

May 18th news:

International:

UN: Over 1,000 children injured in Gaza since March 30

Over 1,000 children have been injured by Israeli forces in the besieged Gaza Strip during demonstrations since March 30, according to UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) on 17th May. The UN body pointed out that some injuries had been severe and potentially life-altering, including amputations.

Recent violence has exacerbated the already weak health system in the Gaza Strip, which is crumbling because of the severe power cuts and shortages of fuel, medicine and equipment

On 17th May, UNICEF and its partners delivered two truck-loads of urgent medical supplies to the Gaza Strip for an estimated 70,000 people. The drugs and medical equipment include antibiotics, saline solutions and syringes for the treatment of injuries

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, more than 100 Palestinian demonstrators have been martyred by the Israeli army gunfire since the Gaza rallies began on March 30; at least seven minors and an 8-month-old baby are among those killed.

National:

Delhi will be world's biggest city by 2028: UN

Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028, according to new United Nations estimates released on 17th May, which said India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050.

The 2018 Revision of World Urbanisation Prospects produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and said that 68 per cent of the world population is projected to live in urban areas by 2050.

Currently, 55 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas.

The report notes that future increases in the size of the world's urban population are expected to be highly concentrated in just a few countries.

Together, India, China and Nigeria will account for 35 per cent of the projected growth of the world's urban population between 2018 and 2050. By 2050, it is projected that India will have added 416 million urban dwellers, China 255 million and Nigeria 189 million.

Tokyo is the world's largest city with an agglomeration of 37 million inhabitants, followed by New Delhi with 29 million, Shanghai with 26 million, and Mexico City and S o Paulo, each with around 22 million inhabitants. Cairo, Mumbai, Beijing and Dhaka all have close to 20 million inhabitants.

By 2030, the world is projected to have 43 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants, most of them in developing regions. However, some of the fastest-growing urban agglomerations are cities with fewer than a million inhabitants, many of them located in Asia and Africa.

Projections show that urbanisation, the gradual shift in residence of the human population from rural to urban areas, combined with the overall growth of the world's population could add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050, with close to 90 per cent of this increase taking place in Asia and Africa, according to the new United Nations data set launched

The urban population of the world has grown rapidly from 751 million in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018. Asia, despite its relatively lower level of urbanization, is home to 54 per cent of the world's urban population, followed by Europe and Africa with 13 per cent each.

At present, the most urbanized regions include Northern America (with 82 per cent of its population living in urban areas in 2018), Latin America and the Caribbean (81 per cent), Europe (74 per cent) and Oceania (68 per cent). The level of urbanization in Asia is now approximating 50 per cent. In contrast, Africa remains mostly rural, with 43 per cent of its population living in urban areas.

Some cities have experienced population decline in recent years. Most of these are located in the low-fertility countries of Asia and Europe where overall population sizes are stagnant or declining.

Globally, fewer cities are projected to see their populations decline from present to until 2030, compared to what has occurred during the last two decades.

The rural population of the world has grown slowly since 1950 and is expected to reach its peak in a few years. The global rural population is now close to 3.4 billion and is expected to rise slightly and then decline to 3.1 billion by 2050. Africa and Asia are home to nearly 90 per cent of the world's rural population in 2018. India has the largest rural population (893 million), followed by China (578 million).

The report added that understanding the key trends in urbanization likely to unfold over the coming years is crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including efforts to forge a new framework of urban development.

As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development depends increasingly on the successful management of urban growth, especially in low-income and lower-middle-income countries where the pace of urbanization is projected to be the fastest.

Economy:

YES Bank Launches Agenda 25x25

YES Bank and YES Global Institute have launched Agenda 25x25, which pledges to create a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India. The effort would ensure that by 2025 at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

The bank made the announcement at the YES Bank – YES Global Institute Annual Startup Conclave hosted in partnership with NITI Aayog, Invest India, Startup India and Atal Innovation Mission. The study outlines Agenda 25x25 and the need to build a 10 Step Developmental Model focused on empowering women innovators.

Persons in news:

Yeddyurappa: The Supreme Court refused to stay BJP leader B S Yeddyurappa's swearing-in as Karnataka Chief Minister, paving the way for the formation of his government. He took the oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Uttam Pacharne: Eminent artist and sculptor Uttam Pacharne has been appointed as Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. The Ministry said, Mr Pacharne is the recipient of National Lalit Kala Award 1985 and is a widely respected person in the field of art and has held various important positions.