CURRENTLY – 28 JULY

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All art, no deal

Donald Trump miscalculated timing and substance of Saudi nuclear deal

The announcement of a United States-Saudi Arabia civil nuclear deal, in the midst of a U.S.-Iran war that began over Tehran's nuclear programme, could hardly have come at a worse time. Matters became more complicated when U.S. President Donald Trump, after the agreement had been signed, added a new condition: that Saudi Arabia should join the Abraham Accords. Saudi Arabia has long sought to develop a civilian nuclear programme. Crown Prime Mohammad bin Salman, or MBS, wants to end the kingdom's "addiction" to oil. His Vision 2030 aims to diversify the economy through finance, megaprojects, tourism and power-hungry artificial intelligence (AI) data centres. The kingdom currently relies heavily on oil and gas for electricity generation. Saudi officials believe that nuclear power would help meet rising domestic energy demand, while freeing more oil and gas for export. MBS first took up his nuclear ambitions with Mr. Trump during the latter's first presidential term. His successor Joe Biden offered a deal but made it contingent on Riyadh joining the Abraham Accords. At that time, Saudi Arabia appeared open to normalising ties with Israel, but Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel and Israel's genocidal war on Gaza prompted the Saudis to shelve the idea. The July 22 deal suggested that Riyadh and Washington continued talks and remained keen on nuclear cooperation.

As a signatory to the NPT, Saudi Arabia has every right to pursue a peaceful nuclear programme. But the agreement announced by U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright leaves open the possibility of nuclear enrichment on Saudi soil. This flies in the face of the U.S. opposition to any Iranian enrichment on its soil. The agreement, according to U.S. media reports, does not require Saudi Arabia to adopt the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which grants inspectors broad powers to conduct short-notice inspections. The omission has fuelled concerns that the kingdom could eventually acquire the technical capability to weaponise its nuclear programme. Facing domestic criticism, Mr. Trump declared that the deal would proceed only if Saudi Arabia joined the Abraham Accords – a condition which was conspicuously absent when the agreement was signed. This apparent reversal is unlikely to reassure Riyadh, which is already questioning the reliability of U.S. security guarantees. If the deal eventually goes ahead, Tehran is likely to harden its position on enrichment in any future nuclear talks with the U.S. If Mr. Trump's objective was to reassure a long-standing ally while signalling strategic leverage over a regional rival, the execution of the deal has had the opposite effect. Ill-timed diplomacy, ambiguous provisions and shifting conditions have deepened Saudi concerns and strengthened Iran's resolve. That is the result of Mr. Trump's version of the "art of the deal".

Consider the following statements :

Statement–I :

Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.

Statement–II :

The 'Arab Peace Initiative' mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and Arab League.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement–I and Statement–II are correct and Statement–II is the correct explanation for Statement–I

(b) Both Statement–I and Statement–II are correct and Statement–II is not the correct explanation for Statement–I

(c) Statement–I is correct but Statement–II is incorrect

(d) Statement–I is incorrect but Statement–II is correct

In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'?

(a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.

(b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.

(c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

(d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

1. Context (GS II – International Relations; GS III – Nuclear Energy; Prelims – IR)

The U.S. has announced a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia, raising concerns over uranium enrichment, IAEA safeguards and the Abraham Accords, with implications for West Asian security and the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

2. U.S.–Saudi Civil Nuclear Deal

i. Background

* Saudi Arabia seeks nuclear energy under Vision 2030 to diversify its economy and reduce dependence on oil.
* Nuclear power will help meet rising domestic energy demand.

ii. Key Concerns

* Possibility of uranium enrichment on Saudi soil.
* Deal does not require adoption of the IAEA Additional Protocol, limiting inspection powers.
* Linking the deal with the Abraham Accords has complicated regional diplomacy.
* May intensify regional rivalry and weaken non-proliferation efforts.

3. Key Terms

i. Abraham Accords: A series of normalisation agreements (2020) between Israel and several Arab countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan, brokered by the United States.

ii. IAEA Additional Protocol: A legal agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that grants expanded inspection and verification powers to ensure that nuclear programmes remain exclusively peaceful.

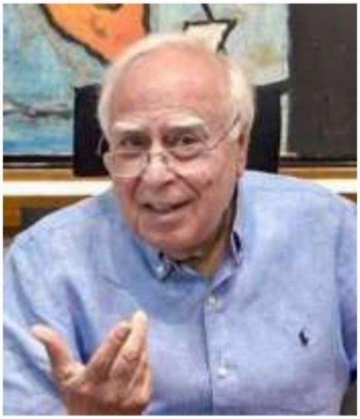
SC seeks Centre's reply on plea over anti-defection law

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Union government's response on a petition filed by senior advocate Kapil Sibal challenging the interpretation of the "merger" exception under the anti-defection law contained in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Rajya Sabha member has questioned the interpretation of the "merger" exception under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule, whereby a political party is deemed to have "merged" with another political party solely on the basis that two-thirds of the members of its legislature party have claimed such a merger even "if there is no other indication" that the original political party has actually merged.

Mr. Sibal, appearing as petitioner-in-person, submitted before a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe that such an interpretation of Paragraph 4 would have "huge repercussions" for the polity as an electoral majority can be turned into a minority by resorting to mergers.


Kapil Sibal

He argued that the Constitution does not permit a situation where a legislature party can, by itself, bring about a deemed merger of the original political party without any formal merger process or approval of party leadership.

"This has huge repercussions for our polity... The electoral verdict can be changed. A minority can become a majority and a majority can become a minority," Mr. Sibal submitted.

'Issues for Parliament'

While acknowledging the concerns raised about the operation of the Tenth Schedule, the Bench expressed its disinclination to entertain the plea, observing that any shortcomings in the anti-defection law were matters for Parliament to take a call on.

"These are issues typically to be raised before the floor of the House.. If not, then at least before political parties. The Tenth Schedule is intended to regulate the mechanism between the legislators... What transpired in the working of the Tenth Schedule, we have been seeing enormous issues", Justice Narasimha remarked. The Bench ultimately agreed to issue notice on the plea.

With reference to anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements :

1. The law specifies that a nominated legislator cannot join any political party within six months of being appointed to the House.

2. The law does not provide any time-frame within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

1. Context (GS II – Polity & Constitution; Prelims – Indian Polity)

The Supreme Court has sought the Centre's response on a petition challenging the interpretation of the merger exception under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule. The plea argues that a two-thirds majority of legislators alone should not be sufficient to claim a merger unless the original political party has also formally merged, as the present interpretation could undermine the electoral mandate and facilitate defections.

2. Anti-Defection Law (Tenth Schedule)

i. Constitutional Basis

* Enacted through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985.
* Incorporated as the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.
* 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 abolished the earlier one-third split exception.

ii. Grounds for Disqualification

* Voluntarily giving up party membership.
* Voting/abstaining against the party whip without permission.
* Independent member joining a political party after election.
* Nominated member joining a political party after 6 months.

iii. Exception – Merger (Paragraph 4)

* Disqualification does not apply if at least two-thirds of the legislators of a legislature party merge with another party.
* The merger must be genuine, not merely a numerical shift of legislators.

3. Why is the Case Important?

* The petition questions whether a legislature party can claim a merger without the parent political party actually merging.
* It argues that the current interpretation may legitimise mass defections, allowing elected governments to be altered without fresh elections.
* The issue raises concerns about the sanctity of the electoral mandate, misuse of the merger provision, and the effectiveness of the anti-defection law.
* While issuing notice to the Centre, the Supreme Court observed that any structural reform of the Tenth Schedule ultimately falls within Parliament's domain.

To fix unemployment, fix the economy first

The Cockroach Janta Party's movement has highlighted the political urgency for reforming the economy to create more employment for India's youth. Fixing the education system alone will not solve the unemployment problem. The basic structure of the economy must be reformed.

China and India, the only two countries in the world with populations exceeding one billion, have the greatest need for meaningful employment. If citizens are not fully employed, and incomes of masses do not rise, their economies cannot grow. China has done much better than India in this regard; the per capita income of Chinese citizens has risen roughly eight times faster than Indians' in the last 30 years.

India's leaders find themselves in the middle of conflicting trends. First, they are pushing ahead with reforms for 'ease of doing business'; diluting the rights of workers to organise; and weakening environmental protection. Second, they are promoting the wide-spread application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve 'productivity' (and other benefits) in agriculture, industry, health and education, with productivity defined, purely in economic terms, as more output with less human input. Third, they also see the need to change the pattern of growth and increase employment elasticity. Employment elasticity is the amount of meaningful employment created with each unit of GDP growth, in which India has been a laggard since the liberal market economic reforms of the 1990s.

Since India has the largest population of youth in the world, its economic growth should have the highest employment elasticity. However, the increased adoption of AI will only make it worse.

Arun Maira

Author of 'Reimagining India's Economy: The Road to a More Equitable Society'

> The 'ease of doing business' must now become subordinate to the ease of living and earning for all citizens

The China model

China has invested billions to become an AI superpower and has raced to integrate the technology across a range of industries. By 2024, more than two million robots were already working in Chinese factories. And in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, Meituan, the nation's largest food delivery service, has experimented with using small autonomous robots to deliver food. But China's advances in AI have run headlong into a growing problem: anxiety over the workers who could be displaced.

China's political and economic history reveals that, despite being an authoritarian country, the Chinese government is very attentive to what people are thinking and saying on the Internet. History has taught them that another revolution will form if disenchanted and educated youth rise along with the disgruntled workers and peasants. They know they must respond.

Unemployment has been increasing in China. The unemployment rate for migrant workers rose to 5.7% in March this year, which has been the highest in nearly three years for China, while youth unemployment stood at 16.3% in April. Moreover, 70% of unemployed young people are university graduates, with older laid-off workers facing prolonged periods of joblessness.

However, Chinese courts have been swift to act. A court ruled in May that a tech company had illegally laid-off a worker after replacing him with AI software. Another ruled that, "the development of artificial intelligence technology should be applied to liberating labour, promoting employment and improving people's livelihood". And yet another ruled that "companies that benefit from technology must, at the same time, adopt social responsibilities and protect worker rights".

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced in January that it would roll out policies to address the impact of AI on jobs, including targeted support for key industries. In June, the State Council issued a plan on implementing an "employment-first" strategy for the 2026-2030 period. Party officials have proposed sweeping government interventions such as requiring employers to offer training to help workers adapt to an AI-centric job market.

The Chinese government's 'people-first' ideology has served China's economy and its people well. China's leaders have remained socialists; they have always put the needs of common citizens, and the stability of China's society, above economists' demands for deregulation of markets and prices, especially with respect to labour, food, education, health, and housing.

The road ahead for India

Indian income levels must rise rapidly – in agriculture, manufacturing, and services. The government has added 'ease of living' to 'ease of doing business' as the purpose of the reforms required for India to become 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. To make it a reality, it will have to put more teeth into its policies to increase employment and incomes, and stave off the negative impacts that AI will have on employment. Policies must require that employers take more responsibility for training their own workers; they must be restrained from laying them off.

New policies must put workers' rights ahead of capitalists' rights, as China has done. India's labour market reforms, with the four labour codes, are directed to improve 'ease of doing business', which is undoubtedly necessary. However, the 'ease of doing business' must now become subordinate to the ease of living and earning for all citizens.

India's leaders would do well to learn from China's leaders on how to navigate this moment in history. The rights of all workers must be firmly protected. While the views of financial investors must be heard, the views of workers and small-time entrepreneurs must be heard much more.

1. Context (GS III – Indian Economy: Employment, Inclusive Growth & Labour; Prelims – Economy)
India's demographic dividend can be realised only through employment-led economic growth, where job creation keeps pace with economic expansion and technological change.

2. Employment-Centric Growth: Key Challenges
A. Jobless Growth
* Economic growth has not generated adequate employment due to low employment elasticity.
* Labour-intensive sectors have not expanded sufficiently.

B. AI & Automation
* AI enhances productivity but can reduce demand for routine jobs.
* Reskilling and upskilling are essential to minimise job displacement.

C. Ease of Doing Business vs Ease of Living
* Ease of Doing Business: Improves the investment climate through simpler regulations and lower compliance costs.
* Ease of Living: Focuses on employment, income security, affordable healthcare, education, housing and social protection.
* Sustainable development requires balancing both.

D. Labour Market Constraints
* Skill mismatch, informality, low female labour force participation and inadequate social security continue to limit quality employment.

3. Way Forward: Employment-First Strategy
A. Promote labour-intensive sectors such as manufacturing, MSMEs, agriculture and tourism.
B. Improve employment elasticity by aligning industrial policy with job creation.
C. Expand skill development, reskilling and AI-readiness of the workforce.
D. Combine economic reforms with strong labour protection and social security to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

Sudan's Army claims control of major highway linking Khartoum to El-Obeid

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

Sudan's Army has regained control of a key highway linking the capital Khartoum with the flashpoint city of El-Obeid, military sources said on Monday.

Their rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have for months amassed troops around El-Obeid, attempting to encircle it ahead of an apparent large-scale assault.

They have now been pushed west, off the 400-kilometre highway that connects Khartoum with the largest city in the embattled Kordofan region.

Hours after the development, paramilitary drone strikes shook El-Obeid. At dawn, RSF drone strikes tore through two municipal buildings in apparent retaliation.

Amid ruins: Damaged interiors of a building after it was reportedly targeted by the Rapid Support Forces in El-Obeid on Monday. AFP

Crucial link

El-Obeid lies at a key crossroads: its north-south highway runs from Khartoum to the rest of Kordofan, while its east-west axis connects RSF strongholds in the Darfur region to Army-controlled central and eastern Sudan.

The highway to Khartoum remains closed to civilians, who have for most of the war relied entirely on the eastern road to the White Nile, where the RSF regularly launches deadly drone strikes. The Army advance "opens a second supply route to El-Obeid and beyond", according to the military source.

The war between the Army and the RSF – former allies before they fell out in a power struggle – erupted in April 2023 and has since killed over 200,000 people, aid workers estimate.

It has also created the world's largest displacement and hunger crises, with over 33 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

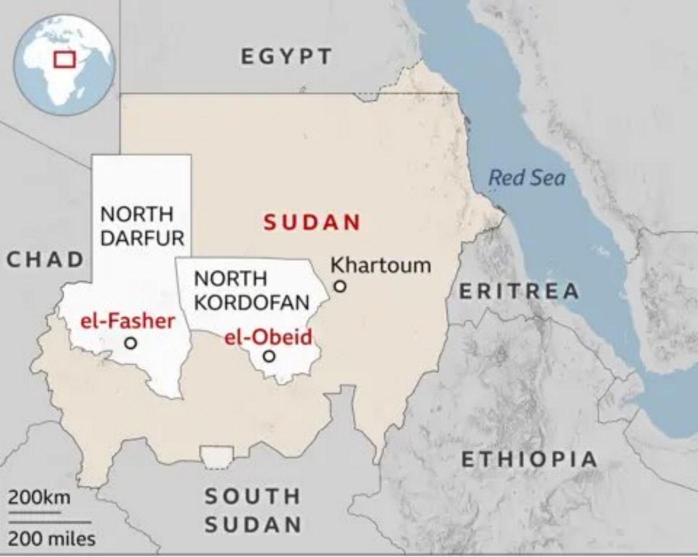
In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?

(a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements

(b) Establishment of Chinese military bases

(c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert

(d) Successful coups


EGYPT
Red Sea
SUDAN
NORTH
DARFUR
CHAD
NORTH
KORDOFAN
Khartoum
ERITREA
el-Fasher
el-Obeid
ETHIOPIA
200km
200 miles
SOUTH
SUDAN
BBC

1. Context (GS II – International Relations: Africa; Prelims – Sudan, Places in News & Map-based Questions)

Sudan's civil war has reached another strategic phase with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) recapturing the Khartoum–El-Obeid highway from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The highway is a vital military and supply corridor linking the capital with central and western Sudan.

2. Key Locations

i. Khartoum

A. Capital and largest city of Sudan.
B. Located at the confluence of the Blue Nile and White Nile, where the River Nile begins.
C. Political, administrative and economic centre of Sudan.

ii. El-Obeid

A. Capital of North Kordofan State in central Sudan.
B. Important transport and logistics hub, connecting Khartoum, Kordofan and Darfur.
C. Control of El-Obeid is crucial for troop movement, humanitarian aid and access to western Sudan.

iii. Al-Fashir (El-Fasher)

A. Capital of North Darfur State in western Sudan.
B. Largest city in the Darfur region and a major humanitarian centre.
C. A key battleground between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) due to its strategic location and control over Darfur.

What is India's policy on urea production?

What are the key changes in the National Investment Policy for Urea 2026?

A. M. Jigeesh

Amid concerns of fertilizer shortage during the ongoing kharif season due to the situation in West Asia, greater demand because of *El Niño* and complaints of over-use of chemical fertilizers such as urea, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026.

The new policy is aimed at self-reliance in urea production, a sector which is dependent on imports. According to the Government, the policy will encourage new investments in the urea sector for setting up the gas-based urea manufacturing units in the country.

The key changes in the policy, compared to the existing policy, include the separation of fixed and variable costs for greater transparency, introduction of a viable Return on Equity (RoE) band with a floor at 12% and a ceiling at 16%, and mitigation of foreign exchange risk through conversion of fixed cost into Indian rupees after four years based on prevailing exchange rates.

How has the urea policy evolved?

The Union Government had announced such a policy for urea sector in 2012, 2013 and it was amended in October 2014 to facilitate fresh investment.

Six new urea units have been set up under the 2012 policy, which includes four set up through Joint Venture Companies (JVC) of nominated PSUs and two set up by the private companies. At present, there are 33 operational urea manufacturing units with total reassessed/installed capacity of 269.42 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), according to the Union Fertilizers Ministry.

"There is a need to increase the indigenous production of Urea. There is a gap in the indigenous production and demand of urea in the country which is filled by the import of urea," the Government had said.

The Government amended the policy further in May 2015 for the existing 25 gas-based urea units and it led to additional production of urea by 20-25 LMT as compared to the production during 2014-15 annually.

From 225 LMT per annum during 2014-15, the current production from all these units has reached 314.07 LMT during 2023-24. "During 2025-26, 293.30 LMT of Urea was produced in the country," the Government says.

What is India's fertilizer subsidy bill?

The total fertilizers subsidy in 2025-26 is ₹ 2,17,281.10 crore. In 2024-25, it was ₹1,77,162.06 crore. Out of this, the urea subsidy alone for 2025-26 was ₹1,42,175.74 crore and for 2024-25 it was ₹1,24,319.50 crore. For phosphorus, and potassium, the subsidy component is ₹74,999.99 crore and ₹52,810 crore respectively. For promotion of organic fertilizers, the Government provided a subsidy of ₹105.37 crore and ₹32.56 crore in the last two financial years.

How is urea made available?

According to the data provided by the Government in Parliament, as on March 3, 2026, the country has the requirement of 370.84 LMT of urea for the kharif season. The availability is 432.44 LMT, out of which 381.59 LMT will be for sale under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system where all subsidised fertilizers will be sold to buyers is made through Point of Sale (PoS) devices "installed at each retailer shop and the beneficiaries are identified through Aadhaar Card, KCC, Voter Identity Card etc". In 2024-25, the requirement was 364.01 LMT and availability was 443.83 LMT.

The Government claims that it has taken steps to promote the balanced and efficient use of fertilizers. "The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), which advocates the judicious and scientific integration of organic sources, chemical fertilizers, and biological inputs for efficient and sustainable nutrient management," the Ministry said adding that the INM aims to meet the nutrient requirements of crops in an economical and environmentally sustainable manner while maintaining long-term soil fertility. It had also experimented with Nano Urea, which is yet to get popularity among farmers, apparently after controversies over its scientific efficacy and result.

THE GIST

The Centre recently approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026, which is aimed at self-reliance in urea production, a sector which is dependent on imports.

The Union Government had announced such a policy for urea sector in 2012, 2013 and it was amended in October 2014 to facilitate fresh investment.

CURRENTLY MAINS – ONE PAGER

27 July 2025

SYLLABUS (GS-3)
- Agriculture
- Food Security
- Economy
- Government Policies & Interventions

NATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY FOR UREA 2026

Towards Self-Reliance, Sustainable Nutrient Security & Farmer Prosperity

CONTEXT: The Union Cabinet has approved the National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026 to promote self-reliance in urea production, reduce import dependence and encourage fresh investments in gas-based urea plants, ensuring timely availability of fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices.

1. WHY IS THIS POLICY IMPORTANT?

- India is one of the world's largest consumers of fertilizers but remains dependent on imports for urea.
- Geopolitical tensions (e.g., West Asia), global supply disruptions and price volatility pose risks to fertilizer security.
- Ensuring adequate domestic urea production is critical for agricultural productivity, farmer income and food security.
- Policy aims at self-reliance in urea, attracting investments and ensuring long-term fertilizer security.

2. KEY FEATURES OF NATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY FOR UREA 2026

PROMOTION OF NEW INVESTMENTS
Encourages setting up of new gas-based urea manufacturing units by private and public sector (including JVs).

SEPARATION OF COSTS
Fixed and variable costs are separated for greater transparency in cost determination and pricing.

RETURN ON EQUITY (RoE) BAND
Introduces a viable RoE band of 12% (floor) to 16% (ceiling) to provide predictable and reasonable returns.

MITIGATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK
Conversion of fixed cost into Indian Rupees after four years based on prevailing exchange rates to reduce forex risk.

3. EVOLUTION OF UREA POLICY IN INDIA

2012	First policy for urea sector announced to facilitate fresh investment.
2013	Policy amended to attract more investments.
2014	Further amendments to ease implementation and encourage new projects.
2012 to date	Six new urea units have been set up: • Four through Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) of PSUs • Two by private companies

At present, there are 33 operational urea manufacturing units with total installed capacity of 269.42 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT).

4. UREA PRODUCTION IN INDIA (LMT PER ANNUM)

225 LMT (2014-15) → 314.07 LMT (2023-24) → 293.30 LMT (2025-26) (Provisional)

Significant improvement in domestic urea production over the years, yet demand continues to rise with expanding agriculture and nutrient requirements.

5. UREA AVAILABILITY & DISTRIBUTION (KHARIF 2026)

Requirement	370.84 LMT
Total Availability	432.44 LMT
Availability for Sale under DBT System	381.59 LMT

All subsidised urea is sold through Point of Sale (PoS) devices installed at each retailer shop. Beneficiaries are authenticated through Aadhaar Card, KCC, Voter ID etc. under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system ensuring transparency and targeted delivery.

6. FERTILIZER SUBSIDY (2025-26)

Total Fertilizer Subsidy (2025-26)
₹ 2,17,281.10 crore

BREAK-UP

Urea Subsidy	₹ 1,42,175.74 crore
Other Fertilizers (P&K)	₹ 74,999.99 crore
Organic Fertilizers	₹ 52,810 crore

Urea subsidy constitutes the largest share of the total fertilizer subsidy.

7. PROMOTING BALANCED & SUSTAINABLE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (INM)
Advocates the judicious and scientific integration of organic, chemical and biological sources for efficient and sustainable nutrient use.

OBJECTIVE
To meet crop nutrient requirements in an economical and environmentally sustainable manner while maintaining long-term soil fertility.

INNOVATIONS
Promotion of Nano Urea – experimented and showing potential, though large-scale adoption is still evolving. Balanced use of fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, compost, green manure, etc.

BENEFITS FOR FARMERS
- Improves crop productivity
- Reduces cost overuse of urea
- Improves soil health
- Ensures sustainable agriculture practices and long-term farm profitability

8. SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY FOR UREA 2026

- Strengthens Atmanirbhar Bharat in fertilizers and reduces import dependence.
- Reduces vulnerability to global supply shocks and foreign exchange fluctuations.
- Encourages investment, expands domestic manufacturing and creates employment opportunities.
- Ensures fertilizer security, timely availability and affordable access for farmers.
- Promotes sustainable agriculture through balanced nutrient management.

WAY FORWARD
- Increase domestic gas availability and reliability
- Fast-track clearances and ease of doing business
- Encourage R&D in fertilizers, alternative nutrients & bio-fertilizers
- Strengthen DBT system and last-mile delivery
- Promote awareness on balanced fertilizer use

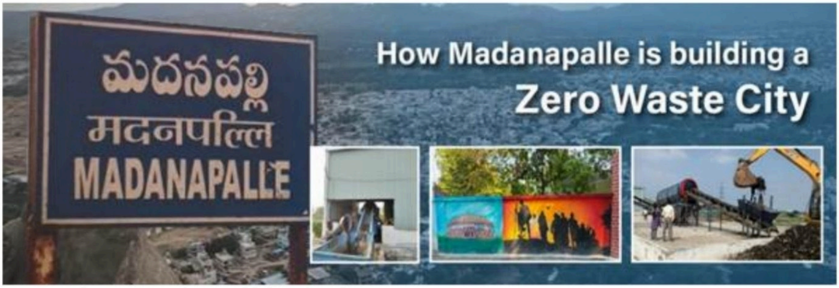
Source: The Hindu (Page 10)

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

How Madanapalle is building a Zero Waste City

Posted On: 27 JUL 2026 3:01PM by PIB Delhi



Driven by the vision of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, Madanapalle Municipality is reshaping urban sanitation through scientific waste management and sustainable resource recovery.

Madanapalle Municipality in Andhra Pradesh is strengthening its urban sanitation and solid waste management systems through scientific and sustainable practices. In response to rapid urban growth and increasing waste generation, the municipality has adopted a structured and integrated approach focused on waste segregation,


మదనపల్లి
मदनपल्लि
MADANAPALLE
How Madanapalle is building a
Zero Waste City

Consider the following statements :

Statement I :

Circular economy reduces the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Statement II :

Circular economy reduces the use of raw materials as inputs.

Statement III :

Circular economy reduces wastage in the production process.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

1. Context: Madanapalle Municipality (Andhra Pradesh), under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0, has adopted a Zero Waste City model through scientific waste management, resource recovery, and circular economy practices.

2. Zero Waste City – What does it mean?

I. Meaning

A. A city that minimises waste generation and ensures that maximum waste is reused, recycled, composted, or recovered, with minimal waste sent to landfills.

B. Based on the 3R/5R principles (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Refuse) and the Circular Economy approach.

II. Madanapalle Model

A. 100% door-to-door collection and source segregation of waste.

B. Wet waste → composting/biogas; Dry waste → Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for recycling.

C. Scientific management of plastic, sanitary, domestic hazardous, and C&D waste with minimal landfill disposal.

III. Significance

A. Reduces landfill use, methane emissions, and pollution.

B. Conserves resources and improves sanitation and public health.

C. Creates green jobs, supports the Circular Economy, and advances SBM-U 2.0, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production).