

Current Edge: Daily Brief

8th September 2025

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NEWS IN SHORT

- 1) Prime Minister recalls vision of Sree Narayana on his birth anniversary

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it." – **MAHATMA GANDHI**

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As President Trump pushes to reverse that history, raising new barriers to limit imports, it is increasingly clear that the world is no longer persuaded by America's approach to economic policy." – **NEW YORK TIMES**

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Blood Moon tonight: What is it, how to watch, why you should care, in 5 points

Total Lunar Eclipse September 2025 Time: How is a Blood Moon related to the colour of the sky and of sunrises and sunsets? What is a lunar eclipse in the first place? We explain, in 5 points.

IE Explained;

Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Geography [Link](#)

- Safe to watch with naked eye, unlike solar eclipse

Blood moon



Sky show: The blood moon atop Bhubaneswar during the lunar eclipse on Sunday. The total eclipse phase which began at 11.01 p.m. caught the attention of skywatchers across India and other nations. **EDIMARAN JAIN ROYT**

Why in News?

Total lunar eclipse (Blood Moon) occurred on September 7–8, 2025, offering a rare, long 82-minute totality visible across India and much of the Eastern Hemisphere.

What is a lunar eclipse?

- Earth aligned between Sun & Moon
- Moon passed through Earth's **umbra** (darkest shadow) → total eclipse

What makes it a Blood Moon?

- Sunlight filtered through Earth's atmosphere
- **Rayleigh scattering:** blue light scattered away, red/orange reach the Moon

- Atmosphere's dust/pollution makes hue deeper red

Eclipse timeline (India, IST)

- Penumbral begins ~ 8:58 PM
- Partial begins ~ 9:57 PM
- Total begins ~ 11:00 PM
- Peak (max totality) ~ 11:41 PM
- Total ends ~ 12:22 AM
- Partial ends ~ 1:25 AM; Penumbral ends ~ 2:25 AM

Why it matters?

- One of the longest totalities of the decade (~82 minutes)
- Photogenic and communal spectacle—wide public interest, no special gear needed
- Scientific insight: hue depth hints at Earth's atmospheric conditions (e.g. volcanic ash)
- Same physics explains blue skies and red sunsets

What India should do to build climate-resilient cities

To address climate challenges, cities need to build institutional capacity, promote collaboration, and get the support of both the government and the citizens.

IE Opinion; By Auguste Tano Kouame, Asmita Tiwari, Natsuko Kikutake;
Syllabus: Pre/Mains – Environment [Link](#)

Why in News?

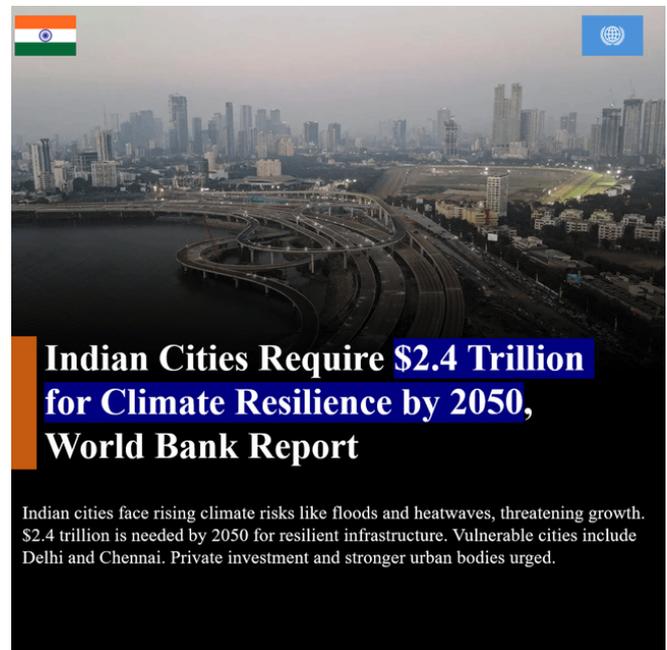
The World Bank's new report "Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India" estimates Indian cities need \$2.4 trillion by 2050 (rising to ~\$10.9 trillion by 2070) for climate-resilient, low-carbon urban infrastructure amid escalating threats from heatwaves and flooding.

Key Themes & Subpoints

Urgent Scale & Risk

- Urban population projected to nearly double: ~480 million (2020) → ~951 million (2050), ~1.1 billion (2070)
- Over 50% of urban infrastructure for 2050 is yet to be built
- Heat: night-time urban temps are 3–4 °C hotter than rural areas

- Flood risks (pluvial, coastal, fluvial) rising; annual flood losses may grow from ~\$4 billion now → ~\$5 billion (2030) → \$14–30 billion (2070)
- Heat-related deaths could more than double (>144 k → >328 k by 2050)
- Job generation: ~70% of new jobs by 2030 expected in cities



Investment Needs & Financing

- \$2.4 trillion needed by 2050; ~\$10.9 trillion by 2070 (conservative)
- Current urban infrastructure spending ≈ 0.7% of GDP—far below global norms
- Less than 5% of investment is from private sector



Rising Urban Flooding Costs Demand Action

- ❖ **Current Flooding Losses:** Urban flooding causes **\$4 billion in annual losses in India**, per the World Bank report.
- ❖ **Projected Cost Surge:** Without action, **flooding losses could rise to \$5 billion by 2030 and \$30 billion by 2070.**
- ❖ **Report's Focus:** The **"Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India"** report emphasizes **the need for resilient urban systems.**

Urban flooding already imposes a \$4 billion annual economic burden on India, a figure set to grow dramatically without intervention. The World Bank's report, prepared with India's urban development ministry, underscores the critical need for infrastructure upgrades to mitigate escalating climate-related damages.



Long-Term Investment Needs Soar

- ❖ **Conservative Estimates:** **\$2.4 trillion by 2050 and \$10.9 trillion by 2070** are needed for **resilient urban infrastructure under conservative growth scenarios.**
- ❖ **Moderate Urbanization Costs:** With moderate urbanization, investment needs rise to **\$2.8 trillion by 2050 and \$13.4 trillion by 2070.**
- ❖ **Key Areas for Investment:** Housing, transport, water, and waste management systems require urgent funding.

The World Bank's projections highlight the massive financial commitment needed to make India's cities climate-resilient, with costs escalating under higher urbanization scenarios. Investments in housing, transport, and utilities are critical to safeguarding urban populations against climate impacts.

Strategic Responses

Urban design & infrastructure:

- Better storm-water regulation
- Green spaces, cool roofs, early warning systems
- Flood-resilient transport networks, resilient municipal services (water, waste)

Institutional reforms:

- Strengthen coordination across federal, state, and local levels
- Enhance autonomy of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- Create dedicated urban resilience programmes, financing roadmaps

Private sector mobilization:

- Green bonds, blended finance, international climate funds
- Engage as key partners in service delivery and innovation



India's Urban Infrastructure Funding Falls Short

- ❖ **Low Current Spending:** India spends **only 0.7% of GDP on urban infrastructure**, well below global benchmarks.
- ❖ **Private Sector Gap:** **Private finance accounts for just 5% of urban infrastructure investment**, limiting funding capacity.
- ❖ **Coordination Needed:** **Federal, state, and municipal governments must align to enhance project financing and climate-linked transfers.**

India's current urban infrastructure spending is insufficient compared to global standards, with minimal private sector involvement. The World Bank urges stronger coordination across government levels and increased private financing to meet the massive investment demands for climate resilience.



Scaling Up Solutions for Resilient Cities

- ❖ **Private Sector Partnerships:** India must **boost private investment in energy-efficient water, sanitation, waste management, and green buildings.**
- ❖ **Timely Action Benefits:** **Proactive investments can avert billions in annual flood and heatwave damages**, per the report.
- ❖ **World Bank's Call:** **Scaling up public and private financing is essential to build efficient, resilient municipal infrastructure.**

The World Bank emphasizes that timely investments in resilient infrastructure can significantly reduce climate-related losses. By fostering private sector partnerships in key areas like water and green buildings, India can build sustainable cities capable of withstanding extreme weather challenges.

Impact & Opportunities

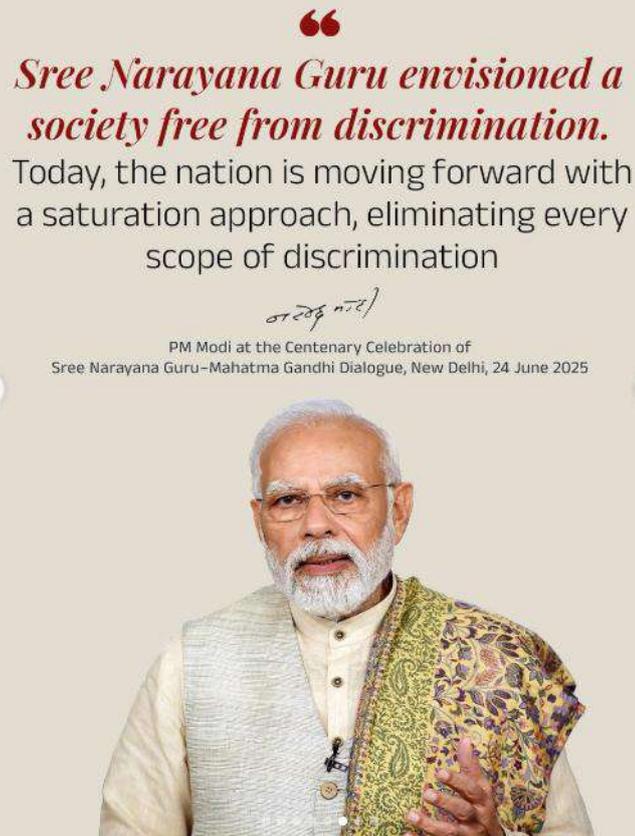
- Flood adaptation could avert **~\$5 billion losses annually by 2030, ~\$30 billion by 2070**
- Heat mitigation measures could save **~130,000 lives and boost GDP by up to 0.4%**
- Resilient cities attract investment, generate jobs, foster innovation, and build inclusive prosperity

NEWS IN SHORT

Prime Minister recalls vision of Sree Narayana on his birth anniversary

Why in News?

PM Modi paid tribute to Sree Narayana Guru on his birth anniversary (September 7th, 2025) through social media posts.



Sree Narayana Guru - Key Overview

Life & Background

- Born 22 August 1856 in Chempazhanthy village, Kerala to Madan Asan and Kuttியamma.
- From the Ezhava caste (lower caste), experienced caste discrimination firsthand.
- Died 20 September 1928.

Education & Spiritual Journey

- Studied Sanskrit and Ayurveda, learned Vedic philosophy and Upanishads.
- Spent 8 years in meditation at Maruthwamala cave after wandering through Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Emerged as enlightened spiritual leader.

Revolutionary Temple Movement

- 1888: Consecrated Shiva temple at Aruvippuram - first non-Brahmin to install temple deity.
- Broke centuries-old caste barriers in temple worship.

- Built 40+ temples across Kerala open to all castes.
- Temple message: "One caste, one religion, one God for mankind".

Social Reforms & Organizations

- 1903: Founded SNDP Yogam with Dr. P. Palpu focusing on education, organization, economic empowerment.
- Led Vaikom Satyagraha against caste discrimination.
- 1904: Established Sivagiri Ashram near Varkala.
- 1924: Created Sivagiri Foundation.

Educational Revolution

- Opened schools for lower castes regardless of background.
- Founded Sanskrit school in Varkala for poor boys and orphans.
- Created education facilities at temple premises.

Core Philosophy

- "One in Kind, One in Faith, One in God, is Man"
- "Whatever be the religion, it suffices if it makes a better man"
- Promoted universal brotherhood, social equality, and non-violent philosophy.

Legacy & Recognition

- Influenced Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.
- Transformed Kerala society through spiritual and social reforms.
- Wrote philosophical works, poems, hymns in Malayalam and Sanskrit.