

### FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE



- It is an **independent intergovernmental body** that develops and promotes policies to protect the **global financial system against money laundering and terrorist financing.**
- **Origin:**
  - It was established in **1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris** in response to a growing concern about money laundering.
  - In 2001, its mandate expanded to include **terrorism financing.**
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Members:** FATF members include 40 countries, including the United States, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Germany, France, and the EU as such.
  - **India** became a member of **FATF in 2010.**
  - In addition, over 200 jurisdictions around the world have committed to the **FATF Recommendations** through the **global network of FSRBs and FATF memberships.**
- FATF **regularly publishes reports** that raise awareness about the latest money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing techniques.
- Once a member, a country or **organization must endorse and support the most recent FATF recommendations** and commit to being evaluated by (and evaluating) other members.
- The FATF holds countries to account that do not comply with the FATF Standards.
- If a country repeatedly fails to implement FATF Standards, then it **can be placed under the grey and black lists.**
- The FATF recommendations are recognised as the **global anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) standard.**



### PRADHAN MANTRI VIKSIT BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA

- It is a **flagship employment generation scheme** launched by the Government of India to encourage **job creation in the formal sector**.
- The scheme provides **financial incentives to employers and first-time employees**, promoting increased enrollment in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- It aims to boost **employment opportunities, strengthen social security coverage**, and support the vision of a **developed India by 2047**.
- **Key Features of Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana:**
  - **Part A – Support to First-Time Employees:**
    - Targeting **first-time employees** registered with EPFO, this Part will **offer one-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments**.
    - Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible for the incentives.
    - All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)** mode using **Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS)**.
  - **Part B – Incentives for Employers:**
    - This part will encourage generation of **additional employment in all sectors**, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector.
    - The employers will get incentives in respect of **new employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh**.
    - The Government will **incentivize employers, up to Rs 3000 per month**, for two years, for each additional employment, sustained for at least six months.
    - For the **manufacturing sector**, incentives will be extended to **the 3rd and 4th years as well**.
    - Payments to the Employers under Part B will be made directly into their **PAN-linked Accounts**.

### FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO WALK - SUPREME COURT PRIORITISES PEDESTRIANS OVER MOTOR VEHICLES

- In a **landmark judgment** delivered, the Supreme Court of India held that the right to walk on safe and demarcated **footpaths** is a Fundamental Right under **Part III** of the Constitution.
- It declared that pedestrian rights take **precedence** over the movement of motorised vehicles and called for a comprehensive **legal framework** to protect walkers.

#### **Constitutional Recognition of the Right to Walk:**

- The SC ruled that the right to walk is an **intrinsic** component of:
  - Article 19(1)(d) – Freedom of movement.
  - Article 19(1)(a) – Freedom of expression.
  - Article 19(1)(b) – Freedom of assembly.
  - Article 19(1)(c) – Freedom of association.
  - Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty.
- The Court observed that walking is the most **basic** form of human movement and predates all motorised transport. Therefore, access to safe and well-maintained footpaths is an essential constitutional entitlement.

#### **Pedestrian Rights Above Motorised Traffic:**

- The Court unequivocally held that the fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths has priority over the privilege of movement by motorised vehicles.
- It **criticised** the prevailing urban planning approach that disproportionately favours automobiles while marginalising pedestrians.
- According to the Court, roads and public spaces cannot become the monopoly of the motorised class; **equitable** access must be ensured for all citizens.

#### **Compensation and Legal Remedies:**

- A significant aspect of the judgment is the recognition of independent remedies for violation of pedestrian rights.

- Citizens suffering injury, loss, or hardship due to absence of footpaths, encroached footpaths, and poorly maintained pedestrian infrastructure, can seek:
  - Constitutional remedies,
  - Restitution,
  - Compensation from public authorities.
- These remedies are **separate** from compensation available under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

### Critique of Existing Legal Framework:

- The Court observed that the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 primarily regulates drivers and vehicles but does not adequately recognise pedestrian rights.
- **Key observations:**
  - Existing laws impose duties on drivers but fail to establish a right to walk safely.
  - Pedestrian interests have remained **secondary** to motor traffic.
  - Urban planning has historically prioritised roads for vehicles rather than people.
- The Bench described the neglect of walkers as a long-standing "**civilisational problem**".

### Cultural and Democratic Significance of Walking:

- The judgment emphasised that walking is not merely a mode of transport but also:
  - A means of expression.
  - A form of **social interaction** and association.
  - An instrument of political **mobilisation** and resistance.
  - A part of India's cultural and freedom movement heritage.
- The Court linked walking to democratic freedoms protected under Article 19 and the constitutional duty under **Article 51A** to cherish the ideals of the freedom struggle.

### Conclusion:

- A truly **inclusive democracy** is measured not by the speed of its vehicles but by the safety, accessibility and dignity it affords its most vulnerable road users.
- Going forward, embedding **pedestrian-centric** urban planning within the framework of sustainable development can help create safer, healthier & more equitable public spaces.

### KERALA'S RISK PROFILE FOR NIPAH

Nipah Virus (NiV) has resurfaced in Kozhikode, Kerala, with a 43-year-old patient currently battling for life at Kozhikode Medical College.

This marks yet another spillover event in a state that has now faced recurring Nipah outbreaks since 2018, prompting renewed scrutiny of Kerala's unique vulnerability to this high-threat pathogen.

Year	District(s)	Cases	Outcome
2018	Kozhikode (first outbreak)	23 (18 lab-confirmed)	91% case fatality rate; 2 survivors
2019	Ernakulam	1	Survived
2021	Malappuram	1 (12-year-old boy)	—
2023	Kozhikode	Cluster of 6	—
2024	Malappuram (July & Sept)	2 separate single cases	—
2025	Malappuram & Palakkad	4 (unlinked, independent spillovers)	—
2026	Kozhikode (current)	1 (43-year-old)	Critical, under treatment

### The Natural Reservoir: Fruit Bats

- Research has consistently identified the **Indian flying fox** (*Pteropus medius*), or fruit bat, as the natural reservoir of Nipah virus in Kerala.
- In the 2018 outbreak, ~25% of sampled bats tested

positive for Nipah viral RNA.

- Subsequent outbreaks have repeatedly confirmed NiV presence in bat populations.
- A mapping study by the Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology found that almost all bat roosting sites are located near human habitats — dramatically increasing zoonotic exposure risk.

### Why Kerala: The Ecological and Demographic Convergence?

- Kerala's vulnerability stems from a unique convergence of factors:
- **Seasonal Spillover Window**
  - Peak Nipah risk occurs April to September, when:
    - Fruit-laden trees are abundant (attracting bats)
    - Bat foraging activity increases
    - Bat breeding season coincides
    - Viral shedding dynamics peak
  - This pattern has remained consistent since the 2018 outbreak.

- **Habitat Disruption**

- Scientific literature links emerging zoonosis to: Deforestation; Habitat fragmentation; Urbanisation; Agricultural intensification.
- When wildlife habitats are disturbed, animals are pushed into closer contact with human settlements — increasing spillover risk.
- Climate-related ecological disruptions are flagged as a growing future risk factor.

### The 'One Health' Strategy

- Kerala has adopted a 'One Health' approach — recognising the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health.
- **Key Initiatives:**
  - **Community-based surveillance** network of over 2.5 lakh trained volunteers tracking unusual disease trends, including abnormal animal/bird deaths, enabling early detection of zoonotic outbreaks (Nipah, Mpox).
  - **One Health Centre** for Nipah Research and Resilience, established in 2023 at Kozhikode — focused on community awareness, resilience-building, and rapid response capacity.
  - **Documentation** of every Nipah outbreak in the state, prioritising future research on epidemiology, sero-surveillance, and host factors.
  - **Collaboration** with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) to develop indigenous monoclonal antibodies specific to the Bangladesh strain of NiV circulating in Kerala.

### Key Takeaway: Spillover Cannot Be Prevented, Only Managed

- Because Kerala harbours a perennial natural reservoir of Nipah virus in its bat populations, complete prevention of spillover events may not be possible. The state's strategy has therefore shifted from prevention to:
  - Reducing bat-human interface through community awareness
  - Early detection through robust surveillance
  - Rapid containment to prevent wider outbreaks

### DRUNIX



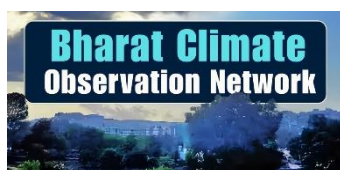
- It is an **enterprise-grade distributed ledger technology** designed to help organizations build and scale tokenization platforms, digital asset ecosystems, and multi-organization networks.
- Drunix is a **custom-built private blockchain framework** designed to deliver high scalability and optimized performance.
- It enables **blockchain deployment** at scale and is engineered for enterprise and public infrastructure adoption.
- It is a **high-performance distributed ledger platform** built as an enhanced fork of **Hyperledger Fabric**.
  - Hyperledger Fabric is an **open-source enterprise blockchain framework** developed under the umbrella of the Linux Foundation.

### What is Blockchain Technology?

- Blockchain, also known as **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**, is an emerging technology that facilitates the conversion of currency and various assets into digital formats for storage and management.
- **Blockchain Technology Features:**
  - **Distributed Ledger:** The blockchain is a distributed ledger that exists on multiple computers simultaneously in a peer-to-peer network.
  - **Immutability:** Once data is written to the blockchain, it is **extremely difficult to alter** it retroactively. Cryptographic hashes help achieve this which improves security and trust.
  - **Secured:** Cryptography through hashing and digital signatures secures the blockchain network. It also provides participant identity protection through private/public keys.

- **Consensus-Based:** For a transaction to be valid and added to the blockchain, all nodes must agree to its validity based on the existing rules of the network through a consensus mechanism.
- **Decentralised:** No single entity or computer controls the network. Full copies of the blockchain reside on multiple computers in a decentralised manner.

### BHARAT CLIMATE OBSERVATION NETWORK



- It is a **national observational initiative** conceptualized and implemented by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India,
- **Objective:** It is to develop a **long-term, high-precision climate monitoring framework** across the country.
- **Functions:**
  - **Monitor Meteorological Parameters:** BCON will **monitor meteorological parameters**, climate-active trace gases (greenhouse gases and short-lived climate forcers), atmospheric chemistry and soil moisture observations.
  - **National Database:** BCON will develop a robust national database that supports the **detection of long term trends, advances climate change research**, and strengthens India's capacity for climate assessment and evidence based policy development.
- **Significance of Bharat Climate Observation Network Data:**
  - The high accuracy datasets produced through BCON will also provide the critical validation and **benchmarking required for Earth System Models**, including India's first ESM, the IITM ESM.
  - It enables **more accurate simulations** of the Indian climate change and enhancing **future climate projections**.

### ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX



India moved up two places to rank 70th in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026.

- It is released by the World Economic Forum.
- It evaluates countries on **energy security, sustainability and equity**, along with the readiness of their policy, financial and infrastructure environments to support the transition.
- A country's final ETI score is a weighted composite of **two sub-indices: system performance (60%) and transition readiness (40%)**.
  - **System performance** is evenly distributed across equity, security and sustainability dimensions, while transition readiness is divided into two categories: **core enablers and enabling factors**.
    - Core enablers include regulation and political commitment as well as finance and investment, while enabling factors encompass innovation, infrastructure and education and human capital.
  - ETI scores use a **0-100 scale**, with 100 representing the highest global performance for each indicator and index component.

### Key Findings of Energy Transition Index 2026

- **Sweden, Finland and Denmark** retained their top three positions globally
- Singapore posted one of the largest improvements, climbing **10 places to 42nd** due to stronger regulations and political commitment.
- **Six G20 members featured in the top 20:** Germany (9th), France (10th), the United Kingdom (11th), China (14th), Brazil (17th) and the United States (19th).