



Shaping tomorrow

Thailand's Futures Minister on policies for the next generation

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Too rich to ignore

How proposals for an "extreme wealth line" could curb inequality

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Rwanda's Anti-Poverty Plan

New national strategy brings citizens to the table

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UK job guarantee eases crisis in adult social care

LISA HOLMES - LONDON

The UK government has hailed its national job guarantee programme for alleviating the country's longstanding adult social care crisis. The landmark scheme to provide socially valuable jobs to anyone willing to work has ended acute staff shortages, placing hundreds of jobseekers in meaningful employment.

The National Employment Scheme (NES), launched four years ago, fulfilled the government's pledge to address an increasingly precarious labour market by guaranteeing a secure, fair-wage job for anyone seeking one.

"For years, the UK's adult social care system has faced severe strain: workforce vacancies, rising demand from an ageing population, and widespread burnout among underpaid, private care workers," said the UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. "The NES has directly linked these two challenges – addressing unmet care needs through offering productive and stable public employment."

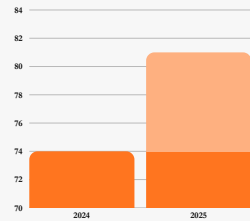
The adult social care crisis had been described by MPs and advocacy groups as one of the UK's most urgent domestic policy failures. Officials report that vacancy rates in adult social care have fallen dramatically, waiting lists have stabilised, and local authorities are no longer forced to ration essential services.

"This is not temporary relief," said the head of the UK's leading policy think tank, Driving Equitable Economic Policy (DEEP). "It is structural transformation."

With adult social care no longer defined by chronic shortages and instability, the UK's model is now being closely watched by policymakers abroad. PAGE 2

Australia reports 7% surge in national wellbeing as government shifts beyond GDP

JESSICA QUIGLEY - CANBERRA



Source: Australian Wellbeing Bureau

Australia has recorded a 7% increase in national wellbeing over the past year, according to the country's latest annual assessment under its new post-GDP Sustainable and Inclusive Wellbeing Framework, in a striking departure from traditional economic reporting.

Treasury officials described the result as "a more honest picture of national progress," reflecting expanded public healthcare access, reduced income inequality, improved work-life balance, lower per-capita emissions and measurable environmental recovery in key regions.

The shift required significant changes to the country's statistical infrastructure, led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which has been reoriented toward multidimensional wellbeing measurement. The Bureau has established participatory councils made up of civil society groups, trade unions, academic experts and community representatives to help define what counts as progress — a move described as "democratising national data."

Under the reform, all major budget decisions must now be assessed against their impact on human rights, social cohesion, and ecological boundaries.

As one senior policymaker put it: "Growth tells us how fast the economy is moving. Wellbeing tells us whether it is moving in the right direction." PAGE 13

Debt cancellation spurs surge in education investment

Debt cancellation programmes have prompted a record increase in spending on education, as countries freed from heavy interest repayments prioritise school and teaching infrastructure, according to a new UN report. PAGE 11

Colombians take control of shared natural resources

Bogotá has enacted reforms granting local communities legal rights over forests, fisheries, land and water, protecting natural resources long under threat from industrial projects and commercial concessions. PAGE 17

Poverty at record low in South Africa

Poverty has plummeted to historic lows in South Africa since the launch of Universal Care Income, a nationwide programme turning caregiving and community work into paid jobs. PAGE 25



United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States.

UN Member States agree on historic Global Fund for Social Protection

JACQUES DENUIT - NEW YORK

In a landmark agreement reached in the early hours of the morning, United Nations Member States formally endorsed the creation of a Global Fund for Social Protection (GFSP), pledging multi-year financing to support welfare programmes in low-income countries.

Delegates described the fund as a mechanism for coordinating predictable international support for "life-saving" social protection schemes. Once operational, the GFSP will enable participating countries to guarantee income security for children, older persons, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and the unemployed, alongside essential healthcare.

"This decision marks a historic shift in global social policy," one diplomat said following the vote. "For decades, social protection systems across much of the world have remained fragmented, underfunded and heavily dependent on volatile aid flows – leaving millions exposed to poverty, unemployment, illness and external shocks."

Funding will be contingent on national action plans demonstrating how countries intend to mobilise domestic resources to guarantee minimum social protection floors, ensuring that international contributions complement rather than replace national funding.

Observers likened the significance of the agreement to past milestones in global health and development financing. PAGE 8

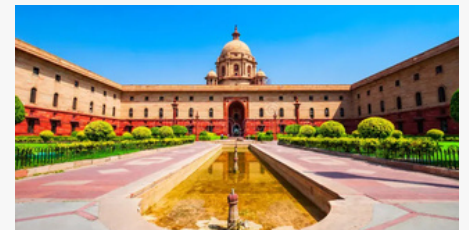
New Delhi targets polluters with tax drive to fund climate and poverty programmes

MEERA KHERA - NEW DELHI

The Indian government has unveiled plans to tax resource use and environmental harm, aiming to hold polluters accountable while funding climate mitigation, adaptation and social welfare programmes.

The proposed measures would target companies engaged in fossil fuel, mineral extraction, aviation, and shipping, with rates calibrated to discourage overuse and reward restoration. Officials say the revenues would be recycled into cash transfers, universal services, and green public investment, reducing both pollution and inequality.

"A tax on environmental harm ensures that those responsible for pollution contribute to



Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, India.

solutions," a senior Ministry of Finance official said.

Observers say India's proposal signals a growing willingness among emerging economies to link fiscal policy with environmental stewardship, positioning the country as a leader in human rights-based, climate-conscious taxation. PAGE 19

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