

# DAILY PT POINTERS

4 November,  
2024



## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 8

### On the new coastal zone plan of Kerala

What does the Coastal Zone Management Plan for 10 coastal districts of Kerala entail? How has the no development zone, an area which is left untouched around tidal water bodies, been altered? Will the new plan affect mangrove forests?

**EXPLAINER**

K.S. Sudhi

**The story so far:**

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) of 10 coastal districts of Kerala namely Kasargod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. The plan, prepared in tune with the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019, permits the coastal districts to take advantage of the relaxed Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules and initiate development activities including construction of buildings towards the seaward side.

**What is the process?**

The Ministry has asked the State government to make available the signed copies of the approved CZMPs of all the 10 coastal districts in the public domain through the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority website within one month.

The Ministry has clarified that all applications seeking CRZ clearance received after the approval of the CRZ 2019 shall be considered as per the CRZ Notification, 2019. The union government had initiated the process of declaring the designated areas as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) to conserve and protect the "unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides providing livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal areas and to promote sustainable development based on scientific principles taking into account the dangers of natural hazards, sea level rise due to global warming."



**Raging waters:** Waves attack the coast in Chellanam, Kochi, in 2023. THUDS/ANAND

the coast of the Arabian Sea. The 2011 Census put the population density of Kerala at 450 persons per square kilometre, which is more than double the national average of 382 people per square kilometre. The coastal areas of the State are marked by a high density of population when compared to other parts of the State. It is estimated that five corporations, 36 municipalities and 245 grama panchayats will come under the CRZ regime in the State in the 10 districts.

The high demographic pressure on land had resulted in rampant violations of the CRZ rules along the coast. Thousands of land modifications, which include the illegal reclamation of wetlands and mangroves, have been reported

along the coast in blatant violation of the rules. The focus of the CRZ 2019 regime, which was in force till the approval of the CZMP, was on the conservation of the coastal ecosystem, which in turn protected the livelihood of millions of fishers and coastal communities.

**What are the benefits?**

The approval of the CZMP would directly benefit around 10 lakh people, according to an estimation of the State government as the earlier restrictions for the construction of new houses and repair of existing houses will be relaxed. The approval of the CZMP was made a pre-condition for the States to make the CRZ 2019 applicable and enforceable

Development Zone (NDZ) - the area which has to be left untouched - around the tidal influenced water bodies reduced to 50 metres from the earlier 100 metres from the High Tide Line in at least 122 local bodies in the State. The decision will see 37 village panchayats categorised as CRZ III A, where the NDZ has been reduced to one fourth of the earlier regime. The CRZ-III A are densely populated rural areas with a population density of 2,161 per square kilometre as per the 2011 Census. The NDZ in the category is 50 metres from the High Tide Line against 200 metres as specified by CRZ 2019 notification. The new regime will see 66 village panchayats being included in the CRZ-2 category paving way for the construction of both commercial and residential buildings along the building line of authorised structures.

The NDZ in the CRZ areas of Kerala will be reduced to half. It will be 106,307 sq. km against the earlier 234,433 sq. km, as fixed by the CRZ 2019 notification.

**What about mangroves?**

Vast tracts of mangrove vegetation, which has an important role in the coastal ecosystem and are also considered breeding grounds for a large number of fishes and other organisms, would be exposed to exploitation as the 2019 notification has limited the legal protection of government holdings of an extent over 1,000 sq. metre to 50 metre buffer zones. The changes in rules will see a reduction in the buffer zones of mangroves to 2,500 hectares from the earlier 4,300 hectares in the State.

The new regime has also taken away the mandatory buffer zone around mangrove vegetation located in private holdings. Though the owners of private holdings in which the mangrove patches have survived may rejoice at the decision, it could leave a disastrous impact on the fast-depleting mangrove vegetation. The decision would lead to the reduction of

**THE GIST**

▼ Kerala has a coastline of around 500 km and 16 of its 34 districts are located on the coast of the Arabian Sea. The 2011 Census put the population density of Kerala at 450 persons per square kilometre, which is more than double the national average of 382 people per square kilometre.

▼ The new regime will see the No Development Zone (NDZ) - the area which has to be left untouched - around the tidal influenced water bodies reduced to 50 metres from the earlier 100 metres from the High Tide Line in at least 122 local bodies in the State.

▼ The new regime has also taken away the mandatory buffer zone around mangrove vegetation located in private holdings.

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMPs) of 10 coastal districts of Kerala .
- The plan, prepared in tune with the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019, permits the coastal districts to take advantage of the relaxed Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules and initiate development activities including construction of buildings towards the seaward side.
- The Ministry has asked the State government to make available the signed copies of the approved CZMPs of all the 10 coastal districts in the public domain through the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority website within one month. The Ministry has clarified that all applications seeking CRZ clearance received after the approval of the CRZ 2019 shall be considered as per the CRZ Notification, 2019.

# What are major challenges faced by Indian cities?

What is the theme for this year's World Cities Day? What led to India's rapid urbanisation? How big of a threat does climate change and rising inequality pose to urban growth?

**Tikender Singh Panwar**

### The story so far:

October 31 is observed every year as World Cities Day. The world's urban population has reached an estimated 4.7 billion, or 57.5% of the world's total population, with projections to double by 2050. The theme for this year's World Cities Day is 'Youth Climate Changemakers: Catalysing Local Action for Urban Sustainability'.

**What are challenges faced by cities?**  
The UN underscores that cities face

rapid urbanisation, inadequate infrastructure, and limited resources. Cities here often suffer from housing shortages, poor access to clean water and sanitation, and increased vulnerability to climate-related events.

**What about Indian urbanisation?**  
India's urbanisation trajectory differs from the cities in the Global North. In Western countries, urbanisation followed industrialisation, which created jobs that absorbed rural labour. Their urbanisation was sustained also because of massive economic transfers from colonies. Economist Utsa Patnaik has highlighted

migration. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the strain on urban planning became apparent, as reverse migration trends highlighted gaps in infrastructure.

**What are urban challenges in India?**  
Without a 2021 Census, India lacks precise data on its urban population. World Bank estimates suggest around 40% of India's population live in urban areas, in around 9,000 statutory and census towns. The main challenges Indian cities face include inadequate spatial planning, climate change, massive migration, growing inequality and social segregation, and governance limitations.

Mumbai. Many workers displaced by this trend moved to peri-urban areas, where they live in overcrowded conditions. Currently, 40% of India's urban population resides in slums. Second, plans often focus on capital growth rather than people's needs, leading to a lack of local ownership and engagement in the planning process. Additionally, inequality is widening, with exclusive developments catering to the wealthy while millions lack basic housing. Similarly, climate change severely impacts Indian cities. Cities face severe pollution and are increasingly subject to urban flooding and "heat island effects." Among the 10 most polluted cities in India, eight are in the NCR region around Delhi.

Despite the 74th Constitutional Amendment, most Indian cities remain controlled by undemocratic bodies. Though cities have elected representatives, they rarely control urban planning, which is often outsourced to parastatals and private entities. For example, less than three of the 18 functions outlined in the 12th Schedule have been universally transferred to urban governments, and cities receive a

### THE GIST

▼ The world's urban population has reached an estimated 4.7 billion, or 57.5% of the world's total population, with projections to double by 2050.

▼ India's urbanisation trajectory differs from the cities in the Global North. In Western countries, urbanisation followed industrialisation, which created jobs that absorbed rural labour.

▼ The main challenges Indian cities face include inadequate spatial planning, climate change, massive migration, growing inequality and social segregation, and governance limitations.

- World Cities Day Overview: Date: October 31
- Global Urban Population: Estimated at 4.7 billion (57.5% of total), projected to double by 2050.
- Challenges Faced by Cities : Cities confront significant challenges from climate change, alongside poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.
- Rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, and limited resources exacerbate issues like housing shortages and poor access to clean water.
- India's urbanization is characterized as "poverty-driven," contrasting with the industrialization-driven urbanization in the Global North.
- **Key Issues:**
  - Inadequate Planning: Outdated urban plans fail to address population growth.
  - Pollution and Climate Vulnerability: Cities face severe pollution, flooding, and heat island effects, particularly in regions like NCR.

The Hindu-Space(GSIII)-Page 12

## First science result from Aditya L1, ISRO's sun mission, is out

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The first science result from the Aditya-L1 mission, India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun, is out.

Scientists who developed the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) aboard Aditya-L1 predicted the onset time of a coronal mass ejection on the sun



The Indian Space Research Organisation launched Aditya-L1 in September 2023.

priyal, Jagdev Singh, K. Sa-

- The first science result from the Aditya-L1 mission, India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun, is out.
- Scientists who developed the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) aboard Aditya-L1 predicted the onset time of a coronal mass ejection on the sun on July 16. The VELC was developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAp), Bengaluru.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Aditya-L1 in September 2023.
- The sun is an active object and often spews vast quantities of plasma in violent eruptions called coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- Observation of the CMEs as they originate on the sun and understanding their plasma characteristics is one of the major science goals for VELC

## The Hindu-History(GSI)-Page 12

### First Asian Buddhist Summit in New Delhi from tomorrow

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation, is holding the first Asian Buddhist Summit in Delhi.

The summit themed “Role of Buddha Dhamma in strengthening Asia” is a manifestation of India’s Act East Policy, which is principled on collective, inclusive, and spiritual development of Asia, the Union Culture Ministry said in a statement.

The two-day summit will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

It will bring together Buddhist ‘Sangha’ leaders, scholars, experts and practitioners from various tra-

dialogue, promote understanding and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community.

#### ‘Unique position’

“Buddhism holds a unique position in the spiritual and cultural history of India and pan Asia. The teachings of the Buddha, His disciples and preachers have kept Asia united through a common outlook towards life, divinity, and social values,” the Ministry said.

“From the incorporation of Buddhist symbols as part of independent India’s national identity to the adoption of Buddhist values in its foreign policy, Buddha Dhamma, India and Asia are complimentary to each other,” it ad-

- The Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation, is holding the first Asian Buddhist Summit in Delhi.
- The summit themed “Role of Buddha Dhamma in strengthening Asia” is a manifestation of India’s Act East Policy, which is principled on collective, inclusive, and spiritual development of Asia, the Union Culture Ministry said in a statement.
- The two-day summit will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.
- It will bring together Buddhist ‘Sangha’ leaders, scholars, experts and practitioners from various traditions across Asia to foster dialogue, promote understanding and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB – Environment(GSIII)



- Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, unveiled India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) during the 16th Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia, on October 30, 2024. The event was attended by various dignitaries, including Colombian government officials and the Executive Secretary of the CBD. The updated NBSAP aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, with a vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. Singh highlighted India's "Whole-of-Government" and "Whole-of-Society" approaches to updating the plan, which focuses on ecosystem restoration, species recovery, and community-driven conservation.
- The updated plan emphasizes a transformative, ecosystem-based management approach, sectoral integration, and inter-agency cooperation, while also assessing current biodiversity status, trends, and potential financing solutions.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air –Health(GSII)

**PM Modi Says, Decline In Tuberculosis Cases Is Outcome Of India's Dedicated And Innovative Efforts; Reaffirms Commitment To TB-Free Nation**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that decline in tuberculosis incidence is an outcome of India's dedicated and innovative efforts. Commending the country's progress, Mr Modi said in a social media post that through a collective spirit, the government will keep working towards a TB-free India. He added that the government remained steadfast in commitment to creating a TB-free India.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) India has recorded a decline of 17.7 percent in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023. This rate is more than double the global decline of 8.3 per cent. Sharing the information in social media post yesterday, Health Minister JP Nadda emphasised that this acknowledgment reflects India's transformative approach to TB care and control. He mentioned that the government has expanded and strengthened the National TB Elimination Programme by taking key initiatives such as the Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana to provide essential nutritional support to TB patients.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**Air: Culture(GSI)**

## Ningol Chakkouba Festival Celebrated With Religious Fervor And Gaiety Across Manipur



- Ningol Chakkouba, one of Manipur's largest festivals celebrated by the Meitei community, was observed with enthusiasm across the state this year.
  - Traditionally held on the second day of the lunar month of Hiyangei, the festival centers around married sisters visiting their maternal homes for a grand feast and gift-giving. In recent years, participation from various communities has increased, reflecting a more inclusive celebration.
- A week before the festival, family sons formally invite their sisters to the gathering. The festival also takes place in areas outside Manipur where Manipuris have settled. Last year, the celebration was canceled due to ethnic violence in the state.