



# Daily Current Affairs



## To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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## G20 Summit in Rio: Key Discussions on Trade, Climate, and Global Inclusion

**Context:** The **G20 Summit** commenced at Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum, hosted by Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**. Key leaders, including **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, **US President Joe Biden**, and **China's Xi Jinping**, are addressing pressing global issues such as **trade policies, climate action, and international security**.



Prime Minister Modi also delivered a speech during the opening session on **'Social Inclusion and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty.'**

**About G20:**

**Overview:**

The **Group of 20 (G20)**, established in **1999**, is a global forum comprising finance ministers and central bank governors from **19 countries** and the **European Union (EU)**.

- **Elevated to Summit-Level:** In **2008**, the G20 became a forum for Heads of State/Government to address the **global financial crisis**.
- **Role:** Though it is not a legislative body, its agreements influence global policies on trade, development, and finance.

**Members of G20:**

- **Countries:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **Special Invitees:** Organizations like the **United Nations** and the **World Bank**, along with guest nations, participate in the summit.

**Aims/Objectives of G20:**

1. **Economic Stability:** Foster global economic growth and financial stability.
2. **Sustainable Development:** Tackle climate change and promote inclusive development.
3. **Crisis Management:** Address global crises like financial instability and pandemics.
4. **Global Collaboration:** Strengthen multilateral cooperation on trade and innovation.
5. **Inclusivity:** Advocate for the needs of both advanced and emerging economies, particularly the **Global South**.

**Achievements of G20:**

- **2008 Financial Crisis:** Prevented a deeper recession through coordinated responses.
- **Paris Agreement (2015):** Built consensus on climate change goals.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Launched the **Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)** and allocated \$5 trillion to mitigate the pandemic's economic impact.
- **Digital Transformation (2023):** India's G20 presidency emphasized building **digital public infrastructure** to address the global digital divide.

**Key Highlights of PM Modi's Speech at G20 Summit:**

**Focus on SDGs:**

- Acknowledged Brazil's emphasis on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and concerns of the **Global South**.
- Highlighted continuity with India's G20 theme: **"One Earth, One Family, One Future."**

**India's Achievements in Poverty Alleviation and Food Security:**

- **250 million people** lifted out of poverty in the past decade.
- **800 million citizens** receive free foodgrains under welfare schemes.
- **550 million individuals** benefit from the **world's largest health insurance program**.
- Advocated for a balanced approach of **'Back to Basics and March to the Future.'**



## Global Contributions and Collaboration:

- Extended food security assistance to **Africa** and provided humanitarian aid to countries like **Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**.
- Welcomed Brazil's proposal for a **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**.

**Support for the Global South:** Emphasized prioritizing food, fuel, and fertilizer security for developing nations impacted by global conflicts.

**Women-Led Development and Nutrition:** Highlighted initiatives fostering women-led development and nutrition security.

## G20 Summit in Rio: Highlights

### Contentious Ukraine War Discussions:

- **Challenges in Joint Statement:** Differences over the Ukraine war stalled consensus.
  - European leaders sought tougher language following recent Russian airstrikes.
  - The US announced lifting restrictions on Ukraine's use of **US-made weapons** for strikes within Russia.

### Brazil's G20 Agenda:

- **Brazil's agenda focuses on:**
  - **Sustainable Development.**
  - **Taxing the super-rich** to reduce inequality.
  - Reforming global financial institutions.

### Climate and Energy Commitments:

- **US Contributions:**
  - Pledged funds to the World Bank's **International Development Association**.
  - Launched a **clean energy partnership** with Brazil.
- **China's Initiatives:**
  - Promoted the **Belt & Road Initiative**, though Brazil has opted not to join.

### Trade Tensions:

- Fear of an escalating **US-China trade war** due to potential **new tariffs**.
- Efforts to introduce a tax on the super-rich met resistance, notably from Argentina.

**Conclusion:** The **G20 Summit in Rio** underscores the importance of global cooperation in addressing pressing challenges such as economic stability, climate change, and social inclusion. While differences over issues like the Ukraine war persist, collaborative efforts in trade, sustainable development, and poverty alleviation remain central to the summit's agenda.

## 2 Should Fossil Fuels Be Regulated Like Nuclear Weapons?

**Context:** A growing coalition of **governments** and **civil society organizations** is advocating for a **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FF-NPT)**. This treaty aims to phase out fossil fuels and ensure a just transition to renewable energy.

**What is the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FF-NPT)?**

**About the FF-NPT**

- **Launched in 2019**, the FF-NPT builds on a concept first proposed in **2016**.
- It proposes a **legally binding framework** to:
  - End fossil fuel extraction.
  - Gradually phase out existing production.
  - Promote a **just transition** to renewable energy sources.



**Objective**

Inspired by **nuclear disarmament treaties**, the FF-NPT addresses the **escalating climate crisis** by curbing fossil fuel production while ensuring **equitable energy access** worldwide.

**Origins and Evolution:**

- The treaty was conceptualized alongside the signing of the **Paris Agreement** in 2015.
- Endorsements include:
  - Former UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-Moon**.
  - **Indigenous communities** and **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**.

**Recent Developments:**

- **COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan:** Discussions expanded as **10 additional countries** joined talks on the FF-NPT.
- Endorsed by **13 Pacific Island States**, including **Vanuatu** and **Tuvalu**, and major fossil-fuel-producing nations like **Colombia**.
- Backed by **financial institutions**, including **25 members of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values**.

**Need and Significance of the FF-NPT:**

1. **Limitations of the Paris Agreement:**
  - While significant, it does not directly regulate **fossil fuel production**.
2. **Escalating Emissions:**
  - **Fossil fuel emissions** in 2024 are projected to be **8% higher** than in 2015.
  - Rising emissions are incompatible with the goal of limiting **global warming to 1.5°C**.
3. **Dire Warnings:**
  - 2024 is predicted to be the **hottest year on record**.
  - Current policies could lead to **3°C warming**, risking catastrophic outcomes for humanity.

**Significance:** The treaty complements the Paris Agreement by

- Supporting initiatives like the **New Collective Quantified Goal** to fund climate actions post-2025.
- Strengthening **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and **Just Transition Work Programmes**.

**Understanding the FF-NPT Framework and Challenges:**

**Framework: 3 Core Pillars**

1. **Non-Proliferation:** Stop the expansion of **coal, oil, and gas production** through international collaboration.
2. **Fair Phase-Out:** Wealthier, historically high-emission nations take the lead in reducing existing production.
3. **Just Transition:** Accelerate the adoption of renewable energy while ensuring **no community, worker, or nation** is left behind.



## Challenges:

- **Financial Hurdles:** Developing nations lack resources to transition away from fossil fuels or manage climate change impacts.
- **Global Cooperation:** Ensuring equitable contributions from **wealthier nations** remains a contentious issue.

## India's Position and Way Ahead for FF-NPT:

### India's Position:

- While **not a signatory**, India is a major stakeholder in the global fossil fuel narrative: Emissions are projected to rise by **4.6% in 2024** (Global Carbon Project).
- Advocates suggest India could leverage the treaty to secure equitable outcomes for its energy transition needs.

### Way Ahead:

1. Align the FF-NPT with the **Paris Agreement's goals** to foster synergy between the two frameworks.
2. Mobilize funding mechanisms like the **New Collective Quantified Goal** to aid developing nations.

### Conclusion:

The **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FF-NPT)** presents a **bold vision** for addressing the climate crisis by regulating fossil fuel production akin to **nuclear disarmament**.

With increasing endorsements from governments, financial institutions, and vulnerable nations, the treaty highlights the need for:

- **Global cooperation.**
- **Equitable solutions** to balance development and sustainability.

However, significant financial and political challenges must be addressed to transform this vision into a legally binding reality.

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## 3 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA): Ensuring Fair Play in Sports

**Context:** India is set to host a 4-day Global Learning and Development Framework (GLDF) Results Management Training in collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in New Delhi, showcasing its commitment to promoting clean sports.

**What is the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)?**

**About WADA:**

- **Established in 1999**, WADA is an **international independent agency** dedicated to fostering a global movement for **doping-free sports**.
- Its governance and funding are rooted in an **equal partnership** between the **sports movement** and **governments worldwide**.
- The agency's mission is to **develop, harmonize, and coordinate anti-doping rules** and policies across all sports and countries.

**Key Activities: WADA is involved in**

- **Scientific Research** to advance anti-doping measures.
- **Education** to promote awareness about doping.
- Building **anti-doping capacities** globally.
- **Monitoring the World Anti-Doping Code (Code)**, which unifies anti-doping regulations across sports and nations.

**Formation of WADA:**

**Background**

- In the summer of **1998**, the cycling world faced a major doping scandal, prompting action.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** convened the **First World Conference on Doping in Sport** in **Lausanne, Switzerland**, from **February 2-4, 1999**.
- This conference resulted in the **Lausanne Declaration on Doping in Sport**, calling for an independent international anti-doping agency.

**Establishment:**

- On **November 10, 1999**, WADA was founded in Lausanne, Switzerland, as a **Swiss private law, not-for-profit foundation**.
- It became operational for the **Sydney 2000 Olympic Games** to **promote and coordinate anti-doping efforts internationally**.

**Location:**

- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada.
- **Official Seat:** Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Governance Structure:**

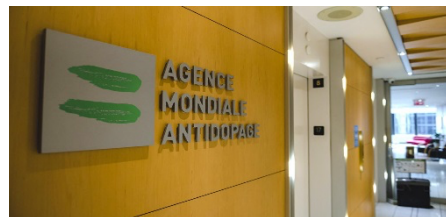
**Foundation Board:**

- The **42-member Foundation Board** is WADA's highest **policy-making body**.
- It comprises:
  - Representatives from the **Olympic Movement** (e.g., the IOC, National Olympic Committees, International Sports Federations, and athletes).
  - Representatives from **governments of all five continents**.

**Executive Committee**

- The **16-member Executive Committee (ExCo)** manages the day-to-day operations of the agency.
- It oversees all WADA activities and the administration of its assets, as delegated by the Foundation Board.

WADA remains a **cornerstone of fair play**, ensuring athletes compete on a level playing field while promoting the integrity of sports globally.



## 4 Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan: Enhancing Disaster Response Capabilities

**Context:** The Indian Army recently conducted **Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan 2024** on **November 18-19, 2024**, at **Ahmedabad** and **Porbandar**, Gujarat. This annual exercise focuses on enhancing disaster response coordination through multilateral collaboration.

**What is Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan?**

**Introduction:**

- **Sanyukt Vimochan** is a **multilateral annual joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise**.
- It is organized by the **Konark Corps of the Southern Command** of the Indian Army.
- The 2024 edition took place in **Ahmedabad and Porbandar**, focusing on managing disasters in coastal regions.



**Key Events of Sanyukt Vimochan 2024:**

**Tabletop Exercise in Ahmedabad:**

- The inaugural session featured a **Tabletop Exercise** themed around a simulated **Cyclone in the Coastal Region of Gujarat**.
- Attendees included representatives from:
  - **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).**
  - **Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA).**
  - **Meteorological Department.**
  - **FICCI**, alongside officials from the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- The focus was on identifying **gaps in interagency coordination** and strengthening disaster response strategies.

**Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration in Porbandar:**

- Held at **Chowpatty Beach** on **November 19, 2024**, this demonstration showcased collaborative disaster management in a simulated cyclone scenario.
- Participating agencies included:
  - **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.**
  - **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).**
  - Various **Central and State agencies**.
- Key activities involved **rapid logistics, effective response planning**, and execution of coordinated disaster management strategies.

**International Collaboration:**

- **15 senior officials** and representatives from **nine friendly foreign countries**, including nations from the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and Southeast Asia**, participated in the exercise.

**Significance of Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan:**

- **Enhancing National Response:** Strengthened India's capacity to manage natural disasters efficiently.
- **Promoting Global Dialogue:** Contributed to international cooperation and shared best practices in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**.
- **Building Interagency Collaboration:** Improved synergy among military and civilian agencies to ensure swift, coordinated disaster responses.

Exercise **Sanyukt Vimochan 2024** underscored India's commitment to **preparedness, resilience, and global collaboration** in managing humanitarian crises effectively.

## 5 India's 56th Tiger Reserve: Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in Chhattisgarh

**Contact:** In a significant move for wildlife conservation, the **Indian government** has officially notified the **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in **Chhattisgarh** as the country's **56th Tiger Reserve**. This newly established reserve is set to become the **third-largest** tiger reserve in India.

**Key Features of the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve:**

- **Geographical Spread:** The reserve spans several districts in **Chhattisgarh**, including **Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur**.
- **Total Area:** Encompassing a vast **2,829.38 sq. km**, the reserve includes:
  - **Core Tiger Habitat: 2,049.2 sq. km** (Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary).
  - **Buffer Zone: 780.15 sq. km.**
- **Ecological Connectivity:** The reserve is part of an expansive **landscape complex** of nearly **4,500 sq. km**, connected to the **Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve** in **Madhya Pradesh**, and further linked to the **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** in the west and **Palamau Tiger Reserve** in the east.



**Historic Approval and Notification:**

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** granted **final approval** for the notification of the **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in **October 2021**. It was officially notified by the **Government of Chhattisgarh**, marking a crucial step in enhancing tiger conservation efforts in the region.
- **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav**, celebrated the milestone on **X (formerly Twitter)**, stating: "Let the roars get louder! As India continues to touch new milestones in tiger conservation, we have notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla as the 56th tiger reserve."

**Biodiversity and Conservation Significance:**

- **Diverse Ecosystems:** Located across the **Chota Nagpur Plateau** and the **Baghelkhand Plateau**, the reserve boasts a range of terrains including dense forests, streams, and rivers—essential habitats for the Bengal tiger and other species.
- **Rich Biodiversity:** The **Zoological Survey of India** has documented **753 species** within the reserve, including:
  - **365 invertebrates** (mainly insects).
  - **388 vertebrates**, including **230 bird species** and **55 mammal species**, many of which are threatened.
- The reserve forms a critical habitat for the **Bengal tiger** and many other endangered species, making it an essential addition to India's growing network of tiger reserves.

**India's Tiger Reserve Legacy:**

India has made remarkable strides in **tiger conservation** through its **Project Tiger** initiative, which began in 1973. Here is a glimpse into the history of India's **tiger reserves**:

- **First Tiger Reserve:** The first-ever tiger reserve, **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve**, was established in **Uttarakhand** in **1973** as part of Project Tiger.
- **Expansion of Tiger Reserves:** Over the decades, the network of tiger reserves expanded significantly. India now boasts 56 tiger reserves, a vital part of the country's conservation efforts for the **Bengal tiger**.
- **Project Tiger:** This initiative has played a pivotal role in the increase of tiger populations in the country, and today, India is home to nearly **70%** of the world's tiger population.

The addition of **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** is a significant step towards ensuring a **sustainable future** for India's wildlife, particularly tigers. The reserve will help further strengthen the tiger corridors and promote **biodiversity conservation** in the region.

**Chhattisgarh's Role in Tiger Conservation:**

- **Boost to Conservation Efforts:** With the addition of **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla**, **Chhattisgarh** now hosts **four tiger reserves**, reinforcing the state's commitment to tiger protection under the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** and the **Project Tiger** initiative.



## 6 Italy-India Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029: Strengthening Bilateral Ties

**Context:** India and Italy unveiled a **five-year Joint Strategic Action Plan** that outlines an ambitious vision for their collaboration across key sectors such as **defense, energy, trade, and technology**. This plan is designed to deepen the bilateral partnership and create new opportunities for both nations in various strategic domains.

**Key Highlights of the Joint Strategic Action Plan:****1. Economic Cooperation: A Focus on Growth and Sustainability**

- **Trade & Investment:** Both countries have agreed to enhance cooperation in sectors like **green technologies** and **pharmaceuticals**. The **Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation** will drive this initiative, alongside a **Working Group on Food Processing** to boost trade in these critical industries.

**2. Connectivity: Strengthening Global Trade Links**

- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC):** A significant highlight of the plan, IMEEC aims to improve **connectivity and trade** between **India**, the **Middle East**, and **Europe**, positioning the two countries at the center of a transformative economic corridor.

**3. Science and Technology: Advancing Innovation Together**

- **AI and Digitalization:** India and Italy have committed to expanding cooperation in **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **digitalization**, and other **critical technologies**. The **2025-2027 Executive Programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation** will lay the groundwork for this collaboration.
- **Innovation & Incubation:** A new **Indo-Italian Innovation and Incubation Exchange Program** has been introduced to foster greater **academic and industrial partnerships**, driving forward research and innovation.

**4. Energy Transition: A Joint Commitment to Sustainability**

- **Tech Summits and Alliances:** Both countries have agreed to organize **Tech Summits** and strengthen their alliances with global initiatives such as the **Global Biofuels Alliance** and the **International Solar Alliance**. This will further their shared commitment to clean energy and **sustainable development**.

**5. Defense Cooperation: Enhancing Strategic Partnerships**

- **Defense Consultations:** India and Italy will hold **annual Joint Defense Consultative (JDC) meetings** and **Joint Staff Talks (JST)** to improve coordination in defense matters.
- **Defense Industrial Cooperation:** A **Defense Industrial Roadmap** will be developed to foster collaboration in **defense manufacturing**, enhancing self-reliance and strategic capabilities.

**A Look at India-Italy Bilateral Relations:****Political Ties: Long-standing Diplomatic Partnership:**

- Diplomatic relations between **India** and **Italy** were officially established in **1947**, setting the stage for deepening political and economic cooperation over the decades.

**Economic Engagement: A Strong Trade Partnership:**

- **Italy** is **India's 4th largest trading partner** in the **European Union**. Bilateral trade reached over **US\$ 14.253 billion** in the 2022-23 period, with the **balance of trade** favoring India, further underscoring the robust economic ties between the two nations.

**Indian Diaspora in Italy: A Vital Link:**

- The **Indian diaspora** in Italy is estimated to be around **2 lakh people**, playing a key role in strengthening people-to-people connections and contributing to both countries' cultural and economic landscapes.

**Migration and Mobility: A New Agreement:**

- A **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** was signed in **2023** between India and Italy to promote **safe and legal migration**, facilitating the movement of individuals between the two nations while ensuring their protection and rights.

**Conclusion: A Future of Collaborative Growth**

The **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029** represents a significant leap in **India-Italy relations**, setting the stage for closer collaboration across multiple sectors. By focusing on **economic growth, energy transition, technological advancements, and defense cooperation**, both nations are poised to build a more **sustainable and prosperous** future together. This partnership is a clear reflection of the evolving global dynamics, where India and Italy continue to play pivotal roles in fostering international cooperation and growth.