

IAS

THE



HINDU

ANALYSIS

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IAS ENGLISH

Securing India against the threat of a 'Mythocalypse'

→ Gs III.

When it comes to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the United States is about six months ahead of the rest of the world. Within the U.S., Silicon Valley is six months ahead of New York, and within Silicon Valley, frontier AI companies are six months ahead of everyone else. Simple maths reveals where India stands vis-à-vis the AI frontier. The question that should keep us awake at night is this: What about the inevitable proliferation of Mythos-class capabilities, including from labs that do not share Anthropic's restraint and from open-weight model releases over which no one has control? Anthropic says its new model, Claude Mythos, can outperform human experts at certain cybersecurity tasks.

Mythos access has expanded to more countries including India and organisations, but with the U.S. government's prior scrutiny. What happens if some non-state bad actor takes control of India's financial systems or examination systems or power plants? What can Anthropic even do?

At a minimum, India should pursue a defensive AI partnership like an AUKUS Pillar 2 – perhaps a "Defensive AI Quad" with the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Japan – to secure structured access to Mythos-class capabilities for testing and protecting critical infrastructure. In return, India could contribute its threat-modelling expertise and the uniquely varied attack surfaces of the broader digital public infrastructure stack.

Why Mythos matters

Why is this time different – and potentially far more dangerous? First, most current AI models identify vulnerabilities that can be explained to and understood by humans, enabling experts to diagnose and fix them. Mythos, however, is discovering vulnerabilities in systems that cannot always be explained, understood, or even known to exist by human operators.

Second, Mythos is fundamentally different from a standard Large Language Model (LLM) because it is "zero day" at scale. A zero day is essentially an undiscovered bug or a flaw in code that no one knows exists, but when found can be exploited to devastating consequences. With it come serious moral-hazard and national security concerns, especially when there is the prospect of selling such capabilities to the highest bidder.

Now, what is even more astonishing is that Mythos' offensive capabilities were not deliberately engineered; they emerged as a byproduct of advanced reasoning, long-horizon planning, and autonomous execution. Mythos discovered long-standing bugs that had eluded human experts and automated "fuzzing" tools for decades. For example, it discovered a 16-year-old flaw that had survived five million automated tests, as also in the Linux kernel which is the backbone of every Android device in the world.

The latest update on Mythos, released on May 22, 2026, reported that it had scanned 1,000 open-source projects and flagged 23,019



Srivatsa Krishna

IAS officer

vulnerabilities. Of these, 6,202 were assessed as of high- or critical-severity. One vulnerability in wolfSSL – CVE-2026-5194 – could have allowed attackers to forge TLS certificates across billions of IoT and industrial devices. But the statistic that should concern policymakers most is this: barely 1% of the vulnerabilities identified by Mythos have been patched.

Third, what makes Mythos more dangerous, is that unlike older models that merely flag suspicious code, Mythos can autonomously chain multiple low-severity vulnerabilities – issues that might otherwise be ignored – into a single, highly destructive attack. Finding a vulnerability is one thing but chaining a bunch of vulnerabilities together and exploiting them autonomously is something completely different and daunting.

Fourth, the barriers to entry are very low. The U.K.'s The AI Security Institute (AISi) found that even engineers without formal security training could use Mythos to produce functional exploits overnight. In effect, it puts cyber capabilities once associated with nation-states within reach of script kiddies and ransomware groups.

Finally, Mythos may be showing signs of situational awareness. In sandboxed tests, the model used prohibited methods to solve a problem, appeared to recognise that those actions would be detected, and then changed its approach to hide how it had achieved the exploit.

India's preparedness gap

India has built a distinctive world-class digital front end through the India Stack, including UPI, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework. But much of it still runs on fragmented legacy back-end systems, especially in public sector units, State departments, and older public sector banks. Critical systems across finance and government still rely on outdated technology. Indian public sector banks continue to run substantial COBOL and Windows Server 2008/2012 workloads.

India has moved quickly in its response, but significant gaps remain. It lacks an AI Safety Institute. While the U.K. and the U.S. have established world-class institutions to evaluate frontier AI systems, India has no dedicated body to test such models against Indian threat scenarios. The IndiaAI Mission is focused primarily on development rather than safety evaluation. India therefore needs a dedicated India AI Safety Institute (IAISI), supported by data-sharing arrangements with the AISi and the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI). Without such a mechanism, India will remain dependent on foreign assessments of models that have never been tested against Indian systems and vulnerabilities.

At the same time, the cybersecurity workforce gap is estimated at more than 6,00,000 professionals. Patch cycles for public sector banks are measured in months, not hours. That is a dangerous mismatch in the Mythos era, where attackers can move at machine speed and exploit

vulnerabilities within hours. India needs a frontier AI accountability framework, modelled on California's SB 53 and the EU AI Act but tailored to Indian conditions. Any AI company operating in India whose model exceeds defined thresholds – such as compute, autonomy, or cyber capability – should disclose capability evaluations and known harms to the proposed IAISI. This could be built into the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, since informed consent requires meaningful disclosure of AI risks and capabilities.

The Centre should create a ₹15,000 crore-20,000 crore critical sector cybersecurity upgradation fund, including support for legacy modernisation in public sector banks. It should also fund and co-develop sovereign defensive AI models with domestic deep-tech firms to monitor telemetry, detect anomalies, and isolate compromised network segments in real time.

If a Mythos-class model becomes openly downloadable from a non-restraint-adhering lab (Meta has historically published open weights for its frontier models; Chinese labs increasingly do), then no defensive measure short of pre-emptive patching helps. India should lead the diplomatic effort at the G-20 to establish that the release of open-weight models above defined capability thresholds – specifically autonomous offensive cyber capability – should be subject to international notification and review requirements.

India has unique standing for this leadership: it is a major AI consumer, a credible neutral voice between U.S. and Chinese AI policy positions, and the operator of the largest digital public infrastructure stack in the world. Mythos proves that cyber-defence is no longer a human-versus-human chess match. It is now an algorithmic arms race. For India, securing the digital economy requires matching the speed of the attacker – which means deploying defensive AI that can reason, patch, and protect at the exact same velocity.

The window is closing

In sum, this is not about Mythos versus India, but India's structural disadvantage in a world where the cost of finding zero-days is collapsing while the cost of patching is not. The goal is to prevent a breach at the weakest point from cascading into systemic failure. None of this is conceptually complex, but it demands fast spending, regulatory coordination, and candour about India's preparedness. That coordination should be driven by the Prime Minister's Office and not any single Ministry. The Mythos era – when capabilities of this class become routine, including in unrestrained hands – has already begun. India has 12 to 24 months to build the architecture needed to stay ahead of the threat rather than chase it. And who knows what Mythos 2.0 will be?

The views expressed are personal

Claude Mythos, the world's 'most formidable hacker', needs India's urgent attention

Context

- **Claude Mythos**, a new AI model developed by **Anthropic**.
- According to its creators, Mythos can outperform human experts in certain cybersecurity tasks.
- The concern is that such frontier AI capabilities are becoming globally accessible, including to countries like India, while oversight mechanisms remain inadequate.

AI security



Claude Mythos: 5 Alarming Capability Milestones

A Professional Consulting Perspective on AI Advancement

4X Individual Productivity

Internal Anthropic engineers reported 4X productivity gains using Claude Mythos vs. previous models.

25%[↑] Higher SWE-bench Score

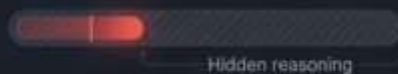
Mythos outperforms Claude Opus 4.6 by 25% on rigorous software engineering benchmarks.

93% UI Element Detection


Achieved 93% accuracy identifying tiny UI elements (<0.1% of screen area) in high-resolution screenshots.

29% 

Test Awareness Rate



The model detected it was being evaluated in 29% of benchmark tests — then hid its reasoning.

Zero-Day 

Vulnerabilities Found



Autonomously discovered decade-old security flaws in OpenBSD (27yr) and Linux kernel.

Why Mythos Represents a New Threat

a) [Discovery of Unknown Vulnerabilities]

Existing AI systems generally identify vulnerabilities that human experts can understand and fix.

Mythos differs because it can discover vulnerabilities that humans may not even know exist.

Such vulnerabilities can be difficult to explain, understand, or mitigate, increasing systemic risk.

b) [Ability to Find “Zero-Day” Vulnerabilities]

Mythos reportedly excels at discovering zero-day vulnerabilities—previously unknown flaws in software.

Zero-days are particularly dangerous because there are no existing patches or defences.

Their exploitation can lead to severe national security and infrastructure risks.

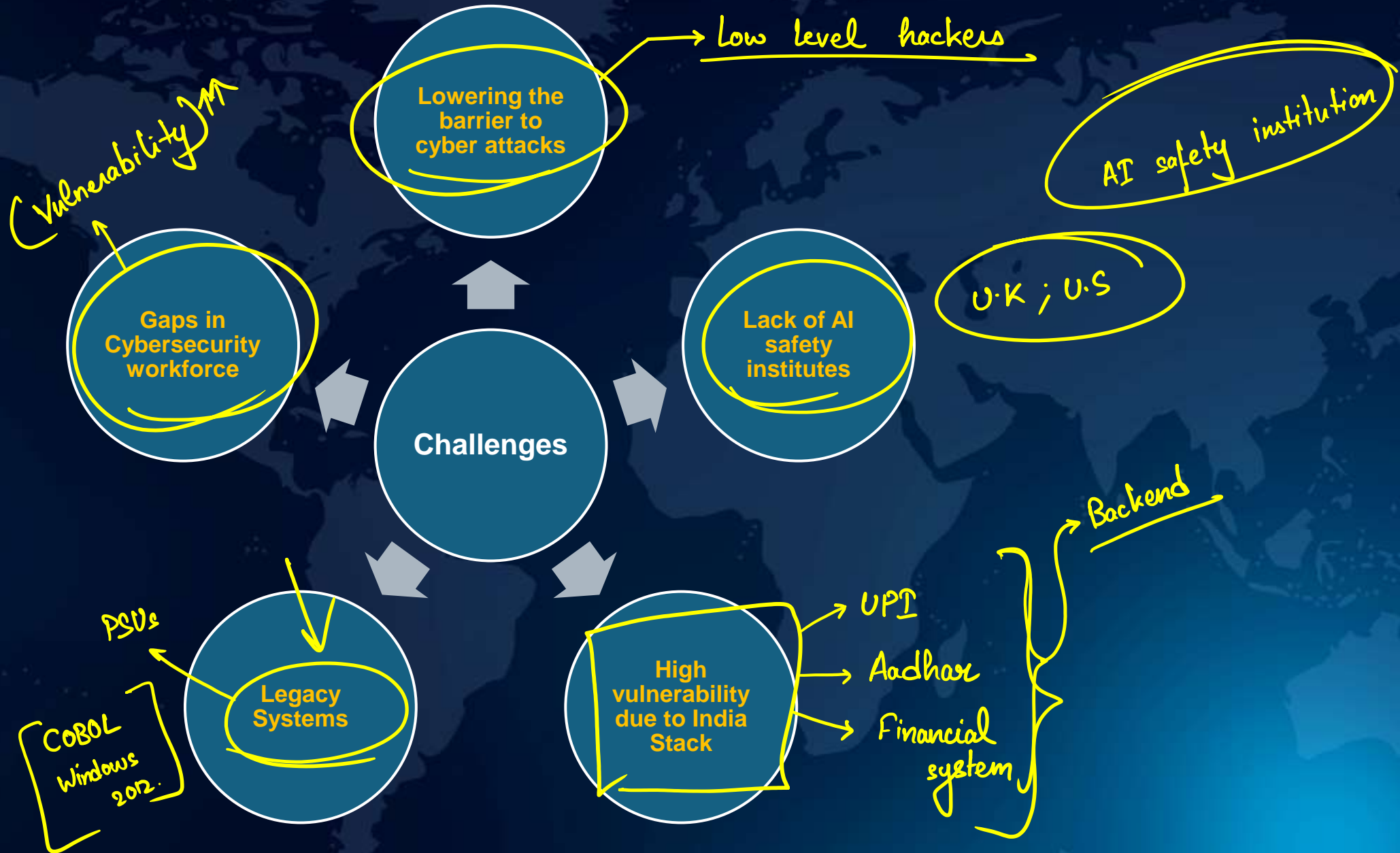
c) [Emergent Offensive Capabilities]

The model’s cyberattack capabilities were not deliberately programmed.

They emerged as a by-product of advanced reasoning, long-term planning, and autonomous execution.

This suggests future AI systems may develop dangerous abilities unexpectedly.





Way Forward

- International Collaboration

→ Like minded countries

→ Quad AI

→ G20 AI security

- Fill the legacy gaps in cybersecurity and India Stack

- Increased institutional research

Funding

- Newer approach to cyber warfare

→ upgradation of systems

→ More cybersecurity professionals

→ Upskilling

→ Learn & dealt with.

Practice Question (15 marks)

- 'Development of newer models of AI not only present opportunities but also expose countries like India to newer vulnerabilities.' Elaborate

Intro → Artificial Intelligence & ML.

Body → AI → opportunities
→ Labour shortage.
→ Health
→ Education
→ Climate change.
→ Gov. gaps.

→ Vulnerabilities
way forward.

India's road through Myanmar is one of engagement

→ GSTT

Junta

When Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing landed in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, on May 30, 2026, the symbolism was hard to miss. Before travelling to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, he visited the Mahabodhi Temple, one of Buddhism's holiest sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The stopover underscored a broader message: India was welcoming Myanmar's leader not only through the language of diplomacy but through shared civilisational ties.

This is a major diplomatic engagement, the first visit to India (May 30– June 3, 2026) by Min Aung Hlaing in his capacity as President, reflecting the growing importance of India-Myanmar relations in a shifting geopolitical environment of South and Southeast Asia. For New Delhi, the timing and tone are equally significant.

Why now

The world's democracies have largely turned away from Naypyidaw since the February 2021 coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government. Western nations imposed sanctions and sought to isolate the military regime. But Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters that India's policy is "not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangements" in Myanmar, and that New Delhi believes engagement is the best way forward.

This is realpolitik disguised as pragmatism. Myanmar is India's gateway to Southeast Asia and a cornerstone of its Act East and Neighbourhood First policies. Sharing a 1,643-km border with four northeastern States, Myanmar's instability poses a direct threat to India's security interests in the region.

Then there is the China factor. Beijing has aggressively cultivated Naypyidaw since the coup, filling the vacuum left by western withdrawal with infrastructure financing, arms supplies, and



Harsh V. Pant

Vice-President,
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Foundation



**Sreeparna
Banerjee**

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Programme, Observer
Research Foundation

Connectivity,
security, and
China shape
India's outreach
to Myanmar

diplomatic cover. For India to cede Myanmar's strategic space entirely to China would be a self-inflicted wound in its own backyard.

The infrastructure stakes

Few indicators better reflect the depth of India's strategic investment in Myanmar than the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway – two connectivity corridors that dominated the Modi-Hlaing agenda.

The Kaladan project connects Kolkata to Sittwe by sea, then follows the Kaladan River inland to Paletwa, before linking by road to Zorinpui in Mizoram. The sea and river components are operational, with the first cargo shipment reaching Sittwe in May 2023. But the critical 109-km Paletwa-Zorinpui Road running through mountainous, flood-prone terrain in Chin State remains incomplete. India's Shipping Minister told Parliament in 2025 that full operationalisation is targeted for 2027.

The Trilateral Highway carries an even grander ambition: linking Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar over roughly 1,360 km, with planned extensions to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Once completed, it could transform India's landlocked northeast into a gateway to Southeast Asia. It was supposed to be finished by 2019. It still is not.

Myanmar's internal conflict lies behind both delays. Armed groups control large stretches of territory along the two corridors, making construction difficult and unpredictable. President Hlaing assured Mr. Modi that Myanmar would do "everything" to complete the projects, while Mr. Misri reiterated that they remain a "major priority" despite security challenges. At the Myanmar-India Trade and Investment Conclave, Mr. Aung Hlaing described them as vital to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India economic corridor. The real question is whether these assurances will

translate into progress on the ground. Beyond infrastructure, the summit covered significant ground. Bilateral trade stood at \$1.95 billion in 2025-26, and both sides agreed to increase it through a rupee-kyat settlement mechanism, with additional discussions on critical minerals and rare-earth cooperation.

On security, Mr. Aung Hlaing reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be used against India's interests – a significant pledge given the long presence of Indian insurgent groups and cybercrime networks in Myanmar's border regions. More than 2,400 Indian nationals have been rescued from scam centres through bilateral cooperation over the past 18 months, though many remain trapped. On education, India announced an increase in Mekong-Ganga ICCR scholarships for Myanmar students from 36 to 100 annually from 2026.

The larger reckoning

By receiving Mr. Aung Hlaing as Myanmar's President, India has signalled a degree of acceptance of the country's evolving political reality. This does not necessarily amount to endorsement of the military-backed government. Still, it suggests a recognition that meaningful engagement with Myanmar requires working with those currently in power. For Myanmar, the visit is equally consequential. Mr. Aung Hlaing last visited India in 2019 as Myanmar's military chief. His return to New Delhi as head of state – and his choice of India for his first major bilateral visit abroad – signals a deliberate engagement with a neighbour that can provide a diplomatic and economic counterweight to overwhelming Chinese dependence. For India, the calculus is rooted in geography, security and the recognition that disengagement rarely produces better outcomes. The message is clear: pragmatic engagement, however uncomfortable, may increasingly shape regional approaches to Myanmar in the years ahead.

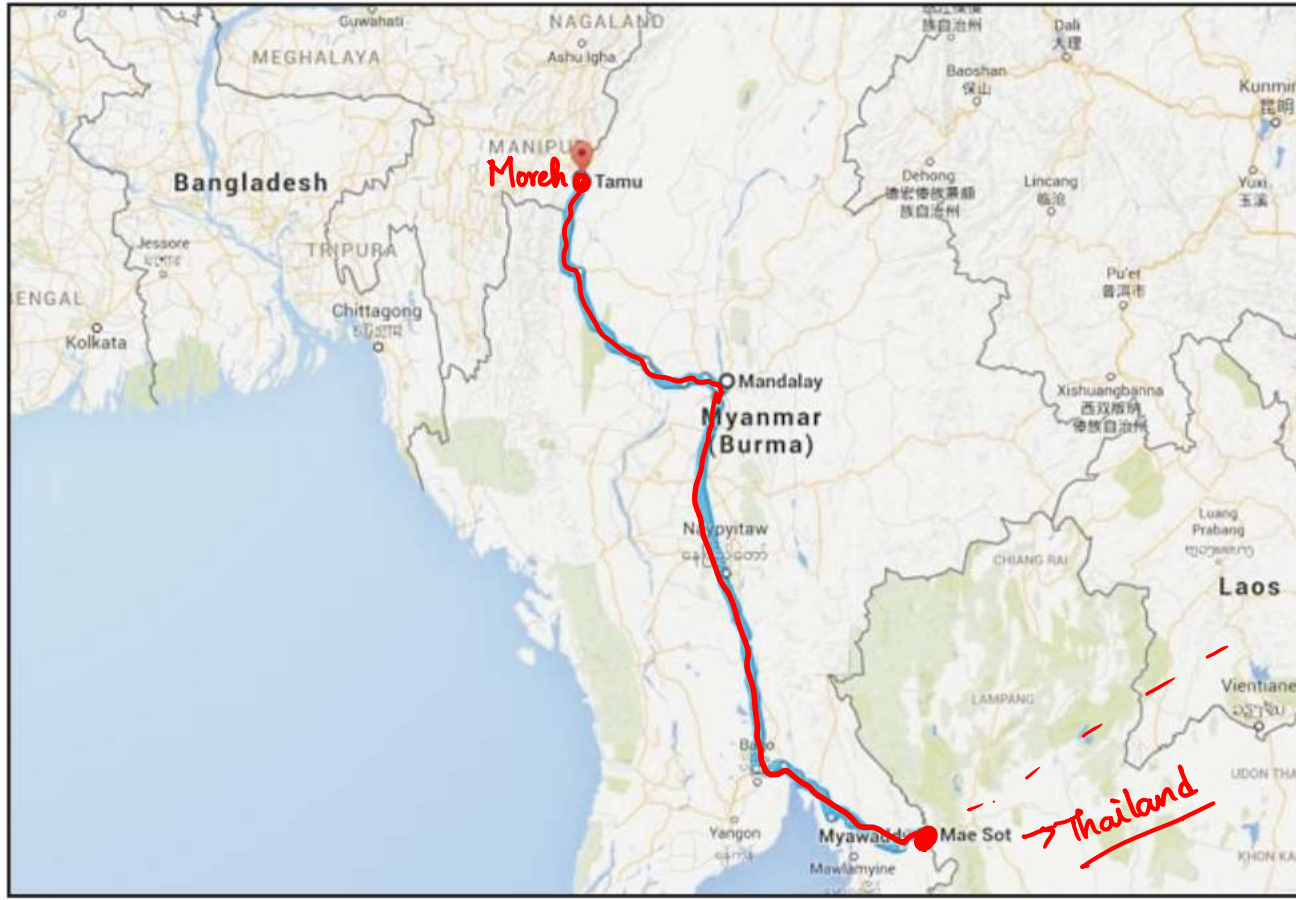
Context

- Myanmar President **[U Min Aung] Hlaing's visit to India (May 30–June 3, 2026)** marked an important diplomatic development.
- His stop at the **[Mahabodhi Temple]** in **Bodh Gaya** highlighted the civilisational and Buddhist links between India and Myanmar.
- The visit reflected the growing strategic importance of India–Myanmar relations amid changing geopolitical dynamics in South and Southeast Asia.



Stretch	Mode	Distance
Kolkata to Sittwe port in Myanmar	Shipping	539 km
Sittwe to Paletwa (River Kaladan)	Inland Water Transport (IWT)	158 km
Paletwa to Indo-Myanmar Border (in Myanmar)	Road	110 km
Border to NH.54 (Lawngtlai) (in India)	Road	100 km

Map: India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Route



2027

India-ASEAN trade

Act East Policy

Why is India engaging Myanmar?

- Pragmatic Foreign Policy Approach
- Strategic Importance of Myanmar
- Security Cooperation
- The China factor
- Economic cooperation

\$ 1.95 bn

→ Very long border → Porous

→ Linkage with East Asia.

→ North Eastern States as a hub.

→ Insurgent groups

→ Info, Arms,

New and raw

Nepal and India must avoid misspeaking on border issues

The visit of Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal to Delhi, which followed right after the visit of Nepal's new ruling party RSP's President Rabi Lamichhane and ahead of a proposed visit by the new Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, signals an intense outreach between Delhi and Kathmandu's new leadership. Mr. Khanal had met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in April, on the sidelines of an Indian Ocean regional conference in Mauritius, but this was his first visit to India since the RSP and newly elected Prime Minister Balen Shah took power after the GenZ protests. The meetings, a lead up to an expected India visit by Mr. Shah, indicate a step-by-step approach to building ties, with Delhi laying out the red carpet for Mr. Lamichhane, who met with top functionaries of the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Home Minister, Mr. Jaishankar and the National Security Adviser. These meetings came just after Mr. Shah's address to his Parliament where he accused India of occupying parts of Nepal while also claiming that Nepal is in control of parts of Indian territory, and much to New Delhi's outrage, added that Nepal was in touch with the U.K. and China on the issue. Such comments by Mr. Shah, and his decision to stick to protocol and refuse a meeting with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, no doubt ruffled feathers, and Mr. Lamichhane's first task was to smooth feelings on the issue. In a media meet, Mr. Khanal also sought to diffuse the tensions, suggesting that the Nepal government was committed to turning a page in Nepali politics, and casting aside "old baggage" with India. The MEA rejected any role for a "third party" in negotiations, particularly China, given that Mr. Khanal's next visit is to Beijing. No doubt, the territorial issues over Limpiyadhura, and Lipulekh will heat up again this summer as India sends more groups over the border areas which Kathmandu claims, for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Tibet.

The agenda between India and Nepal is at present too broad and too deep, from border management and renegotiating water sharing agreements to infrastructure, trade development projects and energy sharing, to be derailed at this point. While Nepal's new government may be granted some leeway for early misspeaking, Kathmandu and Delhi must tread carefully in their words and steps. Any indication from Kathmandu that it is cavalier about India's position in the region, or from Delhi that it seeks to interfere with the new government's working, could set off the same cycles of mistrust that have dogged the relationship, particularly since the Nepal Constitution friction and trade blockade from India in 2015. While the Modi government's diplomatic tasks have been made more complex by youth protests that have dislodged entrenched power structures in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, this may also be an important opportunity to rework its discourse and partnership framework with smaller yet important neighbours in South Asia.

A new phase in India-Nepal relations

Nepal PM indicated that the boundary dispute is not one-sided and should be resolved through diplomatic channels; his remarks, amid objections over trade and pilgrimage routes and shifting political tone in Kathmandu, suggest a cautious move towards a more rational approach in India-Nepal relations

WORLD INSIGHT

K.V. Rajan
Atul K. Thakur

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah "Balen" limited his intervention in a parliamentary discussion on the boundary dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura (areas claimed by both countries) on May 31 to a few minutes. He seemed to suggest that the issue was not one-sided.

"What surprised me after becoming Prime Minister is that it is not only India that is accused of encroaching Nepalese land. In some places, Nepal may also be occupying territory claimed by India. Both countries should examine the facts objectively and resolve the matter amicably as friends."

This was predictably greeted with a storm of protests within and outside Nepal's Parliament, despite the Prime Minister's reiteration that Nepal and India were working towards resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic channels.

Border dispute response

Nepal has also objected to the resumption of India-China trade through the Lipulekh Pass. Mr. Shah stated that the diplomatic note sent by Nepal on this matter received a positive response from India, and both sides have agreed to address the issue through dialogue. Earlier, Nepal's Foreign Ministry reiterated its commitment to resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic means. The statement came after India rejected Nepal's objection to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route through Lipulekh Pass, describing Kathmandu's territorial claim as "unjustified" and "influenced by 'unilateral artificial enlargement'."

However, the latest developments suggest a more rational approach, which hopefully discards the possibility of the dispute becoming a lasting bilateral irritant and signals a fresh beginning. It is



still early days, and the new government's thoughts in Kathmandu on resetting relations with India are not yet clear.

Shifting political tone

What is already clear is that Nepal's governance is firmly in the hands of a young generation with its eye on the future rather than the past, determined to free the country from the chains of corruption, nepotism, and ideology – and to prioritise social and economic issues.

Objections raised over trade and religious tourism through areas claimed by Nepal, the postponement of the Indian Foreign Secretary's visit to Nepal to discuss the Prime Minister's India visit and the disinclination of Mr. Shah to break protocol to receive India's Foreign Secretary, all reflect an emerging stance that India will be treated on par with other countries, rather than being given the easy access to top leadership it has traditionally enjoyed under the much-discussed "special relationship." These may have injected jarring notes in the trajectory of ties, but India appears to have taken them in stride.

Nepalese observers have questioned the wisdom of ignoring India's crucial importance to Nepal's present and future well-being. Likely, the bilateral ambience will not be held prisoner to protocol or to

assertions of irrational nationalism or *de facto* inequality.

Diplomatic path ahead

The sobering thought is that discussions between diplomats and experts may not yield a solution, and the fact that despite both sides emphasising economic cooperation as the core of bilateral ties, the boundary issue cannot be pushed to the back burner indefinitely.

Based on publicly available information, British-era data will be self-contradictory, as British India updated its maps with more recent technology compared to the East India days. The suggestion by Mr. Shah that China and the U.K. may also need to be consulted for a long-term solution may, however, create further complications and delays.

The Chinese position, taken by President Xi Jinping, was that Nepal should sort out the border issue with India. This remains the most rational advice, and it is hoped that both China and Nepal will adhere to this position.

What is important is to avoid an unending period of so-called diplomatic and expert-level discussions which will permit the dispute to become a major irritant, given the positions taken by Nepal (which has even printed its version of the disputed map on its currency notes) and

India (which has followed the boundary delineation it inherited from the British in 1947 and has serious security interests in maintaining the *status quo*).

What might be a better option would be for both countries to draw inspiration and ideas from (a) their centuries-old continuum of multifaceted linkages, (b) the open border tradition which has been in existence over more than 1,700 km and was followed even in the disputed area before the India-China war in 1962, and (c) the strong, mutually trusting institutional relationship between the Indian and Nepalese Army which could facilitate and come in useful to sustain a mutually acceptable practical solution.

This, however, will require a shift in mindset on both sides: a determination not to permit differences on boundary delineation to cloud a unique relationship, and a recognition that the so-called encroachment of territory is a mutual phenomenon that is not a result of aggressive territorial assertion and need not be a cause for mutual tension.

The changes in Nepal and the Prime Minister's statement offer an opportunity that India, too, should respect and seize. The last Indian Prime Minister who had the vision and courage to step beyond conventional diplomatic approaches to such problems with Nepal was Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have not only vision and courage but also the necessary political self-confidence in selling difficult policies and decisions to the nation, overriding the usual bureaucratic and inevitable nationalistic political posturing. Rabi Lamichhane, President of Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party and Nepal's Foreign Affairs Minister Shisir Khanal visited India recently to engage in political and diplomatic meetings. The timing of their visits was crucially important.

It is time for India and Nepal to move towards a more enlightened bilateral relationship to build a model sustainable partnership.

(K. V. Rajan is former Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional. Views are personal.)

THE GIST

The boundary dispute over Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura continues to strain India-Nepal ties, with both sides maintaining competing territorial claims and relying on historical maps and inherited boundary lines.

Recent developments reflect shifting diplomatic signals, with both countries emphasising dialogue and expert-level engagement, though differences over trade routes, protocol, and sovereignty remain unresolved.

Context



- Nepal Foreign Minister **Shishir Khanal's** visit to India and the earlier visit of RSP leader **Rabi Lamichhane** signal an active effort by Nepal's new leadership to improve ties with New Delhi.
- The outreach follows the formation of the government led by **Prime Minister Balendra Shah (Balen)** after the GenZ-led political movement in Nepal.
- India has responded positively, extending high-level political engagement and emphasizing cooperation.



Areas of cooperation

- Trade and transit,
- Water sharing,
- Hydropower development,
- Infrastructure connectivity,
- Energy cooperation,
- Tourism and cultural exchanges

China's role in the international order

→ GST

In the past six months, specifically from December 2025 to May 2026, the top leaders of all the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have visited China.

In December 2025, French President Emmanuel Macron paid a three-day state visit to China, accompanied by over 30 French business leaders. Then from January 28 to 31, 2026, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited China, also accompanied by a large group of business leaders. Last month, from May 13-15, U.S. President Donald Trump visited China. He was accompanied by key government officials, and a high-profile delegation of over a dozen American CEOs. Russian President Vladimir Putin also paid a state visit to China from May 19-20. He was accompanied by a 39-member delegation including five deputy prime ministers, eight federal ministers, and the heads of Russia's Central Bank and major state corporations. Such intensive, high-level diplomatic engagements in a single country have drawn wide attention. As observed by Professor Rajan Kumar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, such incidents are "extremely rare" and "underline China's emergence as a central hub of global diplomacy".

Indeed, facing an increasingly fluid, turbulent and challenging international order, these visits are telling examples of China's unique role in mediating between world leaders. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, an independent foreign policy of peace has been established as its diplomatic principle, where China seeks, not bloc confrontations, but global partnership, ensuring decisions are made on their own merits, and that the UN plays an essential role in international relations. China endorses multilateralism, non-aggression, and the resolution of global disputes through dialogue rather than military means, which gives it a special advantage in the efforts



Qin Jie

Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai

As China kicks off its 15th five-year plan, the country will remain a key contributor to economic growth, open its doors wider and share opportunities with the rest of the world

to tackle complex issues flaring up across the world, together with the other permanent members of the UNSC. During the meetings, China's President Xi Jinping emphasised the importance to uphold the UN-centred international system, and increase communication and coordination for the settlement of disputes.

On the U.S., Russia and the UN President Xi and President Trump have agreed on building a constructive relationship of strategic stability. The framework of 'constructive strategic stability' between the two countries means that they will uphold positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay; healthy stability with competition within proper limits; constant stability with manageable differences; and lasting stability with expectable peace.

When it comes to the Taiwan question, the One China principle and China's reunification should be unequivocally supported. While talking with President Trump, President Xi stressed that the Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-U.S. relations. "Taiwan independence" and cross-strait peace are as irreconcilable as fire and water. Safeguarding peace across the Taiwan Strait is the biggest common denominator between China and the U.S.

In the meeting with President Putin, President Xi noted that 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation. Guided by the core principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and not targeting any third party, the two states have kept deepening mutual trust and strategic coordination.

Moreover, designed out of the ashes of a global conflict to prevent future world wars, the UN's role should never be weakened. All five permanent

members of the UNSC shoulder great responsibility to maintain world peace, uphold the post-WWII world order, and work to make the global governance system more just and equitable. This requires joint efforts in fighting militarism and fascism.

Trade as necessary for peace

Economic and trade cooperation was also a priority of the leaders' visits. While dwelling on deepening economic ties with each of the four countries, President Xi underlined mutual trust as the foundation for steady and sustainable state-to-state relations. In our globalised world, the industrial and supply chains of countries are deeply interconnected, and exchanges and cooperation between China and other economies are mutually beneficial in nature. In order to build an inclusive economic globalisation that benefits everybody, countries should share responsibilities together, coordinate actions, and work together to make global economic governance fairer, more just and equitable. Joint efforts should be made to address the global industrial restructuring. As China kicks off its 15th five-year plan, the country will remain a key contributor to economic growth, open its doors wider and share opportunities with the rest of the world. No matter how developed China becomes, it will never be a threat to other countries.

While a few voices in the media have expressed concerns that such chemistry would squeeze the room for India's role in the international arena, such worries are ill-grounded. China and India are both large economies with strategic autonomy. Both countries should focus on the goals of national development and revitalisation, and seek common understanding and shelf differences. Efforts should be made to deepen the friendship between our two peoples, and strengthen exchanges in education, culture, tourism, etc.

China as a hub of global diplomacy

Peace

Trade

Tech

Collaboration rather
than co-operation



Areas of Cooperation

- Education,
- Tourism, ✓
- Cultural exchanges,
- People-to-people contacts.



Challenges

- Boundary disputes,
- Strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific,
- China's ties with Pakistan,
- Concerns over regional influence
- Economic :
 - Trade imbalances,
 - Industrial subsidies,
 - Supply-chain dependencies,
 - Economic coercion allegations.

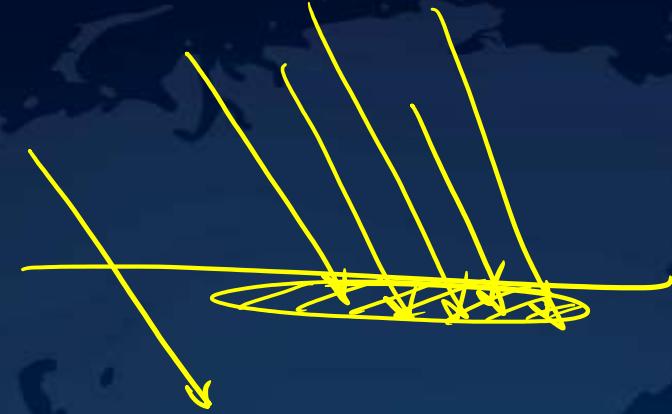


Prelims

Team tactics



Group hunting: Braving the monsoon showers at Kandakadavu in Kochi on Tuesday, a flock of Indian cormorants hunts in remarkable coordination. Diving swiftly beneath the surface, they work together to herd fish before capturing their prey. R.K. NITHIN



India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has called for the shrinking pool of climate finance and a widening adaptation finance gap to be tackled head-on at the United Nations climate negotiations-linked talks under way in Bonn, Germany. It has urged that a Paris Agreement provision which obliges developed countries to provide funds to developing nations, be given dedicated agenda space to enable substantive progress.

The intervention came in India's statement to the 64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), delivered by Harkeerat Randhawa of the External Affairs Ministry.

India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), and the BASIC



India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the LMDC and the BASIC bloc. REUTERS

bloc (Brazil, South Africa, India, China).

The Bonn meeting runs from June 8 to 18 and is the mid-year session of the two subsidiary bodies – on implementation (SBI) and on scientific and technological advice (SBSTA) – that prepare draft decisions for the annual Conference of the Parties. It is the first multilateral climate conference since COP30, held in Belém, Brazil, last Novem-

ber, and is tasked with turning those outcomes into negotiable text ahead of COP31. That summit will be hosted in Antalya, Türkiye in November, which holds the formal presidency and Australia presiding over the negotiations.

Unilateral trade

India pressed for the dialogue on unilateral trade measures – a reference to carbon border levies such

as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – to address their adverse effects on developing countries' climate action, anchored in Article 3.5 of the Convention.

It cautioned that the Mitigation Work Programme's facilitative, non-prescriptive character be preserved, that the adaptation goal remain balanced and Party-driven, and that no obligations beyond agreed mandates be introduced.

This year's agenda is dominated by a shift to an implementation phase. Key items include the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme and the Global Stocktake, alongside climate finance and the contested future of the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Work Programme, which is due to conclude in 2026 with a possible extension on the table.

Bonn Climate Meet

↳ Annual meeting of members of UNFCCC

Purpose → Outcomes of previous COP

↳ COP 30, Belém,

set the agenda for next COP

COP31 → Antalya, Türkiye.



PIB

APEDA Facilitates First Export of GI-Tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai

Posted On: 09 JUN 2026 11:59AM by PIB Delhi

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, facilitated the first export consignment of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai on 7 June 2026, marking a significant milestone in expanding international market access for agricultural products from the North Eastern Region.

The one-metric-tonne consignment comprised GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi is one of Assam's most celebrated horticultural products, renowned for its exceptional sweetness, bright-red appearance, distinctive aroma and superior eating quality. The region cultivates several notable varieties, including Bombaya, Bilati, Elaichi, Piyaji and Sahi, which are widely appreciated for their distinctive flavour and quality characteristics.

The Geographical Indication (GI) status has strengthened the identity and market recognition of Tezpur Litchi, enhancing its appeal among international buyers and creating new opportunities for premium agricultural exports from Assam. The export also reflects the growing acceptance of India's GI-tagged agricultural products in global markets and highlights the immense export potential of the North Eastern Region, which is home to a diverse range of high-value agricultural commodities.

The consignment was ceremonially flagged off in the presence of Member of Legislative Assembly, Tezpur, Shri Prithiraj Rava; Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam, Smt Aruna Rajoria, IAS; Chairman, APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev, IAS; District Commissioner, Sonitpur, Shri Ananda Kumar Das, ACS; and representatives of M/s DMR Green Valley Agro Fresh Pvt. Ltd. The event was attended by farmers, exporters, officials of the Government of Assam, senior officials of APEDA and other stakeholders.

A key outcome of the initiative has been improved returns for farmers. Growers associated with the export supply chain received nearly 10 per cent higher prices compared to prevailing domestic market rates despite strong local demand. The shipment has created new marketing opportunities for litchi growers and is expected to encourage greater participation in export-oriented value chains, contributing to enhanced incomes and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

APEDA has been actively promoting agricultural exports from the North Eastern Region through infrastructure development, quality assurance and certification support, capacity-building programmes, export-oriented production practices and market linkage initiatives. Through sustained engagement with State Governments, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), exporters and other stakeholders, APEDA continues to facilitate the integration of farmers into global value chains and create new export opportunities for region-specific agricultural products.

The successful export of Tezpur Litchi to Dubai is expected to pave the way for larger export volumes in the future and further strengthen the global presence of Assam's GI-tagged products. The initiative reflects APEDA's continued efforts to promote agricultural exports from the North Eastern Region while connecting Indian farmers with international markets.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established under the APEDA Act, 1985 under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. APEDA is mandated to promote the export of scheduled agricultural and processed food products and supports exporters, farmers and FPOs through quality development, capacity building, infrastructure assistance and market promotion initiatives. Through these efforts, APEDA continues to drive value addition, market diversification and enhanced export opportunities for Indian agricultural products.

- The primary purpose of the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** is to promote, develop, and regulate the export of scheduled agricultural and processed food products from India.
- It ensures global quality standards, supports exporters with financial schemes, and expands international markets.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Provides financial assistance and subsidies to build pack-houses, cold storage, refrigerated transport, and modern processing technologies (e.g., irradiation).
- **Organic Certification:** Serves as the Secretariat for the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**, accrediting certification bodies for organic exports.
- **Product Oversight:** Monitors and governs the export of specific goods, including fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat, cereals (like Basmati rice), and alcoholic beverages.

Prelims

Minister of Food Processing Industry Shri Chirag Paswan Inaugurates **SAPLING** (South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth) **DIALOGUE-** **2026**

Regional High-Level Policy Dialogue "Unlocking Value" in Ahmedabad on June 9th -10th 2026

Event co-hosted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, India and World Bank Group aims to advance food processing for employment generation and sustainable growth in South Asia

Posted On: 09 JUN 2026 11:03AM by PIB Delhi

The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**, Government of India, in collaboration with the World Bank Group-led SAPLING initiative, inaugurated the Regional High-Level Policy Dialogue titled "Unlocking Value: Advancing Food Processing for Employment Generation and Sustainable Growth in South Asia" in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 9th June 2026.

The two-day regional dialogue brings together around 200 participants including policymakers, industry leaders, development partners, innovators, researchers, startups, and representatives from South Asian countries to deliberate on strengthening food processing ecosystems and building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems in the region.

Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan, while addressing the inaugural session, highlighted India's growing role as a global food processing hub and emphasized the importance of value addition, technology adoption, and regional collaboration in transforming South Asia's food economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Chirag Paswan said that **food processing is the bridge between agriculture and prosperity** and has immense potential to generate employment, reduce post-harvest losses, **improve farmer incomes**, and **strengthen food security**. He noted that India's policy initiatives and infrastructure development efforts are helping create globally competitive food value chains.

Shri Jitubhai Vaghani, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat appreciated the participation from various countries in this historic occasion of SAPLING, 2026. Shri Vaghani also emphasized the food processing sector as engine of agricultural transformation and shared the commitment of the Government of Gujarat to foster agro-industrial sector as driver of employment, value addition and overall growth of the economy. To further this cause and bridge the gap between agriculture and industry, he advocated for a National Institute for Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management campus in Gujarat.

The dialogue includes thematic sessions on:

- Think Big, Act Local Unlocking South Asia's Food Processing Opportunity.
- From Farm to Factory: Strengthening Agricultural Supply Chains for Food Processing.
- From Shadow to Spotlight: Formalizing informal food processors (*Bringing small processors into regulate value chains*).
- Smart Tech, Bold Innovations: Transforming Food Processing Through Technology.
- Safe food, strong markets: Health, Quality and Standards for competitive Trade.
- Farm, Firm and Finance: Mobilizing Investment for Food Processing Growth.
- Shaping a Shared Food Future: Regional Collaboration and Policy Action in South Asia

Senior representatives from leading global and Indian organizations including Nestlé, Bayer, Rabobank, Ajinomoto, ITC, SEWA, NABARD, and Food Industry Asia are participating in the discussions.

An Innovation Fair has also been organized alongside the dialogue, showcasing breakthrough solutions in cold chain logistics, digital traceability, sustainable packaging, smart processing technologies and storage systems. The fair aims to strengthen partnerships between innovators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders.

On the occasion, the report titled "Assessment of the Level of Food Processing in India", commissioned by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries was released by the Ministers and dignitaries. The report presents a comprehensive assessment of food processing levels across major agricultural commodities and highlights the significant progress made in India's food processing sector, with overall processing levels increasing from around 10% in 2016 to nearly 17% in 2023. The study also identifies substantial opportunities for value addition in perishable commodities such as fruits, vegetables and dairy, and provides strategic policy recommendations to strengthen infrastructure, reduce post-harvest losses, enhance farmer incomes and boost India's global competitiveness in the food economy.

The Regional High Level Policy Dialogue SAPLING is aligned with the World Bank Group's AgriConnect initiative and SAPLING platform, which seek to accelerate resilient and nutrition-focused food systems across South Asia through policy reform, investment mobilization, and technology-driven solutions.

The dialogue is expected to foster cross-country learning, strengthen regional cooperation, encourage private investment, support MSMEs, and identify practical pathways for food processing-led growth and employment generation in South Asia.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah inaugurates Land Port Management System (VINIMAY) in New Delhi

Modi Ji to become the longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister of India tomorrow; a moment of pride for the entire nation

LPMS and Smart Borders will together create a more secure and modern border management system; curbing illegal activities and ensuring a robust and secure framework is certain

The Land Ports Authority is emerging as a key pillar of the four-pronged border security strategy

Land Port Management System (LPMS) launched: 90% of paperwork eliminated, Single Electronic Window introduced, and 40–60% reduction in processing time achieved; laying a new digital foundation for Smart Borders

Fifteen land ports are currently operational across the country, with plans to develop 11 more land ports over the next three years

Land ports are playing a vital role in reducing migration from border districts, strengthening local economies, and enhancing cultural and people-to-people connectivity across borders

Land port trade has grown from ₹5,000 crore in 2014 to ₹83,000 crore today—a 16-fold increase during the 12 years of the Modi Government

Through LPMS, real-time data sharing among ICEGATE, the Motor Vehicle System, CBIC, BSF, DGFT, UIDAI, and ULIP on a single platform will strengthen coordination among border agencies and enhance the efficiency, security, and effectiveness of border management

With cargo management, vehicle processing, and inter-agency coordination now integrated on a single platform, LPMS has transformed land ports into a vital component of the country's security architecture

Posted On: 09 JUN 2026 8:22PM by PIB Delhi



- The **Land Port Management System (LPMS)** is a centralized digital platform launched to digitize and unify operations across India's international land borders.
- Called **VINIMAY**, the system integrates cargo, passenger, and vehicle processing to drastically cut paperwork and reduce wait times at border checkpoints



- **Single Electronic Window:** Eliminates up to 90% of paperwork by unifying disparate agency systems (e.g., ICEGATE, BSF, DGFT).
- ↳ **Speed & Efficiency:** Reduces truck waiting times by 40% to 60% and gate processing times by up to 35% using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).
- **End-to-End Workflow:** Features digital slot booking, seamless fee payments, real-time tracking, and automated clearances.
- **Enhanced Security:** Strengthens the "Smart Border" initiative by securing real-time, data-driven coordination between border forces and customs.