

India's role amid declining credibility and perceived bias of Western-led Global Institutions

Of late, major global bodies in the economic, cultural, and political spheres, once seen as impartial, are increasingly aligning with a specific, **interventionist strand of the US foreign policy**, eroding their credibility and creating a **"legitimacy gap"** on the world stage.

Erosion of Western Institutional legitimacy

- **Institutional biases and double standards:** Swift and severe actions taken against Russia following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine with the continued normal engagement with Israel despite the civilian death toll in Gaza.
 - ⊕ **E.g.,** Exclusion of Russia and Belarus from Paris Olympics 2024, disconnection of Russian financial institutions from SWIFT, etc.
- **Dysfunctional institutions:** E.g., WTO Appellate Body remains dysfunctional since 2019 as the US has blocked appointment of new members leaving the body without quorum.
- **Non-representative institutions:** UN Security Council with its P5 members does not represent the contemporary geopolitics and the shifting Balance of Power.

Potential Strategic Implications

- **Increased Global Instability:** Politicized actions by global bodies can exacerbate geopolitical tensions.
- **Reduced International Trade:** The use of financial networks like SWIFT as a foreign policy tool disrupts global commerce.
- **Spurring Energy Prices:** Instability and sanctions regimes can lead to volatility in global energy markets.

Opportunities for India

- **Economic Influence:** Recently, India has surpassed Japan to become the **world's fourth-largest economy**.
- **Strategic Non-Alignment:** Enhances credibility as an impartial leader. E.g., meteoric rise of Indian media as a trusted source for reporting on the Ukraine conflict.
- **Cultural capital:** India's contribution to humanity's cultural and civilizational story gives it a relatively unique global standing e.g., civilizational ethos of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, or "One Earth, One Family,
- **Focus on Global South:** E.g., India' hosting of Voice of Global South summit, Induction of African Union into G20 during India's presidency, etc.

Amul and IFFCO ranked World's Top Two Cooperatives

Rankings were given in the **World Cooperative Monitor 2025**, produced by **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**.

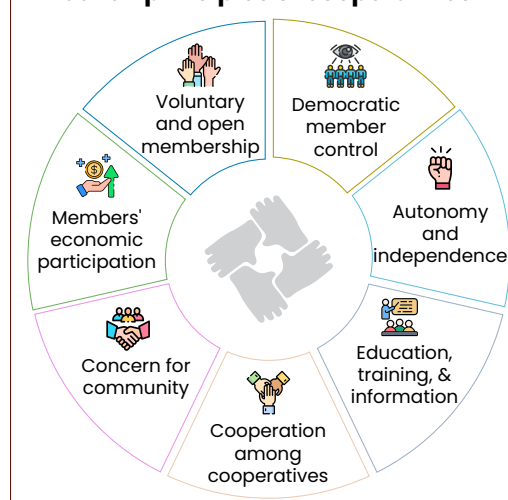
Cooperatives in India

- **Meaning:** It is an **autonomous association of persons**, united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs through **jointly owned and democratically member-controlled enterprise**.
- **Genesis:** **Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904**.
- **Constitutional Recognition:** 'Cooperative societies' is a **state subject** under Seventh Schedule.
 - ⊕ **97th Amendment Act, 2011** granted citizens the fundamental right to form cooperative societies and included **Article 43B** in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- **Legal Framework:** Cooperative societies functioning in more than one state/ UT are governed by **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (amended in 2023)**.
 - ⊕ While those in a single state are governed by the respective state/UT acts.
- **Status:** India has more than **one-fourth** of the world's cooperatives (over **8.44 lakhs**).
- **Top States:** **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka**.

Key Initiatives to Strengthen Cooperatives in India

- **Establishment of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** in 1963.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** in 1982.
- **Establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation** in 2021.
- **National Cooperation Policy 2025**.

Seven principles of cooperatives



Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd or AMUL (HQ: Anand, Gujarat)

- It is kind of **Cooperative Marketing society** established in 1946 by Tribhuvandas Patel.
 - It covers 33 districts, representing **3.6 million milk producer members**.
- IFFCO or Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (HQ: New Delhi)**
- Established as **Multi-state Cooperative Society** in 1967.

Chhattisgarh Train Accident draws attention towards Rail Safety in India

Though there is a decline in **Consequential Train Accidents** from 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25, yet accidents including derailments, collisions, etc., continue to occur due to **multiple reasons**.

- **Consequential train accidents** are the ones with **serious repercussions**, including injuries, loss of life, disruption of rail traffic and damage to railway property.

Key Reasons for Rail Accidents in India

- **Derailments:** Track defects and poor maintenance (Bikaner–Guwahati Express 2022).
- **Signalling Errors:** E.g., Kanchanjunga Express Train Accident (2024).
- **Operational Mistakes:** Incorrect manual signalling and switching errors (Odisha Coromandel Express Accident, 2023).
- **Other :** Level-crossing incidents, Weather factors, human errors including driver fatigue, fire accidents, etc.

Initiatives taken to Ensure Railway Safety

- **Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK):** Introduced in 2017-18 for **replacement/renewal/ upgradation** of critical safety assets.
- **Commission of Railway Safety :** Under **Ministry of Civil Aviation** dealing with matters on safety of rail travel and train operation with inspectorial, investigatory and advisory functions.
- **Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems:** With centralized operation of points and signals to reduce accident due to human failure.
- **KAVACH:** Indigenously developed **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system developed by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**.
- **Others:** GPS based Fog Safety Device (FSD); Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD), etc.



While the railways has moved well in adopting different technologies for its safety, there is a need for **harmonisation amongst them** along with focusing on **human skill development and training** to avoid human errors.

7 Indian institutes among top 100 in QS Asia University Rankings 2026

India saw a record rise in Indian universities featured in the **QS Asia University Rankings 2026** from 24 universities in 2016 to 294 in 2026, only behind China's 395 institutions featured in the list.

Key highlight of the report

- **Leaders:** Five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Delhi University figured in Asia's top 100 institutes.
 - ⊕ **IIT-Delhi**, which ranked 59 this year, was declared the best Indian institute for the fifth consecutive year.
- **Domination:** India dominates Papers per Faculty indicator, with 5 universities ranked among Asia's top 10 and 28 among the top 50.
- **University of Hong Kong** took the top spot, followed by Peking University (China) in second.

About QS Asia University Rankings 2026

- **Coverage:** 1,529 universities.
- **11 indicators:** Including academic and employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, international research network, citations per paper, papers per faculty, staff qualifications (PhDs), and the share of international faculty, students, and exchange participants.

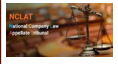
Domestic frameworks for Higher Institutions' Rankings in India

- **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):** Launched in 2015 by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE):** From 2010-11, it covers several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, and education finance, infrastructure.

Initiatives taken for improvement of University Education

- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** Aims to make Indian education holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and global.
- **Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme:** Launched in 2017 to help select Indian universities achieve **world-class status**.
- **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA):** Launched in 2013 to improve access, equity, and quality in state universities.
- **SWAYAM:** Free online courses from top Indian universities (MOOCs platform).

Also In News



National Company Appellate Tribunal

Recently, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) lifted the ban WhatsApp from sharing data with Meta platforms for advertising purposes for five years.

About NCLAT

- **Constituted under :** Section 410 of the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Jurisdiction:** It hears appeals against orders passed by –
 - ⊕ National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT);
 - ⊕ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC;
 - ⊕ Competition Commission of India (CCI) under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013;
 - ⊕ National Financial Reporting Authority under the Companies Act, 2013.

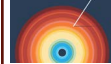


Umngot River

Meghalaya's Umngot river (also known as Dawki River), known for its greenish blue crystal-clear water is turning murky.

About Umngot River

- **Origin:** Originates from the **Eastern part of Shillong Peak**.
- **Flow:** Southwards through **Dawki**, a small town in **East Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya** (near the Indo-Bangladesh border) and **finally enters Bangladesh**.
 - ⊕ Acts as the gateway to Bangladesh.
- **Key Features:** Forms Natural boundary between Ri Pnar (Jaintia Hills) and Hima Khyrim (Khasi Hills).



Emission Gap Report, 2025

Recently "**Emission Gap Report 2025: Off Target**" was released by **UN Environment Program (UNEP)**.

Key Highlights of the Report

- Even the **updated Nationally Determined Contribution pledges under the Paris Agreement**, could lead to global temperature rise by 2.3-2.5 °C by this century.
 - ⊕ This falls short of Paris agreement's goal of limiting warming to well below 2 °C, while pursuing efforts to cap it at 1.5 °C.
- GHGs emissions rose 2.3% in 2024, reaching 57.7 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
 - ⊕ To align with 1.5 °C target, emissions would need to fall by 55% by 2035.
- Highest absolute increase in total GHG emissions was observed in India and China. However, **per capita GHG emission for India remained below the world average**.



Press Conference
 UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2025

Tuesday, 4 November 2025
 9:00am EST / 5:00pm EAT / 3:00pm CET



VAIshwik BHArtiya Vaigyanik Fellowship

Union Minister recently **interacted with the VAIshwik BHArtiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellows** from across the world.

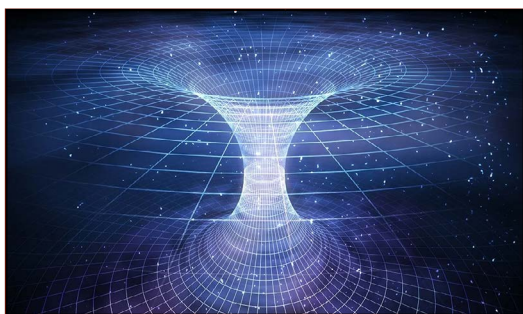
About VAIBHAV

- **Ministry:** Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Launched in:** 2023
- It envisages collaboration **between scientists of the Indian Diaspora with Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), Universities and/ or public funded Scientific Institutions**.
- **VAIBHAV Fellow can choose an Indian institution to work with and can spend up to 2 months each year there, for up to 3 years.**



Quantum Gravity

A Study has proposed that **black hole 'morsels'** could offer insights into quantum gravity.



- Black hole morsels are **hypothetical micro-black holes**, far smaller than their parent black holes, **comparable in mass to asteroids and therefore much hotter**.

About Quantum Gravity

- **Field of theoretical physics** that seeks to describe gravity according to the **principles of quantum mechanics**.
- Hence, it seeks to **reconcile two theories of physics** – **quantum mechanics** (dealing with particles on small scales) – and **gravity** (for large scales, based on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity).
- **Significance:** Understand the physics within black holes, quantum entanglement, condensed matter physics, etc.



PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel (PLI 1.2)

Union Minister of Steel launched the Third Round (PLI 1.2) of Specialty Steel Incentive Scheme.

About the PLI Scheme

- Approved by the **Union Cabinet in July 2021** to encourage production of **high-value, high-grade steels** used in sectors like defence, aerospace, energy, automobiles, and infrastructure.
- **Key Highlights of Third Round PLI 1.2 :**
 - ⊕ **Scope:** Covers **22 product sub-categories** across five broad target segments including strategic steel grades, etc.
 - ⊕ **Incentives:** Range from **4% to 15%** of incremental sales with revised base year of 2024-25.
 - ⊕ **Incentive Period:** Maximum of **5 years** starting from FY 2025–26.



Advanced Driver Assistance System

Union Government is considering mandating **Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS)** in all new models of trucks and buses, including school buses.

About ADAS

- It is a **built-in suite of coordinated technologies** that help drivers operate their vehicles more safely and **avoid human errors**.
- In ADAS, sensors such as **Lidar, Radar, and cameras** work together to inform features such as pedestrian detection, and lane departure warning.
- It includes a range of features including Adaptive Cruise Control, Automatic Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Detection, Cross-Traffic Alert, Parking Assistance, Traffic Sign Recognition, among others.

