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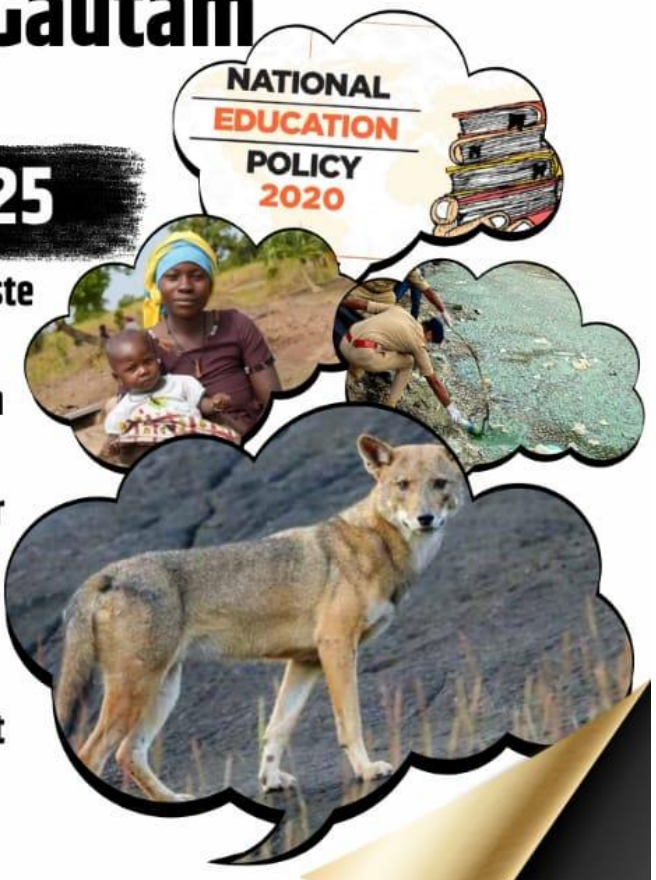
Daily Current Affairs

To The Point

by Dhananjay Gautam



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30 July 2025

GS Paper 3 – Environment and Ecology

1 Government Rolls Out Landmark Rules to Clean Up Toxic Waste Sites Across India

Context: In a **historic step toward environmental restoration**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has officially notified the **Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025**. These rules, issued on **July 25, 2025**, under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**, mark India's **first codified legal framework** for the **identification, assessment, and remediation** of chemically contaminated lands.

What Are Contaminated Sites?

According to the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, contaminated sites refer to areas where **hazardous chemicals or industrial waste** have been dumped or leaked—**often before the enforcement of strict environmental norms**. These sites include:

- Abandoned **industrial landfills**
- Locations of past **chemical spills**
- Closed-down **hazardous waste storage facilities**

India has already identified **103 such toxic hotspots**, but **remediation work has begun in only 7**, largely due to **lack of accountability and funding**. Many polluting entities have either **shut down or vanished**, leaving behind **devastated ecosystems** and **public health risks**.

Highlights of the New Rules:

The newly notified rules offer a **legally binding, time-sensitive roadmap** to clean up polluted lands. The rules introduce a **five-step approach**:

1. Identification and Reporting:

- **District administrations** must compile **biannual lists** of **suspected contaminated sites**.
- These reports are forwarded to the **State Pollution Control Boards** (SPCBs) or other designated agencies.

2. Preliminary Assessment:

- Within **90 days**, a **basic investigation** must be conducted to determine if contamination is likely.
- This screening helps prioritise which sites need detailed study.

3. Detailed Site Investigation:

- If contamination is suspected, a **comprehensive site survey** must follow within **another 90 days**.
- Investigations will look for any of the **189 hazardous substances** listed in the **Hazardous and Other Wastes Rules, 2016**.
- Confirmed contaminated sites will be **publicly declared**, and **access will be restricted**.

4. Remediation Planning:

- A team of **scientific experts** will prepare a **remediation strategy**, suggesting best-fit technologies.
- SPCBs must identify **responsible parties** within **90 days** of confirmation.

5. Liability and Cost Recovery:

- Those responsible for contamination must **bear the full cost** of remediation—ensuring the **"polluter pays" principle** is upheld.
- If the polluter is unavailable or insolvent, the **Central and State governments** will share clean-up costs.
- In severe cases causing **loss of life or environmental destruction**, **criminal liability** will be invoked under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023)**.

Scope and Exclusions:

The new rules are comprehensive but **strategically exclude** some waste categories already governed under separate laws:

- **Radioactive materials** (covered by the **Atomic Energy Act**)
- **Mining-related pollution**
- **Marine oil spills**
- **Municipal solid waste landfills**

This helps avoid **regulatory duplication** while focusing on **hazardous chemical contamination** specifically.

Why These Rules Matter:

This notification is a **milestone in India's environmental governance**, moving from **ad-hoc enforcement** to a **structured national approach**. For decades, lack of legislation led to **paralysis in clean-up efforts**—but with these rules:

- **Timelines** are now mandatory.
- **District authorities and SPCBs** have clearly defined roles.
- A **legal basis for cost recovery** and **criminal action** has been established.

Challenges on the Horizon:

Despite the legal backing, successful implementation depends on several key factors:

- **Availability of scientific expertise** for chemical assessments
- **Strong coordination** between the **CPCB, SPCBs**, and **local authorities**
- **Funding gaps**, particularly when polluters cannot be traced
- **Public engagement** and **awareness**, which can support early detection
- **Capacity-building and training** for district officials and pollution control staff

Global Context and Lessons:

Globally, countries like the **United States** (with its **Superfund program**) and the **European Union** (through the **Soil Framework Directive**) have long-standing systems for **remediating toxic sites**. India's move brings its environmental laws **closer to international standards**, acknowledging that **chemical legacy pollution** cannot be ignored any longer.

Conclusion: Toward a Cleaner, Safer Future

The **Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025** set the stage for **cleaning up India's toxic legacy**. They promise to bring relief to communities living near **long-neglected hazardous sites** and help safeguard **natural resources for future generations**.

With proper implementation, India can transform **toxic zones into safe, usable land**, setting a powerful precedent for other developing nations grappling with similar challenges.

GS Paper 3 – Biodiversity & Conservation

2 Golden Jackal Population in Kerala Revealed Through Citizen Science Initiative

Context: A recent **citizen science project** has shed new light on the presence of the **Golden Jackal** in **Kerala**, estimating a robust population of **20,000 to 30,000 individuals**. This extensive survey not only highlights the **ecological adaptability** of the species but also showcases the **power of community-led research** in wildlife monitoring.

Meet the Golden Jackal: The Adaptable Canid

The **Golden Jackal** (*Canis aureus*), also known as the **common jackal**, is a **medium-sized, wolf-like carnivore** belonging to the **canid family**. Known for its **intelligence and adaptability**, it thrives across a variety of habitats and climatic conditions.

Behaviour and Lifestyle:

- **Nocturnal by nature**, especially in human-dominated landscapes, the Golden Jackal may become **partially diurnal** in remote or undisturbed regions.
- They **live in mated pairs** and are **strictly monogamous**, often seen raising pups together.
- For shelter, they **dig their own burrows**, occupy **rock crevices**, or take over **abandoned dens** created by other animals.

Diet and Feeding Habits:

- Golden Jackals are **highly opportunistic omnivores**.
- Their **diet is extremely diverse**, ranging from **small mammals, birds, reptiles**, and **insects** to **fruits, roots, carrion**, and even **human food waste** in urban areas.
- This **dietary flexibility** allows them to **thrive in both rural and urban ecosystems**.

Habitat and Geographic Distribution:

- The species prefers **valleys, riverbanks, wetlands, and coastal areas**, though it tends to avoid **mountainous terrain**.
- Its global range includes **North and East Africa, Southeast Europe, and South Asia**, extending as far east as **Myanmar**.
- In India, the Golden Jackal is found **throughout the country**, from the **Himalayan foothills** to the **Western Ghats** and even the **eastern coasts**.

Conservation Status and Protection:

Despite its wide distribution, the Golden Jackal benefits from multiple levels of **legal protection**:

- **IUCN Red List**: **Least Concern** – thanks to its large, stable population.
- **CITES**: Listed under **Appendix III** – for international trade monitoring.
- **Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972**: **Schedule I species** – giving it the **highest degree of protection** under Indian law.

Interesting Facts You Might Not Know:

- Golden Jackals **howl in coordinated duets**, especially during the mating season, making them one of the few canids known for such complex vocal communication.
- They are known to **form temporary hunting associations** with other jackals or even with **striped hyenas**, showcasing rare examples of **interspecies cooperation**.
- In some rural Indian folklore, the jackal is seen as a **clever trickster**—a testament to its sharp instincts and survival skills.

Why This Study Matters:

The Kerala population estimate underscores the **importance of community science** in **biodiversity documentation**. It offers conservationists and forest officials **valuable baseline data** to understand **habitat health**, **human-wildlife conflict**, and **ecosystem dynamics**.

Such insights are especially vital in a **rapidly urbanising India**, where **habitat fragmentation and land-use change** threaten even the most adaptable species.

In Summary:

The Golden Jackal stands as a **symbol of survival and adaptation**. Its strong presence in Kerala and across India is a reminder of nature's resilience—but also of our **responsibility to protect it**. With increasing human encroachment, **proactive conservation**, informed by **scientific research and community participation**, will be key to ensuring that this fascinating animal continues to thrive in the wild.

GS Paper 1 – Geography

3 Majuli Island Residents Lead Innovative Effort to Fight River Erosion

Context: In a remarkable display of **local environmental wisdom**, villagers from **Majuli Island** in Assam have adopted a **nature-based solution** to tackle the persistent problem of **riverbank erosion**. By **planting Kanchan trees** (Bauhinia variegata) along the edges of the **Brahmaputra River**, the community is building a **natural barrier** to shield their land from seasonal flooding and soil erosion.

This grassroots initiative highlights the power of **traditional ecological knowledge** and community-driven conservation in one of the most environmentally fragile regions of India.

Majuli Island: The World's Largest River Island

Majuli, situated in the heart of **Assam**, holds the title of the **world's largest inhabited river island**. It is nestled between the mighty **Brahmaputra River** to the south and its tributary, the **Kherkutia Xuti**, which merges with the **Subansiri River** to the north. Over the centuries, these rivers have shaped Majuli's unique geography, making it a land of **rich alluvial soil, wetlands**, and **verdant paddy fields**.

A Landscape of Culture, Agriculture, and Resilience

The island's scenic charm lies in its **lush greenery, water bodies, and rural lifestyle**. The economy is primarily **agrarian**, with **rice cultivation** being the mainstay. Majuli is famous for its indigenous rice varieties like:

- **Komal Saul** – a soft rice that can be eaten after soaking in warm water
- **Bao Dhan** – a flood-tolerant red rice grown in low-lying fields

These varieties reflect the islanders' **deep knowledge of sustainable farming** in a flood-prone ecosystem.

A Tapestry of Tribal Traditions:

Majuli is home to diverse **ethnic communities**, predominantly the **Mishing, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari tribes**, along with the **non-tribal Assamese** population. These communities have maintained their **distinct languages, customs, and crafts**, enriching the island's cultural heritage.

Cradle of Neo-Vaishnavite Culture:

Beyond its natural beauty, Majuli stands as a **spiritual and cultural epicentre** of **Assamese neo-Vaishnavism**, a reformist religious movement started in the **16th century** by the revered saint **Srimanta Sankardeva** and his disciple **Madhavdeva**.

They founded **Satras** – monastic institutions that became the **guardians of Assamese art, literature, and devotion**. These **Satras** have preserved:

- **Sattriya dance** (a classical Indian dance form)
- **Bhaona** (traditional theatre)
- **Devotional music and manuscripts**
- **Mask-making**, particularly for mythological dramas
- **Boat-making and pottery**, rooted in centuries-old craftsmanship

Today, over 20 active **Satras** continue this rich legacy, drawing visitors and scholars from around the world.

Threats and the Way Forward:

Despite its cultural and ecological significance, Majuli faces severe challenges from **flooding, erosion**, and **climate change**. In the last few decades, the island has reportedly **shrunk by over 30%** due to aggressive erosion by the Brahmaputra.

The **Kanchan tree planting initiative** is a **beacon of hope**, showing how **community action** and **ecological restoration** can go hand in hand. With support from **government and environmental groups**, such efforts could become part of a broader strategy to **protect the island's biodiversity, heritage**, and **livelihoods**.

Did You Know?

- Majuli was declared a **district in 2016**, making it India's first river island district.
- The **Sattriya dance form**, born in Majuli's monasteries, was recognized as one of India's **eight classical dance forms** by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- During the annual **Raas festival**, the island becomes a cultural hub, attracting thousands for its **theatrical enactments of Krishna's life**.

Conclusion: A Living Island of Culture and Conservation

Majuli is not just a geographical wonder; it is a **living museum of heritage, art, and ecological resilience**. As its people continue to innovate and adapt to nature's challenges, Majuli stands as a powerful symbol of how **tradition and sustainability** can shape the future. With **timely conservation**, this treasured island can continue to inspire generations to come.

GS Paper 3 – Science & Technology

4 ISRO's GSLV Gears Up for NISAR Satellite Launch in Collaboration with NASA

Context: In a significant step toward **international space collaboration**, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has confirmed that the upcoming **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** satellite has been **securely mounted** on a **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**. With all systems successfully tested, the vehicle is now in the **final stages of preparation** for launch.

This mission marks yet another milestone for the **GSLV platform**, showcasing India's rising stature in **heavy-lift satellite launches**.

What is GSLV? India's Heavy-Duty Rocket

The **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)** is a **three-stage space launch vehicle** developed by **ISRO** to place satellites into **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits (GTO)** — a critical orbit used for deploying **communication, weather, and navigation satellites**.

Key Features of the GSLV:

- **Height**: **49.13 meters**, making it **ISRO's tallest rocket**
- **Lift-off Mass**: **420 tonnes**
- **Payload Capacity**: Can launch **heavier satellites** than the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**, which is used for sun-synchronous missions

Three-Stage Configuration:

1. **First Stage**: A solid-fuel booster (**S139**) with **138 tonnes** of propellant, supported by **four liquid strap-on motors** (each with **40 tonnes** of fuel)
2. **Second Stage**: A **liquid-fuel engine** with **40 tonnes** of propellant
3. **Third Stage**: An **indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS)** carrying **15 tonnes** of cryogenic fuel — key to placing heavier payloads in higher orbits

The Evolution of GSLV: Variants and Upgrades

GSLV Mk I:

- The **first generation** GSLV, operational between **2001 and 2010**
- Used a **Russian cryogenic engine** due to early difficulties in mastering the technology
- Could carry **2 to 2.5-tonne** satellites into GTO
- Completed **five flights**, including suborbital test launches

GSLV Mk II:

- Introduced **India's indigenous cryogenic upper stage**
- Operational since **2014**, with multiple **successful launches**
- Payload capacity: **~2.5 tonnes** to GTO

GSLV Mk III (LVM-3):

- The most **powerful and advanced version**

- Capable of carrying **up to 4 tonnes** to GTO
- Also used for **interplanetary missions** like **Chandrayaan-2** and is the proposed launch vehicle for India's upcoming **Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission**

GSLV's Notable Missions and Achievements:

The **GSLV series** has been instrumental in launching a range of **high-value payloads**, including:

- **INSAT** and **GSAT** communication satellites
- **NavIC** (India's regional navigation system)
- **IDRSS** (satellites for real-time data relay)
- **South Asia Satellite (2017)** – a symbol of India's regional space diplomacy
- **Military communications satellite (2018)**
- **Chandrayaan-2 Moon Mission (2019)** – India's second lunar mission

Why GSLV is Vital for India's Space Future:

The **GSLV platform** is a cornerstone of India's space ambitions for multiple reasons:

- Enables **self-reliance** in launching heavy communication satellites, reducing dependency on foreign launchers
- Paves the way for **crewed missions** and **deep space exploration**
- Supports **strategic and defense applications** with its ability to launch dual-use payloads
- Expands India's commercial space offerings through **affordable satellite launch services** for other countries

Fun Fact: Cryogenic Edge

The **Cryogenic Upper Stage**, once imported from **Russia**, is now **fully developed in India**, marking a huge leap in **indigenous aerospace capability**. Cryogenic engines operate using **supercooled liquid hydrogen and oxygen**, offering **higher thrust efficiency** essential for GTO missions.

In Conclusion: GSLV Powers India's Leap into the Future

As ISRO prepares to launch the **NISAR Earth-observation satellite**, the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle** continues to solidify its role as **India's premier heavy-lift launch system**. With advanced variants like the **GSLV Mk III**, India is now poised to **compete with global space giants**, aiming not just for geosynchronous orbit—but for the **Moon, Mars**, and **beyond**.

GS Paper 2 – Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice

5 NEP 2020: Five Years On – Transformative Shifts, Persistent Challenges, and the Road Ahead in Indian

Context: Launched in **2020**, the **National Education Policy (NEP)** marked India's most comprehensive attempt to reform its education system in over three decades. **Five years later**, the policy has brought about **visible changes** in classrooms—particularly in early education—but its **full-scale implementation** continues to face roadblocks.

While **several promising reforms** have taken off, a host of **critical proposals remain stuck** due to institutional inertia, state-centre tensions, and resource constraints.

Early Achievements and Key Developments:

New School Structure and Curriculum Framework

- The traditional **10+2 structure** has been replaced by the **5+3+3+4 model**, encompassing:
  - **Foundational Stage (pre-school to Class 2)**
  - **Preparatory Stage (Classes 3–5)**
  - **Middle Stage (Classes 6–8)**
  - **Secondary Stage (Classes 9–12)**
- The **National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023** defined stage-specific outcomes.
- **NCERT** has introduced **new textbooks for Classes 1–8**, integrating subjects like history and geography into interdisciplinary content. Books for **Classes 9–12** are still awaited.

Strengthening Early Childhood Education:

- The NEP envisions **universal access to pre-primary education by 2030**.
- **NCERT's 'Jaadui Pitara' kits** and a new **national ECCE curriculum** are now being adopted in states.
- Delhi, Kerala, and Karnataka have made **six years** the minimum age for **Class 1**, enhancing school readiness. However, it has caused a **drop in enrolment numbers** in some areas.
- **Anganwadi centres** remain under-resourced, with poor infrastructure and insufficient training support for educators.

NIPUN Bharat: Building Foundational Learning

- The **NIPUN Bharat** mission (launched in 2021) focuses on **universal literacy and numeracy** by **Class 3**.
- A recent nationwide assessment shows that students achieved an average of **64% in language** and **60% in mathematics**, indicating steady progress but also the **need for accelerated efforts**.

Higher Education: Greater Flexibility and Credit Mobility

Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and National Credit Framework (NCrF)

- These tools allow students to **accumulate and transfer credits**, encouraging **multi-exit options** in degree programs.
- Learners can **exit after 1, 2, or 4 years** with a certificate, diploma, or full degree.
- The **CBSE** is piloting a **credit system in schools**, paving the way for **greater academic flexibility**.

CUET: Towards Uniform College Admissions

- The **Common University Entrance Test (CUET)** was introduced in **2022** to **standardise college admissions** across India, reducing the burden of multiple entrance exams.
- Despite some technical glitches in implementation, it aligns with NEP's vision of **transparent, equitable access** to higher education.

Global Expansion of Indian Institutions:

- Indian institutes such as **IIT Madras (Zanzibar)**, **IIT Delhi (Abu Dhabi)**, and **IIM Ahmedabad (Dubai)** have opened **international campuses**.
- Global universities like the **University of Southampton** are also entering India, and **12 more international institutions** are awaiting approval.

Ongoing Reforms Still Gaining Ground:

Reimagining Board Exams:

- To reduce exam-related stress, the NEP proposes **twice-a-year board exams** starting **2026** for Class 10.
- **Karnataka** has already piloted this system.
- Subjects are to be offered at **two levels (standard and higher)**—currently only implemented for **Mathematics (Class 10)** by **CBSE**.

Holistic Progress Cards:

- The **PARAKH** unit under **NCERT** has created new-style **report cards** including **peer and self-evaluations**.
- However, adoption by state boards is **still limited**, slowing the intended shift towards **competency-based assessment**.

Four-Year Undergraduate Degree Programs:

- NEP encourages **four-year UG programs** with multiple exit points.
- While states like **Kerala** and several **central universities** have begun implementation, **faculty shortages** and **infrastructure limitations** are hampering full rollout.

Mother Tongue as Medium of Instruction:

- To enhance **comprehension and cognitive skills**, NEP recommends using the **mother tongue/local language** until at least **Class 5**.
- **CBSE** has issued directives to implement this for **pre-primary to Class 2**, with flexibility for higher classes.
- **NCERT** is working on producing **textbooks in more Indian languages** to support this transition.

Key Roadblocks and Challenges:

Three-Language Formula Resistance:

- NEP suggests students learn **three languages**, at least **two of which must be Indian**.
- **Tamil Nadu**, which uses the **Tamil-English model**, has **rejected the proposal**, viewing it as an attempt to **enforce Hindi**, reigniting **language politics**.

Teacher Education Reforms Delayed:

- The proposed **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education** (NCFTE) is **yet to be released**.
- The **four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)** is still in the pilot phase, facing resistance from traditional **B.El.Ed. colleges**.

No Unified Higher Education Regulator Yet:

- NEP calls for replacing the **UGC, AICTE, and NCTE** with a single **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)**.
- The **draft legislation** for HECI is still under development, **delaying much-needed structural reforms**.

No Breakfast Scheme Implementation:

- NEP proposed a **morning meal** in addition to the **Midday Meal Scheme** to improve **nutrition and learning outcomes**.
- However, the **Finance Ministry** rejected this due to **budgetary limitations**, stalling the rollout.

Centre–State Disagreements Hinder Implementation:

- States like **Tamil Nadu, Kerala**, and **West Bengal** have **opted out** of the **PM-SHRI school initiative**, leading the Centre to **withhold Samagra Shiksha funds**.
- **Tamil Nadu** has challenged this in the **Supreme Court** as a violation of cooperative federalism.

Karnataka Reverses Course:

- While Karnataka was among the first states to adopt the NEP's **four-year UG model**, the current government has **scrapped the policy** and is now drafting a **state-specific education framework**.

In Conclusion: A Long Road Ahead

NEP 2020 has undoubtedly **initiated a paradigm shift** in how education is approached in India—from **rote learning** to **holistic development**, and from **rigid pathways** to **flexible learning journeys**. Yet, its full potential remains **untapped** due to a combination of **systemic delays**, **political tensions**, and **resource gaps**.

As India moves forward, the **success of NEP 2020** will depend on **stronger collaboration between Centre and states**, **capacity building**, **adequate funding**, and **public participation**. Only then can India truly transform its education landscape for the **21st century learner**.

GS Paper 3 – Food security & Economy

6 SOFI 2025 Report Highlights: Global Hunger Sees Slight Decline, But Food Security Challenges Persist

Context: The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025** report, a key annual assessment jointly published by **FAO**, **IFAD**, **UNICEF**, **WFP**, and **WHO**, sheds light on global progress towards **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2** — to **end hunger and all forms of malnutrition**.

While the world has made **measurable progress** in reducing hunger, the report also highlights **worsening inequalities**, particularly in regions like **Africa** and **Western Asia**. The impact of **economic shocks, conflict**, and **climate change** continues to undermine access to affordable and nutritious food.

Key Global Findings of SOFI 2025:

- The **global prevalence of hunger** dropped to **8.2% in 2024**, showing improvement from **2022 levels**.
- Despite this progress, **hunger is still rising** in many parts of **sub-Saharan Africa** and **Western Asia**, driven by **conflict, political instability**, and **economic disruptions**.
- **Moderate to severe food insecurity** has been on a **gradual decline** since **2021**, a positive trend aided by **targeted food assistance** and **social support mechanisms**.
- **Food prices surged** globally during **2023 and 2024**, significantly increasing the **cost of a healthy diet**.
    - This inflation was exacerbated by the **ongoing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic** and the **Ukraine conflict**, both of which disrupted supply chains and impacted energy and fertilizer costs.
- Despite these cost pressures, the number of people **unable to afford a healthy diet** dropped from **2.76 billion in 2019** to **2.60 billion in 2024**, indicating slow but meaningful progress.
- **Anaemia among women** (aged 15–49) continues to rise globally, as does **adult obesity**, which climbed from **12.1% in 2012** to **15.8% in 2022**, signaling a **growing double burden of malnutrition**.

India-Specific Observations:

- In contrast to several lower-middle-income countries, India has shown a declining trend in the number of people unable to afford a nutritious diet.
- A notable case study from **Kerala** highlighted how **mobile technology adoption** among **fishermen and wholesalers** helped reduce **price dispersion** and **food waste**, demonstrating how **digital tools can enhance food market efficiency**.

Strategic Recommendations from the Report:

To build **resilient and equitable food systems**, SOFI 2025 outlines several **policy directions**:

1. **Time-bound fiscal interventions**: Introduce **temporary tax cuts** on essential food items and **scale up social protection programs** to shield vulnerable populations from food inflation.
2. **Coordinated fiscal and monetary policy**: Governments must align financial strategies to **stabilize food markets** and prevent volatility.

3. **Strengthening market intelligence**: Invest in **agricultural market information systems** to curb **speculation** and ensure **transparent pricing**, especially during crises.

About the SOFI Report:

The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)** is a flagship **UN publication** that provides **data-driven insights** into progress toward **ending hunger and malnutrition**. It monitors global and regional trends linked to:

- **SDG Target 2.1 – End hunger** and ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food
- **SDG Target 2.2 – Eliminate all forms of malnutrition**, especially among children and women

Looking Forward: A Call for Integrated Global Action

While the SOFI 2025 report offers **encouraging signals**, the path to **zero hunger** remains complex. **Climate variability**, **geopolitical instability**, and **economic inequality** continue to threaten food access for billions.

Urgent **multilateral cooperation**, along with **technology-driven agricultural innovation**, and **inclusive policy frameworks**, will be critical to **realizing global food security goals** by **2030**.