

20 November 2024

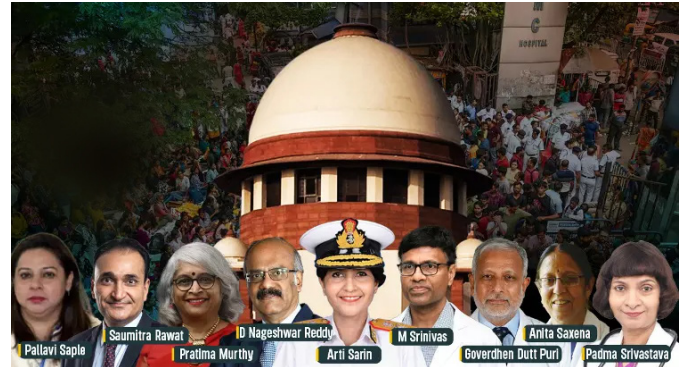
National Task Force Report on healthcare professionals

Context: The National Task Force (NTF), which was constituted by the Supreme Court, has filed a report addressing the question of whether a Central law is needed to protect healthcare professionals in India. The report was filed in the context of the R.G. Kar rape and murder case, a tragedy that sparked protests from doctors and medical professionals.

to mistrust, frustration, and mob violence when things go wrong.

Key Findings from the NTF Report:

- **No Need for a Separate Central Law:**
 - » The NTF report concluded that there is no need for a separate Central law to protect healthcare workers. The task force believes that State laws already have adequate provisions to address minor offences against medical professionals.
 - » For more serious or heinous offences, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), also known as the new criminal code, can be used effectively.
- **Existing State Laws Adequate:**
 - » 24 states in India have already enacted laws to address violence against healthcare professionals, with two more states having introduced bills in this regard.
 - » These laws cover minor offences and provide specific punishments for such acts.
 - » Major or heinous crimes like murder, assault, and rape against medical professionals are covered by the BNS.
- **BNS as a Solution:**
 - » The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita can be used to immediately address violent crimes against healthcare professionals in states where there are no specific laws.
 - » The NTF believes that BNS adequately addresses the heinous offences against medical staff, and a new law is unnecessary.
- **Addressing the Root Causes:**
 - » The NTF identified poor communication between medical professionals and patients' families as a key factor contributing to violence in healthcare settings.
 - » This lack of effective communication often leads



Recommendations from the NTF Report:

The NTF has divided its recommendations into short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures, based on consultations with over 53 associations and 1,700 hospitals across the country.

- **Short-Term Measures:**
 - » Deployment of trained security personnel in hospitals.
 - » Coordination with local police to ensure immediate response to threats.
 - » Faster filing of FIRs in cases of violence against healthcare workers, ensuring that zero FIRs are filed within six hours.
 - » Installation of CCTV cameras and ensuring high walls around hospital premises for better security.
- **Medium-Term Measures:**
 - » Night-shift safety protocols for medical staff, including safe transportation and secure accommodations.
 - » Creation of internal complaints committees within hospitals to address issues of sexual harassment or workplace violence.
 - » Mobile network augmentation to improve communication in areas with poor network connectivity.
- **Long-Term Measures:**
 - » Ensuring a senior doctor's presence in emergency departments, particularly at night, to provide leadership during critical times.
 - » Ensuring the presence of senior residents in emergency units during night shifts to handle any medical emergencies effectively.

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- » Awareness programs to increase public awareness of government initiatives to protect healthcare professionals and improve overall safety.

India – Nigeria Strategic Partnership

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has concluded his visit to Nigeria, marking the first trip by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 17 years. This visit is part of his three-nation tour, which also includes stops in Brazil and Guyana from November 17 to 21, 2024.

Key Takeaways from PM Modi's Visit to Nigeria:

- **Strategic Partnership:** India and Nigeria elevated their relationship to a strategic partnership, with a strong focus on areas such as defense, trade, energy, health, education, and cultural exchange.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** In response to the devastating floods in Nigeria, India announced the provision of 20 tons of humanitarian aid to support flood relief efforts, underlining India's commitment to helping Nigeria during this crisis.
- **Cultural Exchange:** The two countries signed key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on:
 - » Cultural Exchange Programs
 - » Customs Cooperation
 - » Survey CooperationThese agreements aim to foster closer ties in both cultural and economic domains.

Global South Cooperation:

- PM Modi and Nigerian President Tinubu agreed to collaborate on advancing the development aspirations of the Global South, recognizing the shared challenges and opportunities for both nations in shaping a more inclusive global order.

PM Modi Conferred with Nigeria's Highest Honor:

- PM Modi was awarded Nigeria's highest national honor, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations.

About India-Nigeria Relations:

- **Historical Relations:** India played a crucial role in supporting African nations' independence movements. India established its diplomatic mission in Africa in 1958, two years before Nigeria gained independence from British rule in 1960.
- **Military and Capacity Building:** Post-independence, India assisted Nigeria in establishing military institutions such as the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) and the Naval College at Port Harcourt. Indian training programs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative have been vital in supporting Nigeria's defense and civilian capacity-building since 1964.
- **Commercial Relations:** Indian businesses have invested approximately \$15 billion in Nigeria, making India Nigeria's leading investor, with a total investment base of around \$20 billion.
- **Oil Trade:** Nigeria is a significant supplier of crude oil to India, although its share has reduced in recent years. In 2020, Nigeria was the fifth-largest seller of crude oil to India.

India's Role in Africa:

- India is the third-largest trading partner of Africa, after China and the USA. It accounts for 6.4% of Africa's total trade, and Nigeria is India's third-largest trading partner in Africa as of 2024, after South Africa and Tanzania.
- Nigeria is a significant supplier of crude oil to India, although its share has reduced in recent years. In 2020, Nigeria was the fifth-largest seller of crude oil to India.

Fourth Edition of "An Eye on Methane: Invisible but Not Unseen" Report

Context: The fourth edition of the 'An Eye on Methane: Invisible but Not Unseen' report was launched by UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), a key partner in the Global Methane Pledge. This report provides valuable insights into global methane emissions, their impact on climate change, and ongoing efforts to mitigate these emissions.

- IMEO plays a critical role in providing open, reliable, and actionable data on methane emissions, working with governments, industries, and research bodies to

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accelerate global methane reductions.

Key Findings from the Report

- **Global Warming Impact**
 - » Human-caused methane emissions are responsible for roughly one-third of the planet's current warming.
 - » Reducing methane is considered one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting strategies to mitigate global warming in the near-term.
- **Emissions from the Oil and Gas Sector**
 - » The Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0), a key initiative led by UNEP, requires its members to report methane emissions.
 - » However, OGMP 2.0 currently covers just 42% of global oil and gas production.
 - » This highlights a gap in comprehensive industry-wide reporting, underlining the need for expanded participation.
- **Emissions in the Steel Supply Chain**
 - » The metallurgical coal (metcoal) production used in steel manufacturing is responsible for around one-tenth of global energy sector methane emissions.
 - » The good news is that these emissions can be mitigated at a minimal cost, representing a significant opportunity for climate action in the steel industry.
- **Poor Response to Emissions Alerts**
 - » UNEP's Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) uses satellite technology to track major methane emissions and alert governments.
 - » Despite over 1,200 MARS notifications issued to date, only 1% have resulted in any substantial response or mitigation action.
 - » This highlights a clear climate opportunity for governments and operators to act more swiftly and effectively.

Initiatives to Reduce Methane Emissions:

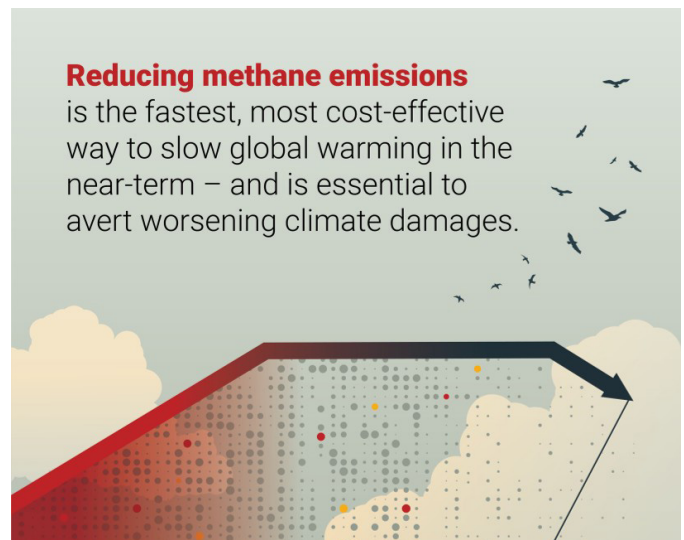
- **Global Initiatives:**
 - » **Global Methane Pledge:** A global commitment to reduce methane emissions, signed by numerous countries and companies.
 - » **Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC):** A partnership aiming to mitigate Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs), including methane.
 - » **Global Methane Alliance:** A global initiative

bringing together countries, industries, and other stakeholders to promote methane mitigation.

- **Initiatives in India:**
 - » **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA):** Focuses on developing agricultural practices that reduce methane emissions.
 - » **National Livestock Mission:** Aims to enhance livestock productivity while minimizing methane emissions from livestock.
 - » **Gobar-Dhan Scheme:** Encourages the production of biogas from organic waste, reducing methane emissions.
 - » **New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme:** Promotes biogas production from organic waste, contributing to methane reduction.

Reducing methane emissions

is the fastest, most cost-effective way to slow global warming in the near-term – and is essential to avert worsening climate damages.



About Methane:

- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, 86 times more powerful than CO₂ over a 20-year period.
- It has a relatively short atmospheric lifetime of about 12 years, making it easier to mitigate compared to longer-lived gases like CO₂.
- Over 60% of methane emissions come from human activity, including:
 - » Agriculture (e.g., livestock digestion and rice paddies)
 - » Fossil fuels (e.g., natural gas extraction, oil production, coal mining)
 - » Waste (e.g., landfills and waste treatment plants)

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Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative (FF-NPT)

Context: The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FF-NPT) advocates for regulating fossil fuels like nuclear weapons to curb climate change. The initiative has gained significant support from various countries, institutions, and individuals.

- It aims to phase out fossil fuels, ensure a global transition to renewable energy, and support workers and communities dependent on fossil fuel industries.
- The treaty focuses on equity, ensuring no nation, worker, or community is left behind in the transition.

Key Objectives of FF-NPT:

- Non-proliferation:** Prevent the expansion of fossil fuel production (coal, oil, gas).
- Fair Phase-out:** End current fossil fuel extraction with a fair and equitable approach.
- Just Transition:** Fast-track renewable energy adoption and diversify economies away from fossil fuels.

Background of FF-NPT:

- Launched:** Conceptualized in 2016, officially launched in 2019.
- Criticism of Paris Agreement:** The Paris Agreement does not specifically address fossil fuel production, which the FF-NPT aims to rectify.
- The initiative was introduced around the same time as the Paris Agreement, emphasizing the need for binding international commitments on fossil fuel reduction.

Endorsements and Support:

- 13 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Tonga, vulnerable to climate change, support FF-NPT.
- Colombia, a large coal exporter, endorsed FF-NPT in December 2023.
- 10 more countries joined discussions at COP29 (2024), though their names were not publicly disclosed.

Financial Institutions:

- Global Alliance for Banking on Values, a network of 70 sustainable banks, announced that 25 member banks endorse the initiative, marking the first collective backing by financial institutions.

Scientific Evidence and Urgency:

- At COP29 (2024), Tzeporah Berman, Chair of the FF-NPT, highlighted the urgency:
 - Fossil fuel emissions are projected to be 8% higher in 2024 than in 2015.
 - Major fossil fuel-producing countries are planning to increase fossil fuel production by 110% by 2030, contrary to the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
 - If current policies continue, the world is on track for 3°C of warming, which would lead to catastrophic climate impacts.



Challenges Facing FF-NPT:

- Financial Support is a major challenge, particularly for developing countries that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels and vulnerable to climate change.
- The FF-NPT proposes the creation of a New Collective Quantified Goal to provide financial support to developing nations in their transition, complementing existing climate frameworks like the Paris Agreement.

India's Position:

- India has not yet been extensively engaged by the FF-NPT, with initial focus on smaller nations.
- However, large fossil fuel-dependent countries like India and Indonesia are crucial for the success of the treaty.
- India, which is set to see a 4.6% rise in fossil fuel emissions in 2024, could benefit from the treaty through equitable climate finance and support for renewable energy adoption.

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Power Packed News

Tulsi Gabbard

- Tulsi Gabbard has been appointed as the United States Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by President Donald Trump. Gabbard, a 43-year-old U.S. Army reservist and former Democratic congresswoman, holds a significant political history. In 2002, at just 21, she became the youngest woman elected to the Hawaii State Legislature.
- Later, in 2012, she made history as the first Hindu elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she represented Hawaii from 2013 to 2021. Her tenure in Congress was marked by a focus on foreign policy and national security issues.
- The appointment is subject to Senate approval. If confirmed, Gabbard will oversee a \$70 billion budget and manage 18 intelligence agencies, making her one of the key figures in the U.S. intelligence community.
- As DNI, Gabbard will play a critical role in coordinating intelligence efforts across agencies to address national and international security threats. Her appointment highlights her extensive experience in public service and military leadership, emphasizing her potential to shape the future of U.S. intelligence operations.



Oriental Pied Hornbill

- The villagers of Mayong in Assam's Morigaon district have pioneered a successful community-based conservation effort for the oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*), a member of the Bucerotidae family.
- These birds, identifiable by their unique casque, are found in tropical and subtropical regions, including the Indian subcontinent.
- In India, nine hornbill species exist, with only the oriental pied hornbill listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972), while the others are under Schedule I. The great hornbill, also vulnerable, is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.
- Hornbills play a critical ecological role as seed dispersers and are revered by local cultures, including the Nagas, who celebrate the Hornbill Festival in their honor.
- There conservation also boosts eco-tourism, attracting bird watchers, researchers, and students. However, habitat loss and hunting for their casques, feathers, and medicinal value remain significant threats to hornbill populations.



Jyothi Surekha Vennam Wins Gold at GT Open in Luxembourg

- Indian archery champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam secured a gold medal in the women's compound event at the GT Open held in Luxembourg. Jyothi triumphed over Sarah Prieels of Belgium with a score of 147-145, showcasing her consistent form and precision in archery.
- Jyothi, who is the current Asian Games champion, demonstrated outstanding skill in the final match. Her performance at the GT Open adds another significant achievement to her growing list of accolades. In the men's compound event, Indian archer Abhishek won the silver medal, losing to Mike Schlosser of the Netherlands, who claimed the top spot.
- This success further reinforces Jyothi Surekha's reputation as one of India's top archers, bringing attention to the nation's growing prowess in archery on the international stage. With such achievements, Jyothi continues to inspire young athletes in India, while also contributing to India's strong presence in global sports competitions.



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