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**THE HINDU**



**The Indian EXPRESS**

# **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS**

**15th May 2026**

## **TOPICS:-**

**1. Cooling doctrine**

(GS Paper I Society, GS Paper II Governance)

**2. Building a preventive health culture in India**

(GS Paper I Society)

**3. India needs to win back foreign investors. Three things to do**

(GS Paper III Economy)

**DELHI CENTRE:**  
636, Mukherjee Nagar  
New Delhi-110009

**PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE:**  
1/1/8A, Stanley Rd,  
Maharana Pratap Chauraha,  
Civil Lines, Prayagraj, UP - 211002

 **9555-124-124**

 **sanskritiias.com**

# 1. COOLING DOCTRINE

*(GS Paper I Society, GS Paper II Governance)*

This editorial 'Cooling doctrine' was published in The Hindu on 15th May 2026, highlights the need to guarantee safe indoor temperatures as a public-health entitlement through a national cooling doctrine.

## Limits of Heat Action Plans

- India's extreme-heat response remains trapped in seasonal **preparedness cycles**, while the NDMA repeats familiar claims of rising readiness.
- The **16th Finance Commission** has backed notifying heatwaves as a national disaster, which may unlock funds but cannot transform implementation.
- Current **heat action plans** remain uneven, with many plans copied from elsewhere and weakly adapted to local **climate risks**.
- Relief measures such as water kiosks, shelters and shaded bus stops save lives, but do not reduce prolonged **indoor exposure** for vulnerable workers.

## Need for a National Cooling Doctrine

- India needs a **national cooling doctrine** that guarantees sustained access to safe indoor temperatures as a **public-health entitlement**.
- The doctrine must begin with **minimum cooling standards** for indoor workplaces such as factories, warehouses, kitchens, call centres and delivery hubs.
- A credible **inspection regime** is essential because cooling standards without enforcement would repeat the weak implementation of existing **heat plans**.

## Technology, Equity and Climate Constraints

- Scalable **passive cooling** through materials, reflective roofs and district cooling must carry the burden before wider air-conditioning dependence.
- Imported **Global North** solutions are inadequate because Indian heat is longer, more humid and unlike the dry summers shaping existing **cooling literature**.
- Western-style **mechanical cooling** is unaffordable for most Indians and environmentally difficult when the grid remains heavily dependent on **coal power**.
- With coal supplying over **60% installed capacity**, cooling policy must account for energy affordability, grid limits and **climate constraints**.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Urban Planning Deficit in Heat Governance

- **Urban heat islands:** Dense concrete expansion, glass buildings and shrinking green cover trap heat, as seen in Delhi's hotter built-up zones.
- **Informal housing risk:** Slums and low-income settlements face higher indoor heat because tin roofs and overcrowding, as in Dharavi, intensify exposure.
- **Energy inequality:** Cooling access depends on electricity affordability, so poor households remain vulnerable despite rising AC use in urban India.
- **Workplace vulnerability:** Delivery workers, factory labourers and street vendors face heat stress, as seen during Delhi-NCR heatwave work disruptions.
- **Gendered exposure:** Women, elderly persons and children face prolonged indoor heat, especially in poorly ventilated homes and unpaid domestic workspaces.
- **Climate-sensitive housing:** PMAY and Telangana's Cool Roof Policy can integrate reflective roofs, ventilation and local materials to reduce heat vulnerability.
- **Planning correction:** Heat-resilient cities need shaded streets, water points and green cover, as Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan demonstrated early.

## 2. BUILDING A PREVENTIVE HEALTH CULTURE IN INDIA

*(GS Paper I Society)*

This editorial '**Building a preventive health culture in India**' was published in **The Hindu** on 15th May 2026, highlights the need to **shift India's health system** from illness treatment to preventive self-stewardship.

### Shift from Treatment to Prevention

- India has built reputed **health-care institutions** and advanced treatments, but still responds to illness better than it preserves **everyday health**.
- The deeper challenge is not only curing disease, but preventing conditions that arise from weak **preventive habits** and delayed **health awareness**.
- Treatment begins after the body is broken, while prevention requires continuous **self-care**, family responsibility and choices affecting future **generations**.

### Chronic Disease as a National Risk

- **Non-communicable diseases** such as heart attacks, strokes, cancer and diabetes now lead deaths in India, surpassing **infectious diseases**.

- Nearly **270 million Indians** live with chronic disease, with many unaware until bodily damage has already advanced.
- Preventable illness reduces individual contribution, weakening **economic progress** and **social vitality** in a young democracy.

### Early Adulthood as the Critical Window

- Large-scale assessments, including **Apollo Hospitals Health of the Nation Report 2026**, identify early adulthood as a vital **prevention window**.
- The **30-40 age group** faces rising metabolic and cardiovascular risks during peak career-building and family-supporting years.
- By age 40, many individuals are no longer disease-free, while poor **early detection** and low **symptom awareness** reduce reversal chances.
- Timely **lifestyle correction**, early diagnosis and sustained monitoring can prevent, delay or reverse several chronic conditions.

### Preventive Health as a Cultural Transformation

- India must treat prevention not as a short-term **policy programme**, but as a shared ethic of **self-stewardship**.
- The country has medical **knowledge infrastructure**, but needs routine checks, habit change and health as an active daily **commitment**.
- A nation's legacy depends on citizens' **strength**, vitality and longevity, not merely hospital capacity or treatment access.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Preventive Health Through Primary Care and Public Systems

- **Primary care role:** Ayushman Arogya Mandirs can make prevention routine through screening, counselling and follow-up before chronic diseases advance.
- **Affordable diagnostics:** Low-cost tests under PM-JAY and public hospitals can prevent early detection from remaining urban or upper-income centric.
- **Community outreach:** ASHA workers and Poshan Abhiyaan can spread preventive habits by linking families with check-ups and nutrition counselling.
- **Public health data:** District health surveys and HMIS data can identify diabetes, hypertension and obesity trends before hospitalisation rises.
- **School-based prevention:** Fit India Movement and School Health Programme can build nutrition, exercise and mental-health habits before lifestyle diseases entrench.
- **Workplace screening:** Factories, offices and gig platforms can adopt ESIC-style health checks for blood pressure, sugar and stress risks.
- **Equity safeguard:** Prevention must remain a public service, as Kerala's primary-care model shows self-care cannot replace state support.

### 3. INDIA NEEDS TO WIN BACK FOREIGN INVESTORS. THREE THINGS TO DO

*(GS Paper III Economy)*

This editorial 'India needs to win back foreign investors. Three things to do' was published in The Indian Express on 15th May 2026, highlights the need for stabilisation, competitiveness and reform to restore foreign investor confidence in India.

#### **Weakening External Position and Capital Flows**

- India's optimism is clouded by tariff-war spillovers, with **FPI outflows** above ₹2 lakh crore in 2026 and a projected **current account deficit** near 2% of GDP.
- Global capital is turning selective as **FDI flows** fell 12% globally in 2025, with developing economies also seeing lower **investment inflows**.
- Developed economies now attract capital despite **political risks**, while developing economies face slower inflows due to industrial policy and **geopolitics**.

#### **Stabilisation Through Capital and Import Management**

- India could shift to a **residence-based capital gains tax**, exempting foreign investors from long-term capital gains tax to reduce deterrence.
- Non-resident investors could be exempted from **capital gains tax**, while domestic taxpayers remain covered to avoid bilateral negotiation burdens.
- India could allow **European UCITS funds** to access markets directly, though capital movement may take longer due to indexing threshold conditions.
- **Tax withdrawals** and easier **FPI access** could boost capital inflows, but each rupee raised through domestic taxation may discourage re-entry.
- **FCNR bonds** should remain a crisis tool, as high yields subsidise NRIs through domestic savers and distort capital allocation.
- Import curbs on **oil and gold** should follow demand-side adjustment, subsidy reform and lower domestic fuel-price intervention.

#### **FDI Reforms and Competitiveness Measures**

- India should revisit **FDI ownership caps**, with foreign investment permitted automatically up to 100% in remaining sectors.
- **Press Note 3** has eased from ownership below 10% to automatic approvals in electronics and polysilicon within 60 days.
- Further **screening thresholds** could be lowered and aligned with CFIUS-like systems, balancing geopolitical exposure with investment **predictability**.

- Competitiveness requires front-loaded **infrastructure delivery**, labour reform and budgeted capex to keep India attractive amid global capital caution.
- States should finalise **labour codes** by 2026, using fiscal incentives to raise factory-level participation, especially in labour-intensive sectors.

### Judicial and Trade-Led Structural Reform

- **Judicial reforms** through AI-enabled case management and fast-track commercial courts can reduce dispute resolution timelines from years to months.
- A new **National Single Window System** version would simplify approvals, while judicial speed multiplies the impact of all reforms.
- Trade transformation needs long-term **trade liberalisation**, including tariff cuts with ASEAN and the EU and extended PLI incentives.
- Broader **GST reforms**, especially including electricity and petroleum products, can deepen supply-chain efficiency and strengthen corporate bond markets.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Trust-Based Reform for Foreign Investment

- **Policy predictability:** Investors value stable rules because sudden tax or tariff shifts, as in retrospective tax disputes, raise uncertainty.
- **Regulatory stability:** Long-gestation sectors need predictable approvals, as Vodafone-Idea and telecom AGR disputes showed policy-risk costs.
- **Centre-state coordination:** Land, labour, electricity and clearances depend on states, as Foxconn-Vedanta shifts showed investor experience varies locally.
- **Contract enforcement:** Reliable dispute resolution reassures investors, as Amazon-Future litigation showed commercial uncertainty can delay large transactions.
- **Retrospective risk:** Avoiding Vodafone-Cairn-type retrospective taxation can strengthen India's reputation as a rules-based investment destination.
- **Compliance clarity:** Simplified rules need uniform application, as faceless assessment reforms sought to reduce discretion and tax uncertainty.
- **Trust premium:** Foreign capital follows credible execution, as Apple's India expansion shows reforms matter when governance becomes predictable.