



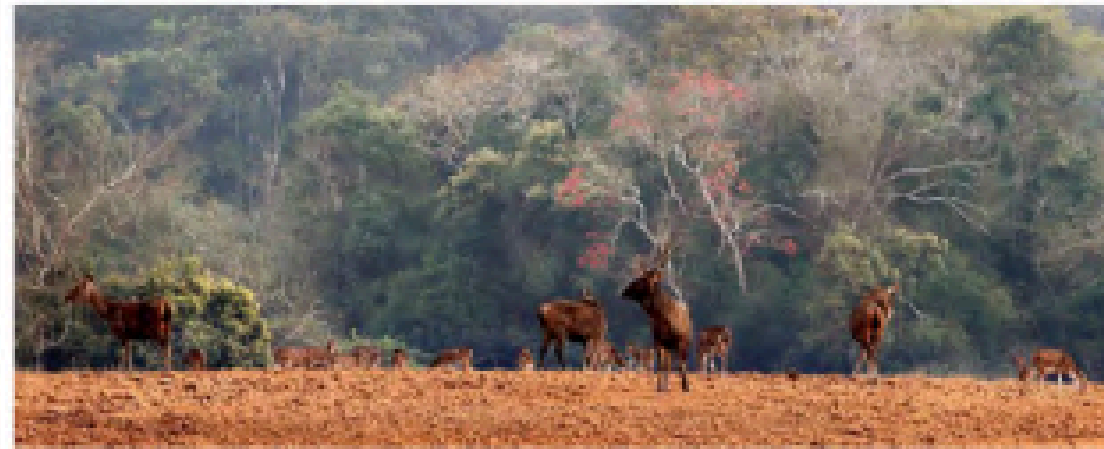
## GS Paper 3-Environment

# Citizens' outfit approaches NGT against move to 'allot' 100 acres for hotel near Similipal

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BHUBANESWAR

A citizens' forum in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha has mounted a stiff resistance against the State government's alleged move to allot 100 acres of land near Similipal Biosphere Reserve to a private hotel.

Bhanja Sena, a socio-cultural organisation, has approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT), opposing the government's alleged initiative to land to a private hotel project at Lax-



Leasing the ecologically sensitive land for a private hotel could have disastrous consequences for the environment, according to the citizens' forum. FILE PHOTO

"The elevated mound, nearly 50 feet high, suggests the presence of minor minerals. Leasing this ecologically sensitive land for a

It states that the site is densely forested with Sal and other trees, and is frequented by wild animals due to its proximity to the





## KEY POINTS

- A citizens' forum in Mayurbhanj, Odisha, opposes a private hotel project near Similipal Biosphere Reserve, citing ecological and tribal concerns.
- Similipal, a UNESCO-listed National Park and Tiger Reserve, is the source of major rivers like Budhabalanga and Salandi.







THE HINDU



## GS Paper 2-Governance

### SC upholds homebuyers' right to protest peacefully against their builders

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has upheld the right of homebuyers to peacefully protest against builders, saying portraying their right to free speech as a criminal offence is a clear abuse of the law.

"A right to protest peacefully without falling foul of the law is a corresponding right, which the consumers ought to possess just as the seller enjoys his right to commercial speech. Any attempt to



der, A. Surti Developers. They erected a banner visible to the public at large, setting out in English and Hindi their grievances against the builder.

The builder company

"Homebuyers and developers have not always been the best of friends. Instances are innumerable where the two have been at daggers drawn. This case presents one such instance," said Justice Viswanathan, who authored the April 17 judgment for the Bench also comprising Justice N. Kotiswar Singh.

The court concluded that the manner of protest resorted to by the homebuyers was peaceful and orderly and without using, in any manner, offensive or abusive language. "It could



## KEY POINTS

- Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees six fundamental freedoms: speech and expression, peaceful assembly, forming associations, free movement, residence, and practicing any profession. While these freedoms are essential for democracy, they are not absolute and may be subject to reasonable restrictions to maintain public order, security, and morality.







THE HINDU



# GS Paper 3-Environment

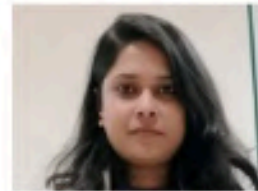
## *Steering the decarbonisation of India's logistics sector*

**V**iksit Bharat is not just a vision. It is a commitment to having a stronger, self-reliant India by 2047. At its core lies inclusive development, ensuring that growth reaches every citizen, every business, and every region. But can we truly achieve this goal without a logistics sector that is large, efficient and future-ready? From seamless supply chains to last-mile connectivity, an efficient, scalable logistics network is the strength of equitable and sustained progress.

In this growth journey, while infrastructure, efficiency and accessibility are crucial for an inclusive logistics sector, there is one factor that cannot be overlooked – the environment and its prioritisation are absolutely necessary to build a future-ready, resilient logistics network. India's logistics sector, now one of the most carbon-intensive in the world, must undergo a green transformation. As the nation moves towards a net zero carbon emission by 2070, it is imperative to reduce emissions of transportation, warehousing, and supply chain emissions.

### **Carbon cost of mobility**

This sector bears the brunt of intense carbon emissions, mainly from oil combustion. It contributes about 13.5% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport alone making up over 88% (International Energy Agency (IEA, 2020). Nearly 90% of passenger



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fuels economic momentum but also maintains its scalability and sustainability goals.

However, this issue is not just restricted to road freight movement. The warehousing sector, which supports freight movement, is another major emitter. Together, these factors create a pressing issue. How we strike the right balance between growth and sustainability is the question. The time to act is now.

### **Futuristic approaches**

Global examples provide a strong foundation for this transition, with countries such as China and the United States successfully shifting freight transport from road to rail. Rail freight significantly reduces emissions compared to road transport. China has invested heavily in expanding its rail network, and the share of the railways is almost 50%. The United States has also embraced this shift, making rail one of the early decarbonised freight options. India should enhance the share of the railways in freight transport to reduce emissions and improve efficiency – rail has been an early adopter of electrification and is a more sustainable, almost zero-carbon emission mode of transport.

Road freight transport cannot be overlooked, and needs a focused structural change to make it cleaner. India has already taken a bold step in this direction with a recent initiative by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways – the

industry to adopt cleaner fuels such as ammonia, hydrogen, LNG, biofuels, methanol, and electricity. India can fast-track its green transition by introducing LNG-powered vessels, solar-assisted electric boats, and even electric or biofuel-run barges. These emission-cutting steps can keep freight movement efficient and sustainable.

Air transport remains one of the hardest sectors to decarbonise due to its heavy reliance on refined fuels, making the transition a costly challenge. However, advancements in sustainable aviation fuels and efficiency improvements in other transport modes could help offset emissions.

Warehousing, often outweaving in the carbon equation, is another significant contributor to emissions due to high energy consumption. Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal power can drastically cut the carbon footprint of warehouses.

### **Moving ahead**

Decarbonising India's logistics sector is not just about cutting emissions. It is about building a more competitive, resilient and future-ready industry. India's logistics sector is on the brink of a transformation, and decarbonisation is the key to ensuring sustainable growth. By scaling up rail freight, electrifying road transport, adopting





## KEY POINTS

- India's logistics sector is vital for a self-reliant economy but is highly carbon-intensive. To reach net-zero emissions by 2070, the sector must embrace green transformation through rail freight, electrified road transport, cleaner maritime fuels, and renewable energy for warehouses.
- This will enhance sustainability, competitiveness, and efficiency, positioning India as a leader in global sustainability.





## GS Paper 3-S&T

### Plans on to ease nuclear liability laws to attract foreign firms, say sources

"A draft law prepared by the Department of Atomic Energy removes a key clause in the Civil Nuclear Liability Damage Act of 2010 that exposes suppliers to unlimited liability for accidents," the sources said

Updated - April 18, 2025 11:52 am IST - NEW DELHI

REUTERS



PRINT





## KEY POINTS

- India plans to amend the CLNDA to limit suppliers' liability for nuclear accidents, aiming to attract U.S. firms like GE and Westinghouse. The changes support India's goal of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 and aim to boost U.S.-India trade to \$500 billion by 2030.





GS 2-IR

## PM heads to Saudi next week: Trade, energy and defence ties on the table

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

**PRIME MINISTER** Narendra Modi is headed to Saudi Arabia next week — his first visit to the country in his third term. Since first assuming office in 2014, Modi has travelled there twice before — in 2016 and 2019.

Sources said that trade and investments, energy cooperation and defence ties will be on the agenda.

EXPLAINED

E

● Key issues

**AMID A** China-US trade war, this will be a chance for India and Saudi Arabia to exchange notes. Saudi has played an important role in mediation of US-Russia-Ukraine talks, and



## KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Saudi Arabia on April 22–23, 2025, to discuss trade, investments, energy cooperation, IMEEC, and defense ties.
- Saudi Arabia is India's third-largest crude oil source, and both nations seek to boost trade and investment.





## GS 1-Culture

### Bhagavad Gita, Natyashastra manuscripts enter UNESCO register; proud moment: PM

**DIVYAA**

NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

MANUSCRIPTS OF the Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra are among 74 new documentary heritage collections added to the UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, taking the total number of inscriptions from India in the list to 14.

On April 17, UNESCO added 74 new documentary heritage collections to its Memory of the World Register.

Of them, 14 pertain to scientific documentary heritage, in addition to collections related to the memory of slavery and archives concerning prominent historical women.

There are now a total of 570 inscribed collections.

considered a timeless philosophical and spiritual guide, and has been translated into around 80 languages, Natyashastra is a treatise on dramaturgy, performance, aesthetics and classical arts, and remains one of the most comprehensive documents on theatre and performing traditions.

Collections are added to the register by a decision of the UNESCO's Executive Board, following the evaluation of nominations by an independent international advisory committee.

Describing the inclusion as "a proud moment for every Indian across the world", Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X, "The inclusion of the Gita and Natyashastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register is a global recognition of our time-

was a "historic moment for Bharat's civilisational heritage". "...we now have 14 inscriptions from our country on this international register," Shekhawat said on X.

Following the announcement by UNESCO for the 74 new entries, its Director General Audrey Azoulay said, "Documentary heritage is an essential yet fragile element of the memory of the world. This is why UNESCO invests in safeguarding, such as the libraries of Chinguetti in Mauritania or the archives of Amadou Hampate Ba in Cote d'Ivoire shares best practices, and maintains this register that records the broadest threads of human history."

Established in 1992, the Memory of the World Programme aims to promote the preser-



## KEY POINTS

- UNESCO has added the Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra to its Memory of the World Register, bringing India's total entries to 14. The move highlights India's rich cultural heritage, with leaders calling it a proud and historic moment.

