

United Nations Member Countries Finalise the Landmark 'Compromiso de Sevilla' Outcome Document

The Compromiso de Sevilla (the Seville Commitment) is the final outcome document for the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4)**.

About Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4)

» **Purpose of FFD4:** It's a cornerstone of a renewed global framework for financing sustainable development.

» **Location:** Sevilla, Spain.

» **Participants:** FFD unites global Government leaders, institutions, businesses, and civil society at the highest level.

⊕ **The United States** decided to exit the process entirely.

» **The Financing for Development (FFD):** The process at the United Nations is centered around supporting the follow-up to the agreements of the **three International Conferences on Financing for Development** (See image)

Key Dimensions in FFD4 Outcome Document

» **Global Financing Framework:** Renews commitments from **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, **Monterrey Consensus**, and **Doha Declaration**.

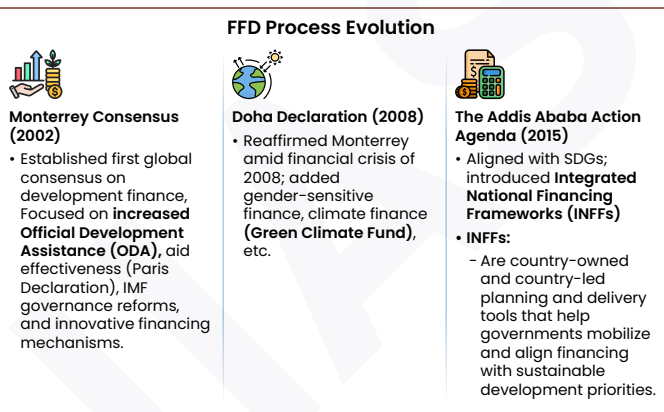
⊕ **Aims to close the \$4 trillion annual SDG financing gap** in developing countries.

» **International Financial Architecture Reforms:** Calls for inclusive governance (e.g., IMF quota reforms, World Bank shareholding review).

» **Debt Sustainability:** UN to lead IMF/World Bank group proposing **voluntary principles for responsible sovereign debt practices**.

» **Tax Reforms:** It recognizes **Pillar II** implementation under **OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting** (Mandate minimum corporate tax for multinationals in all operating jurisdictions).

⊕ **Also**, calls for country-specific technical support to implement **Global Anti-Base Erosion Model Rules & Subject to Tax Rule**, under **Pillar II**.



Union Government launched 'Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub' portal

Portal was launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development at the National Consultation on Gender Budgeting.

About Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub Portal

» It is a **centralized repository of tools** including policy briefs, best practices, and gender-disaggregated data.

» Intended for use by **central and state government ministries/departments and stakeholders**.

» Features online application portal for **submitting proposals for gender budgeting training and capacity building programmes**.

About Gender Budgeting (GB)

» It is an approach that integrates **gender equality into government's planning and budgeting processes and analyses how budgets can promote gender equality**.

» GB involves a thorough analysis of **Government budgets to -**

⊕ Establish its gender differential impacts;

⊕ Prioritise and frame commitments and corresponding actions; and

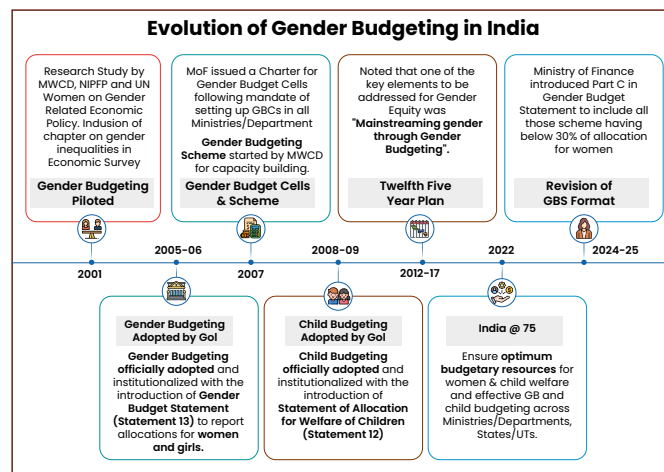
⊕ Ensure budget allocations for gender equality commitments.

Need of Gender Budgeting in India

» **Gender-sensitive policies:** National budgets impact women and men differently through the patterns of resource allocation. It is a continuous process of integrating a gender perspective into policy formulation, implementation, and review.

» **Responsive governance and participatory budgeting:** Encourages greater participation of women in decision-making at all levels (e.g., PRIs, urban local bodies).

» **Legal Framework Strengthening:** Strengthens **women-specific laws like Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013** and **Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act 2013**.



More Girls Opting for Science than Arts: Shift towards Gender Parity in STEM Education

According to the Ministry of Education, for the first time in over a decade, more girls passed Class 12 with science (28.14 lakh) than with arts (27.24 lakh) in 2024.

- It marks a significant **shift from the traditional gender trend**: science, once perceived as a male-dominated domain, is now being actively embraced by girls across the country.

Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

- **Status:**
 - ⊕ While more boys than girls still pursue science, the **gender gap is narrowing**. In 2024, girls accounted for 46% of the total students who passed Class 12 in the science stream.
 - ⊕ Women comprise **52.1% of students in science disciplines** (All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021–22).
 - ⊕ In **medicine, female representation is on par with men** & their presence is steadily increasing in engineering and technology which are traditionally male-dominated fields.
- **Barriers:** Social & Cultural Norms (restrictive gender roles), Lack of role models (few visible female leaders in science limits aspirations), workplace inequality (biased work cultures) etc.
- **Need for More Women in STEM:** Ensuring gender equity & diversity in STEM; bridging gender gap; harness their scientific potential etc.

Initiatives to Increase women in STEM



Vigyan Jyoti

Aims to encourage girls to pursue higher education and career in STEM.



CURIE Initiative

Supports improving R&D infrastructure in women universities to attract, train and retain promising girls students in S&T domain.



WISE-KIRAN Scheme

Encourages women scientists to engage in groundbreaking research in science & engineering.

Indian Institutions rise in QS World University Rankings 2026

Welcoming the improvement in Indian institution's ranking, **Prime Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to furthering research and innovation ecosystems** in India's educational institutions.

- QS World University Rankings, **published annually** by **London-based** global higher education analytics firm **Quacquarelli Symonds**.

Key insights from QS World University Ranking 2026

- India has **54 universities in the Rankings**, making it fourth (after the US, the UK, and China) most represented country.
- **IIT Delhi**, India's top ranked institution, ranked **123rd globally**, rising from 150th in 2025.
- **Five Indian institutions** feature in the **global top 100 for Employer Reputation**, reflecting strong **industry confidence in Indian graduates**.
- **Eight Indian universities** rank among the **world's top 100 for Citations per Faculty**.

About India's R&D Ecosystem

- India secured **39th position** (among 133 global economies) in **Global Innovation Index 2024**.
- **Concerns with India's R&D Ecosystem**
 - ⊕ **Low R&D funding:** R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP is **0.64%**. (2020-21)
 - ⊕ **Inadequate Private Sector participation:** Private Sector contributed only **36.4%** of the Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) during 2020–21.
 - ⊕ **Sub-optimal Industry-Academia convergence:** Poor transformation rate of technologies developed in Indian labs for the larger good of the society.
 - ⊕ **Brain Drain:** Due to lure of superior infrastructure, research facilities, etc., in developed countries.

Key initiatives to promote R&D in India

- **Draft National Science, Technology, and Innovation (STIP) (2020):** Envisioned to **double** the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) researchers, GERD and private sector contribution to the GERD **every 5 years**.
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** Established with ANRF 2023 Act, it aims to seed, grow and promote R&D and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions.
- **IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT):** Aimed at bridging the gap between **scientific knowledge-base** created through fundamental and applied research and fruitful translation of the same through engineering invention.

World Investment Report 2025: Investment Gaps in Developing Countries Threatening 2030 Agenda

The report released by the **UN Conference on Trade and Development** highlights that uncertainty is affecting global investment & it may impact on developing countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for SDGs.

Key Highlights

- **FDI Declined:** Global FDI flows fell by 11% in 2024, to \$1.5 trillion. Inflows declined in most developing economies in the top 20 recipients.
 - ⊕ The US remained the largest recipient of FDI while **India** ranked **16th**.
- **Uneven FDI Growth:** E.g., **Africa** saw FDI rise 75%, driven by a single large project in Egypt while **Latin America and the Caribbean** experienced a 12% decline in total flows.
- **Stagnant Investment in Job-Creating Industries:** In too many economies, capital is stagnating/bypassing entirely sectors that matter the most – infrastructure, energy, & industries that drive job creation.
- **Decline in Sectors Critical for SDGs:** The drop was especially steep in sectors critical to achieving the SDGs: renewable energy (-31%), & water and sanitation (-30%).
 - ⊕ Achieving the SDGs in developing countries requires an estimated \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion annually.
- **Reason:** Geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation and intensifying industrial policy competition combined with elevated financial risk & uncertainty, **eroding long-term investor confidence**.
- **Recommendations:** Scale up the catalytic role of **multilateral development banks**; Expanding the use of guarantees, **Hybrid capital** and de-risking instruments to **crowd in private investment**.



Also In News



Energy Transition Index (ETI), 2025

World Economic Forum (WEF) recently released Energy Transition Index (ETI), 2025.

Key Findings

- Sweden ranked first followed by Finland, Denmark and Norway
- India's rank dropped from rank **63 in 2024 to rank 71 in 2025**.

About ETI

- It ranks countries on their progress towards energy transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.
- It takes into account **two main aspects to put together the Index:**
 - ⊕ System Performance (energy security, equity & sustainability)
 - ⊕ Transition Readiness (regulation, infrastructure, investment etc.)
- The **Index uses 43 indicators** under these broad categories using **data from multiple sources and scores countries on a scale of 0 to 100**.



National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

NIXI commemorates 20 years since its establishment
About NIXI

- It is a **not-for-profit organization** registered under **Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013**, established in **2003**.
- It was set up to **enable peering among ISPs within India**, allowing domestic internet traffic to remain within the country.
- In 2004, NIXI was delegated the responsibility to **manage India's .IN Country Code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD)** through the **INRegistry**.
- NIXI operates on a **neutral and non-discriminatory basis**, in accordance with **global best practices**.



Rajkot's Sustainable Model for Dumpsite Remediation

Rajkot turned Nakrawadi, a decades-old **dumpsite, burdened with 16 lakh tonnes of legacy waste**, into a 20-acre green urban forest.

- It was developed as part of **Swachh Bharat Mission's "Lakshya Zero Dumpsite"** initiative aiming to remediate legacy waste dumpsites and achieve "Garbage Free Cities".

About Rajkot Model

- The model involved **Planting 2.35 lakh native and fast-growing trees** using **Miyawaki technique**.
 - Miyawaki technique**, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s involves **creating dense forests quickly** using native trees.
- It also included **waste-to-energy techniques**, used secondary **treated water for irrigation** etc.
- It demonstrates a **circular economy approach by transforming a degraded dumpsite** into a thriving eco-friendly urban space.

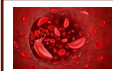


Axiom-4 Mission

NASA's **Axiom Mission-4** got delayed again owing to problems in the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft.

About Axiom Mission-4

- It is the **fourth private astronaut mission** to the International Space Station (ISS), for **up to 14 days** docked to the ISS.
 - It will launch to the **orbiting laboratory on a Dragon spacecraft** aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- It is jointly co-ordinated by **NASA**, and private US companies **SpaceX** and Axiom Space.
 - Axiom-1 was the first all-private mission, launched in 2022.
- This mission will realize return to **human spaceflight for India, Poland, and Hungary**.
 - It will be the first time all **three nations** will execute a mission on board the ISS.



Sickle Cell Disease

Union Government announced **₹ 10 crore prize** for drug development to **treat Sickle cell disease** on World Sickle Cell Day.

About Sickle Cell Disease

- It is a **group of inherited red blood cell disorders** where **abnormal hemoglobin** causes Red Blood Cells (RBCs) to become rigid and crescent-shaped, resembling a sickle.
- The **sickle cells die early**, which causes a **constant shortage of RBCs**.
- Causes:** It is a **genetic condition that is present at birth**. It is inherited when a child receives two genes—one from each parent—that code for abnormal hemoglobin.
- There is **only a single drug available as on date** for the **management of Sickle Cell Disease**.



Doomsday Fish (Oarfish)

An **Oarfish**, also known as the "**Doomsday Fish**", was recently caught off the Tamil Nadu coast by fishermen.

About Doomsday fish

- It is strikingly large, odd-looking fish known for its distinctively long, **ribbon-shaped body that enables the species to float inconspicuously throughout the water column**.
- It is referred to as the **doomsday fish because its appearance near the surface is thought to be a warning of impending natural disasters. (Japanese belief)**
- Oarfish can **grow to more than 30 feet**.
- They are **filter feeders** and primarily eat krill, plankton and other small crustaceans.
 - Filter feeder is an animal (such as a clam or baleen whale) that obtains its food by **filtering organic matter or minute organisms from a current of water** that passes through some part of its system.
- They are **deep-sea dwellers**, thriving most often in the zone least explored by scientists to date.

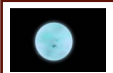


Children and Armed Conflict

United Nations Secretary-General released **Annual report on Children in Armed Conflict**.

Key Findings of the Report

- 25% surge in grave violations** against children under the age of 18.
 - 41,370 grave violations** against children in 2024.
- Highest number of children affected** in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Nigeria and Haiti.
- Most prevalent violations in 2024:** Killing and maiming, denial of humanitarian access, recruitment and use.
- Perpetrators:** Non-State armed groups (50% of grave violations) and government forces (killing, attack on schools etc.)



Extreme Helium (EHe) Stars

Researchers have uncovered a mysterious star named A980 that belongs to a **rare class called Extreme Helium (EHe) stars**.

- For the first time researchers also detected germanium in A980 which **never before observed in this type of star**.

About Extreme Helium (EHe) Stars

- It is a low-mass supergiant that is almost devoid of hydrogen, the most common **chemical element of the universe**.
- Their atmospheres are dominated by **helium**, with high amounts of **carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen**.
- The exact origin and evolution of EHe stars are still debated.



NAKSHATRA

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched its first high performance computing facility named NAKSHATRA at National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune.

About Nakshatra

- Developed under **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)**
- It is a **state-of-the-art computing cluster** which enables **enhanced storage** and optimises the pipeline for **genomic research**.
- Aims to improve early detection of disease threats, faster outbreak response**, and support **AI-driven vaccine and drug development**.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI