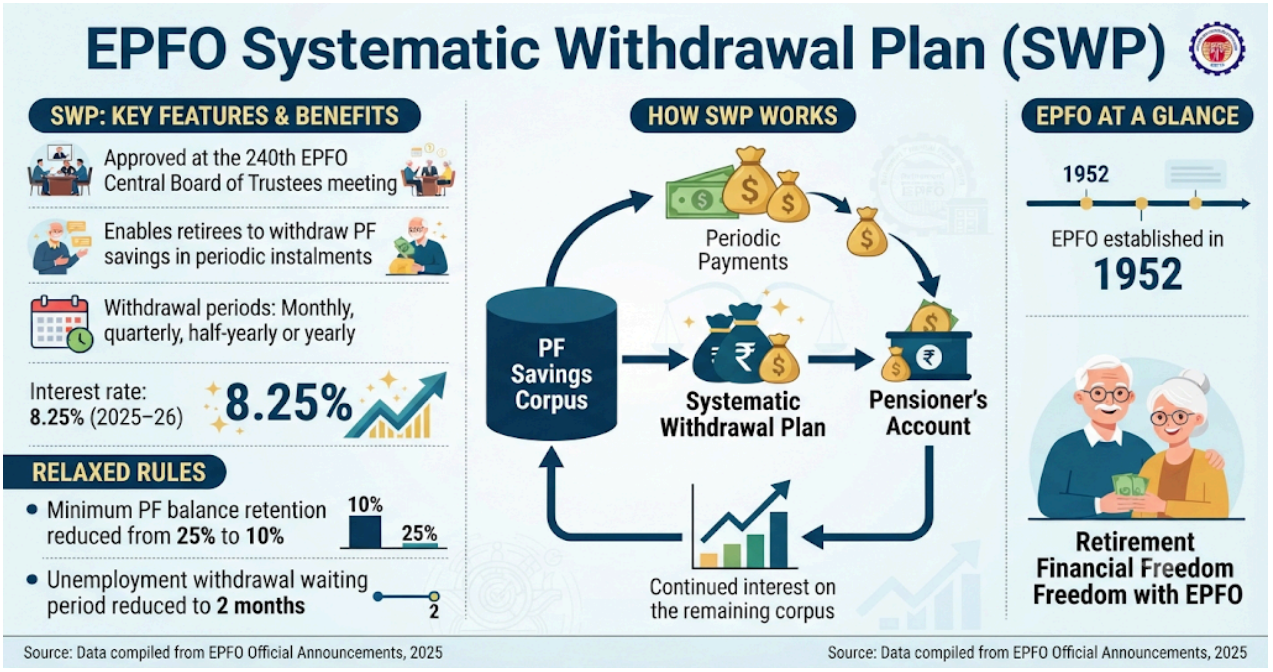
- **Separate from EPS Pension:** Awaits **government notification** and **tax amendments**.

Significance

- **Steady retirement income** and less **reinvestment risk**.
- Encourages **longer fund retention**.
- Complements proposed **micro-contributions** for **gig and informal workers**.

Do You Know?

- **EPFO:** Set up in **1952**; HQ **New Delhi**.
- **Employees' Pension Scheme: 1995**.
- **Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme: 1976**.
- **Code on Social Security, 2020** – merges **nine social security laws**.



Topic: Awards and Honor

PM SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026

Context

- The **Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, organised the **PM SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026** at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**.

About

- **National awards** for top-performing **States**, **urban local bodies**, **banks** and **partners** implementing **PM SVANidhi**.

Scheme Evolution

- **Launch (June 2020):** During **COVID-19**, to revive **street vendors' livelihoods**.
- Over **1.21 crore loans** worth **₹20,000 crore** to about **81 lakh vendors**.
- **Restructuring (August 2025):**
  - **₹7,332 crore** outlay.
  - Extended to **March 2030**.
  - Target of **1.15 crore beneficiaries**, including **50 lakh new vendors**.
- **Aim:**
  - **Collateral-free credit**.
  - **Digital payments**.
  - **Social security** for street vendors.

Key Features

- **57 Awards:**
  - **27** for **States/Union Territories**.
  - **21** for **urban local bodies**.
  - **4** for **lenders**.
  - **5 special recognitions**.
- **Loans: Three tranches – ₹15,000, ₹25,000** and **₹50,000**.
- **UPI-Linked RuPay Credit Card:** Up to **₹30,000** for those who repay the **second loan**.
- **Wider Coverage: Census towns** and **peri-urban areas**; **cashback up to ₹1,600** for **digital payments**.
- **SVANidhi se Samriddhi:** Links **52 lakh vendor families** to **eight welfare schemes**.
- **Street Food Hubs: 50 hubs, ₹4 crore each**, with **FSSAI training**.

Significance

- **Financial inclusion** and **digital credit histories**; less reliance on **moneylenders**.
- Recognises **urban local bodies** and **banks** as **delivery partners**.

Do You Know?

- **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**.
- **PM SVANidhi** stands for **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi**.
- **Tamil Nadu** is among the **better-performing States** in **PM SVANidhi disbursement**.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development – Graça Machel

Context

- **Mozambican freedom fighter** and **women's rights advocate Graça Machel** received the **2025 Indira Gandhi Prize** in **New Delhi**.

About the Prize

- An **annual international honour** for efforts towards **peace**, **disarmament**, **racial equality**, **economic cooperation** and **development**.
- **Conferred by:** The **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust**, funded by a **Government of India endowment**.
- **Instituted: 1985**; first awarded in **1986**.

Notable Laureates

Year	Laureate
1986	**Parliamentarians for Global Action** (first)
1987	**Mikhail Gorbachev**
1989	**UNICEF**
1997	**Jimmy Carter**
2003	**Kofi Annan**
2006	**Wangari Maathai**
2017	**Dr. Manmohan Singh**
2019	**Sir David Attenborough**
2024	**Michelle Bachelet**
2025	**Graça Machel**

Eligibility and Selection

- **Eligibility:** Any **living person** or **active organisation**, regardless of **nationality, race, gender or religion**. **No posthumous nominations**.
- **Nominations:** Due by **30 September** each year, from **past laureates**, **jury members**, **parliamentarians** and **peace organisations**.
- **Jury:** An **independent international jury** of **5–9 members**; decision by **consensus**.

Key Features

- **Cash Prize: ₹1 crore** (as reported; see the note at the end).

- **Trophy: 2-billion-year-old haematite jasper** (like the stone at **Shakti Sthal**), with **Indira Gandhi's miniature portrait**.
- **Five Areas:**
  - **International peace**.
  - **Economic cooperation**.
  - **Developing nations**.
  - **Science for human welfare**.
  - **Human freedom**.
- The jury may **share or withhold** the prize.

About Graça Machel

- **Mozambique's first Education Minister**.
- Author of the landmark **1996 UN report** on **children in armed conflict**.

Topic: Science & Technology

India's First Indigenous H5N1 Bird Flu Vaccine for Chickens

Context

- The **Union Agriculture Minister** is set to dedicate **India's first indigenous inactivated H5N1 (Clade 2.3.2.1a) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza vaccine** for **chickens**.

About the Vaccine

- **India's first homegrown veterinary vaccine** against the **H5N1 bird flu virus** of **Clade 2.3.2.1a**.
- **Developed by: ICAR–National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal**.
- **Aim:**
  - Protect **poultry**.
  - Prevent **mass deaths** and **culling**.
  - Safeguard **farmers' livelihoods**.
  - Curb spread to **mammals and humans**.

Key Features

- **Inactivated (Killed-Virus):** Triggers **immunity** with **no risk of infection**.
- **Strain-Specific:** Targets the **Clade 2.3.2.1a** strain common in **Indian poultry**. No **commercial vaccine** existed for it before.
- **Biosafety:** Developed in **high-containment labs**, using **Indian virus samples** collected since **India's first H5N1 detection (2006)**.
- **For Commercial and Backyard Flocks:** Prevents the **near-100% flock deaths** typical of outbreaks.

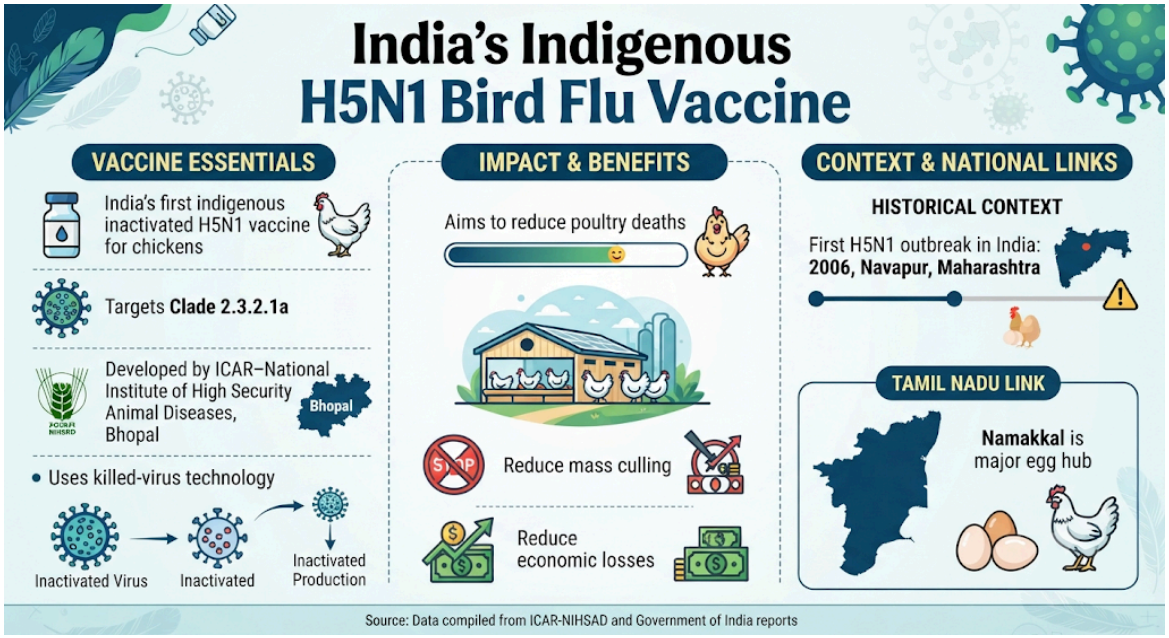
- **Shift in Strategy:** From **reactive mass culling** to **preventive vaccination**.

Significance

- Reduces **culling**, **economic losses** and **trade disruptions**.
- Lowers **zoonotic risk** and boosts **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in **veterinary biotech**.

Do You Know?

- **H5N1** – a subtype of **Influenza A**. **"H"** stands for **haemagglutinin** and **"N"** for **neuraminidase**.
- **India's First H5N1 Outbreak: 2006**, at **Navapur, Maharashtra**.
- **National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (Bhopal)** – a **BSL-3+ lab**, **India's only one** for **exotic animal diseases**.
- **Tamil Nadu link: Namakkal** is **India's largest egg-producing hub** (**"Egg City"**), so it is highly vulnerable to **bird flu**.



Topic: Defence

50 Years of Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) Operations

Context

- The **Indian Navy** celebrated the **Golden Jubilee** of its **long-range maritime reconnaissance operations** on **18 November 2026**.
- It coincides with **50 years** of **Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 312, "Albatross."**

About Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance

- **Shore-based patrol aircraft** providing **maritime surveillance**, **anti-submarine warfare** and **strike capability**.
- They work with **warships**, **submarines** and **command centres**.

Background and Fleet Evolution

- After the **1971 war**, the **Navy** took over **long-range maritime patrol** from the **Indian Air Force**.
- **18 November 1976: INAS 312 "Albatross"** was commissioned at **INS Hansa, Goa**, with **five Lockheed Super Constellation aircraft** from the **Air Force**.
- **Fleet Additions:**

Year	Aircraft / Unit
1977	**Il-38**
1988	**Tu-142M**
2013	**P-8I**
2022	**INAS 316 "Condors"** established

Key Achievements

- **Military Operations:**
  - **Cactus (1988)**.
  - **Vijay (1999)**.
  - **Parakram (2001–02)**.
  - **Sindoor**.
- **Anti-Piracy:** Patrols in the **Gulf of Aden**, **Arabian Sea** and **Malacca Strait**.
- **Humanitarian Aid: Search and rescue** and **disaster assessment** during **cyclones and tsunamis**.
- **Modernisation:** From **Super Constellation** to **Il-38**, **Tu-142M** and **P-8I**.

Do You Know?

- **P-8I Poseidon** – made by **Boeing (United States)**. India was its **first export customer**.
- **INS Hansa (Goa)** – **India's largest naval air station**.
- **Operation Cactus (1988)** – India foiled a **coup in the Maldives**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **INS Rajali (Arakkonam)** is a major **naval air station**; the **P-8I fleet** is based there.
  - **INAS 312** later moved from **Goa** to **INS Rajali**.

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI-VI (India–Malaysia)

Context

- The **6th edition** of the **India–Malaysia joint military exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI** is being held at **Ipoh, Perak (Malaysia)**.

About

- An **annual bilateral exercise** between the **Indian Army** and the **Royal Malaysian Army**.
- Held **alternately in India and Malaysia**.
- **Focus: Sub-conventional** and **counter-terrorism operations** under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter**.

Key Features

- **UN Chapter VII Focus: Peace enforcement** and **counter-terrorism** in **jungle and semi-urban terrain**.
- **Phased Training: Cross-training** and **standard operating procedures** first, then **complex joint drills**.
- **Joint Command Post** and **Surveillance Centre**.
- **Drills: Raids**, **cordon-and-search** and **combat engineering**.
- **Drones and Counter-Drones: Unmanned systems** for **reconnaissance**; **counter-drone technology**.
- **Validation Exercise:** Tests **combined readiness**.

Topic: Environment

LeadIT 3.0 – India and Sweden Launch Next Phase at COP31

Context

- **India** and **Sweden** launched **LeadIT 3.0** at **COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye)**.
- **Brazil** joined as the **newest member**.

About LeadIT

- **Leadership Group for Industry Transition** – a **global public-private platform**.
- **Co-chairs: India** and **Sweden**.
- **Secretariat: Stockholm Environment Institute**.
- **Goal: Net-zero emissions** from **heavy industries** by **2050**.
- **Phases:**

Phase	Launched At	Year
LeadIT 1.0	UN Climate Action Summit	2019
LeadIT 2.0	COP28	2023
LeadIT 3.0 (2027–2030)	COP31	2026

- **Members:**
  - **20 countries** and **33 companies**.

- **13 Indian firms**, including **Tata Steel**, **JSW Steel** and **SAIL**.

- **Aim:** Decarbonise **hard-to-abate industries** through **clean technology**, **pilots**, **finance** and a **just workforce transition**.

Key Features of LeadIT 3.0

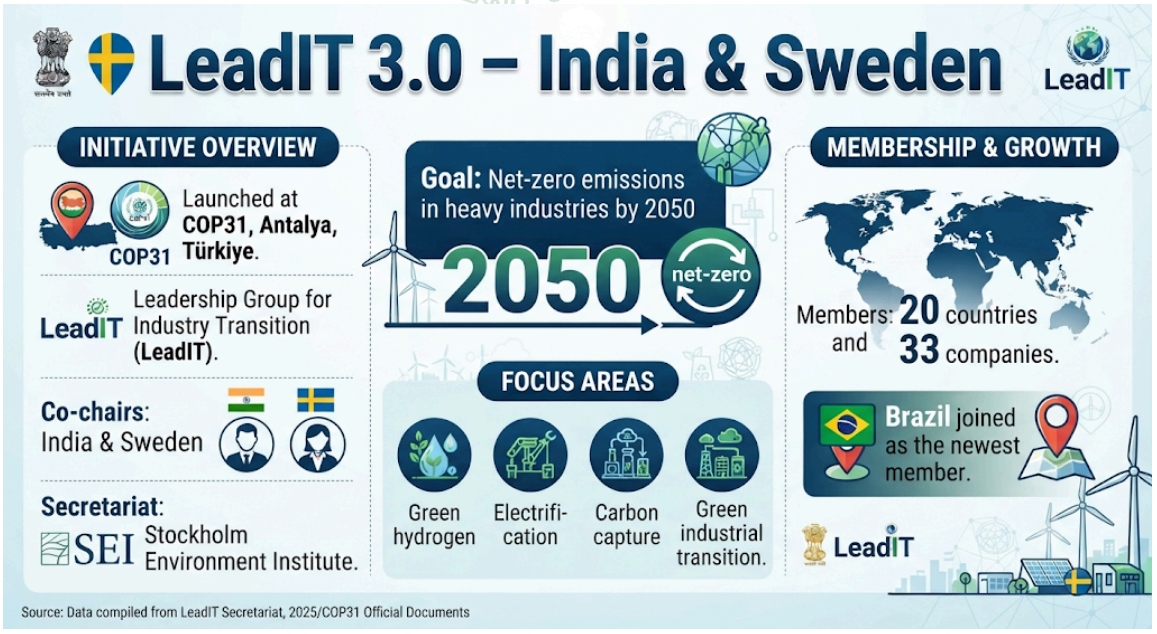
- **Technology: Green hydrogen**, **carbon capture**, **electrification** and **AI optimisation** in **steel**, **cement** and **heavy transport**.
- **Finance: Concessional and blended finance**, and **risk mitigation**.
- **Policy Support: Transition roadmaps** and **carbon market support**.
- **Just Transition: Reskilling** and **green jobs**.
- **Builds on LeadIT 2.0:** Expands **11 steel and cement pre-pilot projects** under the **India–Sweden partnership**, plus projects in **Africa**.

Significance

- **Brazil's entry** strengthens **South–South cooperation** and **technology transfer**.
- Turns **net-zero pledges** into **funded industrial projects**.

Do You Know?

- **"Hard-to-abate" sectors – steel, cement, aluminium, chemicals, shipping, aviation**.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023): 5 MMT green hydrogen per year by 2030**.
- **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (2023) – India's domestic carbon market**.
- **India–Sweden Green Transition Partnership** – started in **2018**.



Turning Climate Promises into Practice

Context

- At **COP31**, analysts stressed that **global pledges** must turn into **ground-level action ("praxis")**. Examples:
  - **COP29's $300 billion finance goal**.
  - **COP31's 35% global electrification target**.

Key Data

- **COP29 Finance Goal:**
  - **$300 billion/year** to **developing countries** by **2035**.
  - A broader goal of **$1.3 trillion/year** from **public and private sources**.
- **COP31 Electrification Goal:** Raise **electricity's share** of **total final energy use** to **35% by 2035** (**transport, buildings, industry**).
- **India's Power Demand:** Projected to grow about **6.4% a year** for **five years** (**International Energy Agency**).
- **India's Non-Fossil Capacity: 300.5 GW** by **July 2026** – over **60%** of the **500 GW (2030) target**.
- **Renewable Consumption Obligation: 43.33% renewable consumption** by **2029–30** for **distribution companies** and **large consumers**.

Why Strong Action Is Needed

- **Avoid Coal Lock-In:** India must meet its **6.4% demand growth** with **clean power and storage**, not **new coal plants**.
- **Capacity vs Reliable Supply: Solar and wind** need **transmission and storage** to deliver **steady power**.
- **Grant-Based Finance: Vulnerable communities** need **grants, not costly loans**, e.g., for **coastal defences** and **flood protection**.
- **Just Transition:** Retrain **coal workers**; give **small industries** affordable credit for **efficient machinery**.
- **Clean Electrification: EVs** and **electric buses** cut emissions only if the **grid is clean**.

Challenges

- **Slow approvals** and **debt-heavy finance**.
- **Grid intermittency**, which needs **battery storage**, **pumped hydro** and **smart grids**.
- **Coal-dependent grids**, which reduce **EV benefits**.
- **Coal regions** and **small enterprises** at risk of being **left behind**.

Do You Know?

- **India's Updated NDC (2022):**

- **45% cut** in **emissions intensity of GDP** by **2030** (from **2005 levels**).
- **50%** of **power capacity** from **non-fossil sources** by **2030** (achieved early, in **2025**).

- **India's Net-Zero Target: 2070**.
- **Green Energy Corridor** – a scheme for **transmission of renewable power**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Tamil Nadu** is a leader in **wind power (Muppandal)** and **solar**.
  - The **Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage Policy 2026** (covered in **October**) supports **grid storage**.

India's Stand on Historical Climate Responsibility at COP31

Context

- At **COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye)**, India renewed its demand for **historical responsibility**, **equity** and **climate justice**.

About Historical Climate Responsibility

- **Industrialised nations**, responsible for most **cumulative emissions**, must bear **greater responsibility** for **mitigation** and for **financing developing countries' climate action**.
- **Rooted in: Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities**, under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.

India's Stand

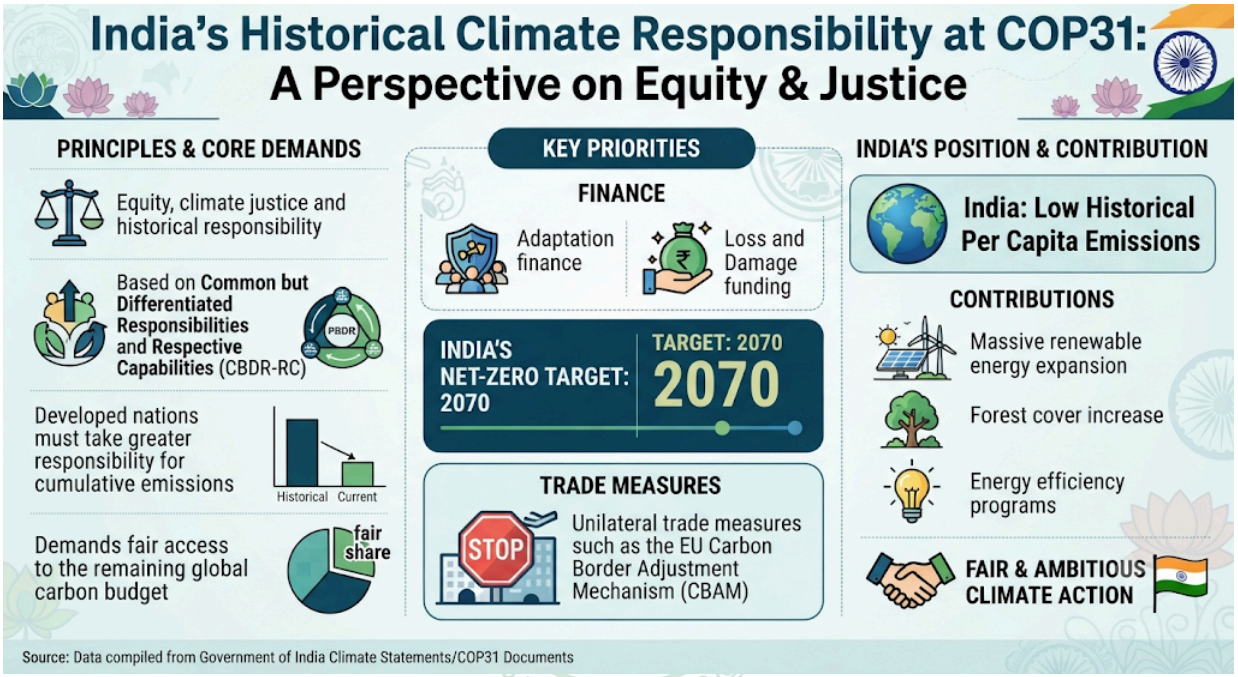
- **Historical Responsibility: Developed countries** must acknowledge **past emissions** and do more on **mitigation and finance**.
- **Fair Carbon Budget: Developing nations** need fair access to the **remaining carbon budget** for **development** and **poverty reduction**.
- **Finance:** Developed nations must deliver **adaptation finance** and **Loss and Damage** commitments.
- **Against Unilateral Trade Measures:** Opposed the **EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**.
- **Equitable Governance:** Backed an **equity-based Just Transition Mechanism**. Said the **Global Stocktake** should **inform, not impose**, national action.

Significance

- Upholds **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities**.
- Protects the **Global South's development rights**.
- Pressures developed nations on finance, including the **COP30 goal** of **$120 billion/year** in **adaptation finance** by **2035**.

Do You Know?

- **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities** – part of the **Rio Earth Summit (1992)** principles.
- **India's Per Capita Emissions:** About **2 tonnes of CO_2**, well below the **global average** (about **4.7 tonnes**).
- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism** – **transitional phase** from **2023**; **definitive phase** from **2026**.
- **"LiFE" (Lifestyle for Environment)** – India's mission, launched at **COP26 (2021)**.



International Highlights

Fourth India–Japan 2+2 Ministerial Meeting (Tokyo)

Context

- **India** and **Japan** held their **Fourth 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting** in **Tokyo (18–19 November 2026)**.
- **India: Rajnath Singh (Defence)** and **S. Jaishankar (External Affairs)**.
- **Japan: Motegi Toshimitsu (Foreign)** and **Koizumi Shinjiro (Defence)**.

About the 2+2

- The **highest-level foreign-defence dialogue** between India and Japan, under the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.
- **History:** Agreed at the **2018 Modi–Abe Summit**.

Edition	Year	Venue
1st	2019	New Delhi
2nd	2022	Tokyo
3rd	2024	New Delhi
4th	2026	Tokyo

Key Outcomes

- **First Live-Fire Training in India:**
  - A **Letter of Intent** lets the **Japan Self-Defense Forces** conduct **live-fire training**, including **surface-to-ship missile drills**, at **Indian ranges**.
  - **Air exercise Veer Guardian 26** will be deepened.
- **Defence Co-Development:**
  - Arrangements for the **UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) naval mast system**, with India's **Acceptance of Necessity** by **February 2027**.
  - Under **"Design with Japan, Make in India"**; also exploring **joint naval shipbuilding**.
- **Maritime Security:**
  - Expand **maritime domain awareness**, **mine countermeasures** and **disaster relief**.
  - India will host the **5th Coast Guard Global Summit** in **February 2027**.
- **Economic Security:** The **Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation** operationalised in **five sectors**: **semiconductors**, **critical minerals**, **ICT**, **clean energy**, **pharmaceuticals**.
- **AI, Space, Cables:**
  - The **Japan–India AI Cooperation Initiative (JAI)**.
  - **AI-enabled cybersecurity**.
  - **Space situational awareness**.
  - **Undersea cables**.
- **Indo-Pacific:**
  - Aligned India's **IPOI** and **MAHASAGAR** with Japan's **Free and Open Indo-Pacific**.
  - New **trilateral formats**: an **India–Japan–Philippines Track 1.5 Dialogue** and an **India–Japan–Indonesia naval PASSEX**.
- **Counter-Terrorism and UN:**
  - Condemned **cross-border terrorism**, naming **Lashkar-e-Taiba** and **Jaish-e-Mohammed**.
  - Mutual support for **permanent UNSC seats** and **non-permanent bids (2028–29, 2033–34)**.

- **75th Anniversary: 2027** declared the **India–Japan Year of Shared Horizons** (**75 years of diplomatic ties**).

Challenges

- **Trade Deficit:** Despite the **2011 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**, trade favours **Japan** due to **non-tariff barriers** (**pharma, marine, farm exports**).
- **Slow Defence Technology Transfer:** e.g., the **US-2 amphibious aircraft** talks and the **UNICORN** timelines.
- **Infrastructure Delays:** e.g., the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train** and **Northeast roads**.
- **Different Positions on Russia:** Japan follows **G7 sanctions**; India keeps **strategic autonomy**.

Way Ahead

- Meet the **February 2027 UNICORN target**; a **joint defence R&D fund**.
- Upgrade the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**; link **Indian IT/AI talent** to **Japan's ageing workforce**.
- **Joint ventures** in **rare earths** and **semiconductors**.
- More **trilateral** and **ASEAN outreach**.
- Use the **2027 Year of Shared Horizons** for **education** and **skill mobility**.

Do You Know?

- **India–Japan Diplomatic Ties:** Established **1952**.
- **Special Strategic and Global Partnership:** Since **2014**.
- **India–Japan Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement: 2020**.
- **India–Japan Exercises:**
  - **JIMEX (Navy)**.
  - **Dharma Guardian (Army)**.
  - **Veer Guardian** and **Shinyuu Maitri (Air Force)**.
- **India's 2+2 Partners: United States**, **Japan**, **Australia**, **Russia** (and others).