



Monthly Brief #14, June 2025

Plastic Pollution: India Must Go Beyond Recycling

Plastic waste is choking cities, rivers, and oceans across the Global South. In India, despite bans and recycling targets, trash continues to pile up — from Jaipur's Central Park to rural waterways. Recycling helps, but it's not enough. India generates nearly 10 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, with over half of it mismanaged.

Much of our recycling is "downcycling" — turning plastic into lower-grade products that soon become waste again. The real solution lies in reducing use, reusing materials, and redesigning products. While India's 2022 ban on single-use plastics was a step forward, weak enforcement has limited impact.

We must shift to minimal, reusable, and eco-friendly packaging. Reuse models — such as refill stations and returnable containers — need stronger infrastructure and incentives. Alternatives like bioplastics are not always viable and may harm recycling systems. Instead, investing in truly circular, locally adapted materials is key.

India's EPR policy must be strengthened with transparency, innovation support, and local waste systems. Behavioural change is equally vital — reviving frugality and reuse through schools, temples, and influencers.

India has a chance to lead globally by aligning cultural wisdom with climate action. Ending plastic pollution requires more than cleanup — it demands systemic change.

Pradeep S Mehta
Editor

Abridged from an article appeared in Asian Age on June 04, 2025. The same can be accessed at: <https://www.asianage.com/opinion/columnists/pradeep-s-mehta-to-truly-end-plastic-pollution-in-global-south-we-must-look-beyond-recycling-1883209>

Message for our Readers

The fourteenth edition of the National Affairs Monthly Brief contains selected published news or comments on trade, regulatory, and governance issues.

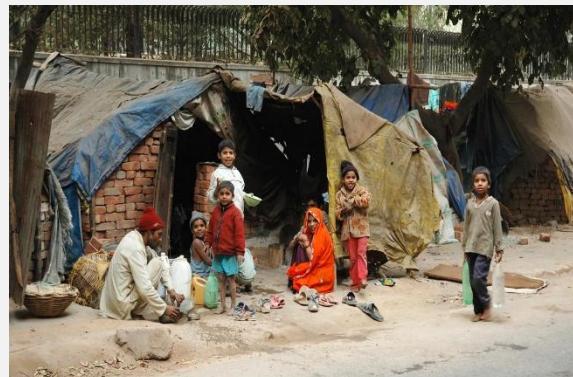
This newsletter contains copyrighted material whose use has not been authorised by the copyright owners. CUTS is making these articles available in our efforts to advance understanding of trade, regulatory and governance issues. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of the copyrighted material as provided for in Article 10 of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Paris Text 1971) and Section 107 of the US Copyright Law. If anybody wishes to use materials from this publication for purposes beyond 'fair use', s/he must obtain permission from the copyright owner. CUTS will not draw any profit from this publication since it is solely for informative and educational purposes.

Readers are encouraged to send their views and suggestions at cuts1@cuts.org



Extreme Poverty in India Falls to 5.3%

India's extreme poverty drops to 5.3 percent in 2022-23 from 27.1 percent in 2011-12, lifting 269 million people out of poverty, says World Bank. Despite a higher US\$3 poverty line, significant gains were made. Lower-middle-income poverty also fell from 57.7 percent to 23.9 percent during the same period.



India's Aviation Takes Off: New Law, New Opportunities



Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited global investments in India's aviation sector, calling it a fast-growing industry with vast potential. He highlighted the new Indian Aircraft Act, which aligns with global norms, eases compliance, and offers major opportunities. He said aviation growth means more flights, jobs, and prospects for pilots, engineers, and staff.

- [India Enters Top 100 in SDG Ranking](#)

Livemint, June 25, 2025

- [Anti-Dumping Duty on 6 Chinese Products](#)

The Economic Times, June 24, 2025

- [E-Way Link to Boost Nepal Trade](#)

Times of India, June 21, 2025

- [Govt Seeks Input on ASEAN FTA Issues](#)

Amiti Sen, The Hindu Business Line, June 19, 2025



CCI Notifies New Rules to Tackle Predatory Pricing

In a further bid to check predatory pricing and ensure fair competition, the Competition Commission of India has notified new definitions for various costs it will use to judge whether a price charged by a company for a product or service is predatory or not. According to the Competition Act 2002, predatory pricing is where a good or service is priced below its cost with the aim to reduce competition and eliminate competitors.



TRAI Proposal May Curb Spam, Aid Data Laws



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's new consent mechanism pilot for spam control aims to harmonise with India's data protection law, addressing past failures due to poor coordination and enforcement. Telcos highlight the need to include OTT platforms for comprehensive spam prevention, despite potential initial business costs for system upgrades.

- [Five Firms Bid for Bankrupt JAL](#)

The Economic Times, June 25, 2025

- [NCLT Orders Tulip Hotels Liquidation](#)

Kailash Babar and Maulik Vyas, The Economic Times, June 25, 2025

- [India's Aviation Faces Mid-Life Crisis](#)

The Economic Times, June 16, 2025

- [UPI Transactions to Get Faster](#)

Srishti Singh Sisodia, NDTV, June 15, 2025



Empowering Women in Agriculture for Food Security

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, garnering the support of over 100 co-sponsors. The resolution celebrates the essential role of women in global agriculture while raising awareness of their challenges, which include property rights and market access.



Why Govt Wants Two Helmets Per Bike



The Indian government has proposed a rule requiring two-wheeler manufacturers to supply two helmets with every bike purchase. Announced on June 23, 2025, the amendment to the Central Motor Vehicle Rules aims to improve road safety for both riders and pillion passengers. Once finalised, the rule will take effect three months after its publication in the official gazette.

- [80% Domestic Flyers May Use Digi Yatra by 2028](#)
Deepak Patel, Business Standard, June 30, 2025
- [Over 53K Children Rescued from Labour, Trafficking](#)
Anshita Mehra, The Tribune, June 25, 2025
- [Tencent Launches AI Tools for Digital Philanthropy](#)
TechinAsia, June 25, 2025
- [Rajasthan Holds Health Camps in Tribal Areas](#)
Times of India, June 15, 2025

In Media

- [The subordinate judiciary is an economic pillar India must fix](#)
Pradeep S. Mehta & Akanksha Mathur, Live Mint, June 17, 2025
- [The hidden cost of the Ghibli effect](#)
Sasmit Patra & Pradeep S. Mehta, The Financial Express, June 13, 2025
- [World Bicycle Day: Indian cities need a cycling revolution](#)
Amardeep Singh, Policy Circle, June 02, 2025