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The Hindu & The Indian express

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Trump's Gaza peace plan is comprehensive, provides viable pathway to peace: PM

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's Gaza peace proposal, which Mr. Trump released on Monday after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House.

Mr. Modi said the proposal will help Palestinians and Israelis as well as the West Asia region.

In response to Mr. Modi's remarks, Israel ambassador Reuven Azar said India can participate in the reconstruction of Gaza Strip.

"We welcome President Donald J. Trump's announcement of a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict. It provides a via-



Narendra Modi

ble pathway to long term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people. We hope that all concerned will come together behind President Trump's initiative and support this effort to end conflict and secure peace," said Mr. Modi said, in a message posted in Hebrew, English, Arabic and Chinese. The peace plan pro-

poses an immediate end to the war in Gaza and release of all the hostages held by Hamas within 72 hours and does not allow Israel to "occupy or annex" Gaza.

It proposes phased withdrawal of Israeli forces. Under the plan, Gaza will be under "temporary transitional governance" that will be supervised by a "Board of Peace" to be headed by Mr. Trump himself, and will include other members and heads of states "to be announced".

The Ministry of External Affairs is yet to respond to a question from *The Hindu* on how India's policy of "two-state solution" will be in harmony with governance of Palestinian territory (Gaza) through a "Board of Peace" as President Trump's plan envisages.

Trump's Gaza peace plan is comprehensive, provides viable pathway to peace: PM

Source: The Hindu | Page 12

GS Paper: GS-2 (International Relations)

Context:

- PM Narendra Modi welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan.
- The plan was announced after Trump's meeting with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

Gaza Peace Plan: key points

- **Immediate Ceasefire:** End of Gaza war and release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours.
- **No Annexation:** Israel cannot occupy or annex Gaza.
- **Phased Withdrawal:** Gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces.
- **Governance:** Gaza under "temporary transitional governance," supervised by a Board of Peace headed by Trump and including heads of states (to be announced).
- **Aim:** Long-term peace, security, and development for Palestinians and Israelis.



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Swim to safety

Engagement with fishers can help with marine conservation

Ince widespread across the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India's dugongs dwindled to a few hundred individuals as poaching, by-catch, habitat loss and pollution compounded the animals' slow rate of reproduction. But, in the last decade, a series of initiatives have signalled a serious, if still inchoate, effort to reverse this decline. The most visible step was the notification of the Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay in 2022 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act. Protecting over 12,000 hectares of seagrass meadows, it has become a model of integrated marine conservation. Tamil Nadu's stewardship, bolstered by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and local community participation, has mitigated poaching and encouraged fishers to release dugongs caught as by-catch. Now, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has recognised the reserve as an exemplar, lauding its ecological significance and innovative restoration techniques. WII surveys suggest that the population here numbers over 200, fragile but encouraging progress from the fear of extinction voiced two decades ago. India has also experimented with technologies that widen conservation options, which include drone platforms and acoustic and satellite-based mapping of seagrass beds.

Yet, much remains to be done. Even in the reserve, mechanised fishing, port construction, dredging and pollution from agriculture and industry threaten seagrass meadows. Dugongs continue to die in fishing nets. Rising sea temperatures, acidification and storms threaten restoration gains. Populations in Gujarat and the Andamans are also smaller and less protected than in Tamil Nadu. Experts have stressed the importance of cross-border collaboration, particularly with Sri Lanka, since dugongs traverse the narrow Palk Strait. Without shared protection, the recovery will remain local. Funding, too, has been inconsistent: while allocations from the compensatory afforestation fund have helped, the long gestation of dugong populations requires decades of steady investment. These efforts and shortcomings hold broader lessons for the conservation of other marine species that demand intact ecosystems while being directly threatened by human activity. The Palk Bay reserve demonstrates that community engagement with fishers as partners can mitigate by-catch and create local constituencies for conservation. The IUCN recognition underscores how international endorsement can amplify domestic efforts, offering legitimacy and opportunities for knowledge exchange. Likewise, blending traditional ecological knowledge with technologies such as drones and echosounders shows how conservation can bridge tradition with modernity.

Swim to safety

Source: The Hindu | Page 8 | Editorial | Species in News

Context:

- Dugongs in India have declined sharply due to poaching, bycatch, habitat loss, and pollution.
- The Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay (2022) under the Wildlife (Protection) Act is a major step.
- IUCN has lauded it as a model of marine conservation, showcasing fisher engagement, restoration, and innovative techniques.

Indian Dugong (Sea Cow)

- Type: Large marine herbivorous mammal (related to manatees).

Key Characteristics

- Long-lived, slow breeder (1 calf every 3-7 years).
- Fully aquatic, strictly marine mammal.
- Can live up to 70 years.
- Play a keystone role in seagrass ecosystem health.
- Diet: Primarily seagrass → hence called “sea cow.”



Habitat in India:

- Gulf of Mannar
- Palk Bay
- Gulf of Kutch
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Conservation Status

- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972: Schedule I (highest protection)
- CITES: Appendix I (ban on international trade)
- CMS (Convention on Migratory Species): Appendix I & II

Population

- In India: ~200 individuals, mostly in Tamil Nadu (Palk Bay & Gulf of Mannar).



1



With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. It is found along the entire coast of India.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 3 only

2015



External debt rises \$11.2 bn; net NRI claims fall \$16.4 bn

India's external debt, at end-June 2025, was placed at \$747.2 billion, an increase of \$ 11.2 billion over its level at end-March 2025, as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday. The net claims of non-residents (NR) on India declined by \$16.4 billion during Q1:2025-26 and stood at \$312.8 billion as at end-June 2025, according to India's International Investment Position (IIP) data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday.

Swim to safety

Source: The Hindu | Page 15 | Economics

Context:

India's external debt profile reflects borrowings from abroad by government and private sector. It is a key indicator of external sector health and financial stability.

What is External Debt?

- Money owed by residents of India (government, corporates, banks, households) to non-residents, repayable in foreign currency.
- Raised through loans, bonds, deposits, trade credits from foreign governments, institutions, banks, NRIs, investors.

External Debt of India – Key Points

1. Sources of External Debt

- External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) – major share, taken by corporates.
- NRI Deposits – FCNR, NRE, NRO accounts.

- **Trade Credits** – for imports.
- **Multilateral & Bilateral Borrowings** – World Bank, IMF, ADB, other countries.
- **Sovereign Borrowings** – limited foreign loans by Govt.
- **Masala Bonds** – INR bonds issued abroad.

2. Borrower Profile

- **Private sector:** ~80%+ (corporates, banks → ECBs, trade credit, NRI deposits).
- **Government:** ~18-20% (multilateral/bilateral loans).

3. Currency Composition

- **US Dollar:** >50% share.
- **Others:** Indian Rupee, SDR, Yen, Euro.

India got 8% more monsoon rainfall this year, says IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India this year received 8% more monsoon rainfall than normal, the fifth-highest since 2001 and the 38th highest since 1901, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

The IMD considers only the rainfall from June 1 to September 30 to calculate monsoon data.

While the southwest monsoon season largely boded well for agriculture by boosting storage in reservoirs, it wreaked havoc in several parts of the country – particularly in North India – leading to

loss of life and property.

Seasonal rainfall over northwest India, central India, and south peninsula was 27%, 15% and 10% more than their seasonal averages. However, rainfall in eastern and northeastern India was 80% of what those regions usually get.

The rainfall over northwest India was 74.79 cm, the highest since 2001 and sixth highest since 1901, while that over east and northeast India was 108.9 cm, the second lowest since 1901. Overall, the monsoon rainfall was 93.7 cm.

The monsoon season saw extremely heavy spells in several parts of northern

Pouring patterns

Monsoon rains were uneven across India, with reservoirs filling in some regions while others faced a dry spell

■ Northwest sees record rainfall of 27% above seasonal average, the highest since 2001

■ Central India and south peninsula see above-average rainfall 15% and 10% higher than their seasonal averages

■ East and Northeast face deficit, receiving only 80% of usual rainfall, the second-lowest since 1901



and southern India, thanks to the conjoining of storms that originated in the Mediterranean region, along with the monsoon trough that hovers over the Indian landmass during the monsoon season. When parsed

by months, rainfall was 9% more than what is usual in June, 5% more in both July and August, and 15% excess in September.

The southwest monsoon advanced over the south Andaman Sea and

Nicobar Islands on May 13, 2025, nearly nine days ahead of the normal schedule. It arrived in Kerala on May 24, ahead of the usual onset date of June 1, and covered the entire country by June 29.

There were seven monsoon depressions, or sub-cyclonic storms that form in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, during the season. Of the seven, one intensified into a deep depression. Storms falling in this category last an average of 69 days against a normal of 55, contributing to the extended spells of heavy rain.

Though the monsoon system has not fully with-

drawn and will prevail over the next couple of weeks, the IMD does not count that rain in its quota of monsoon rainfall. For October, the agency has forecast 'above normal' rain in the country, except for parts of north and northwest India.

While a La Nina is expected to form in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean and it usually means a stronger winter, IMD Director-General M. Mohapatra said this was not always the case.

A forecast for winter (December, January and February) will be available around November, he added.

India got 8% more monsoon rainfall this year, says IMD

Source: The Hindu | Page 12

GS Papers: GS1 (Geography – Monsoon system), GS3 (Disaster Management, Agriculture, Environment)

Context

- India received 8% more rainfall than normal in 2025 → 5th highest since 2001, 38th highest since 1901.
- Northwest India: +27% above seasonal average (highest since 2001).
- Central India: +15% above average.
- South Peninsula: +10% above average.
- East & Northeast India: deficit (80% of usual rainfall, 2nd lowest since 1901).
- There were 7 monsoon depressions/sub-cyclonic storms (from Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal), 1 intensified into a deep depression.

Relationship between Monsoon Depression and Sub-Cyclonic Storms

Sub-Cyclonic Storms:

- A broad category used by IMD for all weather systems that are weaker than a cyclone.
- Includes Low, Depression, and Deep Depression.

Monsoon Depression:

- A specific type of sub-cyclonic storm.
- It is stronger than a “low” but weaker than a cyclone.
- Wind speed: 31-49 km/h.
- Common in the Bay of Bengal during monsoon; brings heavy, widespread rain.



The transformation of girls' education

In a country where the phrase "Betī padhēgi toh kya karegi?" (What will a daughter do if she studies?) once echoed through homes and villages, India has undergone a powerful transformation in girls' education over the past decade.

At a Mahila Sammelan (Women's Conference) in Dwarka, Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked a group of women how many had studied beyond class 5. To his surprise, most of the elderly women raised their hands, while few younger women did. When asked why, they pointed to the era of the Gaekwad dynasty (1721-1947), when fathers were penalised for not educating their daughters. Today, however, many women are literate, while their daughters-in-law are not.

This anecdote underscores a larger truth: good intentions must be backed by accountability, leadership, and policy. And under Mr. Modi's leadership, India is witnessing just that – a systemic push to change not just rules, but mindsets. This transformation is not just about more girls in classrooms; it's about shifting the very foundations of Indian society, its health, economy, and demography, by empowering its daughters with the most effective tool of change: education.

The Gujarat model

As Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Modi recognised that tackling issues such as female foeticide and girls' illiteracy required a multi-pronged approach. Laws alone wouldn't suffice; a fundamental shift in public perception, supported by infrastructure and incentives, was required. Launched in 2003, the Kanya Kelavani campaign became a key vehicle for this change. The initiative promoted awareness about girls' education while addressing barriers such as the lack of separate toilets for girls in schools, a major cause of dropouts during adolescence.

The results were significant. Female literacy rate in Gujarat



Shamika Ravi

Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and Secretary to Government of India. Views are personal

The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative has shown significant results in the last decade

which was lower than the national average, increased to 70%, higher than the national average of 64%. The school dropout rate reduced by as much as 90% among female students in targeted districts.

Mr. Modi transformed the policy initiative through widespread public support, by personally auctioning gifts received at public events, raising ₹19 crore for girls' education. He also made a personal contribution of ₹21 lakh. These efforts sent a strong signal: girls' education wasn't just a government scheme, it was a public movement.

Scaling success nationwide

Inspired by Gujarat's success, the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative was launched nationwide in 2015. Its aim was twofold: to prevent female foeticide and promote girls' education. The initiative focused on 100 gender-critical districts in its initial phase and later expanded nationwide. It brought together multiple ministries – Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Human Resource Development – in a coordinated push for change.

Among other measures of outcome, its impact is most visible in the survival rate of girls. India's sex ratio at birth improved from 919 girls per 1,000 boys (2015-16) to 929 (2019-21). Encouragingly, 20 out of 30 States/UTs are performing better than the national average of 930.

But these improvements in sex ratio at birth are encouraging, they are just one piece of a much larger puzzle. The real power of girls' education lies in the ripple effects it triggers across society. Educated women tend to marry later and have fewer children. India's Total Fertility Rate has dropped to 2.0, just below replacement level. This shift is closely tied to rising female education and workforce participation. Women with secondary education are more likely to seek institutional deliveries and prenatal care. The

Infant Mortality Rate for girls has dropped from 49 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 33 by 2020. While overall female labour force participation remains a challenge, it is rising in sectors such as healthcare, education, STEM, and entrepreneurship – fields that thrive on literacy and skills. From officers in the armed forces to CEOs of tech startups, today's educated Indian women are breaking barriers.

The multiplier effect

Educated girls grow into educated mothers – and that changes everything. Studies show that children of educated mothers perform better in school and experience better health outcomes. In Madhya Pradesh, recent surveys show that 89.5% of people are aware of BBBP, and 63.2% say it directly encouraged them to send their daughters to school. Communities reported increased support for delaying early marriage and promoting girls' higher education. These statistics reflect changing mindsets in regions where girls were once kept from schools entirely.

This transformation is a deep-rooted change facilitated by thoughtful and effective policies aimed at empowering young women. The long-term impact of these initiatives will be even more pronounced because of the positive feedback cycle that enhances not only individual lives but entire communities. Today's educated girls are not merely students; they are potential leaders, advocates, and change-makers of tomorrow. Educated girls are more likely to join the workforce, contribute to their families' incomes, and invest in the education of their children.

As we look to the future, we can be hopeful that the changes initiated under Mr. Modi's leadership will continue to gain momentum, leading to a more equitable society where every girl has the right to learn, grow, and thrive. Let's be clear: when you educate a girl, you save a society.

The Transformation of Girls' Education

Source: The Hindu | Page 12 / Page 9

Girls' Education & Empowerment

Context

Over the past decade, India has seen a major transformation in girls' education, backed by targeted campaigns, policy reforms, and public participation. This has improved literacy, health, survival, and empowerment indicators for women.

Key observations

Historical note:

- Earlier (Gaekwad dynasty, 1721-1947), fathers were penalised for not educating daughters.

Policy Interventions:

- Kanya Kelavani campaign (2003, Gujarat): Tackled female illiteracy, dropouts, and lack of toilets.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (2015): Nationwide push against female foeticide & for education of girls.



Achievements in Gujarat & India:

- Female literacy rate in Gujarat: rose from 70% (lower than national average of 64%) to higher levels in targeted districts.
- School dropout rate: reduced by up to 90% in targeted districts.
- Sex ratio at birth (India): improved from 919 (2015-16) → 929 (2019-21).
- Infant Mortality Rate (girls): dropped from 49 (2014) → 33 (2020).
- 20 out of 30 States/UTs performing better than national average sex ratio of 930.

Health & Demography:

- Total Fertility Rate: reduced to 2.0, below replacement level.
- More educated women → higher institutional deliveries, prenatal care, delayed marriages.

Economic & Social Impact:

- Educated women entering STEM, entrepreneurship, healthcare, security forces.
- Creates multiplier effect → better health & education outcomes for next generation.

Maharashtra, Karnataka report most number of farmer suicides

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has said in its report that 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers committed suicide in 2023. The most number of cases was from Maharashtra (38.5%), followed by Karnataka (22.5%).

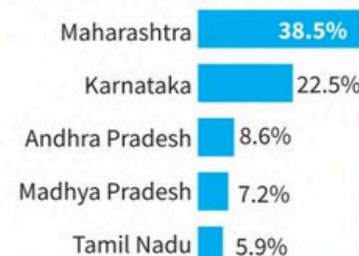
The organisations of farmers blamed the Narendra Modi government's policies for the situation, and said the decision to waive off import duty on cotton would vitiate the situation as most of the suicides were still from the cotton belts of the country.

Of the 10,786 suicides from the farming sector, 4,690 were farmers or cultivators, and 6,096 were agricultural workers. The farm suicides accounted for 6.3% of total suicides

Fields of despair

The lives of 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers were lost to suicide in 2023, according to the NCRB report

STATE-WISE FIGURES



A large number of farmer suicides take place in the cotton and soybean belt in Maharashtra.

(1,71,418 suicides in 2023) in the country.

Out of the 4,690 farmers who committed suicide, 4,553 were male and 137 were female, and out of the 6,096 suicides by farm workers, 5,433 were male and 663 were female.

After Maharashtra and Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (8.6%), Madhya Pradesh (7.2%), and Tamil Nadu (5.9%) registered the most number of suicides. West Bengal, Bihar, Od-

isha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Lakshadweep reported no suicides from the farm belt.

Commenting on the NCRB data, the president of the All India Kisan Sabha, Ashok Dhawale, said more than 10,000 suicides had been reported from the farm sector in 2021, 2022 and 2023, and it

showed the systemic crisis that the Modi government could not grasp or combat.

"This crisis is going to aggravate as a large number of farmer suicides take place in the cotton and soybean belt. Maharashtra has turned out to be the graveyard of farmers. The Marathwada and Vidarbha region are cotton and soybean belts. In spite of this, the Union government is bowing to the pressure to sign Free Trade Agreements, and to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff terrorism. The government cancelled the 11% import duty on cotton. This means that American cotton is going to come here. Agriculture will be finished by these treaties," Mr. Dhawale said, adding that the NCRB data could not be trusted.

For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416

Crime against children records 9.2% rise in 2023

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A total of 1,77,335 cases of crime against children were registered in 2023, showing an increase of 9.2% over the 2022 figure, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.

The data compiled by the NCRB showed that the crime rate in 2023 stood at 39.9 per 1,00,000 child population in comparison to 36.6 in 2022.

The major crime heads in 2023 were "Kidnapping and abduction of children" (79,884 cases, 45%) and "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act" (67,694 cases, 38.2%).

Madhya Pradesh topped the list with 22,393 total cases, followed by Maharashtra (22,390) and Uttar Pradesh (18,852).

NCRB-related articles (Page 14)

1. Farmer Suicides (2023)

- **Total: 10,786 farmers & agricultural workers.**
- **State-wise share: Maharashtra (38.5%), Karnataka (22.5%), Andhra Pradesh (8.6%), Madhya Pradesh (7.2%), Tamil Nadu (5.9%).**

2. Crimes Against Children (2023)

- **Total cases: 1,77,335 (↑ 9.2% from 2022).**
- **Crime rate: 39.9 per 1,00,000 child population (↑ from 36.6 in 2022).**
- **Major heads:**
 - **Kidnapping/abduction: 79,884 cases (45%).**
 - **POCSO Act: 67,694 cases (38.2%).**
- **State with highest cases: Madhya Pradesh (22,393), followed by Maharashtra (22,390) and Uttar Pradesh (18,852).**



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3. Road Accidents (2023)

- **Fatalities: 1.73 lakh killed** (↑ 1.6% from 2022).

Q1. As per Trump's Gaza Peace Plan, which of the following is correct?

1. Israel was allowed to annex Gaza.
2. The plan called for ceasefire and release of hostages within 72 hours.
3. A "Board of Peace" headed by Donald Trump was proposed.

Options:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Which of the following about Dugong (Sea Cow) in India is correct?

1. It is a marine mammal.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.
3. In India, it is found in Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q3. India's external debt is mostly raised through:

- a) Sovereign Government Borrowings
- b) Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Deposits
- c) External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and private sector loans
- d) Bilateral Aid Loans

Q4. According to NCRB 2023 report:

1. 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers died by suicide.
2. Highest cases were from Maharashtra and Karnataka.
3. Crimes against children were highest in Madhya Pradesh.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

1. b
2. d
3. c
4. d