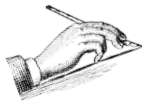




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**GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**THE HINDU PAGE : 1**

# India, New Zealand sign ‘historic’ free trade deal

Deal to be implemented after New Zealand Parliament ratification later this year; Prime Minister calls the agreement a milestone, says it reflects ‘convergence of values, trust, and shared ambition’

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand on Monday signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that Prime Ministers of both the countries hailed as a “historic” step towards deepening trade, investment, and people-to-people ties.

The FTA, signed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and his New Zealand counterpart, Todd McClay, in New Delhi, will see New Zealand removing tariffs on all goods imported from India, while India will remove or reduce tariffs on 95% of current imports from New Zealand.

“Today marks a historic milestone in India’s journey towards deeper global engagement and shared prosperity,” a statement

## Deal dynamics

The graphic lists select products on which India will be reducing or eliminating tariffs, as well as items excluded from the deal. New Zealand has removed tariffs on all items

### Immediate elimination

- Wood | ■ Wool
- Leather-raw hides

### Phased elimination

- Petroleum oil
- Vegetable oils
- Select electrical machinery

### Tariff reductions

- Wine and pharma
- Polymers, aluminium, iron and steel articles

### Products excluded by India

- Dairy products (milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, cheese etc.)
- Animal products (other than sheep meat)
- Agricultural products (onions, chana, peas, corn, almonds etc.)
- Sugar | ■ Artificial honey
- Copper and articles thereof (cathodes, cartridges, rods)
- Aluminium and articles thereof (ingots, billets etc.)



**Sealing the deal:** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, with New Zealand’s Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, during the signing ceremony of the FTA in New Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

read out by Mr. Goyal quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi as saying. “The signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement reflects our strengthening economic partnership and a convergence of values, trust and shared

ambition between two vibrant democracies.”

This FTA, discussions for which were announced in March 2025 and concluded in December 2025, is one of the fastest India has negotiated.

The deal still needs to be

ratified by New Zealand’s Parliament, which Mr. McClay said would happen soon while adding that it would come into force within this year.

**CONTINUED ON**  
**» PAGE 10**

## GS 2: POLITY

### THE HINDU PAGE : 8

# A tightening of the fist in India's digital public square

Imagine this. You leave a sharp, satirical comment on social media or under a news article about rising fuel prices, and it gets a few likes. A few hours later, the comment disappears. The platform does not explain. Your account remains, but you notice that posts on similar topics no longer appear publicly. You have not been charged with any offence. No court has issued an order. Yet something has quietly shifted.

This is not a far-fetched scenario. It is a plausible outcome under the draft amendments to India's Information Technology Rules released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on March 30, 2026. Presented as technical clarifications, the changes mark a deeper transformation in how speech is governed online and who gets to decide its limits.

#### Core area of concern

At the centre of concern is a proposed expansion of executive power that risks bypassing Parliament and the courts. One provision, Rule 3(4), would require platforms to comply with a wide array of government-issued instruments, including advisories, directions and standard operating procedures, as a condition for retaining "safe harbour" protection under Section 79 of the IT Act. In plain terms, platforms would be legally safer if they follow government instructions, even when those instructions do not arise from formal law.

This sits uneasily with the Supreme Court of India's landmark ruling in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* (2015), which held that platforms are only required to act on unlawful content when they receive a court order or a government notification grounded in law. By allowing informal directives to trigger compliance obligations, the draft rules appear to dilute that constitutional safeguard.

The likely result is not targeted moderation but broad over-censorship. Faced with uncertain and potentially unpublished directives, platforms will err on the side of removal. It is the predictable



**Vikram Raj**

Journalist associated with the Internet Freedom Foundation

The draft amendments to India's Information Technology Rules trigger fears of digital overreach and a departure from existing judicial rulings

logic of risk management. When liability is unclear, speech becomes expendable.

A second shift expands the scope of state oversight far beyond traditional publishers. Amendments to Rule 8 bring ordinary users who post or share news and current affairs content within the ambit of the government's oversight mechanism. This includes the Inter-Departmental Committee, a body empowered to review content and recommend blocking.

This is not merely an administrative adjustment. It reintroduces, through a different route, a regulatory framework that has already faced judicial scrutiny. In 2021, the Bombay High Court stayed key provisions of the IT Rules, citing concerns under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The Madras High Court later observed that such oversight could undermine media independence. Those challenges remain pending. Yet, the new draft effectively reconstructs the same architecture while those questions are unresolved.

#### An undefined role

Equally troubling is the transformation of the Inter-Departmental Committee itself. Originally designed to address grievances, it is now empowered to examine any "matter" referred by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The term is left undefined. A procedure is currently in place under Rule 14 but compliance remains an issue. There is no clear threshold for intervention, and no guarantee that affected users will be heard before action is taken.

This shift from grievance redress to proactive scrutiny changes the character of the body. It becomes less a forum for dispute resolution and more an instrument of preemptive control.

The third major concern lies in expanded data retention obligations. The draft clarifies that platform duties to retain user data operate in addition to requirements under any other law. In practice, this could mean that personal data, browsing activity and communication records are stored for extended periods, potentially years,

depending on overlapping legal mandates.

The risks here are not abstract. Longer retention increases the surface area for misuse, whether through unauthorised access, data breaches or function creep. It also alters the relationship between citizens and digital spaces. When every interaction may be archived indefinitely, self-censorship follows naturally.

Taken together, these amendments signal a shift toward a model where executive discretion plays a dominant role in shaping online speech. The concern is not only about individual provisions but about their cumulative effect. Each change reinforces the other. Informal directives gain force through safe harbour rules. Oversight expands to include ordinary users. Data retention deepens the state's informational reach.

#### Upsetting the balance

Supporters of the policy may argue that governments require flexible tools to manage harmful content. That is true in principle. But constitutional systems impose limits on how that power is exercised. Delegated legislation must remain within the bounds of its parent statute, a principle affirmed in cases such as *Indian Express Newspapers vs Union of India* (1986). When rules begin to create new obligations that are not clearly grounded in law, the balance between regulation and overreach begins to tilt.

The short public consultation period, which ended on April 14, only heightens the concern. Changes of this magnitude deserve wider debate, legislative scrutiny and careful alignment with existing judicial rulings.

India's digital public sphere has grown precisely because it has allowed a diversity of voices, from professional journalists to ordinary citizens. That openness has always required some regulation. The question now is whether the new rules preserve that openness or narrow it through administrative control.

The answer will shape not only how platforms operate but also how freely citizens can speak, critique, and participate in public life.

## GS 2: POLITY

## THE HINDU PAGE : 8

**Gang of seven**

Large-scale defections have rendered the Tenth Schedule impotent

**I**n April 24, seven of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s 10 Rajya Sabha members announced their merger with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Rajya Sabha Chairman has accepted their claim of merger, raising the BJP's strength in the Upper House to 113 and the combined strength of the National Democratic Alliance above the halfway mark for the first time. The episode highlights the nature of AAP, the crass opportunism of the turncoats, the machinations of the BJP, and the institutionalised defanging of the anti-defection law. Of the seven, Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Swati Maliwal were part of AAP in an organic manner, to the limited extent that it had an identity beyond the whims of its founder, Arvind Kejriwal. For the other four, their exit is as opportunistic as their entries into AAP were. Mr. Kejriwal used to taunt the Congress for losing its legislators to the BJP in several States, as symptomatic of the erosion of its ethical responsibility. But a relentless campaign of anarchy in pursuit of power exposed the true character of AAP as a far cry from its grand claims. The disintegration of its Rajya Sabha contingent is the culmination of the cynicism and opportunism on which AAP thrived, imposing a heavy cost on the democratic institutions of India. It reaped what it sowed.

That is no reason to ignore the brazen misinterpretation – invoked by the gang of seven and accepted by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha – of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which bars the defection of elected representatives from their original party. The merger exception in the Schedule is clear that a party can merge with another, subject to the concurrence of two-thirds of its legislators. In 2023, the Supreme Court of India elaborated that the legislature party cannot dictate the course of the political party, and the two cannot be conflated. Two-thirds of the members of the legislature party of the original party must accept a merger for it to be valid under the anti-defection law. To turn this around and argue that two-thirds of a party's legislative members can cross over to another party without attracting disqualification is a stretch, and is being challenged in the Court by AAP. The Court's past interventions on similar developments are less than reassuring, sadly. Elected governments have been unseated on the back of large-scale defections, rendering the Tenth Schedule impotent in the recent past. That the Court could not set any deterrence to this open betrayal of popular mandates is borne out by the fact that such acts are being repeated with impunity.

## GS 2&3: SOCIAL JUSTICE + SCIENCE & TECH. THE HINDU PAGE : 9

### Can middle school students engage with AI?

**R**ecently, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) decided to introduce a Computational Thinking (CT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum for classes 3-8, which will begin from the 2026-27 academic session. CT skills generally refer to abstraction, decomposition, pattern recognition, and algorithmic thinking. These skills are required to reason about intelligent systems and to understand how machine learning differs from rule-based computation. As with any transformational reform in education, it is necessary to examine the practicality of introducing computational concepts to middle school learners. Will it align with age-appropriate pedagogy for engaging with emerging digital and computational environments?

#### Global precedents

One first has to examine whether CBSE's curriculum clearly links CT and AI, since such a relationship is conceptually necessary. The foundational design principle behind the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Commission's AI Literacy Framework identifies CT as a precursor to AI learning. This framework recommends CT competencies across age bands beginning from early primary school. Similarly, the AI4K12 Initiative in the U.S. places CT-related competencies at the base of its "Five Big Ideas in AI." Their CT-competencies progression plan spans K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade bands. The CBSE's sequencing broadly aligns with these comparative curricular architectures. However, its curriculum is designed independently in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023.

UNESCO also identifies topics such as "What is AI?",



**Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar**

Chairman, Review Committee for NEP 2020, Ministry of Education and former Chairman, UGC. Views are personal

The CBSE curriculum includes introductory discussions on AI fairness, responsible use, and digital safety. This focus is broadly consistent with cross-national practices

"Foundations of computing", and "Data literacy" as necessary for school students. Learners need to start cultivating logical thinking from an early stage and gradually build problem-solving skills. They also need opportunities to develop a basic understanding of AI as part of their broader digital learning.

#### Tackling inherent risks

There are, of course, risks associated with children interacting with AI. The CBSE curriculum includes introductory discussions on AI fairness, responsible use, and digital safety. This focus is broadly consistent with cross-national practices. For instance, the AI4K12 guidelines include topics such as recognising when AI systems may mislead; identifying bias in datasets; and distinguishing between AI and human capabilities across all age groups. But can children meaningfully engage with such content at a young age? Classroom-based interventions, including studies conducted in U.S. middle schools, led to interesting outcomes. They suggest that learners in the 11-13 age group can engage with AI ideas when supported by structured pedagogical interventions. These studies reveal that introducing ethical dimensions of AI at this stage can be pedagogically feasible.

A growing body of empirical research suggests that introducing concepts such as supervised learning or predictive modelling is viable for learners in the 11-14 age group. Many comprehensive research studies on AI in K-12 education suggest that school-age participants as young as 10-12 years can work with fundamental AI concepts. Thus, the CBSE's CT-AI framework appears compatible with the learning capacities observed in this age group.

Many international initiatives encourage the use of no-code tools for introductory AI learning. Multiple empirical studies show that by using such tools, middle

school learners can design, build, test, and reflect on their projects without coding. For this reason, the CBSE's expectation that Class 8 students can attempt to solve real-world problems using no-code tools is supported by several international initiatives.

However, children may start attributing human-like traits or capabilities to AI tools, although these tools do not actually possess them. Does the CBSE curriculum address this challenge by creating awareness among children? The CBSE's curriculum contains topics discussing ethical use, fairness, and responsible digital behaviour. Such discussions can help reduce children's misconceptions about AI. These modules can support better understanding and the prudent use of AI systems.

The CBSE curriculum follows a cross-disciplinary design by integrating CT into Mathematics and 'The World Around Us' course for Classes 3-5. Global experiences which involved cross-disciplinary instructional models reported improvements in students' reasoning and problem-solving in several contexts. The CBSE's pedagogical orientation reflects similar design principles.

#### Away from rote learning

One problem in Indian education is the habit of rote learning. CT and AI learning have the potential to encourage inquiry-driven, reflective learning rather than traditional rote-based methods. The CBSE curriculum emphasises practical modelling, reflection, and ethical reasoning. This approach can therefore contribute to ongoing efforts to move classroom practices away from rote-based methods.

International practices and available research suggests that middle school is an appropriate stage to introduce foundational CT-AI elements. The CBSE's CT-AI curriculum is structured to make thoughtful and effective use of this developmental stage in learners' growth, and it exhibits coherence with the vision of the NEP 2020.

## GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### THE HINDU PAGE : 10

# Legal limits on U.S. war involvement

The War Powers Act requires the President to seek authorisation from Congress for the continued use of military force abroad beyond 60 days of such involvement, raising questions over the Trump administration's future course of action in the ongoing military engagement in West Asia

#### EXPLAINER

Narayan Lakshman

#### The story so far:

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump launched a military offensive against Iran on February 28, in tandem with Israeli strikes across the region. Tehran's retaliation, entailing missile and drone attacks on Israel and Gulf countries such as the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others, as well as its blockade of the critical oil transportation route through the Strait of Hormuz, led Washington deeper into the military engagement against Iran. Despite a fragile ceasefire and the U.S.'s counter-blockade of the Iranian ports and naval manoeuvres giving it a measure of control of the strait, the overall war plans of the Trump administration might be in jeopardy due to a provision in the U.S. constitution - the War Powers Act (WPA). The Act requires the President to seek authorisation from Congress for the continued use of military force in hostilities abroad beyond 60 days of such involvement, yet going by past record, Mr. Trump may have several options to circumvent this requirement and persist with the ongoing military engagement in West Asia.

#### Provisions of the WPA

The Act, known formally as the War Powers Resolution of 1973, was introduced into U.S. law in the context of President Richard Nixon's support for clandestine hostilities in Cambodia during the Vietnam War, carried out sans Congressional consent. Mr. Nixon vetoed the bill, yet it was overridden by Congress and enacted into law as a means for Congress to limit presidential authority to wage war.

In its core provision, the WPA intends "...to fulfill the intent of the framers of the



U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington D.C. REUTERS

Constitution...and insure that the collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities."

The U.S. Constitution originally sought to divide war powers between the President and Congress, with Congress alone retaining the authority to declare war and appropriate funding for the military, while recognising the President as the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Yet, even as early as the 1950s and 1960s, through the years of the U.S.'s prolonged military campaigns in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the lines of responsibility for such engagement began to blur across the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government.

The Act seeks to remove all room for doubt in this context as it stipulates, first, that even prior to the President committing troops into hostilities on foreign soil, Congress should be consulted "in every possible instance." Second, the WPA requires the President to report to

Congress within 48 hours of deploying U.S. forces, unless Congress itself has declared war or statutorily authorised the action. Third, every U.S. president who commits his military to engage in conflicts abroad must continue reporting to Congress at least every six months for the duration of such an engagement.

As per the Act, if 60 days pass after the President's first reporting deadline to Congress, the use of the U.S. military and its assets is automatically terminated unless Congress had originally declared war or passed legislation authorising the wartime actions. A grace allowed to the president in this regard is that he is permitted to extend the 60-day period by an additional 30 days by certifying in writing to Congress the need for continued use of force.

#### Options for Trump administration

There are several points of ambiguity regarding Congressional authorisation for war, in this context. Firstly, the precise timeline of reporting requirements to get

the wartime action of the Trump White House sanctioned by Congress is currently a subject of dispute. On one hand there is a lack of clarity on whether the 60-day deadline is April 29 - based on the day that hostilities began - or May 1 - based on the day that the White House informed Congress. Second, a number of Republican lawmakers have said that the ceasefire period should not count toward the 60-day deadline, with a few Democrats supporting this view too. Third, there might be Congressional reticence towards authorising the White House's war efforts, given the lack of recent precedent - Congress has not formally authorised the use of military force since 2002, when the U.S. was involved in hostilities in Iraq.

Nevertheless, the three clear options available to Mr. Trump at this point are the following: to submit to the WPA's authority and seek approval for continued military engagement, to begin winding down the war effort immediately, or to take advantage of the 30-day grace period, and use such an extension to pull back forces and assets from the region, rather than engage in further offensive manoeuvres of any kind.

Mr. Trump might seek to press his own precedent of 2019 when he ignored the deadline set by the WPA to continue military engagement in the conflict in Yemen that also included Saudi Arabia. He might also quote the fact that previous Presidents, from Nixon to Barack Obama - in the context of the war in Libya - did the same and found various excuses to keep fighting abroad without a nod from Congress. In any case, apart from a few scattered efforts by lawmakers such as Republican Lisa Murkowski, who is said to be working on a formal authorisation for the ongoing war so as to introduce guardrails into the operation, yet has not introduced such a proposal to the floor of the Senate, Republicans do not appear to be in a mood to dampen their President's momentum on the war front.

#### THE GIST

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration launched a military offensive against Iran on February 28. However, the War Powers Act could place the Trump administration's broader war plans under legal and political strain.

Three clear options available to Donald Trump are: to submit to the WPA's authority and seek approval for continued military engagement, to begin winding down the war effort immediately, or to take advantage of the 30-day grace period to pull back forces.

# GS 3: ENVIRONMENT INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 11

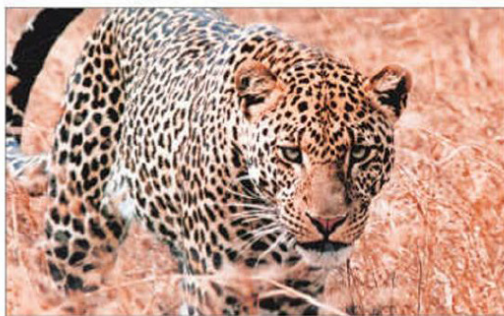
## ‘New Delhi Declaration’ in the works for upcoming international summit on conservation of big cats

Nikhil Ghanekar  
New Delhi, April 27

AHEAD OF the global big cat summit in June, the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), headquartered in New Delhi, is deliberating on a New Delhi Declaration, which, if adopted, will be the first international declaration on big cat conservation, *The Indian Express* has learned.

The IBCA secretariat, working alongside the Ministry of External Affairs, has shared a draft of the declaration text with IBCA member countries as well as range countries, two people aware of the matter said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate in the summit meeting with heads of states and governments from some of the member countries, people aware of the matter said. It is at this summit meeting, likely to



These seven big cats – tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, puma and jaguar – face challenges such as deforestation, illegal wildlife trade, and emerging wildlife diseases. FILE

be held on June 1, that the political declaration is expected to be placed for adoption.

The global big cat summit will be held close on the heels of the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit on May 31. IBCA currently has 24 member countries, of which 10 are African

nations. Kazakhstan, Namibia and Thailand have been granted observer status.

The declaration, it is learned, will include promotion of landscape-level and transboundary habitat connectivity, strengthening cooperation on wildlife crime preven-

### E. EXPLAINED

#### India's bid to earn its stripes

Modelled on the lines of the International Solar Alliance, the International Big Cat Alliance seeks to position India as a leader in the space of wild cat conservation. While still in its nascent stages, the upcoming summit is likely to give the alliance a push in raising its profile, and attract experts from the wildlife conservation field.

tion, mobilisation of finance, and advancing of One Health approach, linking wildlife, livestock and human health, among other things.

The IBCA was launched on April 9, 2023, by PM Modi dur-

ing the commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger to create an international platform for the conservation of seven big cats – tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, puma and jaguar. The summit will also serve as a platform to get more countries to commit to becoming members of the global alliance, it has been learned.

These apex predators are crucial to the respective habitats they occur in across continents, and in maintaining an ecological balance. These seven big cats occur in 95 countries – known as range countries to signify species occurring there in the wild – across Asia, Africa, and the Americas, and face challenges such as deforestation, illegal wildlife trade and poaching, ecosystem changes, and emerging wildlife diseases.

The Union Cabinet had approved IBCA's establishment with headquarters in India on February 29, 2024.

**GS 6: UTTAR PRADESH SPECIAL - ECONOMY**  
**INDIAN EXPRESS PAGE : 11**



YOGI ADITYANATH

**N**OT LONG AGO, Uttar Pradesh bore the label of Bihar Pradesh, and its youth carried a burden that was not merely economic but deeply personal — leaving their *jansambhoomi* for a *karnasambhoomi* elsewhere, driven not by aspiration but compulsion. Today, as Bharat strides toward Viksit Bharat, UP is reshaping that reality — not just re-writing an economic story, but restoring dignity, belonging, and hope in the lives of its people.

UP is the living embodiment of Bharat's civilisational soul. From the sacred ghats of Kashi to the ruins of Ayodhya and the charm of Mathura, this land has long guided the world in spirituality, knowledge, and inner awakening. Yet for decades, this spiritually rich land struggled to meet the basic aspirations of its people. For too long, weak governance failed to translate civilisational strength into economic opportunity. Infrastructure lagged, industries hesitated, and energetic youth were forced to look beyond home to build their futures.

The past decade has marked a decisive shift. Guided by the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and driven by the principle of *sabka saath, sabka vikas*, UP has undergone a profound structural transformation. For us, this is not a slogan. It is a commitment, implemented at the grass-roots level through policy reforms, administrative changes, and measurable outcomes.

At the core of this transformation lies a simple belief: Our development must reach every individual, especially the *ashbit, ranchit, and peedit* sections. Our first priority was restoring law and order. The shadow of *goonda raj* had made fear a fixture of daily life, leaving citizens insecure and investors hesitant. Without order there can be no prosperity — making a *"bhay naak pradesh"* our foremost goal. Today, crime rates have declined by 50 per cent, and people feel safer. This renewed security has laid the foundation for economic growth — industries flourish where trust exists.

The second phase focused on infrastructure as a means to connect people to opportunities. The Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, and Ganga-expressways, along with industrial corridors, logistics hubs, and reliable power supply, have ensured growth reaches every corner of the state. UP now ranks number one in ease of doing business in Bharat. Investments worth thousands of crores are flowing into the state, creating high-wage employment and new possibilities for our youth.

However, we recognised that infrastructure and security alone were not enough. There was a deeper challenge, a trust deficit between the government and job-creators. The third phase, Udyog Vishwas, addresses this trust deficit. Through the UP Saganya Vyapar amendments, we have replaced complex, punitive regulations with a principles-based approach to decriminalisation — rationalising laws to make them practical and enforceable.

Guided by the Jan Vishwas Sakshar, this trust-based governance framework replaces suspicion with partnership, streamlining or removing unnecessary compliance so that honest enterprises can operate without fear.

Udyog Vishwas is built on three pillars: Decriminalisation, deregulation, and digitisation. Together, these reforms are reshaping UP's regulatory environment. Central to this is the upcoming State Open Compliance Grid — a unified, paperless platform leveraging the Unique Enterprise Number linked with PAN 2.0, APTSeva for automated data exchange, and secure digital lockers for document storage, enabling seamless business-government interaction. This system will reduce human interface, eliminate delays, curb corruption, and bring predictability to governance.

Our vision is clear: Bring jobs to people, not people to jobs. Migration must be a choice, not a compulsion. Every citizen of UP deserves the opportunity to build a future in their own homeland. With the largest population in the country, UP's greatest strength lies in its youth. In a world witnessing economic shifts, technological change, and global uncertainties, this demographic strength becomes a powerful asset.

The next phases of our development will strengthen education, expand skill development, and modernise our infrastructure — not only creating jobs, but preparing our youth to lead, innovate, and excel.

We remain rooted in our cultural identity. Kashi continues to guide the world spiritually while emerging as a centre of cultural and economic vitality — a balance that defines UP's unique strength. As Bharat advances toward Viksit Bharat, UP's role grows ever more significant. Our vision of a \$1 trillion economy is not merely a milestone — it is a commitment to our people. The path ahead is long and demanding, yet our determination remains unwavering. We draw inspiration from the words of *Sohantil Dasveedi*, "Kashih karnic wafar ki haur kashi haur."

Our government neither fears the mafia nor bows to vested interests. Every policy, reform, and decision is guided by one principle: The welfare and empowerment of our citizen.

This is a defining moment for UP and for Bharat. The convergence of cultural resurgence and youthful energy offers an unprecedented opportunity — and UP is ready to realise the dream of Viksit Bharat. As we move forward, we carry with us a simple yet profound aspiration: That no child of UP should ever feel compelled to leave home in search of dignity and opportunity, and that their *jansambhoomi* becomes their proud *karnasambhoomi*. This is our promise. This is our mission. And this is the new Uttar Pradesh.