

MAINS MATRIX

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A start for North-South carbon market cooperation

Context and Background

- **Date of event:** September 17, 2025
- **Actors involved:** European Union (EU) and India
- **Occasion:** Launch of a new comprehensive strategic agenda — *The New Strategic EU-India Agenda*
- **Focus areas (five pillars):**
 1. Prosperity and sustainability
 2. Technology and innovation
 3. Security and defence
 4. Connectivity and global issues
 5. Clean transition

Core Development

- **Key Decision:** EU will link India's **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)** with the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**.

- **Mechanism:** Carbon prices paid in India will be deducted from CBAM levies at the EU border.

Significance

- Could **prevent double taxation** of Indian exports (penalty under CBAM + domestic carbon cost).
- Promotes **fair carbon pricing** and **industrial decarbonisation**.
- Represents a **North-South cooperation** milestone on climate governance.

Challenges / Barriers

1. Underdeveloped Indian Carbon Market

- India's **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** = evolving, fragmented system.
- No absolute caps on emissions — mostly intensity-based or project-level offsets.
- Lacks robust **auction structures, price-setting processes, and independent verification** like the EU's ETS.

2. Regulatory and Institutional Hurdles

- No current institutional mechanism to link with the EU's independent regulators.
- EU requires clear, strict standards to validate India's carbon prices.
- Difficult to mirror EU's ETS structure quickly.

3. Pricing Gap

- EU's ETS carbon prices: €60–€80/tonne
- India's initial carbon prices: much lower (€5–€10/tonne)
- Risk: EU might reject India's price as "insufficient" → trade disputes.

4. Political and Sovereignty Concerns

- Carbon pricing is a **domestic policy tool**; linking gives EU some say in India's policy adequacy.
- Domestic backlash or compliance rollbacks could destabilize India's export competitiveness.

Risks and Strategic Implications

- EU might **refuse full CBAM deductions** if India's carbon price deemed inadequate.
- Disputes could escalate into **trade and diplomatic tensions**.
- Linking is not just technical — tied to **WTO legalities, domestic politics**, and **EU-India trust**.

Optimistic Outlook

- Despite hurdles, linkage could be one of the **most significant North-South climate cooperation efforts**.
- Potential outcomes:
 - Shields Indian exports from CBAM levies.
 - Encourages **industrial decarbonisation**.
 - Establishes a **model for global carbon market integration**.
- But success depends on:
 - Strengthening ICM's design and transparency.
 - Addressing **policy contradictions** and **trust deficits**.
 - Ensuring **joint operational mechanisms** and **standardisation**.

Key Concepts Mentioned

Concept	Description
ICM (Indian Carbon Market)	India's emerging carbon credit trading framework.
CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism)	EU's mechanism to impose carbon cost on imports to prevent carbon leakage.

Concept	Description
EU ETS (Emissions Trading System)	EU's carbon pricing and trading scheme, model for global markets.

How to use it

Overarching Theme for UPSC

The proposed linkage between the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) represents a pivotal moment in **global climate governance**. It is a high-stakes experiment in **North-South cooperation** that could either shield Indian industry and drive decarbonization or lead to trade disputes, highlighting the tension between **climate action, economic sovereignty, and fair trade**.

Primary Relevance: GS Paper III (Economy, Environment, Security)

1. Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment:

- **How to use:** This is a direct application of market-based mechanisms to fight climate change.
- **Key Points:**
 - **Carbon Pricing as a Tool:** Explain carbon markets as a tool to put a price on pollution,

incentivizing industries to reduce emissions. The EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is the world's largest such market.

- **Driving Decarbonization:** The linkage creates a direct financial incentive for Indian exporters to reduce their carbon footprint. A lower carbon intensity means a lower CBAM levy, making their goods more competitive.

2. Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment:

- **How to use:** The issue has profound implications for India's industrial policy and export competitiveness.
- **Key Points:**
 - **Shielding Exports from CBAM:** The primary economic benefit. Without this linkage, Indian exports to the EU (e.g., steel, aluminum, cement) would face a significant tax (CBAM), making them less competitive. The linkage prevents this "double taxation."

- **The "Green Premium":** It allows Indian industries to capture a "green premium" for producing low-carbon goods, aligning India's economic growth with its climate goals (**Panchamrit**).
- **Challenge of a Nascent Market:** Contrast the **mature, robust EU ETS (with absolute caps, €60-80/tonne price)** with India's **evolving, intensity-based Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) with low prices (€5-10/tonne)**. This gap is the core challenge.

Secondary Relevance: GS Paper II (International Relations)

1. Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests:

- **How to use:** This is a major bilateral initiative with global ramifications.
- **Key Points:**
 - **A Model for North-South Cooperation:** If successful, this can be a template for other developed and developing countries, moving beyond the historical blame game on climate responsibility.

- **Sovereignty Concerns:** The linkage means the EU will have a say in the "adequacy" of India's carbon price. This touches on issues of **policy sovereignty**, a classic concern in international relations.
- **WTO Compatibility:** The deal must navigate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules to ensure it is not seen as a discriminatory trade barrier.

Poll-bound Bihar ranks last in most social and economic indicators

Context and Background

- **Event:** Bihar Assembly Elections scheduled for **November 6 and 11, 2025**.
- **Key players:** National Democratic Alliance (NDA) vs Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan).
- **Focus:** Pre-election analysis of Bihar's performance on **social and economic indicators**.
- **Data Sources:**
 - **NITI Aayog**
 - **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)**
 - **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Overall Finding

Bihar continues to **rank among the lowest states** in India on almost all human development, health, education, and economic indicators.

In the **Human Development Index (HDI) 2022**, Bihar was **last (27th out of 27)** with an HDI score of **0.609**, compared to **Kerala's 0.789** (top state).

1. Bihar's Rank in Health & Social Indicators

Indicator (2019–21)	Value	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
Female population aged 15+ who ever attended school (%)	61.1	28 out of 29	Kerala	98.5
Women aged 20–24 married before 18 years (%)	40.8	Highest (worst)	–	–
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	46.8	21 out of 27	Kerala	5.4

Indicator (2019–21)	Value	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
Stunted children under 5 (%)	42.9	22 out of 27	Tamil Nadu	23.1
Wasted children under 5 (%)	22.9	21 out of 27	Kerala	10.8
Underweight children under 5 (%)	29.0	24 out of 27	Punjab	16.9
Households with improved sanitation (%)	49.4	26.5 out of 27	Kerala	98.5

◆ **Interpretation:** Bihar lags significantly in **women's education**, **child health**, and **sanitation coverage**, though it has shown marginal improvement from earlier surveys (2005–06, 2015–16).

2. Human Development Index (HDI)

Indicator	Value (2022)	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
HDI	0.609	27 out of 27	Kerala	0.789

◆ Bihar's HDI value is the lowest among all states with available data.

3. Economic Performance (Per Capita NSDP)

Indicator	Value (₹, Current Price 2023–24)	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
Per Capita NSDP	₹ 60,337	25 out of 25	Telangana	₹ 3,56,564

◆ Bihar's per capita income remains **lowest in India**, nearly **1/6th** of Telangana's.

4. Employment Pattern

Sector	Share (2023–24)	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
In service sector	25.5%	28 out of 29	Kerala	44.2%
In manufacturing sector	5.7%	29 out of 29	Maharashtra	38.1%

◆ Bihar's economy is still **heavily agrarian**, with negligible industrial or service-sector presence.

5. Education Indicators

Indicator (2023–24)	Value	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
Net enrolment (class 1–5)	97.2%	19 out of 29	Multiple states	99%+
Dropout rate (class 1–10)	19.5%	24 out of 29	Himachal Pradesh	1.9%
Gross enrolment (class 11–12)	48.4%	27 out of 29	Kerala	85.6%
Gross enrolment in higher education (18–23 yrs)	17.1%	28 out of 29	Tamil Nadu	47.9%

◆ Bihar struggles with **high dropout rates** and **very low higher education enrolment**.

6. Environmental Indicators

Indicator (2023-24)	Value	Bihar's Rank	Top Major State	Value (Top State)
Plastic waste generation (kg/capita)	0.61	1 out of 29 (best)	Jharkhand	0.63
Annual per capita fossil fuel consumption (GJ)	44.7	1 out of 29 (best)	Assam	88.4

Bihar performs **best** in environmental indicators due to **low industrialization and energy use**, not necessarily environmental efficiency.

How to use it

This data transforms abstract concepts like "underdevelopment," "regional disparity," and "governance failure" into tangible, measurable facts. It allows you to move from generic statements to specific, evidence-based analysis, which is crucial for scoring high marks.

Primary Relevance: GS Paper I (Indian Society)

1. Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India:

- **How to use:** The data illustrates the **stark diversity in development outcomes** across Indian states.
- **Key Points:**

- Use the 对比 between Bihar (HDI: 0.609) and Kerala (HDI: 0.789) to discuss the **North-South divide** and the varying levels of social development within a single nation.
- The data on **child marriage (40.8%)** and **female education (61.1% ever attended school)** provides concrete evidence for discussing **patriarchal social structures** and their intergenerational impact.

2. Role of Women and Women's Organization:

- **How to use:** The statistics on women's health and education are central to this topic.
- **Key Points:**
 - The high rate of child marriage directly links to high **Infant Mortality Rates (46.8)** and rates of **stunted (42.9%)** and **underweight (29.0%) children**, showing the cyclical nature of gender discrimination and public health outcomes.

3. Poverty and Developmental issues:

- **How to use:** This is a direct case study of multidimensional poverty.
- **Key Points:**
 - Bihar's last-place rank in **Per Capita NSDP (₹60,337)** is a classic indicator of income poverty.
 - However, the data on health, sanitation, and education (**multidimensional poverty**) shows that the problem is much deeper than just low income.

Primary Relevance: GS Paper II (Governance, Social Justice)

1. Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger:

- **How to use:** The health and nutrition data is perfect here.
- **Key Points:**
 - The high rates of stunting and wasting in children are direct indicators of **chronic hunger and malnutrition**, despite central and state government schemes.

2. Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections:

- **How to use:** The data serves as a **report card on the effectiveness** of decades of welfare schemes.

• Key Points:

- Despite numerous schemes (e.g., Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, POSHAN Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Mission), the outcomes in Bihar remain the worst. This allows for a critical analysis of the **gap between policy intent and implementation** due to factors like poor governance, corruption, and lack of accountability.

3. Development processes and the development industry — the role of NGOs, SHGs, etc.:

- **How to use:** The data underscores the need for civil society intervention.
- **Key Points:**
 - The state's failure highlights the critical space for **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and **NGOs** in areas like women's literacy, sanitation awareness, and health outreach.

Primary Relevance: GS Paper III (Economy, Agriculture)

1. Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning:

- **How to use:** The economic structure data is key.

- **Key Points:**

- Bihar's economy is stuck in a low-growth trap. With **only 5.7% in manufacturing** and **25.5% in services**, it has failed to transition away from a predominantly agrarian economy, missing the opportunities of industrialization and the modern service sector.

2. Employment:

- **How to use:** The sectoral employment data explains migration and unemployment.
- **Key Points:**
 - The lack of industrial and service-sector jobs (**lowest in India**) is a primary **push factor** for migration from Bihar to other states, with significant social and economic consequences.

3. Food Security:

- **How to use:** The child malnutrition data is directly linked to food security.
- **Key Points:**
 - Argue that food security is not just about availability (PDS) but also about access, affordability, and nutritional content, which are severely lacking.

Is the Dogri language losing resonance in India?

Context and Background

- **Global Concern:**
UNESCO reports that India has the **highest number of dialects on the verge of extinction**, having lost **over 220 languages** in the last 50 years.
- **Regional Focus:**
Concern is growing over the **gradual decline of the Dogri language** in the **Jammu region**.
- **Broader Issue:**
Globalisation, migration, and economic priorities encourage speakers to adopt **wider-used languages** (Urdu, Hindi, English), leading to Dogri's marginalisation.

Is Dogri in Decline?

Causes of Decline:

1. Government Policy Gap

- Although Dogri received recognition in the **J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020**, and became one of the Union Territory's **five official languages**, its **status on paper hasn't translated into ground-level use**.
- **Lack of institutional backing**, visibility, and

promotion in education and administration.

2. Generational Perspectives

- Younger generations show **declining literacy and fluency** in Dogri.
- Older speakers (60+) show full proficiency in speaking and reading, but proficiency **drops drastically** among those aged 41–60 and is **almost absent** among those under 20.

3. Rural–Urban Divide

- **Rural respondents:** 56% actively speak Dogri; ~15% can write it.
- **Urban respondents:** Only 45% speak Dogri; ~4% can write it.
- Reflects **migration, modern schooling, and urban preference for English/Hindi.**

Survey Findings

- **Sample:** 200 participants from the Jammu region (130 completed responses).
- **Method:** Random sampling across districts.
- **Key Data:**
 - 48% believe the **government failed to**

promote Dogri adequately.

- 32% feel Dogri **offers limited employment opportunities.**
- 25% express **moderate government support.**

Generational Decline in Proficiency

Age Group	Speaking Proficiency	Reading/Writing Proficiency
60+ years	Full proficiency	Intermediate
41–60 years	Moderate	0.25% literacy
Under 20 years	0% literacy	0% reading/writing proficiency

Indicates a **severe intergenerational erosion** of language transmission.

Historical and Political Factors

- Dogri had to **wait until 2003 for constitutional recognition**, long after other regional languages.
- By then, Dogri had already **lost institutional momentum.**
- Unlike Urdu or Kashmiri, Dogri remained **absent from education curricula and formal domains** of use.

Core Analysis

Dimension	Insights
Cultural	Loss of identity and cultural continuity among younger Dogri speakers.
Political	Recognition not matched by policy implementation or institutional support.
Economic	English/Hindi prioritised for employment and mobility.
Sociological	Rural populations retain linguistic attachment; urban areas show cultural detachment.

What Is the Way Ahead?

1. Technical Measures

- Updated **Census data on endangered languages** needed.
- Establish language-monitoring and revival programs.

2. Policy Measures

- Promote Dogri through **school curricula, public signage, media, and administration.**
- Encourage **bilingual education** to sustain intergenerational transfer.

- Support community-driven **language preservation initiatives.**

3. Cultural Decolonisation

- Challenge the mindset that **English = progress.**
- Encourage pride in linguistic diversity through **cultural festivals and digital initiatives.**

THE GIST

Key Point	Summary
Globalisation and migration	Encourage adoption of widely used languages, causing regional ones like Dogri to fade.
Three lenses to study decline	Government policy, generational perspectives, rural-urban divide.
Survey findings	Stark contrast between rural and urban Dogri use; older speakers proficient, youth disengaged.

How to use it

The decline of Dogri is not an isolated linguistic issue but a symptom of the complex interplay between **globalization, state policy, cultural identity, and political recognition.** It represents the struggle

of sub-regional cultures to survive in a homogenizing world and highlights the gap between constitutional recognition and meaningful implementation.

Primary Relevance: GS Paper I (Indian Society)

1. Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India:

- **How to use:** This is the most direct fit. India's diversity is its strength, and the erosion of languages like Dogri directly threatens this pluralistic fabric.
- **Key Points:**
 - Use the data to argue that India's "unity in diversity" is under stress. The **generational decline (full proficiency in 60+ to 0% literacy in under-20)** shows a rapid loss of cultural capital.
 - The **rural-urban divide (56% speakers in rural vs. 45% in urban)** illustrates how modernization and migration are accelerating this cultural homogenization.

2. Effects of globalization on Indian society:

- **How to use:** The article explicitly names globalization as a cause.
- **Key Points:**

- The preference for English and Hindi for economic mobility is a direct consequence of globalization. The survey finding that **32% feel Dogri offers limited employment** is a key data point here.

Primary Relevance: GS Paper II (Governance, Constitution)

1. Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features:

- **How to use:** The issue touches upon fundamental rights and official language policy.
- **Key Points:**
 - Discuss the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution. While Dogri's inclusion in 2003 was a positive step, the case shows that **mere inclusion is insufficient without proactive promotion**.
 - Link this to **Article 29 (Protection of interests of minorities)**, which can be interpreted to include linguistic minorities.

2. Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors:

- **How to use:** This is a clear case of a policy-implementation gap.
- **Key Points:**

- The **J&K Official Languages Act, 2020** made Dogri an official language, but the survey shows **48% believe the government failed to promote it**. This is a classic example of a well-intentioned policy failing due to a lack of ground-level implementation in **education, administration, and public signage**.

Secondary Relevance: GS Paper IV (Ethics)

1. Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour:

- **How to use:** The decline is linked to societal attitudes.
- **Key Points:**
 - The need for "**Cultural Decolonisation**" highlights an attitudinal problem—the association of English with "progress" and regional languages with "backwardness." Changing this attitude is crucial for preservation.



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