



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>  
**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>  
**CONTACT:** 9971932488



# PATRIOTIC IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

## 22 OCTOBER 2025

**YouTube link:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**Telegram Channel:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

PCS Special:		22 October 2025
1.	<b>Impish glee fades: Asrani, a master of the comic timing, passes away at 84</b> शरारती खुशी फीकी पड़ गई: हास्य समय के माहिर असरानी का 84 वर्ष की आयु में निधन	
2.	<b>Chess World Cup logo launched</b> चेस वर्ल्ड कप लोगो लॉन्च किया गया	



## Powering up



Traditional wrestlers from Sindh province compete during a match also known as "Malakhra" in Karachi in Pakistan on Tuesday. REUTERS

Traditional wrestlers from Sindh province compete during a match also known as "Malakhra" in Karachi in Pakistan on Tuesday.

PATRIOTIC



# Impish glee fades: Asrani, a master of the comic timing, passes away at 84

**PCS**

**Anuj Kumar**

Known for his unparalleled comic timing and expressive facial contortions, Govardhan Asrani had the ability to infuse everyday characters with wit and relatability that withstood the test of time.

The veteran comedian passed away in Mumbai on October 20, aged 84, after a prolonged illness.

Versatility was his middle name as he transcended the typical sidekick stereotype to become a perfect foil for the lead character, blending slapstick with subtle satire and dramatic depth.

Born in a Sindhi family in Jaipur on January 1, 1941, Asrani turned away from the carpet business of his father and wanted to pursue acting. He joined the Film And Television Institute of India under Roshan



Govardhan Asrani

Taneja. Taking the comic baton, he carved his own niche, appearing in more than 400 films.

His genius lay in turning brief appearances into memorable moments. Combining physical comedy with sharp dialogue delivery, his most popular performance is as the bumbling jailor, a parody of Adolf Hitler and misplaced

sense of power, in *Sholay*. In Asrani's accented Hindi, the single screen sequence becomes a popular culture staple that hasn't lost its charm even 50 years after it first cracked up the audience. There was much more to him than just a purveyor of buffoonery. A dynamic presence in Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Gulzar's movies, with his wide-eyed innocence and goofy smiles, Asrani made even stock characters come alive with his infectious energy.

His popular movies include *Namak Haram*, *Bawarchi*, *Guddi*, *Abhiman*, *Sabse Bada Sukh*, *Satyakam*, *Piya Ka Ghar*, *Mere Apne*, *Parichay*, *Koshish*, *Aarop*, among others.

In 1988, he returned to his alma mater, and as the Principal of FTII helped shape its curriculum and remained a guiding light.

**Impish glee fades: Asrani, a master of the comic timing, passes away at 84**  
**शरारती खुशी फीकी पड़ गई: हास्य समय के माहिर असरानी का 84 वर्ष की आयु में निधन**

- Known for his unparalleled **comic timing and expressive facial contortions**, Govardhan Asrani had the ability to infuse everyday characters with wit and relatability that withstood the test of time.  
अपनी बेजोड़ हास्य समय और भावपूर्ण चेहरे की मुद्राओं के लिए प्रसिद्ध, गोवर्धन असरानी में रोजमर्रा के किरदारों में हास्य और जुड़ाव भरने की क्षमता थी, जो समय की कसौटी पर खरी उतरी।
- The veteran comedian passed away in **Mumbai on October 20, aged 84**, after a prolonged illness.  
दिग्गज हास्य अभिनेता का लंबी बीमारी के बाद 20 अक्टूबर को मुंबई में, 84 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।



- Versatility was his middle name as he transcended the typical sidekick stereotype to become a perfect foil for the lead character, blending **slapstick with subtle satire and dramatic depth**.  
विविधता उनका मध्य नाम था क्योंकि उन्होंने सामान्य सहायक किरदार के रूपक को पार करके मुख्य पात्र के लिए आदर्श विरोधी बन गए, और हास्य, सूक्ष्म व्यंग्य और नाटकीय गहराई को मिलाया।
- Born in a **Sindhi family in Jaipur on January 1, 1941**, Asrani turned away from the carpet business of his father and wanted to pursue acting.  
**1 जनवरी 1941 को जयपुर में सिंधी परिवार में जन्मे**, असरानी ने अपने पिता के कालीन व्यवसाय को छोड़कर अभिनय करने का निर्णय लिया।
- He joined the **Film And Television Institute of India under Roshan Taneja**.  
उन्होंने **रोशन तनेजा के अधीन फिल्म और टेलीविजन संस्थान ऑफ इंडिया (FTII)** में दाखिला लिया।
- Taking the comic baton, he carved his own niche, appearing in **more than 400 films**.  
हास्य की बागडोर संभालते हुए, उन्होंने अपनी अलग पहचान बनाई और **400 से अधिक फिल्मों** में अभिनय किया।
- His genius lay in turning brief appearances into memorable moments.  
उनकी प्रतिभा **संक्षिप्त दिखावे को यादगार पलों में बदलने** में निहित थी।
- Combining **physical comedy with sharp dialogue delivery**, his most popular performance is as the **bumbling jailor**, a parody of Adolf Hitler and misplaced sense of power, in **Sholay**.  
**शारीरिक हास्य और तीखी संवाद अदायगी** को मिलाकर, उनका सबसे लोकप्रिय प्रदर्शन **शोलय में असफल जेलर** के रूप में है, जो एडोल्फ हिटलर और शक्ति की गलत समझ का पैरोडी है।
- In Asrani's accented Hindi, the single screen sequence becomes a **popular culture staple** that hasn't lost its charm even 50 years after it first cracked up the audience.  
असरानी की उच्चारित हिंदी में, यह एकल स्क्रीन दृश्य **लोकप्रिय संस्कृति का हिस्सा** बन गया, जिसने पहली बार दर्शकों को हंसाए 50 साल बाद भी अपनी आकर्षकता नहीं खोई।
- There was much more to him than just a purveyor of buffoonery.  
वे केवल **हास्य प्रदाता** से कहीं अधिक थे।
- A dynamic presence in **Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Gulzar's movies**, with his **wide-eyed innocence and goofy smiles**, Asrani made even stock characters come alive with his infectious energy.  
**हृषिकेश मुखर्जी और गुलजार की फिल्मों में**, अपनी फैलती आँखों की मासूमियत और मूर्खतापूर्ण **मुस्कान** के साथ, असरानी ने सामान्य किरदारों को भी अपनी **संक्रामक ऊर्जा** से जीवंत बना दिया।
- His popular movies include **Namak Haram, Bawarchi, Guddi, Abhiman, Sabse Bada Sukh, Satyakam, Piya Ka Ghar, Mere Apne, Parichay, Koshish, Aarop**, among others.  
उनकी लोकप्रिय फिल्मों में शामिल हैं **नमक हराम, बावर्ची, गुड्डी, अभिमान, सबसे बड़ा सुख, सत्यकाम, पिया का घर, मेरे अपने, परिचय, कोशिश, आरोप**, अन्य के अलावा।

- In 1988, he returned to his **alma mater**, and as the **Principal of FTII** helped shape its curriculum and remained a guiding light.  
1988 में, वह अपने **अल्मा मेटर** लौटे, और **FTII के प्राचार्य** के रूप में उसके पाठ्यक्रम को आकार देने में मदद की और मार्गदर्शक बने रहे।

## Chess World Cup logo launched

PCS

Sports Bureau

The logo of the Chess World Cup, which kicks off at Arpora (Goa) on November 1, was launched on Tuesday. More than 200 players will take part in the knock-out tournament.

The logo was launched by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. The World Cup's anthem, sung by Daler Mehndi, was also released at the function.

The World Cup is one of the biggest events in the FIDE calendar. With the



top three qualifying for the Candidates tournament (from which the challenger of the World champion will be determined), much is at stake in Goa, besides the ₹17.58 crore prize fund.

The top three seeds are D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi.

## Chess World Cup logo launched चेस वर्ल्ड कप लोगो लॉन्च किया गया

- The logo of the **Chess World Cup**, which kicks off at **Arpora (Goa) on November 1**, was launched on Tuesday.  
**चेस वर्ल्ड कप** का लोगो, जो **1 नवंबर को अर्पोरा (गोवा)** में शुरू होगा, मंगलवार को लॉन्च किया गया।
- More than **200 players** will take part in the **knock-out tournament**.  
**200 से अधिक खिलाड़ी** इस **नॉक-आउट टूर्नामेंट** में हिस्सा लेंगे।
- The logo was launched by **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant**.  
लोगो को **गोवा के मुख्यमंत्री प्रमोद सावंत** ने लॉन्च किया।



- The World Cup's **anthem, sung by Daler Mehndi**, was also released at the function.  
वर्ल्ड कप का **एंथम, जिसे डलेर मेहंदी ने गाया है**, भी इस समारोह में जारी किया गया।
- The World Cup is one of the **biggest events** in the **FIDE calendar**.  
वर्ल्ड कप **FIDE कैलेंडर** के सबसे **बड़े आयोजनों** में से एक है।
- With the top three qualifying for the **Candidates tournament** (from which the challenger of the World champion will be determined), much is at stake in Goa, besides the **₹17.58 crore prize fund**.  
शीर्ष तीन खिलाड़ी **कैंडिडेट्स टूर्नामेंट** के लिए क्वालिफाई करेंगे (जिससे विश्व चैम्पियन का चुनौतीकर्ता निर्धारित होगा), गोवा में बहुत कुछ दांव पर है, इसके अलावा **₹17.58 करोड़ का पुरस्कार निधि** भी है।
- The top three seeds are **D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi**.  
शीर्ष तीन सीड खिलाड़ी हैं **D. गुकेश, R. प्रग्रनंधा, अर्जुन एरिगैसी**।

## GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

### TOPICS COVERED

22 October 2025

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | <b>Flashes in the pan</b><br>क्षणिक चमक   |
| 2. | <b>Concerned carmakers race to beat China's rare earths deadline</b><br>चिंतित कार निर्माता चीन की दुर्लभ पृथ्वी समय सीमा से पहले भागमभाग में     |
| 3. | <b>U.S.-Australia rare earths deal won't shake China dominance</b><br>अमेरिका-ऑस्ट्रेलिया दुर्लभ पृथ्वी समझौता चीन के प्रभुत्व को नहीं हिला पाएगा |



# Flashes in the pan

**GS I: Geography**

**By Vasudevan Mukunth**



**Q: What are transient lunar phenomena?**

**A:** For centuries, sky-gazers have reported seeing peculiar,

short-lived events on the moon's surface, from strange flashes of light to hazy glows and patches of unusual colour. These fleeting occurrences are called transient lunar phenomena (TLPs). A TLP can last anywhere from a few seconds to several hours before vanishing.

Scientists don't know what they really are or why they happen, but they've interpreted the TLPs' existence to mean the moon is more dynamic than they once believed.

People have documented reports of these mysterious events for a thousand years; even the Apollo 11 astronauts reported witnessing a luminous glow in 1969. The most common sightings include bright, star-like points of light, reddish or coloured glows, and some sort of mists obscuring the view. Some of the most active areas for these phenomena include the Aristarchus and Plato craters. While scientists are still exploring the origins of TLPs, there are a few leading theories. One is the



Scientists have interpreted the TLPs' existence to mean the moon is more dynamic than they once believed. MIKE PETRUCCI/UNSPLASH

release of gases such as radon and argon from beneath the moon's surface. This outgassing could be triggered by gravitational stresses or the heating of the surface, causing the released gas and dust to glow or reflect sunlight. Another likely cause is meteoroid impacts, which are frequent on the moon because it lacks a protective atmosphere. These high-velocity collisions can generate a flash of light.

Other possibilities include electrostatic phenomena, where lunar dust becomes charged and levitates, and disturbances in the earth's own atmosphere that distort our view of the moon.

**For feedback and suggestions**

for 'Science', please write to [science@thehindu.co.in](mailto:science@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Daily page'

## Flashes in the pan क्षणिक चमक

- For centuries, **sky-gazers** have reported seeing peculiar, short-lived events on the **moon's surface**, from strange flashes of light to hazy glows and patches of unusual colour.  
सदियों से, आकाश-देखने वालों ने चंद्रमा की सतह पर अजीब, अल्पकालिक घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट की है, जैसे अजीब प्रकाश की चमक, धुंधले उजाले और असामान्य रंग के धब्बे।
- These fleeting occurrences are called **transient lunar phenomena (TLPs)**.  
इन क्षणिक घटनाओं को **क्षणिक चंद्र घटनाएँ (TLPs)** कहा जाता है।
- A TLP can last anywhere from a few seconds to several hours before vanishing.  
एक TLP कुछ **सेकंडों से लेकर कई घंटों तक** रह सकता है, फिर गायब हो जाता है।
- Scientists don't know what they really are or why they happen, but they've interpreted the TLPs' existence to mean the **moon is more dynamic than they once believed**.





वैज्ञानिक नहीं जानते कि ये वास्तव में क्या हैं या ये क्यों होते हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने TLPs के अस्तित्व को यह बताने के रूप में देखा कि **चंद्रमा पहले की तुलना में अधिक गतिशील है।**

- People have documented reports of these mysterious events for a **thousand years**; even the **Apollo 11 astronauts reported witnessing a luminous glow in 1969.**  
लोगों ने इन रहस्यमय घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट **हजारों वर्षों** से दर्ज की है; यहां तक कि **अपोलो 11 के अंतरिक्षयात्रियों** ने 1969 में एक चमकती रोशनी देखी।
- The most common sightings include **bright, star-like points of light, reddish or coloured glows**, and some sort of mists obscuring the view.  
सबसे आम दृश्य में शामिल हैं **चमकदार, तारा जैसी बिंदु रोशनी, लाल या रंगीन चमक**, और किसी प्रकार की धुंध जो दृश्य को ढकती है।
- Some of the most active areas for these phenomena include the **Aristarchus and Plato craters.**  
इन घटनाओं के लिए सबसे सक्रिय क्षेत्रों में शामिल हैं **अरिस्टार्चस और प्लेटो क्रेटर्स।**
- While scientists are still exploring the origins of TLPs, there are a few leading theories.  
जबकि वैज्ञानिक अभी भी TLPs की उत्पत्ति का पता लगा रहे हैं, इसके लिए कुछ प्रमुख **सिद्धांत** हैं।
- One is the release of gases such as **radon and argon** from beneath the moon's surface.  
एक कारण **रेडॉन और आर्गन** जैसे गैसों का चंद्रमा की सतह के नीचे से बाहर निकलना है।
- This outgassing could be triggered by **gravitational stresses or the heating of the surface**, causing the released gas and dust to **glow or reflect sunlight.**  
यह गैस का निकलना **गुरुत्वाकर्षण दबाव या सतह के गर्म होने** से हो सकता है, जिससे निकली हुई गैस और धूल **चमकती है या सूर्य का प्रकाश प्रतिबिंबित करती है।**
- Another likely cause is **meteoroid impacts, which are frequent on the moon because it lacks a protective atmosphere.**  
एक और संभावित कारण है **उल्कापिंड के प्रभाव**, जो चंद्रमा पर अक्सर होते हैं क्योंकि यह **सुरक्षात्मक वायुमंडल** नहीं रखता।
- These high-velocity collisions can generate a **flash of light.**  
ये उच्च गति के टकराव **प्रकाश की चमक** उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।
- Other possibilities include **electrostatic phenomena**, where lunar dust becomes charged and levitates, and **disturbances in the earth's own atmosphere** that distort our view of the moon.  
अन्य संभावनाओं में शामिल हैं **विद्युतस्थैतिक घटनाएं**, जहां चंद्र धूल चार्ज हो जाती है और हवा में उठती है, और **पृथ्वी के अपने वायुमंडल में विक्षेप** जो चंद्रमा के हमारे दृश्य को विकृत कर सकते हैं।



# Concerned carmakers race to beat China's rare earths deadline

China controls 70% rare-earth mining, 85% refining; rare-earth-free motors are years from mass output; China pricing undermines new rare-earth mines abroad; plenty of rare earth available in countries like Sweden but they do not have the mines or refining capacity to make them usable

SS I: Resource Distribution

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters  
LONDON/BERLIN

Global automakers are scouring the globe for crucial rare earths ahead of looming Chinese export controls, with executives worried they could lead to parts shortages and plant closures. Rare earth magnets power motors in car parts such as side mirrors, speakers, oil pumps, windshield wipers and fuel leakage and braking sensors. They play an even bigger role in EVs.

While a U.S.-China deal diverted a supply thread, stock piles were depleted by similar restrictions earlier this year, while Beijing has also made it harder to get export licenses. China has since dramatically expanded export curbs, with companies facing global supply shortages.

Consultancy AlixPartners estimates China controls up to 70% of global rare-earths mining, 85% of refining capacity and about 90% of rare-earths metal alloy and magnet production. The new Chinese export control list includes elements like yttrium, holmium and europium, also used in making cars.

"The situation is very tense," said Nadine Rajner, CEO of German metal-



War over minerals: A sample of monazite, a mineral used in the rare earth industry. REUTERS

powder supplier NMD, adding customers want to source rare earths from anywhere but China.

As part of efforts to counter Chinese dominance, on Monday President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony signed a critical minerals agreement that includes U.S. investments in rare earth mining projects in Australia.

## No capacity

NMD's Rajner said while there are plenty of rare earth available in countries like Sweden, they do not have the mines or refining capacity to make them usable. And for heavy rare earths, China controls 99.8% of global refining capacity, making alternative sources negli-



Consultancy AlixPartners estimates China controls up to 70% of global rare-earths mining, 85% of refining capacity and about 90% of rare-earths metal alloy and magnet production

"We are pretty much sold out and have limited stocks," Rajner said.

Rare earths can be recycled from old cars, but that industry is in its infancy. Neutral, a Renault-backed company, currently recycles rare earths from 4,00,000 cars a year in France and has contracts with 15 brands in Europe.

But "the challenge is scaling up these activities,"

said Neutral CEO Jean-Philippe Bahuaud.

## 'Already depleted'

Even if Chinese suppliers can fulfill fresh orders before the November 8 export controls take effect, the journey by sea to Europe can take 45 days and the threat of a rare earth bottleneck is among several headaches facing the auto industry.

China has also placed export restrictions on lithium-ion batteries and battery materials, triggering concerns over parts supplies for electric vehicles.

And last week, an intellectual-property dispute between China and the Netherlands involving little-known Dutch chip-maker Nexperia, sparked fears of factory closures because

seit supplies a large amount of chips car parts and components. Automakers also face the challenge of U.S. tariffs and are expected to detail the costs in their third-quarter earnings. But China's hold over the industry through its control of rare earths ranks among the thorniest problems. "They can shut us down in two months, the entire auto industry," said Ryan Grimm, Toyota Motor's North America group vice president of purchasing supplier development.

Bruno Gahery, president of France, Benelux, West and South Europe at supplier Bosch, said he expected the auto industry to "overstock rare earths" ahead of the deadline.

But an executive at a magnet supplier for Hyundai said while it built inventories earlier this year, "most have already been depleted" and supplies are tight. Some Chinese rare earths exporters received a rush of orders from overseas clients immediately after new export controls were announced on October 9, three industry sources told Reuters.

**Rare earth free motors**  
Automakers are taking steps to reduce reliance.

Some such as General Motors and major suppliers such as ZF and Borg-Warner are developing EV motors with low-to-zero rare-earth content, while

BMW and Renault have produced rare earth-free motors. Monumo has used AI and deep-tech simulation to help clients cut rare earth content in motors already in production, which CEO Dominic Vergine said has led to an average reduction of 24% among the U.K. firm's customers, which include several of the world's top 10 carmakers, he said.

Automakers are also pushing hard to improve rare earth-free motors for the next generation of EVs.

Yet most of those motors are years away, as are efforts to develop new rare earth mines and processing plants outside China, which Beijing can undermine by keeping prices low, industry experts say.

Experts say the U.S. government is taking the threat far more seriously than Europe. Andy Leyland, co-founder of supply chain specialist SCInsights, said Beijing has focused on beating others on price and will continue to do so.

"The Chinese can always undercut them," he said of efforts to develop rare-earth free motors, adding that faced with cheaper motors with rare earth magnets automakers may find it hard to justify more expensive components. "So it's a really risky investment." Meanwhile, China is expected to keep exerting its power oversupplies of rare earths.

## Concerned carmakers race to beat China's rare earths deadline

### चिंतित कार निर्माता चीन की दुर्लभ पृथ्वी समय सीमा से पहले भागमभाग में

- China controls **70% rare-earth mining, 85% refining**; rare-earth-free motors are **years from mass output**; China pricing undermines new rare-earth mines abroad; plenty of rare earth available in countries like Sweden but they do not have the mines or refining capacity to make them usable.

चीन नियंत्रित करता है **70% दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनन, 85% रिफाइनिंग**; दुर्लभ

पृथ्वी-मुक्त मोटर **सामूहिक उत्पादन से कई साल दूर** हैं; चीन की कीमतें विदेश में नए दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खानों को कमजोर करती हैं; स्वीडन जैसे देशों में पर्याप्त दुर्लभ पृथ्वी उपलब्ध है, लेकिन उनके पास उन्हें उपयोगी बनाने के लिए खदानें या रिफाइनिंग क्षमता नहीं है।

- Global automakers are scouring the globe for crucial rare earths ahead of looming Chinese export controls, with executives worried they could lead to parts shortages and plant closures. वैश्विक कार निर्माता **महत्वपूर्ण दुर्लभ पृथ्वी** के लिए दुनिया भर में खोज कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि आगामी चीनी **निर्यात नियंत्रण** के कारण अधिकारी चिंतित हैं कि इससे **भागों की कमी और संयंत्र बंदी** हो सकती है।
- Rare earth magnets power motors in car parts such as **side mirrors, speakers, oil pumps, windshield wipers and fuel leakage and braking sensors**.





दुर्लभ पृथ्वी के मैग्नेट कार के हिस्सों में मोटर्स को शक्ति प्रदान करते हैं जैसे साइड मिरर, स्पीकर, तेल पंप, विंडशील्ड वाइपर और ईंधन रिसाव और ब्रेकिंग सेंसर।

- They play an even bigger role in **EVs**.  
ये इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EVs) में और भी बड़ा योगदान देते हैं।
- While a **U.S.-China deal** diverted a supply threat, stock piles were depleted by similar restrictions earlier this year, while Beijing has also made it harder to get **export licenses**.  
हालांकि एक अमेरिका-चीन समझौते ने आपूर्ति खतरे को टाला, स्टॉक पहले से ही इसी साल समान प्रतिबंधों से कम हो गए थे, और बीजिंग ने निर्यात लाइसेंस प्राप्त करना भी कठिन कर दिया है।
- China has since dramatically expanded **export curbs**, with companies facing global supply shortages.  
तब से चीन ने निर्यात प्रतिबंधों का नाटकीय विस्तार किया है, जिससे कंपनियों को वैश्विक आपूर्ति की कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- Consultancy **AlixPartners** estimates China controls up to **70% of global rare-earths mining, 85% of refining capacity and about 90% of rare-earths metal alloy and magnet production**.  
कंसल्टेंसी **AlixPartners** का अनुमान है कि चीन नियंत्रित करता है वैश्विक दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनन का 70%, रिफाइनिंग क्षमता का 85% और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी धातु मिश्र धातु और मैग्नेट उत्पादन का लगभग 90%।
- The new Chinese export control list includes elements like **ytterbium, holmium and europium**, also used in making cars.  
नई चीनी निर्यात नियंत्रण सूची में तत्व शामिल हैं जैसे इटर्बियम, होल्मियम और यूरोपियम, जो कार निर्माण में भी उपयोग होते हैं।
- “The situation is very tense,” said **Nadine Rajner, CEO of German metal powder supplier NMD**, adding customers want to source rare earths from anywhere but China.  
“स्थिति बहुत तनावपूर्ण है,” कहा **नादिन रजनेर, CEO जर्मन धातु पाउडर सप्लायर NMD**, उन्होंने कहा कि ग्राहक दुर्लभ पृथ्वी कहीं से भी चाहते हैं लेकिन चीन से नहीं।
- As part of efforts to counter Chinese dominance, on Monday **President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony signed a critical minerals agreement** that includes U.S. investments in rare earth mining projects in Australia.  
चीनी प्रभुत्व को चुनौती देने के प्रयासों के तहत, सोमवार को राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प और ऑस्ट्रेलियाई प्रधानमंत्री एंथनी ने एक महत्वपूर्ण खनिज समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए**, जिसमें अमेरिका की ऑस्ट्रेलिया में दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनन परियोजनाओं में निवेश शामिल है।

## No capacity कोई क्षमता नहीं

- NMD’s Rajner said while there are plenty of rare earth available in countries like Sweden, they do not have the **mines or refining capacity** to make them usable.  
NMD की रजनेर ने कहा कि स्वीडन जैसे देशों में पर्याप्त दुर्लभ पृथ्वी उपलब्ध है, लेकिन उनके पास उन्हें उपयोगी बनाने के लिए **खनन या रिफाइनिंग क्षमता** नहीं है।
- And for **heavy rare earths**, China controls **99.8% of global refining capacity**, making alternative sources negligible. “We are pretty much sold out and have limited stocks,” Rajner said.  
और **भारी दुर्लभ पृथ्वी** के लिए, चीन नियंत्रित करता है वैश्विक रिफाइनिंग क्षमता का **99.8%**, जिससे वैकल्पिक स्रोत नगण्य हैं। “हम लगभग बिक चुके हैं और सीमित स्टॉक हैं,” रजनेर ने कहा।
- Rare earths can be recycled from old cars, but that industry is in its **infancy**.  
दुर्लभ पृथ्वी को पुरानी कारों से **पुनर्चक्रित** किया जा सकता है, लेकिन यह उद्योग अभी **प्रारंभिक चरण** में है।
- Neutral, a **Renault-backed company**, currently recycles rare earths from **400,000 cars a year in France** and has contracts with 15 brands in Europe.  
Neutral, एक **Renault समर्थित कंपनी**, वर्तमान में **फ्रांस में सालाना 4,00,000 कारों से दुर्लभ पृथ्वी पुनर्चक्रित** करती है और यूरोप में 15 ब्रांडों के साथ अनुबंध है।
- But “the challenge is **scaling up these activities**,” said Neutral CEO **Jean-Philippe Bahuaud**.  
लेकिन “चुनौती है इन गतिविधियों को **बड़े पैमाने पर बढ़ाना**,” कहा Neutral के CEO **जीन-फिलिप बहौद**।



## ‘Already depleted’ ‘पहले से ही समाप्त’

- Even if Chinese suppliers can fulfill fresh orders before the **November 8 export controls** take effect, the journey by sea to Europe can take **45 days** and the threat of a rare earth bottleneck is among several headaches facing the auto industry.  
भले ही चीनी आपूर्तिकर्ता ताजा आदेश पूरा कर सकें इससे पहले कि **8 नवंबर के निर्यात नियंत्रण** प्रभावी हों, यूरोप तक समुद्र मार्ग की यात्रा **45 दिन** ले सकती है और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी की कमी की धमकी ऑटो उद्योग के कई समस्याओं में शामिल है।
- China has also placed **export restrictions on lithium-ion batteries and battery materials**, triggering concerns over parts supplies for **electric vehicles**.  
चीन ने **लिथियम-आयन बैटरी और बैटरी सामग्री पर भी निर्यात प्रतिबंध** लगाया, जिससे **इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EVs)** के लिए पार्ट्स की आपूर्ति को लेकर चिंता बढ़ी।
- And last week, an **intellectual-property dispute between China and the Netherlands** involving little-known Dutch chip-maker **Nexperia**, sparked fears of **factory closures** because it supplies a large amount of chips for car parts and components.  
और पिछले सप्ताह, **चीन और नीदरलैंड्स के बीच बौद्धिक संपदा विवाद**, जिसमें कम परिचित डच चिप निर्माता **Nexperia** शामिल है, ने **कारखाने बंद होने का डर** पैदा किया क्योंकि यह कार पार्ट्स और घटकों के लिए बड़ी मात्रा में चिप्स आपूर्ति करता है।
- Automakers also face the challenge of **U.S. tariffs** and are expected to detail the costs in their **third-quarter earnings**.  
कार निर्माता **अमेरिकी टैरिफ** की चुनौती का भी सामना कर रहे हैं और उम्मीद है कि वे इसकी लागत को अपनी **तीसरी तिमाही की आय** में बताएंगे।
- But China’s hold over the industry through its control of rare earths ranks among the **thorniest problems**.  
लेकिन दुर्लभ पृथ्वी पर चीन का नियंत्रण उद्योग पर सबसे **कठिन समस्याओं** में से एक है।
- “They can shut us down in two months, the entire auto industry,” said **Ryan Grimm, Toyota Motor’s North America group vice president of purchasing supplier development**.  
“वे हमें दो महीने में बंद कर सकते हैं, पूरा ऑटो उद्योग,” कहा **रयान ग्रिम, टोयोटा मोटर का नॉर्थ अमेरिका ग्रुप उपाध्यक्ष, खरीद आपूर्तिकर्ता विकास**।
- **Bruno Gahery, president for France, Benelux, West and South Europe at supplier Bosch**, said he expected the auto industry to **overstock rare earths** ahead of the deadline.  
**ब्रूनो गहरे, फ्रांस, बेनेलक्स, पश्चिम और दक्षिण यूरोप में बॉश सप्लायर के अध्यक्ष**, ने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि ऑटो उद्योग **समय सीमा से पहले दुर्लभ पृथ्वी का अधिक भंडारण** करेगा।
- But an executive at a **magnet supplier for Hyundai** said while it built inventories earlier this year, “most have already been depleted” and supplies are tight.  
लेकिन **ह्यूंडई के लिए मैग्नेट सप्लायर** के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि जबकि इस साल की शुरुआत में उन्होंने स्टॉक बनाया, “ज्यादातर पहले ही समाप्त हो चुके हैं” और आपूर्ति कम है।
- Some Chinese rare earths exporters received a **rush of orders from overseas clients** immediately after new export controls were announced on **October 9**, three industry sources told Reuters.  
तीन उद्योग स्रोतों ने रॉयटर्स को बताया कि कुछ चीनी दुर्लभ पृथ्वी निर्यातकों को **9 अक्टूबर को नए निर्यात नियंत्रणों की घोषणा के तुरंत बाद** विदेशी ग्राहकों से **आदेशों की बाढ़** मिली।

## Rare earth free motors दुर्लभ पृथ्वी-मुक्त मोटर

- Automakers are taking steps to reduce reliance.  
कार निर्माता निर्भरता कम करने के कदम उठा रहे हैं।
- Some such as **General Motors** and major suppliers such as **ZF and BorgWarner** are developing **EV motors with low-to-zero rare-earth content**, while **BMW and Renault** have produced **rare earth-free motors**.  
कुछ जैसे **जनरल मोटर्स** और प्रमुख आपूर्तिकर्ता जैसे **ZF और BorgWarner** कम से **शून्य दुर्लभ पृथ्वी सामग्री वाले EV मोटर** विकसित कर रहे हैं, जबकि **BMW और Renault** ने **दुर्लभ पृथ्वी-मुक्त मोटर** बनाए हैं।



- Monumo has used **AI and deep-tech simulation** to help clients cut rare earth content in motors already in production, which CEO **Dominic Vergine** said has led to an average reduction of 24% among the U.K. firm's customers, which include several of the world's top 10 carmakers.

Monumo ने **AI और डीप-टेक सिमुलेशन** का उपयोग किया है ताकि ग्राहकों को पहले से उत्पादन में मौजूद मोटर्स में दुर्लभ पृथ्वी की सामग्री कम करने में मदद मिल सके, जिसे CEO **डोमिनिक वर्जिन** ने कहा कि इसने यू.के. कंपनी के ग्राहकों में औसत 24% कमी लाई, जिसमें दुनिया के शीर्ष 10 कार निर्माताओं में कई

## U.S.-Australia rare earths deal won't shake China dominance

CS I: Resource  
Distribution  
NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters  
SYDNEY

Donald Trump's backing of Australia's critical minerals will bring much-needed financial support to the industry, but experts say the U.S. President will have to wait longer to shift the supply chain away from China and weaken its market dominance.

In a wide-ranging agreement signed on Monday, U.S. and Australia committed a combined \$3 billion to mining and processing projects, and to a price floor for critical minerals, a step long sought by Western miners. The countries will also sign off on financing that includes offtake

rights. The White House said U.S. investments into Australia would unlock deposits of critical minerals worth \$53 billion, without offering many details.

Mr. Trump said in a year they would have "so much critical mineral and rare earths that you won't know what to do with them."

"They will be worth about \$2," Mr. Trump told reporters later. Global mining industry experts gathered at a conference in Sydney on Tuesday welcomed the news, which they said would open up investment opportunities, but they were sceptical of Mr. Trump's time horizon.

"The time frame for various projects to be ready even for 2027 would be heroic, and unachievable in the case of many projects,"



Treasure hunt: Lynas Rare Earths Ltd.'s rare earths mine located at Mount Weld in Western Australia. AP

Barrenjoey analyst Dan Morgan told Reuters.

"In general in the rare earths industry nothing can happen quickly. I don't think we are going to be swamped with supply

growth and there's no way we will be swamped in a year. We might have supply growth in 5-7 years," he said. China accounts for 90% of the world's refining capacity for rare earths

which have crucial uses in sectors such as clean energy, defence and automobiles. In a note on Monday flagging risks of supply disruptions, Goldman Sachs noted China also controls

69% of global rare earth mining, and 98% of magnet manufacturing.

While rare earths are common in the Earth's crust, China has mastered the technically difficult and environmentally-harmful refining process, comparatively cheaply. With trade tensions and security concerns rising, the U.S. and its Western allies have been looking to loosen China's grip. In April and May, Beijing squeezed global automakers with export curbs on a range of rare earths items and related magnets, and earlier this month expanded its export controls.

Benchmark prices in China for the most popular type of processed rare earths, NdPr oxide rallied by 40% to \$88 a kilogram in August, after several years

of weakness. They have since tailed back to \$71, but western world developers are calling for governments to support a higher floor price that will enable them to build production.

**No further price drop**  
It's unrealistic to expect prices to drop further and the market to be swamped with supply in the short term, said Dylan Kelly, head analyst at fund Terra Capital. "Prices right now aren't necessarily reflective of a market dynamic that can see prices fall any further," Kelly said, adding that Monday's announcement had increased the investment allure of Australian projects.

"There's a lot out there to sink our teeth into that could really shift the gear

on a number of different projects for us."

**Boost to miners**  
However, there were some clear winners from the announcement.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) sent seven Letters of Interest (LOIs) totalling more than \$2.2 billion to miners in Australia, including Arafura Rare Earths. Arafura CEO Daryl Cuzzubbo said earlier this month it needs \$800 million in equity funding to develop its Nolans project in Western Australia, and he expected about 60% of that would come from cornerstone investors by the end of the year.

"It's good for us, and it's good for our industry counterparts," said Arafura CFO Peter Sherrington.

## U.S.-Australia rare earths deal won't shake China dominance

### अमेरिका-ऑस्ट्रेलिया दुर्लभ पृथ्वी समझौता चीन के प्रभुत्व को नहीं हिला पाएगा

- Donald Trump's backing of **Australia's critical minerals** will bring much-needed **financial support** to the industry, but experts say the U.S. President will have to wait longer to shift the **supply chain away from China** and weaken its **market dominance**.

डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प का **ऑस्ट्रेलिया के महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** का समर्थन उद्योग में बहुत आवश्यक **वित्तीय सहायता** लाएगा, लेकिन विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति को **सप्लाई चेन को चीन से हटाने** और इसके **बाजार प्रभुत्व को कमजोर करने** के लिए लंबा इंतजार करना होगा।

- In a wide-ranging agreement signed on Monday, **U.S. and Australia committed a combined \$3 billion to mining and processing projects**, and to a **price floor for critical minerals**, a step long sought by Western miners.

सोमवार को हस्ताक्षरित व्यापक समझौते में, **अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने कुल \$3 बिलियन का निवेश खनन और प्रसंस्करण परियोजनाओं में करने और महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के लिए न्यूनतम मूल्य तय करने का वचन दिया**, जो पश्चिमी खनिकों द्वारा लंबे समय से मांगा जा रहा था।

- The countries will also sign off on financing that includes **offtake rights**.

देश वित्तपोषण पर भी हस्ताक्षर करेंगे जिसमें **ऑफटेक अधिकार** शामिल हैं।

- The White House said U.S. investments into Australia would unlock deposits of **critical minerals worth \$53 billion**, without offering many details.

व्हाइट हाउस ने कहा कि अमेरिका का ऑस्ट्रेलिया में निवेश **\$53 बिलियन के महत्वपूर्ण खनिज भंडार को खोल देगा**, लेकिन अधिक विवरण नहीं दिया।

- Mr. Trump said in a year they would have "so much **critical mineral and rare earths** that you won't know what to do with them."

श्री ट्रम्प ने कहा कि एक साल में उनके पास इतना **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी** होगा कि वे नहीं जान पाएंगे कि इसके साथ क्या करना है।

- "They will be worth about \$2," Mr. Trump told reporters later.

"इनकी कीमत लगभग \$2 होगी," श्री ट्रम्प ने बाद में पत्रकारों से कहा।

- Global mining industry experts gathered at a conference in Sydney on Tuesday welcomed the news, which they said would open up **investment opportunities**, but they were sceptical of



Mr. Trump's time horizon.

वैश्विक खनन उद्योग के विशेषज्ञ मंगलवार को सिडनी में एक सम्मेलन में एकत्र हुए और इस समाचार का स्वागत किया, जिसे उन्होंने कहा कि यह निवेश अवसर खोलेगा, लेकिन वे श्री ट्रम्प के समय सीमा को लेकर संशय में थे।

- “The time frame for various projects to be ready even for 2027 would be heroic, and unachievable in the case of many projects,” **Barrenjoey analyst Dan Morgan** told Reuters. “विभिन्न परियोजनाओं को 2027 तक तैयार करना वीरता भरा होगा, और कई परियोजनाओं के लिए असंभव होगा,” **Barrenjoey विश्लेषक डैन मॉर्गन** ने रॉयटर्स को बताया।
- “In general in the rare earths industry nothing can happen quickly. I don't think we are going to be swamped with supply growth and there's no way we will be swamped in a year. We might have supply growth in 5-7 years,” he said. “सामान्य रूप से दुर्लभ पृथ्वी उद्योग में कुछ भी जल्दी नहीं हो सकता। मुझे नहीं लगता कि हम आपूर्ति वृद्धि में डूब जाएंगे और एक साल में ऐसा कोई तरीका नहीं है। हम 5-7 साल में आपूर्ति वृद्धि देख सकते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- China accounts for **90% of the world's refining capacity for rare earths** which have crucial uses in sectors such as **clean energy, defence and automobiles**. चीन नियंत्रित करता है **विश्व की दुर्लभ पृथ्वी रिफाइनिंग क्षमता का 90%**, जो **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, रक्षा और ऑटोमोबाइल** जैसे क्षेत्रों में महत्वपूर्ण उपयोग रखते हैं।
- In a note on Monday flagging risks of supply disruptions, **Goldman Sachs** noted China also controls **69% of global rare earth mining, and 98% of magnet manufacturing**. सप्लाई बाधाओं के जोखिम को हाइलाइट करते हुए सोमवार को एक नोट में, **गोल्डमैन सैक्स** ने बताया कि चीन **वैश्विक दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनन का 69% और मैग्नेट निर्माण का 98%** भी नियंत्रित करता है।
- While rare earths are common in the Earth's crust, China has mastered the **technically difficult and environmentally-harmful refining process**, comparatively cheaply. जबकि दुर्लभ पृथ्वी पृथ्वी की परत में सामान्य हैं, चीन ने **तकनीकी रूप से कठिन और पर्यावरणीय रूप से हानिकारक रिफाइनिंग प्रक्रिया** को अपेक्षाकृत सस्ते में मास्टर किया है।
- With trade tensions and security concerns rising, the **U.S. and its Western allies** have been looking to **loosen China's grip**. व्यापार तनाव और सुरक्षा चिंताओं के बढ़ने के साथ, **अमेरिका और उसके पश्चिमी सहयोगी** चीन की पकड़ को **ढीला करने** की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- In April and May, Beijing squeezed global automakers with **export curbs on a range of rare earths items and related magnets**, and earlier this month expanded its export controls. अप्रैल और मई में, बीजिंग ने **दुर्लभ पृथ्वी वस्तुओं और संबंधित मैग्नेट पर निर्यात प्रतिबंध** लगाकर वैश्विक कार निर्माताओं को दबाया, और इस महीने की शुरुआत में अपने निर्यात नियंत्रण का विस्तार किया।
- Benchmark prices in China for the most popular type of processed rare earths, **NdPr oxide rallied by 40% to \$88 a kilogram in August**, after several years of weakness. चीन में सबसे लोकप्रिय प्रकार की प्रसंस्कृत दुर्लभ पृथ्वी, **NdPr ऑक्साइड** की मानक कीमतें, कई वर्षों की कमजोरी के बाद, अगस्त में **40% बढ़कर \$88 प्रति किलोग्राम** हो गईं।
- They have since tailed back to \$71, but western world developers are calling for governments to support a higher floor price that will enable them to build production. इसके बाद यह कीमतें **\$71 तक गिर गईं**, लेकिन पश्चिमी दुनिया के डेवलपर्स सरकारों से अधिक न्यूनतम मूल्य का समर्थन करने के लिए कह रहे हैं, जिससे वे उत्पादन बढ़ा सकें।

**No further price drop**

**और कोई कीमत गिरावट नहीं**

- It's unrealistic to expect prices to drop further and the market to be swamped with supply in the short term, said **Dylan Kelly, head analyst at fund Terra Capital**. संक्षिप्त अवधि में कीमतों के और गिरने और आपूर्ति में बाढ़ आने की उम्मीद रखना अवास्तविक है, कहा **डिलन केली, हेड एनालिस्ट, फंड टेरा कैपिटल**।
- “Prices right now aren't necessarily reflective of a market dynamic that can see prices fall any further,” Kelly said, adding that Monday's announcement had increased the **investment allure** of Australian projects. “वर्तमान में कीमतें जरूरी नहीं कि उस बाज़ार गतिशीलता को दर्शाएँ जिसमें कीमतें और गिर सकती हैं,” केली ने कहा, और जोड़ा कि सोमवार की घोषणा ने ऑस्ट्रेलियाई परियोजनाओं की **निवेश आकर्षकता** बढ़ा दी है।



- “There's a lot out there to sink our teeth into that could really shift the gear on a number of different projects for us.”  
“वहाँ बहुत कुछ है जिसमें हम अपनी रुचि दिखा सकते हैं, जो वास्तव में हमारे कई विभिन्न परियोजनाओं में गति बदल सकता है।”

### Boost to miners खनिकों के लिए बढ़ावा

- However, there were some clear winners from the announcement.  
हालांकि, घोषणा से कुछ स्पष्ट विजेता भी थे।
- The U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) sent seven Letters of Interest (LOIs) totaling more than \$2.2 billion to miners in Australia, including Arafura Rare Earths.  
अमेरिकी एक्सपोर्ट-इम्पोर्ट बैंक (EXIM) ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खनिकों को, जिनमें Arafura Rare Earths शामिल हैं, \$2.2 बिलियन से अधिक के सात लेटर ऑफ इंटरेस्ट (LOIs) भेजे।
- Arafura CEO Daryl Cuzzubbo said earlier this month it needs \$800 million in equity funding to develop its Nolans project in Western Australia, and he expected about 60% of that would come from cornerstone investors by the end of the year.  
Arafura के CEO डैरिल कज्जुब्बो ने कहा कि इस महीने की शुरुआत में उन्हें अपने पश्चिमी ऑस्ट्रेलिया में Nolans परियोजना को विकसित करने के लिए \$800 मिलियन की इक्विटी फंडिंग की आवश्यकता है, और उन्हें उम्मीद है कि इसका लगभग 60% साल के अंत तक कोर निवेशकों से आएगा।

<b>GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>22 October 2025</b>
1.	<b>India's Kabul mission is upgraded to embassy</b> भारत का काबुल मिशन दूतावास में अपग्रेड किया गया
2.	<b>Angmo's 'surveillance' raises question on personal freedoms of NSA detainee's kin</b> एंगमो की 'निगरानी' NSA बंदी के परिवार की व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रताओं पर सवाल उठाती है
3.	<b>India's travails in negotiating a friendless world</b> एक निरमित्र दुनिया में भारत की वार्ताओं की कठिनाइयाँ
4.	<b>We need a law to protect domestic workers</b> घरेलू कामगारों की सुरक्षा के लिए हमें एक कानून की आवश्यकता है
5.	<b>On CBI takeovers: a judicial standpoint</b> CBI हस्तांतरण पर: न्यायिक दृष्टिकोण
6.	<b>Electoral roll revamp: the case for digital transformation</b> चुनावी मतदाता सूची का नवीनीकरण: डिजिटल परिवर्तन का मामला



## India's Kabul mission is upgraded to embassy

GS II: India-Afghanistan

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

Days after the visit by Taliban administration's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, India has upgraded its Technical Mission in Afghan capital Kabul to an embassy. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the upgrading took place with "immediate effect" on Tuesday.

This decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest," the statement added. Official sources said a chargé d'affaires (CDA) would soon be appointed.

## India's Kabul mission is upgraded to embassy भारत का काबुल मिशन दूतावास में अपग्रेड किया गया

• Days after the visit by Taliban administration's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, India has upgraded its Technical Mission in Afghan capital Kabul to an embassy.

तालिबान प्रशासन के कार्यकारी विदेश मंत्री आमिर खान मुत्ताक्की के दौरे के कुछ दिन बाद, भारत ने अपने अफगान राजधानी काबुल में तकनीकी मिशन को दूतावास में अपग्रेड किया है।

• In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the upgrading took place with "immediate effect" on Tuesday.

एक बयान में, विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने कहा कि यह अपग्रेडेशन मंगलवार को तुरंत प्रभाव से हुआ।

• This decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest, the statement added.

बयान में कहा गया कि यह निर्णय भारत की सभी साझा हितों के क्षेत्रों में अफगान पक्ष के साथ द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को गहरा करने की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।

• Official sources said a chargé d'affaires (CDA) would soon be appointed.

आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा कि एक चार्ज डी'अफेयर्स (CDA) जल्द ही नियुक्त किया जाएगा।



# Angmo's 'surveillance' raises question on personal freedoms of NSA detainee's kin

GS II: FR

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

A complaint by Gitanjali Angmo, wife of detained activist Sonam Wangchuk, in the Supreme Court that the state and its agencies watch her every step and even whisk her away in vehicles with curtains drawn over windows, raises the question of whether the personal freedom and right to free movement of a family member of a person restrained under the National Security Act (NSA) are also forfeited.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained under provisions of the NSA, 1980 following violent protests on September 24 in Leh. He has been shifted to the Jodhpur Central Jail.

Ms. Angmo told the top court how Intelligence Bureau (IB) officers and the

Rajasthan Police intercepted her the moment she landed and came out of the airport on the two occasions she visited Mr. Wangchuk in the jail on October 7 and 11.

In an affidavit, she said the conduct of the agencies during both visits affected "my personal freedom and fundamental rights as a free citizen of India".

"As soon as I landed and came out of the airport, the officers of the IB and the Rajasthan Police came to me right outside the airport, and asked me to sit in their car with white curtains drawn on the windows blocking the view, and they took me to the jail for the meeting. The officers took me to the office of the Jail Superintendent and were with me for the entire period. Before every



Gitanjali Angmo

visit, they would ask me the details of my journey and the time I would be in Jodhpur," she narrated to the court.

Two officers would sit "within earshot" during her entire meeting with Mr. Wangchuk, she said. Her notes containing his instructions for legal assistance were photographed.

The activist's wife said she was not allowed to

meet anyone in Jodhpur and was "taken" to the railway station, "even when I had a few hours to spare before boarding the train". Her "escort" boarded the train with her and only alighted at Merta Road Junction, the next stop, two hours after Jodhpur.

"As a free citizen, I am entitled to go to Jodhpur when I like, how I like, and meet my husband without restrictions of my movements. No other person should have been privy to my conversations with Sonam Wangchuk. These actions are violative of my rights under Article 19 (right to free expression) and Article 21 (right to personal liberty) of the Constitution," Ms. Angmo, through her counsel Sarvam Ritam Khare, submitted in the top court.

She was "followed and

under surveillance in Delhi constantly", Ms. Angmo said. She had held a press conference in the national capital on September 30, and was tailed from her accommodation by a car and a man on a motorcycle.

In its response, the Home Department of the Union Territory of Ladakh, through its Additional Secretary, Rigzin Spalgon, denied Ms. Angmo's allegations as "baseless" and an "afterthought that deserves only to be rejected".

The administration said it did not have any personnel "present" during Ms. Angmo's visits to Jodhpur. It "outrightly denied" putting her under any kind of surveillance in Delhi. "There is no question of any kind of violation of Articles 19 and 21 by the Administration," the Home Department insisted.

## Angmo's 'surveillance' raises question on personal freedoms of NSA detainee's kin

### एंगमो की 'निगरानी' NSA बंदी के परिवार की व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रताओं पर सवाल उठाती है

- A complaint by **Gitanjali Angmo, wife of detained activist Sonam Wangchuk**, in the Supreme Court that the state and its agencies watch her every step and even whisk her away in vehicles with curtains drawn over windows, raises the question of whether the **personal freedom and right to free movement** of a family member of a person restrained under the **National Security Act (NSA)** are also forfeited.

गितांजलि एंगमो, बंदी कार्यकर्ता सोनम वांगचुक की पत्नी द्वारा सुप्रीम कोर्ट में की गई शिकायत में कहा गया कि राज्य और उसकी एजेंसियां उनके हर कदम पर नजर रखती हैं और उन्हें पर्दों वाले वाहनों में ले जाया जाता है, यह सवाल उठाता है कि क्या राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NSA) के तहत प्रतिबंधित व्यक्ति के परिवार के सदस्य की व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और मुक्त आवाजाही का अधिकार भी समाप्त हो जाता है।

- Wangchuk was detained under provisions of the **NSA, 1980** following violent protests on **September 24 in Leh**. He has been shifted to the **Jodhpur Central Jail**.  
सोनम वांगचुक को **NSA, 1980** की धाराओं के तहत **24 सितंबर को लेह में हिंसक विरोधों** के बाद हिरासत में लिया गया। उन्हें **जोधपुर केंद्रीय जेल** में स्थानांतरित किया गया है।

- Ms. Angmo told the top court how **Intelligence Bureau (IB) officers and the Rajasthan Police intercepted her** the moment she landed and came out of the airport on the two occasions she visited Mr. Wangchuk in the jail on **October 7 and 11**.

श्रीमती एंगमो ने शीर्ष अदालत को बताया कि जब वह **7 और 11 अक्टूबर को जेल में श्री वांगचुक से मिलने आई**, तब **इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो (IB) के अधिकारी और राजस्थान पुलिस** ने उन्हें एयरपोर्ट से बाहर आते ही रोक लिया।

- In an affidavit, she said the conduct of the agencies during both visits affected "**my personal freedom and fundamental rights as a free citizen of India**".

एक हलफनामे में उन्होंने कहा कि दोनों यात्राओं के दौरान एजेंसियों का व्यवहार **मेरी व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और भारत की स्वतंत्र नागरिक के रूप में मौलिक अधिकारों** को प्रभावित करता है।



- “As soon as I landed and came out of the airport, the officers of the IB and the Rajasthan Police came to me right outside the airport, and asked me to sit in their car with white curtains drawn on the windows blocking the view, and they took me to the jail for the meeting. The officers took me to the office of the Jail Superintendent and were with me for the entire period. Before every visit, they would ask me the details of my journey and the time I would be in Jodhpur,” she narrated to the court.  
“जैसे ही मैं एयरपोर्ट पर उतरी और बाहर आई, IB और राजस्थान पुलिस के अधिकारी मुझे एयरपोर्ट के बाहर ही मिले, और उन्होंने मुझे सफेद पर्दों वाली कार में बैठने के लिए कहा, जिससे बाहर का दृश्य बंद हो गया, और वे मुझे बैठक के लिए जेल ले गए। अधिकारी मुझे जेल अधीक्षक के कार्यालय तक ले गए और पूरे समय मेरे साथ रहे। हर यात्रा से पहले, वे मुझसे मेरे यात्रा विवरण और जोधपुर में रहने का समय पूछते थे,” उन्होंने अदालत में बताया।
- Two officers would sit “within earshot” during her entire meeting with Mr. Wangchuk, she said. उन्होंने कहा कि उनकी पूरी बैठक के दौरान दो अधिकारी “सुनाई देने वाली दूरी पर” बैठे रहते थे।
- Her notes containing his instructions for legal assistance were photographed. उनके कानूनी सहायता के निर्देशों वाले नोट्स की फोटोग्राफी की गई।
- The activist’s wife said she was **not allowed to meet anyone in Jodhpur** and was “taken” to the railway station, “even when I had a few hours to spare before boarding the train”. सक्रिय कार्यकर्ता की पत्नी ने कहा कि उन्हें जोधपुर में किसी से मिलने की अनुमति नहीं थी और उन्हें रेलवे स्टेशन ले जाया गया, “यहां तक कि जब मेरे पास ट्रेन पकड़ने से पहले कुछ घंटे खाली थे।”
- Her “escort” boarded the train with her and only alighted at **Merta Road Junction**, the next stop, **two hours after Jodhpur**.  
उनका “एस्कॉर्ट” उनके साथ ट्रेन में बैठा और केवल अगले स्टेशन मर्ता रोड जंक्शन पर उतरा, जो जोधपुर के दो घंटे बाद था।
- “As a free citizen, I am entitled to go to Jodhpur when I like, how I like, and meet my husband without restrictions of my movements. No other person should have been privy to my conversations with Sonam Wangchuk. These actions are violative of my rights under **Article 19 (right to free expression) and Article 21 (right to personal liberty)** of the Constitution,” Ms. Angmo, through her counsel Sarvam Ritam Khare, submitted in the top court.  
“एक स्वतंत्र नागरिक के रूप में, मुझे अधिकार है कि मैं जोधपुर तब जाऊं जब मैं चाहूं, जैसा चाहूं और अपने पति से मिलूं बिना अपनी गतिविधियों पर प्रतिबंध के। किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को मेरे सोनम वांगचुक के साथ संवाद में शामिल नहीं होना चाहिए। ये क्रियाएं मेरे संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19 (मुक्त अभिव्यक्ति का अधिकार) और अनुच्छेद 21 (व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार) का उल्लंघन हैं,” श्रीमती एंगमो ने अपने वकील सर्वम रीतम खरे के माध्यम से शीर्ष अदालत में प्रस्तुत किया।
- She was “followed and under surveillance in Delhi constantly”, Ms. Angmo said. She had held a press conference in the national capital on **September 30**, and was tailed from her accommodation by a car and a man on a motorcycle.  
श्रीमती एंगमो ने कहा कि उन्हें दिल्ली में लगातार निगरानी और पीछा किया गया। उन्होंने 30 सितंबर को राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस की थी, और उनके आवास से उन्हें एक कार और मोटरसाइकिल पर एक व्यक्ति द्वारा पीछा किया गया।
- In its response, the **Home Department of the Union Territory of Ladakh**, through its Additional Secretary, Rigzin Spalgon, denied Ms. Angmo’s allegations as “baseless” and an “afterthought that deserves only to be rejected”.  
उत्तर में, लद्दाख के केंद्र शासित प्रदेश का गृह विभाग, अपने अतिरिक्त सचिव रिगजिन स्पालगॉन के माध्यम से, श्रीमती एंगमो के आरोपों को “बिना आधार” और “एक बाद की सोच जिसे केवल खारिज किया जाना चाहिए” के रूप में खारिज किया।
- The administration said it did not have any personnel “present” during Ms. Angmo’s visits to Jodhpur.  
प्रशासन ने कहा कि श्रीमती एंगमो के जोधपुर दौरे के दौरान कोई कर्मी “मौजूद” नहीं था।
- It “outrightly denied” putting her under any kind of surveillance in Delhi.  
इसने दिल्ली में उन्हें किसी भी प्रकार की निगरानी में रखने से पूरी तरह से इनकार किया।
- “There is no question of any kind of violation of Articles 19 and 21 by the Administration,” the Home Department insisted.  
गृह विभाग ने जोर देकर कहा, “प्रशासन द्वारा अनुच्छेद 19 और 21 के किसी भी प्रकार के उल्लंघन का कोई प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।”



# India's travails in negotiating a friendless world

CS II: India and It's Neighbours

**F**or India, the challenge of adapting its foreign policy to emerging global realities is proving to be highly daunting for its foreign policy mandarins. Steeped in the traditions of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, they seem unable to come to terms with current realities. Adapting India's foreign policy to new global realities is, however, an urgent necessity.

With the advent of President Donald Trump in the United States, multilateralism or even plurilateral ways of advancing foreign policy, seem to have lost all meaning. India, however, is yet to demonstrate the necessary flexibility to deal with a seemingly friendless world, in its neighbourhood and well beyond. As days go by, India's trust deficit only seems to be growing, and the consequences can be serious.

## The view about India

At one level, it would appear that India is losing its 'geopolitical relevance' despite the best efforts of its foreign policy establishment. Undoubtedly, Mr. Trump's pyrotechnics are aggravating the situation and his constant shifting of goal posts clearly demands extreme nimbleness on the part of the foreign policy establishments. For the present, India's foreign policy mandarins are finding themselves out of step, and increasingly isolated in the comity of nations. That we should find ourselves in this difficult situation is unfortunate. U.S. policy alone cannot be the reason, for there is much more happening across the world with India increasingly being seen as an 'outlier' when it comes to situations and events. All this at a time when India's economic heft is growing and it is among the top five economic powers of the world.

Two recent events bring this out in stark detail. Even as the world celebrates the new Gaza peace settlement – a critical breakthrough in the troubled politics of this region which was largely orchestrated by Mr. Trump and the U.S., with the support of Türkiye, Egypt, Qatar and a few other nations, India's absence or exclusion from the process smacks of its growing irrelevance in the politics of West Asia. That countries such as Türkiye, which demonstrate a degree of hostility towards India, should have been critical to the process of settlement adds further grist to India's growing irrelevance.

India appeared to compound this situation even further by sending the lowest level of representation for the grand reconciliation held to celebrate the end of the Gaza conflict and the return of peace to West Asia, at which most world leaders were present. For Indians across the world, this should be a wakeup call, something that needs to be remedied sooner rather than later.

Closer home, another signal event where India 'was a conspicuous absentee' was the Gen Z revolution in Nepal that seemed to spiral out of



**M.K. Narayanan**

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Adapting India's foreign policy to new global realities is a necessity

control. It only seemed to further demonstrate that India's foreign policy lacked both depth and content, even where its vital interests are at stake. The revolution, on India's doorstep, may have followed a slightly different pattern than the youthful dissent seen in Bangladesh and Indonesia previously, but the fact that India found itself helpless and a mere bystander when tumultuous events were taking place on its doorstep, should make discerning observers of the scene sit up and take notice.

Additionally, there is a disconcerting strategic angle to India's displacement from the driving seat, with this space being filled by countries not so well disposed, if not inimically inclined, towards India. Türkiye is a case in point, for during the recent India-Pakistan conflict, it was seen siding with Pakistan. Recently, Türkiye along with countries such as Egypt and Iraq were the toast of West Asia even as Mr. Trump spread benediction across the entire West Asia.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have signed on to a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement to treat aggression against one as against both, which only seemed to confirm India's position as an outlier in a region where previously Indic influence reigned supreme. All this would suggest that India's foreign policy has not demonstrated adequate ingenuity and flexibility to deal with the many vicissitudes and problems that afflict the region.

## The situation in the neighbourhood

India cannot afford to be complacent. In its immediate neighbourhood, the Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict threatens peace across a swathe of India's northwest. India may tend to view the attacks by the Afghan Taliban on Pakistani cities as retributive justice, but this would be shortsighted. Since Field Marshal Asim Munir effectively took over the reins of power in Pakistan, the threat that Pakistan poses to India and the region has gone up significantly. There is every need to 'unfang' the Pakistani dragon to ensure peace in the region. Being satisfied with the Afghan Taliban's attacks on Pakistan's rear can provide cold comfort at best. India's efforts should be on how best to create a conducive atmosphere where wars remain the last resort.

The rest of India's neighbourhood also remains in turmoil, and the challenge before India's diplomats is how to persuade countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal, which are currently perceived as hostile to India, to retrace their steps and make it worthwhile for them to maintain better relations with India. India-Sri Lanka relations are seen like an enigma wrapped in a mystery. While outwardly, India-Sri Lanka relations are on an even keel, it would be a mistake to underestimate the intrinsic potential of countries such as China to muddy the waters.

*Vis-à-vis* China, while India's diplomacy may

look like 'work in progress', it appears more an effort to patch over differences. This is specially so in the context of what may be termed as the current India-China bromance. Since Tianjin (August 2025), there has been a tendency in India's diplomatic circles, and possibly within the political establishment as well, to gloss over the June 2020 Galwan episode as a 'mere blip' in long-standing China-India ties.

This willingness to ignore the realities of a long-standing and fast-festering China-Indian border problem appears intended to give an impression that 'peace is at hand'. Little, however, has changed on the ground and the current diplomatic and military exchanges clearly lack candour.

## Ties with China

Indians have seldom been able to comprehend Chinese elliptical thinking on global and regional issues, and even more so in its diplomatic manoeuvres. China-India ties today have not returned to the period that existed in 1988, following Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's highly successful visit to China. There is, hence, every need for India to be cautious; India would do well to acknowledge that China is a conundrum that is not easily cracked. China's President Xi Jinping is much less a statesman than his predecessors Deng Xiaoping and Hu Jintao, and India cannot be too careful in its dealings with Xi's China.

China and the U.S. are, without doubt, presently engaged in a 'cat and mouse game' on tariffs, and Mr. Xi's gambit, *viz.*, immediate and tangible concessions for long-term gains (including entering into deals with regard to the resumption of exports on rare earth materials to the U.S.) cannot possibly be the model for India to follow or adopt.

Also, what India needs to be concerned about is that, friendly or not, China is steadily expanding its influence across much of the region to India's east, and adopting devious ways, including proliferation of small businesses at one level to a growing presence in universities, research centres and in cyber space at another, to establish its dominance and eclipse India's influence across this region. India's needs to be wary and it is increasingly becoming evident that as the U.S.'s influence wanes across much of the world and is steadily being eclipsed in large parts of Asia, a new China-led order is emerging in East and Southeast Asia.

This article, hence, should be seen as a wakeup call. Reiteration of the old adage that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty' is important. India's future is assured, but it also depends on how much effort is made to protect its brand of civilisation. It is quite distinct and different from that of China, the West, the Persian/Arab variety and other forms of democracy that had held sway over the years.

## India's travails in negotiating a friendless world एक निरमित्र दुनिया में भारत की वार्ताओं की कठिनाइयाँ

### India's Foreign Policy Challenges भारत की विदेश नीति की चुनौतियाँ

- For India, the challenge of **adapting its foreign policy to emerging global realities** is proving to be highly daunting for its **foreign policy mandarins**.  
भारत के लिए, **नई वैश्विक वास्तविकताओं** के अनुसार अपनी **विदेश नीति को ढालने** की चुनौती उसके **विदेश नीति अधिकारियों** के लिए अत्यंत कठिन साबित हो रही है।
- Steeped in the traditions of the **1930s, 1940s and 1950s**, they seem unable to come to terms with **current realities**.  
**1930, 1940 और 1950 के परंपराओं** में डूबे हुए, वे **वर्तमान वास्तविकताओं** के साथ सामंजस्य बिठाने में असमर्थ दिखाई देते हैं।



- **Adapting India's foreign policy** to new global realities is an **urgent necessity**.  
भारत की विदेश नीति को नई वैश्विक वास्तविकताओं के अनुसार ढालना एक तत्काल आवश्यकता है।
- With the advent of **President Donald Trump** in the **United States**, **multilateralism** or even **plurilateral ways** of advancing foreign policy seem to have lost all meaning.  
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के आगमन के साथ, बहुपक्षवाद या विदेश नीति को आगे बढ़ाने के बहुपक्षीय तरीके अब कोई अर्थ नहीं रखते।
- **India** is yet to demonstrate the necessary **flexibility** to deal with a seemingly **friendless world**, in its **neighbourhood** and well beyond.  
भारत अब तक आवश्यक लचीलापन नहीं दिखा पाया है, जिससे वह अपने पड़ोसी क्षेत्र और उससे परे एक ऐसा मित्रहीन विश्व संभाल सके।
- As days go by, **India's trust deficit** only seems to be growing, and the **consequences** can be serious.  
जैसे-जैसे दिन बीत रहे हैं, भारत में विश्वास की कमी बढ़ती दिख रही है, और इसके परिणाम गंभीर हो सकते हैं।

## The view about India

### भारत के बारे में दृष्टिकोण

- At one level, it appears that **India is losing its 'geopolitical relevance'** despite the best efforts of its **foreign policy establishment**.  
एक स्तर पर यह प्रतीत होता है कि भारत अपनी 'भू-राजनीतिक प्रासंगिकता' खो रहा है, इसके बावजूद कि उसके विदेश नीति संस्थान पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- **Mr. Trump's pyrotechnics** are aggravating the situation, and his **constant shifting of goal posts** demands **extreme nimbleness** from foreign policy establishments.  
श्री ट्रम्प की विस्फोटक नीतियाँ स्थिति को और बिगाड़ रही हैं, और उनके लगातार लक्ष्य बदलने से विदेश नीति संस्थानों से अत्यधिक चपलता की आवश्यकता होती है।
- **India's foreign policy mandarins** are finding themselves **out of step** and increasingly **isolated** in the **comity of nations**.  
भारत के विदेश नीति अधिकारी अपने आपको तालमेल से बाहर और बढ़ती हुई अलगाव की स्थिति में पाते हैं, वैश्विक समुदाय में।
- **U.S. policy alone** cannot be the reason; there is **much more happening across the world**, with India increasingly being seen as an **'outlier'**.  
केवल अमेरिकी नीति ही कारण नहीं हो सकती; दुनिया भर में और भी बहुत कुछ हो रहा है, और भारत को धीरे-धीरे 'असंगत' के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।
- This is happening at a time when **India's economic heft** is growing and it is among the **top five economic powers** of the world.  
यह उस समय हो रहा है जब भारत की आर्थिक ताकत बढ़ रही है और यह दुनिया की शीर्ष पाँच आर्थिक शक्तियों में शामिल है।
- Two recent events highlight this **in stark detail**.  
दो हालिया घटनाएँ इसे स्पष्ट रूप से उजागर करती हैं।
- Even as the world celebrates the **new Gaza peace settlement**, India's **absence or exclusion** smacks of its **growing irrelevance in West Asia**.  
जैसे-जैसे दुनिया नए गाजा शांति समझौते का जश्न मना रही है, भारत की अनुपस्थिति या बहिष्कार उसकी पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ती अप्रासंगिकता को दिखाता है।
- **Countries such as Türkiye**, which demonstrate a **degree of hostility towards India**, were **critical to the settlement process**, adding to India's **growing irrelevance**.  
तुर्की जैसी देश, जो भारत के प्रति शत्रुता दिखाते हैं, समझौता प्रक्रिया में महत्वपूर्ण थे, जो भारत की बढ़ती अप्रासंगिकता को और बढ़ाता है।
- India sent the **lowest level of representation** for the **grand reconciliation** held to celebrate the end of the Gaza conflict.  
भारत ने गाजा संघर्ष के अंत का जश्न मनाने के लिए आयोजित भव्य मेल-मिलाप में सबसे कम स्तर का प्रतिनिधित्व भेजा।
- For Indians across the world, this should be a **wake-up call**.  
दुनिया भर के भारतीयों के लिए, यह एक जाग्रत करने वाली चेतावनी होनी चाहिए।



- Another signal event where India was a conspicuous absentee was the **Gen Z revolution in Nepal**.  
एक और महत्वपूर्ण घटना जहाँ भारत स्पष्ट रूप से अनुपस्थित था, वह था नेपाल में जनरल Z पीढ़ी का क्रांति।
- This demonstrated that India's **foreign policy lacked both depth and content**, even where its **vital interests are at stake**.  
इससे पता चलता है कि भारत की विदेश नीति में गहराई और सामग्री दोनों की कमी थी, भले ही उसके महत्वपूर्ण हित दांव पर हों।
- The revolution, on India's doorstep, left India **helpless and a mere bystander**, unlike **youthful dissent in Bangladesh and Indonesia**.  
भारत की सीमा पर यह क्रांति भारत को बेबस और केवल एक दर्शक बनाकर छोड़ गई, जबकि बांग्लादेश और इंडोनेशिया में युवाओं की असहमति अलग थी।
- A **disconcerting strategic angle** to India's displacement exists, with this **space being filled by countries not favorably inclined towards India**.  
भारत के स्थानांतरण के लिए एक चिंताजनक रणनीतिक पहलू है, जिसमें यह स्थान उन देशों द्वारा भरा जा रहा है जो भारत के प्रति अनुकूल नहीं हैं।
- **Türkiye** sided with **Pakistan** during the recent India-Pakistan conflict, and along with **Egypt and Iraq**, was the **toast of West Asia** even as **Mr. Trump spread benediction**.  
हालिया भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष के दौरान तुर्की ने पाकिस्तान का समर्थन किया, और मिस्र और इराक के साथ, यह पश्चिम एशिया में प्रमुख था, जबकि श्री ट्रम्प ने पूरे पश्चिम एशिया में आशीर्वाद फैलाया।
- **Saudi Arabia and Pakistan** signed a **Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement**, confirming India's position as an **outlier**.  
सऊदी अरब और पाकिस्तान ने रणनीतिक आपसी रक्षा समझौता किया, जिससे भारत की स्थिति असंगत के रूप में पुष्टि हुई।
- All this suggests that India's **foreign policy has not demonstrated adequate ingenuity and flexibility** to deal with the many **vicissitudes** and problems in the region.  
यह सब संकेत करता है कि भारत की विदेश नीति ने पर्याप्त बुद्धिमत्ता और लचीलापन नहीं दिखाया है, जिससे क्षेत्र में कई उतार-चढ़ाव और समस्याओं से निपटना संभव हो।

## The Situation in the Neighbourhood पड़ोसी देशों में स्थिति

- **India cannot afford to be complacent**. In its immediate neighbourhood, the **Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict** threatens peace across a swathe of **India's northwest**.  
भारत आत्मसंतुष्ट नहीं हो सकता। इसके नजदीकी पड़ोसी क्षेत्र में, अफगानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष भारत के उत्तर पश्चिमी हिस्से में शांति को खतरे में डालता है।
- India may tend to view the **attacks by the Afghan Taliban on Pakistani cities** as **retributive justice**, but this would be **shortsighted**.  
भारत संभवतः अफगान तालिबान द्वारा पाकिस्तानी शहरों पर किए गए हमलों को प्रतिशोधात्मक न्याय के रूप में देख सकता है, लेकिन यह संक्षिप्त दृष्टि होगी।
- Since **Field Marshal Asim Munir** effectively took over power in **Pakistan**, the **threat Pakistan poses to India and the region** has gone up significantly.  
जब से फील्ड मार्शल असिम मूनिर ने पाकिस्तान में सत्ता संभाली, तब से पाकिस्तान द्वारा भारत और क्षेत्र के लिए खतरा काफी बढ़ गया है।
- There is every need to **'unfang' the Pakistani dragon** to ensure peace in the region.  
क्षेत्र में शांति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पाकिस्तानी ड्रैगन को 'अशक्त' करने की पूरी आवश्यकता है।
- Being satisfied with the **Afghan Taliban's attacks on Pakistan's rear** can provide **cold comfort at best**.  
अफगान तालिबान के पाकिस्तान पर हमलों से संतुष्ट होना अधिकतम सर्द सात्वना ही दे सकता है।
- India's efforts should focus on how best to **create a conducive atmosphere where wars remain the last resort**.  
भारत के प्रयास इस पर होने चाहिए कि ऐसा अनुकूल वातावरण कैसे बनाया जाए जहाँ युद्ध आखिरी विकल्प बने।
- The rest of India's neighbourhood also remains in **turmoil**, and the challenge before India's diplomats is how to **persuade countries** such as **Bangladesh and Nepal**, currently



perceived as **hostile to India**, to **retrace their steps** and maintain **better relations**.

भारत के बाकी पड़ोसी देश भी **अराजकता** में हैं, और भारत के राजनयिकों के सामने चुनौती यह है कि **बांग्लादेश और नेपाल** जैसे देश, जो वर्तमान में **भारत के प्रति शत्रुतापूर्ण** माने जाते हैं, उन्हें **अपनी राह बदलने** और **बेहतर संबंध बनाए रखने** के लिए कैसे मनाया जाए।

- **India-Sri Lanka relations** are seen as an **enigma wrapped in a mystery**. While outwardly relations are **on an even keel**, it would be a mistake to underestimate the **intrinsic potential of countries such as China to muddy the waters**.

भारत-श्रीलंका संबंध को एक रहस्य में लिपटा पहली माना जाता है। जबकि बाहरी रूप से संबंध संतुलित हैं, यह चीन जैसे देशों की अंतर्निहित क्षमता को कम आंकना भूल होगी।

## Vis-à-vis China

### चीन के संदर्भ में

- India's diplomacy may look like **'work in progress'**, but it appears more an **effort to patch over differences**, especially in the context of the **current India-China bromance**.  
भारत की कूटनीति **'अधूरा कार्य'** लग सकती है, लेकिन यह अधिकतर **मतभेदों को पाटने का प्रयास** लगता है, खासकर वर्तमान **भारत-चीन सौहार्द्र** के संदर्भ में।
- Since **Tianjin (August 2025)**, there has been a tendency in **India's diplomatic circles to gloss over the June 2020 Galwan episode** as a **'mere blip'** in long-standing China-India ties.  
तियानजिन (अगस्त 2025) के बाद, **भारत के कूटनीतिक क्षेत्र** में यह प्रवृत्ति रही है कि **जून 2020 के गलवान प्रकरण** को लंबे समय से चले आ रहे भारत-चीन संबंधों में केवल **'एक छोटी घटना'** के रूप में दिखाया जाए।
- This willingness to ignore the realities of the **long-standing and fast-festering China-Indian border problem** appears intended to give an impression that **'peace is at hand'**, though little has changed on the ground.  
**दीर्घकालिक और तेजी से बिगड़ते भारत-चीन सीमा मुद्दे** की वास्तविकताओं की अनदेखी करने की यह प्रवृत्ति यह छवि देती है कि **'शांति हाथ में है'**, हालांकि वास्तविक स्थिति में बहुत कम बदलाव हुआ है।

## Ties with China

### चीन के साथ संबंध

- Indians have seldom been able to comprehend **Chinese elliptical thinking** on global and regional issues, and more so in **diplomatic manoeuvres**.  
भारतीयों ने शायद ही कभी वैश्विक और क्षेत्रीय मुद्दों पर **चीनी परिपथीय सोच** को समझा है, और यह **कूटनीतिक चालबाज़ियों** में और भी अधिक है।
- China-India ties today have not returned to the period of **1988**, following **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's successful visit to China**.  
आज चीन-भारत संबंध **1988** की अवधि पर लौटे नहीं हैं, जब **प्रधानमंत्री राजीव गांधी का चीन का सफल दौरा** हुआ था।
- India needs to be cautious and acknowledge that **China is a conundrum** not easily cracked.  
भारत को सतर्क रहने और स्वीकार करने की आवश्यकता है कि **चीन एक पहली** है जिसे आसानी से हल नहीं किया जा सकता।
- China's President **Xi Jinping** is less a **statesman** than predecessors **Deng Xiaoping and Hu Jintao**, requiring India to be **careful in dealings**.  
चीन के राष्ट्रपति **शी जिनपिंग** अपने पूर्ववर्तियों **डेंग शियाओपिंग और हु जिनताओ** की तुलना में कम राजनेता हैं, इसलिए भारत को **सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए**।
- China and the **U.S. are engaged in a 'cat and mouse game' on tariffs**, and Xi's **short-term concessions for long-term gains** cannot be a model for India.  
चीन और **यू.एस. शुल्कों पर 'बिल्ली और चूहे का खेल'** खेल रहे हैं, और शी के **लंबी अवधि के लाभ के लिए अल्पकालिक रियायतें** भारत के लिए मॉडल नहीं हो सकती।
- India should be concerned that **China is steadily expanding influence** across the region east of India through **business proliferation, universities, research centres, and cyberspace**, aiming to eclipse India's influence.  
भारत को चिंता करनी चाहिए कि **चीन लगातार भारत के पूर्व क्षेत्र में प्रभाव बढ़ा रहा है** व्यापार,



विश्वविद्यालय, अनुसंधान केंद्र, और साइबरस्पेस के माध्यम से, और भारत के प्रभाव को पीछे छोड़ने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

- As **U.S. influence wanes**, a new **China-led order** is emerging in **East and Southeast Asia**. जैसे-जैसे यू.एस. का प्रभाव कम हो रहा है, पूर्व और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में चीन-नेतृत्व वाला नया आदेश उभर रहा है।
- This article should be seen as a **wake-up call**, reiterating the old adage that **'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty'**. इस लेख को एक जाग्रत करने वाली चेतावनी के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए, पुराने कहावत को दोहराते हुए कि **'स्वतंत्रता की कीमत हमेशा सतर्क रहना है'**।
- India's future depends on efforts to **protect its brand of civilisation**, which is **distinct from China, the West, Persian/Arab, and other forms of democracy**. भारत का भविष्य इस पर निर्भर करता है कि वह अपने सभ्यता के ब्रांड को सुरक्षित करने के लिए कितनी कोशिश करता है, जो चीन, पश्चिम, फारसी/अरब और अन्य लोकतांत्रिक रूपों से अलग और विशिष्ट है।

## We need a law to protect domestic workers

**CS II: Social Justice**

In January, the Supreme Court directed the Union government to enact a comprehensive law to stipulate the **rights of domestic workers** and set up a committee to look into setting up a framework for it. The Court directed the committee to submit a report in six months. Whether this has been done or not remains unclear.

**Status of domestic workers** India is estimated to have 4 million-90 million domestic workers. A majority of them are women and girls and most of them are from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, rendering them particularly vulnerable to structural power differences.

The Court's recent directive was issued as part of criminal proceedings involving the confinement and trafficking of a female domestic worker from a ST community from Chhattisgarh to Delhi. These proceedings bring attention to several considerations that are important in devising rights and protections for domestic workers. Workers toil in the homes and workspaces of other people, which has the effect of atomising them. Inspections into workplace conditions become nearly impossible. These workers may be subject to harassment, abuse, and segregationist practices. Child labour is rampant in this sphere. Exploitative employment agencies and brokers frequently mediate relationships between employers and employees. While some workers labour full time in a single household, others work across multiple households for a few hours each day. This can make the stipulation and enforcement of minimum wages, work hours, and leave entitlements tricky.

Many workers are migrant workers who need protections across State borders. Workers also routinely come in from neighbouring countries. The absence of a separate national-level legislation to look



**R. Geetha**

Advisor to the Unorganized Workers Federation



**Priti Narayan**

Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia

into protections and benefits hurts workers in multiple ways.

In recognition of their contributions to the global economy, the International Labour Organization passed a Convention (no. 189) in 2011 to ensure the rights and protections of domestic workers. While India voted in favour of the convention, it is yet to ratify it. As noted by the Court, there have been multiple attempts to pass legislation at the national level from the 1950s. The National Platform for Domestic Workers (NPDW) was formed in 2012 specifically to demand a comprehensive Central legislation for domestic workers. The NPDW drafted a Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill in 2017, but this Bill was never enacted into law. While the Court's new directive is welcome, the fact that the Court directed various ministries to constitute a committee comprising "subject experts" with no representatives of domestic workers is a matter of concern.

### Gains made at the State level

In Tamil Nadu, where there are about 2 million domestic workers, a welfare board has been set up under the Tamil Nadu Manual Worker Act, 1982. Through it, registered workers receive benefits, including pensions, maternity benefits, educational assistance for children, and accident relief. However, a very small number of workers are actually registered. While minimum wage is stipulated at ₹37-39 per hour, workers tend to make much less. They are seen as "part-time" workers because they may not work full time in a single household. In response to a plea filed by a domestic worker in Dindigul, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court directed the State government to consider enacting a special legislation to protect domestic workers.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka government announced the introduction of the Domestic Workers (Social Security and

Welfare) Bill, 2025, which looks to regulate the working conditions of domestic workers. It requires that employers compulsorily register domestic workers with the government and commence employment with a written contract that includes an agreement on wages and work hours. It entitles workers to minimum wages, overtime pay, and weekly holidays. Importantly, it requires employers to contribute 5% of wages to a welfare fund that will distribute welfare benefits to domestic workers.

### What should be done

Tamil Nadu is one of only 12 States that stipulates minimum wages for domestic workers. These wages must be updated and increased, while all States must be required to stipulate minimum wages for domestic workers. In addition to the already-mentioned provisions in the NPDW draft Bill and the Karnataka legislation, the NPDW recommends that all employers, employment agencies, and workers be compulsorily registered with the State government. A workbook must be issued to each employer through a tripartite board constituting employers, employees, and the State. This must be maintained by each employer and employee and endorsed each month. Women workers have reported not being able to access local complaints committees set up at the district level under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act. These complaints committees must be set up at panchayat and urban local bodies.

Housing is another critical consideration for domestic workers. While workers in Tamil Nadu received some assistance during the pandemic-induced lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, several could not pay rent. Rather than intermittent relief in the event of a "crisis", structural solutions are imperative to protect the women in this critical workforce.

The absence of a separate national-level legislation to look into protections and benefits hurts workers in multiple ways



## We need a law to protect domestic workers घरेलू कामगारों की सुरक्षा के लिए हमें एक कानून की आवश्यकता है

### Domestic Workers Rights and Protections

#### घरेलू कामगारों के अधिकार और संरक्षण

- In **January**, the **Supreme Court** directed the **Union government** to enact a **comprehensive law** to stipulate the rights of domestic workers and set up a **committee** to look into setting up a **framework** for it.  
जनवरी में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार को घरेलू कामगारों के अधिकार निर्धारित करने वाले व्यापक कानून बनाने और इसके लिए फ्रेमवर्क स्थापित करने वाली समिति गठित करने का निर्देश दिया।
- The Court directed the **committee** to submit a **report in six months**. Whether this has been done or not remains **unclear**.  
अदालत ने समिति को छह महीने में रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया। यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि यह कार्य पूरा हुआ या नहीं।

### Status of Domestic Workers

#### घरेलू कामगारों की स्थिति

- India is estimated to have **4 million–90 million domestic workers**.  
भारत में अनुमानित 4 मिलियन–90 मिलियन घरेलू कामगार हैं।
- A majority of them are **women and girls** and most are from **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities**, rendering them particularly vulnerable to **structural power differences**.  
इनमें से अधिकांश महिलाएँ और लड़कियाँ हैं और अधिकतर अनुसूचित जाति (SC) और अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) समुदायों से हैं, जिससे वे संरचनात्मक शक्ति असमानताओं के प्रति विशेष रूप से संवेदनशील हैं।
- The Court's recent directive was issued as part of **criminal proceedings** involving the **confinement and trafficking** of a **female domestic worker** from an **ST community from Chhattisgarh to Delhi**.  
अदालत का हालिया निर्देश आपराधिक कार्यवाही के हिस्से के रूप में जारी किया गया, जिसमें छत्तीसगढ़ से दिल्ली तक एक ST समुदाय की महिला घरेलू कामगार का पाबंदी और तस्करी शामिल था।
- These proceedings highlight **several considerations** important in devising **rights and protections** for domestic workers.  
ये कार्यवाहियाँ घरेलू कामगारों के अधिकार और संरक्षण निर्धारित करने में कई महत्वपूर्ण विचार उजागर करती हैं।
- **Workers toil in the homes and workspaces of others, which has the effect of atomising them**.  
कामगार दूसरों के घरों और कार्यस्थलों में काम करते हैं, जिससे वे विभाजित और अलग-थलग महसूस करते हैं।
- **Inspections** into **workplace conditions** become nearly **impossible**.  
कार्यस्थल की परिस्थितियों की निरीक्षण करना लगभग असंभव हो जाता है।
- These workers may be subject to **harassment, abuse, and segregationist practices**.  
ये कामगार हैरासमेंट, शोषण और भेदभावपूर्ण प्रथाओं के अधीन हो सकते हैं।
- **Child labour** is rampant in this sphere.  
इस क्षेत्र में बाल श्रम व्यापक है।
- **Exploitative employment agencies and brokers** frequently mediate relationships between **employers and employees**.  
शोषणकारी रोजगार एजेंसियाँ और दलाल अक्सर नियोक्ता और कर्मचारी के बीच संबंधों में मध्यस्थता करते हैं।
- Some workers labour **full-time in a single household**, while others work across **multiple households for a few hours each day**, making **stipulation and enforcement of minimum wages, work hours, and leave entitlements** tricky.



कुछ कामगार एक घर में पूर्णकालिक काम करते हैं, जबकि अन्य कई घरों में रोज़ाना कुछ घंटे काम करते हैं, जिससे न्यूनतम वेतन, कार्य समय और अवकाश अधिकारों का निर्धारण और प्रवर्तन कठिन हो जाता है।

- Many workers are **migrant workers** who need protections **across State borders**.  
कई कामगार प्रवासी कामगार हैं जिन्हें राज्य सीमा पार सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Workers also routinely come in from **neighbouring countries**.  
कामगार पड़ोसी देशों से भी नियमित रूप से आते हैं।
- The absence of **separate national-level legislation** to look into **protections and benefits** hurts workers in **multiple ways**.  
रक्षा और लाभों की निगरानी के लिए अलग राष्ट्रीय-स्तरीय कानून की अनुपस्थिति से कामगारों को कई तरह से नुकसान होता है।
- The **International Labour Organization** passed **Convention No. 189 in 2011** to ensure the **rights and protections of domestic workers**.  
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO) ने 2011 में कन्वेंशन नंबर 189 पास किया ताकि घरेलू कामगारों के अधिकार और सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सके।
- While India **voted in favour of the convention**, it is **yet to ratify it**.  
जबकि भारत ने कन्वेंशन के पक्ष में मतदान किया, इसे अभी तक अनुमोदित नहीं किया गया है।
- There have been **multiple attempts** to pass **national legislation** from the **1950s**.  
1950 के दशक से राष्ट्रीय कानून पारित करने के लिए कई प्रयास किए गए हैं।
- The **National Platform for Domestic Workers (NPDW)** was formed in **2012** specifically to demand **comprehensive Central legislation** for domestic workers.  
घरेलू कामगारों के लिए राष्ट्रीय मंच (NPDW) का गठन 2012 में विशेष रूप से घरेलू कामगारों के लिए व्यापक केंद्रीय कानून की मांग करने के लिए किया गया।
- The NPDW drafted a **Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill in 2017**, but this Bill was **never enacted into law**.  
NPDW ने 2017 में घरेलू कामगार (कार्य और सामाजिक सुरक्षा का विनियमन) विधेयक का मसौदा तैयार किया, लेकिन यह विधेयक कभी कानून नहीं बना।
- While the Court's new directive is **welcome**, the fact that the Court directed various ministries to constitute a **committee comprising "subject experts" with no representatives of domestic workers** is a matter of **concern**.  
जबकि अदालत का नया निर्देश स्वागत योग्य है, यह तथ्य कि अदालत ने विभिन्न मंत्रालयों को "विषय विशेषज्ञों" वाली समिति बनाने का निर्देश दिया जिसमें घरेलू कामगारों के प्रतिनिधि नहीं थे, चिंता का विषय है।

## Gains made at the State level

### राज्य स्तर पर प्राप्त उपलब्धियाँ

- In **Tamil Nadu**, where there are about **2 million domestic workers**, a **welfare board** has been set up under the **Tamil Nadu Manual Worker Act, 1982**.  
तमिलनाडु में, जहाँ लगभग 2 मिलियन घरेलू कामगार हैं, वहाँ तमिलनाडु मैनुअल वर्कर एक्ट, 1982 के तहत एक कल्याण बोर्ड स्थापित किया गया है।
- Through it, **registered workers** receive **benefits**, including **pensions, maternity benefits, educational assistance for children, and accident relief**.  
इसके माध्यम से, पंजीकृत कामगारों को लाभ प्राप्त होते हैं, जिनमें पेंशन, मातृत्व लाभ, बच्चों के लिए शैक्षणिक सहायता, और दुर्घटना राहत शामिल हैं।
- However, a very **small number** of workers are actually **registered**.  
हालांकि, वास्तव में बहुत कम संख्या के कामगार पंजीकृत हैं।
- While **minimum wage is stipulated at ₹37–39 per hour**, workers tend to make **much less**.  
जबकि न्यूनतम वेतन ₹37–39 प्रति घंटा निर्धारित है, कामगार आम तौर पर इससे काफी कम कमाते हैं।
- They are seen as "**part-time**" workers because they may not work full time in a single household.  
उन्हें "आंशिककालिक" कामगार माना जाता है क्योंकि वे किसी एक घर में पूर्णकालिक काम नहीं कर सकते।
- In response to a **plea filed by a domestic worker in Dindigul**, the **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** directed the **State government** to consider **enacting a special legislation** to protect domestic workers.



डिंडिगुल में एक घरेलू कामगार द्वारा दायर याचिका के जवाब में, मद्रास हाई कोर्ट की मदुरै बेंच ने राज्य सरकार को घरेलू कामगारों की सुरक्षा के लिए विशेष कानून बनाने पर विचार करने का निर्देश दिया।

- Meanwhile, the **Karnataka government** announced the introduction of the **Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025**, which looks to **regulate the working conditions** of domestic workers.

इस बीच, कर्नाटक सरकार ने घरेलू कामगार (सामाजिक सुरक्षा और कल्याण) बिल, 2025 पेश करने की घोषणा की, जो घरेलू कामगारों की कार्य स्थितियों को नियंत्रित करने का प्रयास करता है।

- It requires that **employers compulsorily register domestic workers with the government and commence employment with a written contract that includes an agreement on wages and work hours.**

इसमें यह आवश्यक है कि नियोक्ता घरेलू कामगारों को सरकार के साथ अनिवार्य रूप से पंजीकृत करें और लिखित अनुबंध के साथ रोजगार शुरू करें, जिसमें वेतन और कार्य समय का समझौता शामिल हो।

- It entitles workers to **minimum wages, overtime pay, and weekly holidays.** यह कामगारों को न्यूनतम वेतन, ओवरटाइम वेतन, और साप्ताहिक अवकाश का अधिकार देता है।
- Importantly, it requires employers to contribute **5% of wages to a welfare fund that will distribute welfare benefits to domestic workers.**

महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि इसमें नियोक्ताओं को वेतन का 5% कल्याण निधि में योगदान करने की आवश्यकता है, जो घरेलू कामगारों को कल्याण लाभ वितरित करेगी।

## What should be done

### क्या किया जाना चाहिए

- **Tamil Nadu** is one of only **12 States** that stipulates **minimum wages** for domestic workers. तमिलनाडु केवल 12 राज्यों में से एक है जो घरेलू कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन निर्धारित करता है।
- These wages must be **updated and increased**, while all States must be required to **stipulate minimum wages** for domestic workers. इन वेतन को अद्यतन और बढ़ाना चाहिए, जबकि सभी राज्यों को घरेलू कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन निर्धारित करने की आवश्यकता होनी चाहिए।
- In addition to the already-mentioned provisions in the **NPDW draft Bill** and the **Karnataka legislation**, the **NPDW recommends** that all **employers, employment agencies, and workers be compulsorily registered with the State government.** पहले से उल्लिखित **NPDW ड्राफ्ट बिल** और **कर्नाटक कानून** की प्रावधानों के अलावा, **NPDW अनुशंसा करता है** कि सभी नियोक्ता, रोजगार एजेंसियाँ और कामगार राज्य सरकार के साथ अनिवार्य रूप से पंजीकृत हों।
- A **workbook** must be issued to each employer through a **tripartite board** constituting **employers, employees, and the State.** प्रत्येक नियोक्ता को **त्रिपक्षीय बोर्ड** के माध्यम से एक **वर्कबुक** जारी किया जाना चाहिए, जिसमें नियोक्ता, कर्मचारी और राज्य शामिल हों।
- This must be **maintained by each employer and employee** and **endorsed each month.** इसे प्रत्येक नियोक्ता और कर्मचारी द्वारा बनाए रखा जाना चाहिए और प्रत्येक माह सत्यापित किया जाना चाहिए।
- **Women workers** have reported **not being able to access local complaints committees** set up at the **district level** under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act.** महिला कामगारों ने रिपोर्ट किया है कि वे जिला स्तर पर स्थापित स्थानीय शिकायत समितियों तक पहुंच नहीं पा रही हैं, जो महिलाओं के कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न (रोकथाम, निषेध और निवारण) अधिनियम के तहत स्थापित हैं।
- These **complaints committees** must be set up at **panchayat and urban local bodies.** इन शिकायत समितियों को पंचायत और शहरी स्थानीय निकायों में स्थापित किया जाना चाहिए।
- **Housing** is another critical consideration for domestic workers. **आवास** घरेलू कामगारों के लिए एक और महत्वपूर्ण विचार है।
- While workers in **Tamil Nadu** received some assistance during the **pandemic-induced lockdowns in 2020 and 2021**, several could **not pay rent.** जबकि तमिलनाडु के कामगारों को 2020 और 2021 में महामारी-प्रेरित लॉकडाउन के दौरान कुछ सहायता मिली, कई लोग किराया नहीं चुका पाए।



- Rather than intermittent relief in the event of a “crisis”, **structural solutions** are imperative to protect the women in this **critical workforce**.  
“संकट” की स्थिति में अस्थायी राहत के बजाय, इस महत्वपूर्ण कार्यबल में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए **संरचनात्मक समाधान** आवश्यक हैं।

# On CBI takeovers: a judicial standpoi

The Supreme Court has transferred the investigation into the Karur stampede from an SIT to the CBI. However, the top court's reasoning, entirely based on petitioners' pleadings, unaccompanied by prima facie evidence, is simply not enough to shift a case to the CBI

CS II: Center State Relations

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

**I**n October 13, the Supreme Court abruptly applied the brakes on a fledgling investigation of a Madras High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) and a State-constituted Enquiry Commission headed by Justice (retired) Aruna Jagadeesan into the Karur stampede (on September 27, 41 people were killed during a stampede at a political rally hosted by actor-cum-politician Vijay in Karur district, Tamil Nadu).

Both the SIT and Justice Jagadeesan were directed to immediately hand over papers and evidence to the officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The top court's decision to shift the Karur stampede investigation to the CBI was powered by two “sweeping” factors – the “political undertones” of the case and a perception that top-ranking Tamil Nadu Police officers made comments in a press conference to the extent that their subordinates were not at fault. The Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and N.V. Anjaria concluded that the conduct of the State's senior police officers “may create doubt in the minds of the citizenry about the impartiality and fairness of the investigation”, necessitating its transfer to the CBI.

The CBI is a central agency governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 which traces its origins to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) formed in 1941 to weed out corruption in war-time procurements. Once coined by the Supreme Court as a “caged parrot” of the Centre, the CBI is considered a premier investigative body which probes a wide range of crimes with inter-State and national ramifications.

However, the top court's reasoning, entirely based on petitioners' pleadings and “sweeping remarks” unaccompanied by *prima facie* evidence to show the SIT probe was riddled by bias, are simply not enough to shift a case to the CBI without the express consent of the State government. While it is well-settled that a constitutional court can order a CBI probe as judicial review is part of the Basic Structure, the court, be it the Supreme Court or a State High Court, must not direct a CBI enquiry in a “routine manner”. A judicial order of transfer of a probe to the CBI is only the “last resort”.

**“Measure of last resort”**  
The Supreme Court has a well-developed jurisprudence, evolved through judgments, which imposes significant self-restraint on the exercise of the extraordinary constitutional power to order a CBI probe under Article 32 (for the Supreme Court) or Article 226 (High Court) of the Constitution. The top court has held that the exercise of inherent powers to direct the CBI to investigate must be exercised “sparingly, cautiously, and only in exceptional situations”. The court has consistently cautioned that a CBI investigation should not be directed “merely because a party casts certain aspersions or harbours a subjective lack of confidence in the State Police”.

“It goes without saying that for invoking this power, the court concerned must be satisfied that the material placed *prima facie* discloses commission of offences and necessitates a CBI investigation to ensure the fundamental right to a fair and impartial investigation, or where the complexity, scale, or national ramifications of such allegations



**Human cost:** Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President and actor Vijay's rally in Karur on September 27. MOORTHY M

demand expertise of central agency,” the court has explained.

Judicial precedents have underscored that an order directing an investigation to be carried out by CBI should be treated as a “measure of last resort”, justified only when the constitutional court is convinced that the integrity of the process has been compromised or has reasons to believe that it may get compromised to a degree that shakes the conscience of courts or public faith in the justice delivery system.

Such circumstances compelling the judicial transfer of an investigation to the CBI from the State Police may typically arise when the materials placed on record before a court *prima facie* point towards systemic failure, the involvement of high-ranking State officials or politically influential persons, or when the local police's conduct itself creates a reasonable doubt in the minds of the citizenry regarding their ability to conduct a neutral probe.

In the absence of these factors, constitutional courts must avoid placing unnecessary burdens on a specialised agency with “matters that do not satisfy the threshold of an exceptional case”.

**The reason for the shift**  
The 25-page order of the Supreme Court shifting the Karur stampede probe to the CBI shows that the decision was largely made on the basis of “allegations” raised by the petitioners, who have been identified as relatives of victims and public-spirited persons.

The court noted that the tragedy which claimed 41 lives and left over a 100 injured at a rally organised by Vijay, founder of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), at Velusampuram in Karur District had “stirred public sentiment and shook the conscience of people across the nation”. The court said that petitioners have made “allegations” that the ruling dispensation, which has “control over the immense machinery of the State”, did not discharge its functions “properly”. The Bench, in this context, referred to averment in the petitions that top police

officers, held a press conference during which they “robustly” defended their colleagues, raising the apprehension that the probe by the SIT comprising Tamil Nadu Police officers would not be held fairly. It recorded submissions in the petitions that the police had denied permission earlier, in January, to another political party to conduct a rally at the same place where the tragedy occurred during the TVK event. The court voided this vague notion to hint at “political undertones” at play.

These factors led to the court to *prima facie* conclude that there was “a doubt in the minds of the general public about the independence and impartiality of the investigation” and victims should be spared of being caught in the “political tussle between two sides”.

**Previous judgments**

A cursory read of the order shows that the decision to shift the probe to the CBI was entirely based on the allegations levelled by the petitioners. The Supreme Court judgment in *Secretary, Minor Irrigation & Rural Engg. Services UP* has observed that the power of a court to shift an investigation to the CBI “can be exercised only in cases where there is sufficient material to come to a *prima facie* conclusion that there is a need for such inquiry. It is not sufficient to have such material in the pleadings”.

Secondly, the Supreme Court did not specify a single instance of bias or delay by the Tamil Nadu Police's SIT. In a Constitution Bench judgment in *State of West Bengal versus Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights*, the top court had held that the extraordinary power to transfer probes to CBI “cannot and should not be exercised in a routine manner without examining the complexities, nature of offence and sometimes the tardy progress in the investigations involving high officials of the State investigating agency itself”.

In an October 16, 2025 order authored by Justice Maheshwari himself in the case of *Legislative Council UP versus Sushil Kumar*, the judge noted that public order

(Entry 1) and the police (Entry 2) was a State subject falling in List II of Schedule VII of the Constitution. “It is a primary responsibility of the investigating agency of the State Police to investigate all offences which are committed within its jurisdiction. The investigations can be entrusted to the CBI only in exceptional circumstances,” Justice Maheshwari had written. In *K.V. Rajendran versus Superintendent of Police, CBCID*, the top court had held that a transfer of a case to CBI could only be justified by showing sufficient material to prove that the State investigation was dishonest or mala fide.

Thirdly, ambiguous inferences about “political undertones”, “political tussles between two sides” and reported comments made by police officers in a press meet cannot be grounds for making incursions into a State's power to investigate crimes within its own jurisdiction, especially when Tamil Nadu had withdrawn its general consent to CBI investigation in 2023. The Supreme Court has further constituted a committee headed by former top court judge, Justice Ajay Rastogi, to oversee the CBI probe. Such an arrangement does not have any statutory backing.

Besides, the SIT was formed separately by the Madras High Court in the Karur stampede case. The Justice Jagadeesan Commission of Enquiry was constituted on the very night of the tragedy. There had been no allegation of specific bias levelled against the SIT or the Enquiry Commission, warranting a change of the probe agency. The Madras High Court had also previously refused a specific demand for transfer to the CBI. In the *Shree Shree Ram Janki Asthan Tapovan Mandir* judgment, the top court had held that it was not for the judiciary to make sweeping remarks about the State government and its functionaries and subject them to CBI investigation merely based on allegations brought before it.

The court said the judiciary has to understand that the “functioning in the government is by different officers and the working of the Executive has in-built checks and balances”.

THE GIST

▼ The top court's decision to the Karur stampede investigation to the CBI was powered by two “sweeping factors” – the “political undertones” of the case and a perception that top-ranking Tamil Nadu Police officers made comments in a press conference to the extent that their subordinates were not at fault.

▼ Judicial precedents have underscored that an order directing an investigation to be carried out by CBI should be treated as a “measure of last resort”, justified only when constitutional court is convinced that the integrity of the process has been compromised.

▼ In an October 16, 2025 order authored by Justice Maheshwari himself in the case of *Legislative Council UP versus Sushil Kumar*, the judge noted that public order (Entry 1) and the police (Entry 2) is a State subject falling in List II of Schedule VII of the Constitution.



## On CBI takeovers: a judicial standpoint

### CBI हस्तांतरण पर: न्यायिक दृष्टिकोण

- The **Supreme Court** has transferred the investigation into the **Karur stampede** from an **SIT** to the **CBI**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने करूर स्टैम्पीड की जांच को SIT से CBI में स्थानांतरित कर दिया है।
- However, the top court's reasoning, entirely based on **petitioners' pleadings**, unaccompanied by **prima facie evidence**, is simply not enough to shift a case to the **CBI**.  
हालांकि, शीर्ष अदालत का तर्क, जो पूरी तरह से **याचिकाकर्ताओं की दलीलों** पर आधारित है और **प्राथमिक साक्ष्य** के बिना है, किसी मामले को **CBI** में स्थानांतरित करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।

## Supreme Court Orders CBI Probe into Karur Stampede

### सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने करूर स्टैम्पीड मामले में CBI जांच का आदेश दिया

- On **October 13**, the **Supreme Court** abruptly applied the brakes on a fledgling investigation of a **Madras High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT)** and a **State-constituted Enquiry Commission** headed by Justice (retired) **Aruna Jagadeesan** into the **Karur stampede**.  
13 अक्टूबर को, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अचानक **मद्रास हाई कोर्ट** द्वारा नियुक्त विशेष जांच दल (SIT) और राज्य-निर्मित जांच आयोग के प्रारंभिक जांच कार्य को रोक दिया, जिसका नेतृत्व न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) **अरुणा जगदीशन** कर रही थीं, **करूर स्टैम्पीड** की जांच में।
- On **September 27**, **41 people** were killed during a **stampede** at a political rally hosted by **actor-cum-politician Vijay** in **Karur district, Tamil Nadu**.  
27 सितंबर को, **तमिलनाडु के करूर जिले में अभिनेता और राजनेता विजय** द्वारा आयोजित राजनीतिक रैली में हुई **भीड़भाड़** में **41 लोग** मारे गए।
- Both the **SIT** and Justice **Jagadeesan** were directed to immediately hand over papers and evidence to the officers of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.  
**SIT** और न्यायमूर्ति **जगदीशन** दोनों को निर्देश दिया गया कि वे तुरंत **CBI** के अधिकारियों को कागजात और साक्ष्य सौंपें।
- The top court's decision to shift the **Karur stampede** investigation to the **CBI** was powered by two "sweeping" factors — the **political undertones** of the case and a perception that top-ranking **Tamil Nadu Police officers** made comments implying their subordinates were not at fault.  
करूर स्टैम्पीड जांच को **CBI** को स्थानांतरित करने का शीर्ष न्यायालय का निर्णय दो व्यापक कारणों से प्रेरित था — मामले के **राजनीतिक संकेत** और यह धारणा कि उच्च पदस्थ **तमिलनाडु पुलिस अधिकारियों** ने अपने अधीनस्थों को दोषमुक्त दिखाने वाले बयान दिए।
- The Bench of Justices **J.K. Maheshwari** and **N.V. Anjaria** concluded that the conduct of the State's **senior police officers** "may create doubt in the minds of the citizenry about the impartiality and fairness of the investigation", necessitating its transfer to the **CBI**.  
न्यायमूर्ति **J.K. महेश्वरी** और **N.V. अंजारिया** की बेंच ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि राज्य के **वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारियों** का आचरण "नागरिकों के मन में जांच की निष्पक्षता और न्यायसंगतता के बारे में संदेह पैदा कर सकता है", जिससे इसे **CBI** को स्थानांतरित करना आवश्यक हो गया।
- The **CBI** is a **central agency** governed by the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**, originating from the **Special Police Establishment (SPE)** formed in **1941** to weed out corruption in wartime procurements.  
**CBI** एक **केंद्रीय एजेंसी** है, जो **दिल्ली विशेष पुलिस स्थापना अधिनियम, 1946** के तहत संचालित होती है, और इसकी उत्पत्ति **विशेष पुलिस स्थापना (SPE)** से हुई थी, जिसे **1941** में युद्धकालीन खरीद में भ्रष्टाचार को खत्म करने के लिए बनाया गया था।
- Once coined by the Supreme Court as a "**caged parrot**" of the Centre, the **CBI** is considered a premier investigative body probing a wide range of crimes with inter-State and national ramifications.  
एक बार सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा इसे केंद्र का "**पिंजरे में बंद तोता**" कहा गया, **CBI** को प्रमुख जांच एजेंसी माना जाता है जो अंतर-राज्यीय और राष्ट्रीय प्रभाव वाले विभिन्न अपराधों की जांच करती है।
- However, the top court's reasoning, based on petitioners' pleadings and "sweeping remarks" without **prima facie evidence** of **SIT** bias, are insufficient to shift a case to **CBI** without **State**



government consent.

हालांकि, शीर्ष न्यायालय का तर्क, जो याचिकाकर्ताओं के दावों और “व्यापक टिप्पणियों” पर आधारित है, और SIT पक्षपात के **प्राथमिक साक्ष्य (prima facie)** के बिना है, **राज्य सरकार** की सहमति के बिना मामले को **CBI** को स्थानांतरित करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।

- While a **constitutional court** can order a CBI probe as judicial review is part of the **Basic Structure**, the court must not direct a CBI enquiry in a “routine manner”.  
जबकि एक **संवैधानिक अदालत CBI जांच** का आदेश दे सकती है क्योंकि न्यायिक समीक्षा **मूल संरचना** का हिस्सा है, अदालत को **CBI जांच** को “साधारण रूप से” निर्देश नहीं देना चाहिए।
- A judicial order of transfer of a probe to the CBI is only the **‘last resort’**.  
किसी जांच को **CBI** को स्थानांतरित करने का न्यायिक आदेश केवल **‘अंतिम उपाय’** होता है।

## ‘Measure of Last Resort’

### ‘अंतिम उपाय’

- The **Supreme Court** has a well-developed jurisprudence imposing **self-restraint** on exercising extraordinary power to order a CBI probe under **Article 32** (Supreme Court) or **Article 226** (High Court).  
**सुप्रीम कोर्ट** का एक विकसित **न्यायशास्त्र** है, जो **असाधारण शक्तियों** के प्रयोग में **आत्मसंयम** लागू करता है, जैसे **अनुच्छेद 32** (सुप्रीम कोर्ट) या **अनुच्छेद 226** (हाई कोर्ट) के तहत CBI जांच का आदेश देना।
- The top court held that inherent powers to direct the **CBI** must be exercised “**sparingly, cautiously, and only in exceptional situations**”.  
शीर्ष न्यायालय ने कहा कि **CBI** को निर्देश देने की **अंतरनिहित शक्तियों** का प्रयोग “**संयमित, सावधानीपूर्वक, और केवल असाधारण परिस्थितियों में**” किया जाना चाहिए।
- A CBI investigation should not be directed “merely because a party casts certain **aspersions** or harbours a **subjective lack of confidence** in the State Police”.  
**CBI जांच** केवल इसलिए निर्देशित नहीं की जानी चाहिए कि कोई पक्ष कुछ **आरोप (aspersions)** लगाए या राज्य पुलिस पर **विषयगत विश्वास की कमी** रखता हो।
- For invoking this power, the court must be satisfied that the material **prima facie** discloses commission of offences and necessitates a CBI investigation to ensure the **fundamental right** to a **fair and impartial investigation**, or where the **complexity, scale, or national ramifications** demands expertise of a **central agency**.  
इस शक्ति का प्रयोग करने के लिए, अदालत को यह सुनिश्चित होना चाहिए कि **प्राथमिक साक्ष्य (prima facie)** अपराध की पुष्टि करते हैं और **न्यायपूर्ण और निष्पक्ष जांच** के **मूलभूत अधिकार** को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **CBI जांच** आवश्यक है, या जब **जटिलता, पैमाना, या राष्ट्रीय प्रभाव** केंद्रीय एजेंसी की विशेषज्ञता की मांग करता है।
- Judicial precedents have underscored that directing an investigation to **CBI** should be a “**measure of last resort**”, justified only when the constitutional court is convinced that **integrity of the process** has been compromised or may be compromised, shaking **public faith** in justice.  
न्यायिक निर्णयों ने यह रेखांकित किया है कि **CBI** को जांच निर्देशित करना केवल “**अंतिम उपाय**” होना चाहिए, केवल तब जब संवैधानिक अदालत आश्वस्त हो कि **प्रक्रिया की अखंडता** समझौता हुई है या हो सकती है, जिससे न्याय में **सार्वजनिक विश्वास** हिल सकता है।
- Circumstances compelling transfer to **CBI** may arise when materials on record point to **systemic failure**, involvement of **high-ranking officials or politically influential persons**, or when local police conduct creates **reasonable doubt** about their ability to conduct a **neutral probe**.  
ऐसी परिस्थितियाँ जो **CBI** में स्थानांतरण को मजबूर करती हैं, तब उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं जब रिकॉर्ड पर सामग्री **प्रणालीगत विफलता, उच्च पदस्थ अधिकारियों या राजनीतिक रूप से प्रभावशाली व्यक्तियों** की भागीदारी, या स्थानीय पुलिस का आचरण **तटस्थ जांच** करने की उनकी क्षमता पर **उचित संदेह** उत्पन्न करता है।
- In the absence of these factors, constitutional courts must avoid placing unnecessary burdens on a specialized agency with “matters that do not satisfy the threshold of an exceptional case”.  
इन कारकों के अभाव में, संवैधानिक अदालतों को किसी विशेष एजेंसी पर “ऐसे मामले जो असाधारण मामले के मानक को पूरा नहीं करते” का अनावश्यक भार डालने से बचना चाहिए।



## The Reason for the Shift

### स्थानांतरण का कारण

- The **25-page order** of the **Supreme Court** shifting the **Karur stampede probe** to the **CBI** shows that the decision was largely made on the basis of **“allegations”** raised by the petitioners, identified as relatives of victims and public-spirited persons.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 25-पृष्ठ आदेश में करूर स्टैम्पीड जांच को CBI में स्थानांतरित करने का निर्णय मुख्य रूप से याचिकाकर्ताओं द्वारा उठाए गए **“आरोपों (allegations)”** के आधार पर किया गया, जो पीड़ितों के रिश्तेदार और समाजसेवी व्यक्ति बताए गए हैं।
- The court noted that the tragedy, which claimed **41 lives** and left over **100 injured** at a rally organised by **Vijay**, founder of **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**, at **Velusampuram in Karur District**, had **“stirred public sentiment and shook the conscience of people across the nation”**.  
अदालत ने उल्लेख किया कि यह त्रासदी, जिसमें **41 लोगों की मौत** और **100 से अधिक घायल** हुए, **विजय** द्वारा आयोजित **तमिलागा वेट्ट्री कजगम (TVK)** की रैली में **करूर जिले के वेलुसाम्यपुरम** में हुई, ने **“सार्वजनिक भावना को उकसाया और पूरे देश के लोगों की अंतरात्मा को झकझोर दिया”**।
- The court said petitioners have made **“allegations”** that the ruling dispensation, which has **control over the immense machinery of the State**, did not discharge its functions **“properly”**.  
अदालत ने कहा कि याचिकाकर्ताओं ने **“आरोप”** लगाए कि शासक व्यवस्था, जिसके पास **राज्य की विशाल मशीनरी पर नियंत्रण** है, ने अपने कर्तव्यों का पालन **सही तरीके से नहीं किया**।
- The Bench referred to averments in petitions that top police officers held a press conference during which they **“robustly”** defended their colleagues, raising apprehension that the **SIT** probe by **Tamil Nadu Police officers** would not be fair.  
बेंच ने याचिकाओं में किए गए दावों का उल्लेख किया कि उच्च पुलिस अधिकारी प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में अपने सहयोगियों की **“मजबूती से”** रक्षा कर रहे थे, जिससे यह आशंका उत्पन्न हुई कि **SIT** की **तमिलनाडु पुलिस अधिकारियों** द्वारा की गई जांच निष्पक्ष नहीं होगी।
- Petitions recorded that police had denied permission earlier, in **January**, to another political party to conduct a rally at the same place where the tragedy occurred during the **TVK** event.  
याचिकाओं में उल्लेख किया गया कि पुलिस ने पहले **जनवरी** में एक अन्य राजनीतिक दल को उसी जगह रैली आयोजित करने की अनुमति नहीं दी थी, जहाँ **TVK** कार्यक्रम के दौरान यह त्रासदी हुई।
- The court voiced this vague notion to hint at **“political undertones”** at play.  
अदालत ने इस अस्पष्ट विचार को उठाया ताकि खेल में मौजूद **“राजनीतिक संकेत (political undertones)”** को इंगित किया जा सके।
- These factors led the court to **prima facie** conclude there was **“a doubt in the minds of the general public about the independence and impartiality of the investigation”** and victims should be spared from being caught in the **“political tussle between two sides”**.  
इन कारकों के कारण अदालत ने **prima facie** निष्कर्ष निकाला कि **“सामान्य जनता के मन में जांच की स्वतंत्रता और निष्पक्षता को लेकर संदेह है”** और पीड़ितों को **“दो पक्षों के बीच राजनीतिक संघर्ष”** में फंसे होने से बचाना चाहिए।

## Previous Judgments

### पिछले न्यायिक निर्णय

- A cursory read of the order shows that the decision to shift the probe to **CBI** was entirely based on allegations levelled by the petitioners.  
आदेश की सतही पढ़ाई से पता चलता है कि जांच को **CBI** में स्थानांतरित करने का निर्णय पूरी तरह से याचिकाकर्ताओं द्वारा लगाए गए आरोपों पर आधारित था।
- In **Secretary, Minor Irrigation & Rural Engg. Services UP**, the Supreme Court observed that a court's power to shift an investigation to **CBI** **“can be exercised only in cases where there is sufficient material to come to a prima facie conclusion that there is a need for such inquiry”**. It is not sufficient to have such material in the pleadings”.  
**Secretary, Minor Irrigation & Rural Engg. Services UP** में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि अदालत की **CBI** में जांच स्थानांतरित करने की शक्ति **“केवल उन मामलों में इस्तेमाल की जा सकती है जहाँ पर्याप्त सामग्री**



हो जो **prima facie** निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचती हो कि ऐसी जांच की आवश्यकता है। केवल दावों में सामग्री होना पर्याप्त नहीं है।”

- The Supreme Court did not specify a single instance of bias or delay by the **Tamil Nadu Police's SIT**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **तमिलनाडु पुलिस की SIT** द्वारा किसी भी पक्षपात या देरी का कोई एक उदाहरण निर्दिष्ट नहीं किया।
- In **State of West Bengal versus Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights**, the top court held that extraordinary power to transfer probes to **CBI** “cannot and should not be exercised in a routine manner without examining complexities, nature of offence, and sometimes the tardy progress in investigations involving high officials of the State investigating agency”.  
**State of West Bengal versus Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights** में शीर्ष कोर्ट ने कहा कि **CBI** में जांच स्थानांतरित करने की असाधारण शक्ति “साधारण रूप से इस्तेमाल नहीं की जा सकती और न ही करनी चाहिए, जब तक जटिलताओं, अपराध की प्रकृति, और कभी-कभी राज्य जांच एजेंसी के उच्च अधिकारियों की जांच में धीमी प्रगति की जांच न की जाए।”
- In an **October 16, 2025** order authored by Justice Maheshwari in **Legislative Council UP versus Sushil Kumar**, public order (Entry 1) and police (Entry 2) were noted as **State subjects** under **List II of Schedule VII** of the Constitution.  
**16 अक्टूबर, 2025** के आदेश में, न्यायमूर्ति महेश्वरी ने **Legislative Council UP versus Sushil Kumar** मामले में सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था (Entry 1) और पुलिस (Entry 2) को संविधान की **सूची II, अनुसूची VII** के तहत **राज्य विषय** बताया।
- Justice Maheshwari noted that it is the **primary responsibility** of the **State Police investigating agency** to investigate all offences within its jurisdiction; **CBI** can be entrusted only in **exceptional circumstances**.  
न्यायमूर्ति महेश्वरी ने उल्लेख किया कि राज्य पुलिस की जांच एजेंसी की **प्राथमिक जिम्मेदारी** है कि वह अपनी क्षेत्राधिकार में सभी अपराधों की जांच करे; **CBI** को केवल **विशेष परिस्थितियों** में जिम्मेदारी दी जा सकती है।
- In **K.V. Rajendran versus Superintendent of Police, CBCID**, the top court held that a transfer to **CBI** could only be justified by showing sufficient material proving the **State investigation was dishonest or mala fide**.  
**K.V. Rajendran versus Superintendent of Police, CBCID** में शीर्ष कोर्ट ने कहा कि **CBI** में स्थानांतरण केवल तब उचित ठहराया जा सकता है जब पर्याप्त सामग्री द्वारा यह साबित किया जाए कि **राज्य जांच बेईमान या दुर्भावनापूर्ण** थी।
- Ambiguous inferences about “**political undertones**”, “**political tussles between two sides**”, and reported comments by police officers cannot justify **incursions into a State's power to investigate crimes, especially when Tamil Nadu withdrew general consent to CBI investigation in 2023**.  
“**राजनीतिक संकेत (political undertones)**”, “**दो पक्षों के बीच राजनीतिक संघर्ष**”, और पुलिस अधिकारियों की रिपोर्ट की गई टिप्पणियाँ किसी राज्य की अपराध जांच करने की शक्ति में हस्तक्षेप के लिए औचित्य नहीं प्रदान कर सकतीं, विशेष रूप से जब तमिलनाडु ने **2023** में **CBI** जांच के लिए सामान्य सहमति वापस ले ली थी।
- The Supreme Court has further constituted a committee headed by former top court judge **Justice Ajay Rastogi** to oversee the **CBI** probe, which lacks statutory backing.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **CBI** जांच की निगरानी के लिए पूर्व शीर्ष न्यायालय न्यायाधीश **न्यायमूर्ति अजय रस्तोगी** की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति का गठन किया है, जिसे **कानूनी आधार** प्राप्त नहीं है।
- The **SIT** was separately formed by **Madras High Court** in the **Karur stampede** case.  
**SIT** को **मद्रास हाई कोर्ट** द्वारा **करूर स्टैम्पीड** मामले में अलग से गठित किया गया था।
- The **Justice Jagadeesan Commission of Enquiry** was constituted on the very night of the tragedy.  
**न्यायमूर्ति जगदीशन आयोग** को त्रासदी की रात ही गठित किया गया।
- There had been no specific allegation of bias against **SIT** or the **Enquiry Commission**, warranting a change of probe agency.  
**SIT** या **जांच आयोग** के खिलाफ कोई विशेष पक्षपात का आरोप नहीं था, जो जांच एजेंसी बदलने का कारण बनता।
- **Madras High Court** had previously refused a demand for transfer to **CBI**.  
**मद्रास हाई कोर्ट** ने पहले **CBI** में स्थानांतरण की मांग को अस्वीकार कर दिया था।



- In **Shree Shree Ram Janki Asthan Tapovan Mandir** judgment, the top court held that the judiciary cannot make sweeping remarks about the State **government** and its functionaries and subject them to **CBI investigation** merely based on allegations.

**Shree Shree Ram Janki Asthan Tapovan Mandir** निर्णय में शीर्ष कोर्ट ने कहा कि न्यायपालिका राज्य सरकार और उसके अधिकारियों के बारे में व्यापक टिप्पणियाँ नहीं कर सकती और केवल आरोपों के आधार पर उन्हें **CBI जांच** के दायरे में नहीं ला सकती।

- The court said the judiciary must understand that **functioning in government is by different officers** and the working of the **Executive has in-built checks and balances**.

अदालत ने कहा कि न्यायपालिका को यह समझना चाहिए कि सरकार में कार्य विभिन्न अधिकारियों द्वारा होता है और कार्यपालिका की कार्यप्रणाली में अंतर्निहित जाँच और संतुलन होता है।

## Electoral roll revamp: the case for digital transformation

The Election Commission has initiated a Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, starting in Bihar. However, outdated verification methods and lack of digital tools, stress the need for technology-driven reforms

**CS II: Elections**  
Rajeev Kumar

**A**fter two decades of silence on one of India's most critical democratic processes, the Election Commission (EC) has finally revived the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls – beginning with Bihar, followed by West Bengal, and later the rest of the country.

Electoral rolls require continuous updating – removing those who have died or surrendered citizenship and transferring entries for individuals who shift residence to another constituency. A person must be an Indian citizen of at least 18 years of age and ordinarily resident in India to be included in the roll. However, concerns persist about including ineligible persons, especially those who may have entered from neighbouring countries, underscoring the need for transparent verification.

Although this long-awaited SIR aims to update the voter database, it became controversial due to procedural ambiguities and reliance on outdated and cumbersome Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) instead of modern digital tools.

### Reliance on outdated methods

The last full-fledged SIR of electoral rolls in most Indian States was conducted between 2002 and 2004, when voter data was entirely paper-based, fragmented, and manually verified. Two decades later, despite India's sweeping digital transformation – from Aadhaar integration to the Digital India mission – the SIR 2025 framework remains rooted in outdated, paper-era procedures.

To mirror the 2002-04 model, 11 documents were mandated for voter verification, including birth certificate, passport, driving licence, domicile, caste certificate, and family register. However, the list excluded Aadhaar, India's most widely used and digitally verifiable ID. The justification that Aadhaar is not fool-proof and can be manipulated is only partly valid, as the same limitations apply to most other accepted documents. More reliable documents such as passports and government service IDs cover only a small section of the population.

Relying on limited and often inaccessible proofs contradicts the spirit of Digital India – turning what was meant to be a modern transparency reform into a bureaucratic bottleneck. The exclusion of Aadhaar made verification cumbersome and eroded public trust, particularly among migrants, first-time voters, and marginalised groups. The deeper issue lies in the failure to adopt interoperable, technology-based systems. Most approved databases remain isolated and inaccessible, preventing real-time verification and automated consistency checks. As a result, the SIR of 2025 repeated the old cycle of manual errors, delays, and inconsistencies.

A credible and trustworthy SIR requires a nationally unified, technology-driven framework that ensures accuracy, accountability, and transparency across India's billion-plus voters – not replicating the early 2000's outdated methods in 2025's digital era.

### Aadhaar: a national digital ID

After extensive hearings and deliberation,



**Outdated methods:** Door-to-door distribution of enumeration forms and collection of filled forms under the SIR in Nawada, Bihar on July 13, ANI

Aadhaar was upheld as a valid and legitimate digital ID for electoral governance processes. Despite earlier concerns about privacy and misuse, the decision confirmed Aadhaar's operational legitimacy, establishing it as the backbone of India's digital ecosystem.

India has no comparable identity system. Aadhaar uniquely combines personalised details with biometric data, enabling reliable individual verification. It is the only centralised identity database accessible to multiple government and private agencies for authentication. Over time, Aadhaar verification has become routinely used for attendance systems, scholarship disbursement, welfare distribution, financial transactions, life certification, and educational institutions. In practice, it has emerged as India's de facto national digital identity register.

Therefore, rather than sidelining it, India's technical leadership must make the Aadhaar ecosystem more robust, tamper-proof, and transparent. It can securely integrate birth, death, and migration records with appropriate safeguards, ensuring that electoral rolls remain dynamically updated without compromising privacy. Integrating verified Aadhaar data into electoral roll management under strict data protection norms could eliminate duplication, automatically remove deceased voters, update residential shifts, and prevent fake or multiple registrations. Every addition, deletion, or correction would carry a digitally signed authorisation, create an unbroken digital audit trail, and ensure a transparent, verifiable, and accountable

electoral database.

### Data anomalies

The revised electoral roll of Bihar revealed significant inconsistencies, including deleting 3.66 lakh names without adequate clarity or traceable communication to those affected. The total number of electors was around 80 lakh (nearly 10% lower than the estimated adult population of the State, with no verification trail explaining the reasons for such deletions or confirming that due notice had been given.

Further scrutiny exposed several irregularities such as centenarians being listed as new voters, and names re-included without supporting documents to maintain overall voter counts. There were also gross variations in demographic statistics, such as a decline in the gender ratio from 934 in September 2025 to 892 in the final roll, a statistically implausible shift, inconsistent with population trends. These anomalies suggest data entry errors or unverified mass revisions, raising serious questions about the integrity of the database.

Moreover, data transparency remained the primary concern. The lists of additions and deletions were not published in machine-readable formats, preventing independent audit or public scrutiny. Collectively, these anomalies – from demographic distortions and manual errors to opaque data handling – expose the fragility of electoral roll management and underscore the urgent need for technology-driven verification and

transparent data governance in revisions.

### On ECI-Net

ECI-Net is among the world's largest and most dynamic digital databases, housing records of nearly one billion voters. Continuously updated through additions, address changes, and profile modifications, it is searchable by Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) ID and voter-name and administered by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, India's premier computing R&D institution. Globally, few systems match the scale, functionality, and democratic significance of this mission-critical database.

By design, ECI-Net can detect duplicates, flag inconsistencies, and facilitate corrections through authorised verification. Its architecture can instantly produce real-time demographic and statistical reports transparently and accurately. With the integration of data analytic APIs, the system can automatically identify and resolve most anomalies and demographic inconsistencies identified during recent revisions.

However, the lack of disclosure and system-level analytics raises serious concerns. If automated audit and analytical tools already exist – as expected in a database of this scale – they could have easily detected duplication, demographic distortions, and data irregularities without large-scale manual intervention. The failure to utilise these digital capabilities suggests institutional inertia or deliberate avoidance of technology-based transparency. Such practices weaken confidence in the integrity of existing SoPs. Despite strong technical expertise within its leadership, the reliance on manual verification over verifiable, software-driven protocols remains inexplicable. Until data-driven audits and system-level transparency are prioritised, claims of purification of electoral rolls will continue to invite public scepticism and institutional introspection.

### The way ahead

Today, India has one of the world's most advanced digital ecosystems – from Aadhaar-linked databases and UPI to data analytics and e-governance. Yet, the procedures guiding SIR 2025 show little reflection of this progress. The weaknesses are not merely administrative but structural, stemming from the absence of traceability, and database integration. Reforming the SoPs is therefore not optional; it is vital for safeguarding democratic credibility.

The electoral roll must be recognised as a living, dynamic national asset rather than a static, state-bound record. Its accuracy directly shapes the integrity of elections and public confidence in electoral governance.

Recent judicial observations have underscored the need to learn from the Bihar experience as preparations begin for a nationwide revision. Future SIR exercises must demonstrate procedural correctness, visible fairness, transparency, and accountability. The focus should shift to software-driven verification, digital audit trails, and real-time corrections. The ECI-Net should be made more user-friendly, technical glitches should be fixed promptly, and an efficient and quick grievance redressal mechanism should be incorporated.

The 2025 SIR must not become another verification ritual; it must transform into a trust restoration powered by technology based on transparency, verification, and integrity.

Rajeev Kumar is a former Professor of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, BITS Pilani, and JNU, and a former scientist at DRDO and DST.



## Electoral roll revamp: the case for digital transformation

### चुनावी मतदाता सूची का नवीनीकरण: डिजिटल परिवर्तन का मामला

- The **Election Commission** has initiated a **Special Intensive Revision** of electoral rolls, starting in **Bihar**.  
चुनाव आयोग ने मतदाता सूची का विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (Special Intensive Revision) शुरू किया है, जो बिहार से शुरू हुआ है।
- However, **outdated verification methods** and lack of **digital tools**, stress the need for **technology-driven reforms**.  
हालांकि, पुराने सत्यापन तरीके (outdated verification methods) और डिजिटल उपकरणों की कमी (lack of digital tools) इस बात पर जोर देती है कि तकनीकी-आधारित सुधार (technology-driven reforms) की आवश्यकता है।

## Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls

### चुनाव आयोग की विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)

- After two decades of silence on one of India's most critical democratic processes, the **Election Commission (EC)** has finally revived the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls — beginning with **Bihar**, followed by **West Bengal**, and later the rest of the country.  
भारत की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रियाओं में से एक पर दो दशकों की चुप्पी के बाद, **चुनाव आयोग (EC)** ने चुनावी रोलस का **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** फिर से शुरू किया — पहले **बिहार** में, उसके बाद **पश्चिम बंगाल**, और बाद में देश के अन्य हिस्सों में।
- Electoral rolls require continuous updating — removing those who have **died** or **surrendered citizenship** and transferring entries for individuals who shift residence to another constituency.  
चुनावी रोलस को निरंतर अपडेट करने की आवश्यकता होती है — जिनकी **मृत्यु** हो गई है या जिन्होंने **नागरिकता छोड़ दी** है उन्हें हटाना और जिन लोगों ने अपने निवास को किसी अन्य निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरित किया है, उनके रिकॉर्ड को स्थानांतरित करना।
- A person must be an **Indian citizen**, at least **18 years of age**, and ordinarily resident in India to be included in the roll.  
किसी व्यक्ति को चुनावी रोल में शामिल होने के लिए **भारतीय नागरिक** होना चाहिए, कम से कम **18 वर्ष का होना** चाहिए, और सामान्यतः भारत में निवास करना चाहिए।
- Concerns persist about including **ineligible persons**, especially those who may have entered from **neighbouring countries**, underscoring the need for **transparent verification**.  
**अयोग्य व्यक्तियों** को शामिल करने को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है, विशेष रूप से वे जो **पड़ोसी देशों से प्रवेश कर सकते हैं**, जो **पारदर्शी सत्यापन** की आवश्यकता को उजागर करता है।
- Although this long-awaited SIR aims to update the voter database, it became controversial due to **procedural ambiguities** and reliance on **outdated and cumbersome Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs)** instead of modern digital tools.  
यद्यपि इस लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित SIR का उद्देश्य मतदाता डेटाबेस को अपडेट करना है, यह **प्रक्रियात्मक अस्पष्टताओं** और आधुनिक डिजिटल उपकरणों के बजाय **पुराने और जटिल स्टैण्डर्ड ऑपरेटिंग प्रोसीजर (SoPs)** पर निर्भरता के कारण विवादास्पद हो गया।

## Reliance on Outdated Methods

### पुरानी विधियों पर निर्भरता

- The last full-fledged SIR of electoral rolls in most Indian States was conducted between **2002 and 2004**, when voter data was entirely **paper-based**, fragmented, and manually verified.  
अधिकांश भारतीय राज्यों में चुनावी रोलस का आखिरी पूर्ण SIR **2002 से 2004** के बीच किया गया था, जब मतदाता डेटा पूरी तरह से **कागज़ आधारित**, टुकड़ों में और मैनुअली सत्यापित था।
- Two decades later, despite India's **digital transformation** — from **Aadhaar integration** to the **Digital India mission** — the SIR 2025 framework remains rooted in **outdated, paper-era**



## procedures.

दो दशकों बाद, भारत के डिजिटल परिवर्तन — आधार एकीकरण से लेकर डिजिटल इंडिया मिशन तक — के बावजूद, SIR 2025 ढांचा अभी भी पुरानी, कागज-आधारित प्रक्रियाओं में जड़ा हुआ है।

- To mirror the 2002-04 model, **11 documents** were mandated for voter verification, including **birth certificate, passport, driving licence, domicile, caste certificate, and family register**.  
2002-04 मॉडल के अनुरूप, मतदाता सत्यापन के लिए **11 दस्तावेज** अनिवार्य थे, जिनमें **जन्म प्रमाण पत्र, पासपोर्ट, ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस, डोमिसाइल, जाति प्रमाण पत्र, और परिवार रजिस्टर** शामिल थे।
- The list excluded **Aadhaar**, India's most widely used and digitally verifiable ID.  
इस सूची से **आधार** बाहर था, जो भारत की सबसे व्यापक रूप से उपयोग की जाने वाली और डिजिटल रूप से सत्यापित आईडी है।
- The justification that Aadhaar is not fool-proof and can be manipulated is only partly valid, as the same limitations apply to most other accepted documents.  
यह तर्क कि आधार **पूर्ण सुरक्षित नहीं है और उसे हेरफेर किया जा सकता है**, केवल आंशिक रूप से मान्य है, क्योंकि अधिकांश अन्य स्वीकृत दस्तावेजों पर भी वही सीमाएँ लागू होती हैं।
- More reliable documents such as **passports and government service IDs** cover only a small section of the population.  
अधिक भरोसेमंद दस्तावेज जैसे **पासपोर्ट और सरकारी सेवा आईडी** केवल जनसंख्या के एक छोटे हिस्से को कवर करते हैं।
- Relying on limited and often inaccessible proofs contradicts the spirit of **Digital India**, turning a modern transparency reform into a **bureaucratic bottleneck**.  
सीमित और अक्सर अप्राप्य प्रमाणों पर निर्भर रहना **डिजिटल इंडिया** की भावना के विपरीत है, जो आधुनिक पारदर्शिता सुधार को एक **ब्यूरोक्रेटिक बाधा** में बदल देता है।
- The exclusion of Aadhaar made verification cumbersome and eroded public trust, particularly among **migrants, first-time voters, and marginalised groups**.  
आधार को बाहर करने से सत्यापन **जटिल** हो गया और सार्वजनिक विश्वास कम हो गया, विशेष रूप से **प्रवासी, पहली बार मतदाता, और अल्पसंख्यक समूहों** के बीच।
- The deeper issue lies in the failure to adopt **interoperable, technology-based systems**.  
गहरी समस्या **इंटरऑपरेबल, तकनीक-आधारित प्रणालियों** को अपनाने में विफलता में निहित है।
- Most approved databases remain isolated and inaccessible, preventing **real-time verification and automated consistency checks**.  
अधिकांश अनुमोदित डेटाबेस अलग-थलग और अप्राप्य बने रहते हैं, जिससे **रीयल-टाइम सत्यापन और स्वचालित संगति जांच** असंभव हो जाती है।
- As a result, the **SIR of 2025** repeated the old cycle of **manual errors, delays, and inconsistencies**.  
परिणामस्वरूप, **SIR 2025** पुराने चक्र को दोहराता है, जिसमें **मैनुअल त्रुटियाँ, देरी, और असंगतियाँ** शामिल हैं।
- A credible and trustworthy SIR requires a **nationally unified, technology-driven framework** that ensures **accuracy, accountability, and transparency** across India's billion-plus voters.  
एक विश्वसनीय SIR के लिए एक **राष्ट्रीय रूप से एकीकृत, तकनीक-आधारित ढांचा** आवश्यक है, जो भारत के **एक अरब से अधिक मतदाताओं** के लिए सटीकता, जवाबदेही, और पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करता है।

## Aadhaar: A National Digital ID

### आधार: राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल आईडी

- After extensive hearings and deliberation, **Aadhaar** was upheld as a valid and legitimate **digital ID** for electoral governance processes.  
व्यापक सुनवाई और विचार-विमर्श के बाद, **आधार** को चुनावी प्रशासन प्रक्रियाओं के लिए एक वैध और कानूनी **डिजिटल आईडी** के रूप में स्वीकार किया गया।
- Despite earlier concerns about **privacy and misuse**, the decision confirmed Aadhaar's operational legitimacy, establishing it as the **backbone of India's digital ecosystem**.  
**गोपनीयता और दुरुपयोग** को लेकर पहले की चिंताओं के बावजूद, इस निर्णय ने आधार की परिचालन वैधता को पुष्टि की, इसे भारत के **डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम की रीढ़** के रूप में स्थापित किया।
- India has no comparable identity system. Aadhaar uniquely combines **personalised details** with **biometric data**, enabling reliable **individual verification**.



भारत के पास कोई तुलनीय पहचान प्रणाली नहीं है। आधार व्यक्तिगत विवरण और बायोमेट्रिक डेटा को अद्वितीय रूप से जोड़ता है, जो विश्वसनीय व्यक्तिगत सत्यापन सक्षम बनाता है।

- It is the only centralized identity database accessible to multiple government and private agencies for authentication.  
यह एकमात्र केंद्रीकृत पहचान डेटाबेस है, जो कई सरकारी और निजी एजेंसियों के लिए सत्यापन के लिए सुलभ है।
- Over time, Aadhaar verification has become routinely used for **attendance systems, scholarship disbursement, welfare distribution, financial transactions, life certification, and educational institutions.**  
समय के साथ, आधार सत्यापन का नियमित उपयोग उपस्थिति प्रणालियों, छात्रवृत्ति वितरण, कल्याण वितरण, वित्तीय लेन-देन, जीवन प्रमाणन, और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में होने लगा है।
- In practice, it has emerged as India's **de facto national digital identity register.**  
व्यवहार में, यह भारत का **de facto राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पहचान रजिस्टर** बन गया है।
- India's technical leadership must make the Aadhaar ecosystem more **robust, tamper-proof, and transparent.**  
भारत की तकनीकी नेतृत्व को आधार इकोसिस्टम को अधिक मजबूत, छेड़छाड़-रहित, और पारदर्शी बनाना चाहिए।
- It can securely integrate **birth, death, and migration records** with appropriate safeguards, ensuring electoral rolls remain dynamically updated without compromising **privacy.**  
यह उचित सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ **जन्म, मृत्यु, और प्रवासन रिकॉर्ड** को सुरक्षित रूप से एकीकृत कर सकता है, यह सुनिश्चित करते हुए कि चुनावी रोल्स गतिशील रूप से अपडेट रहें और **गोपनीयता** से समझौता न हो।
- Integrating verified Aadhaar data into electoral roll management under strict **data protection norms** could eliminate **duplication**, automatically remove **deceased voters**, update **residential shifts**, and prevent **fake or multiple registrations.**  
सख्त **डेटा संरक्षण मानकों** के तहत सत्यापित आधार डेटा को चुनावी रोल प्रबंधन में एकीकृत करना **प्रतिलिपि, मृतक मतदाता** को स्वतः हटाना, **निवास स्थान परिवर्तनों** को अपडेट करना और **फर्जी या बहु-पंजीकरण** को रोक सकता है।
- Every addition, deletion, or correction would carry a **digitally signed authorisation**, create an **unbroken digital audit trail**, and ensure a **transparent, verifiable, and accountable electoral database.**  
हर जोड़, हटाना, या सुधार में **डिजिटल रूप से हस्ताक्षरित प्राधिकरण** होगा, एक **अखंड डिजिटल ऑडिट ट्रेल** बनेगा, और यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि चुनावी डेटाबेस **पारदर्शी, सत्यापनीय, और जवाबदेह** हो।

## Data Anomalies

### डेटा विसंगतियाँ

- The revised electoral roll of **Bihar** revealed significant **inconsistencies**, including deleting **3.66 lakh names** without adequate clarity or traceable communication to those affected.  
बिहार के संशोधित चुनावी रोल में महत्वपूर्ण **विसंगतियाँ** पाई गईं, जिसमें प्रभावित लोगों को पर्याप्त स्पष्टता या ट्रेस करने योग्य संचार के बिना **3.66 लाख नाम** हटाए गए।
- The total number of electors was around **80 lakh** (nearly 10%) lower than the estimated adult population of the State, with no verification trail explaining the reasons for such deletions or confirming that due notice had been given.  
कुल मतदाताओं की संख्या लगभग **80 लाख** थी (राज्य की अनुमानित वयस्क जनसंख्या से लगभग 10% कम), और ऐसी हटाई गई प्रविष्टियों के कारणों को समझाने या यह पुष्टि करने के लिए कोई सत्यापन ट्रेल नहीं थी कि उचित सूचना दी गई थी।
- Further scrutiny exposed several irregularities such as **centenarians** being listed as new voters, and names re-included without supporting documents to maintain overall voter counts.  
आगे की जांच में कई अनियमितताएं उजागर हुईं, जैसे कि **सदीवासी (100 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वाले)** को नए मतदाता के रूप में सूचीबद्ध करना, और कुल मतदाता संख्या बनाए रखने के लिए नामों को बिना दस्तावेज़ समर्थन के पुनः शामिल करना।
- There were also gross variations in **demographic statistics**, such as a decline in the **gender ratio** from **934** in September 2025 to **892** in the final roll, a statistically implausible shift, inconsistent with population trends.  
इसके अलावा **जनसांख्यिकीय आंकड़ों** में बड़े अंतर थे, जैसे कि **लिंग अनुपात** में कमी, जो **सितंबर 2025** में



934 से घटकर अंतिम रोल में 892 हो गया, जो सांख्यिकीय रूप से असंभव बदलाव था और जनसंख्या प्रवृत्तियों के अनुरूप नहीं था।

- These anomalies suggest **data entry errors** or **unverified mass revisions**, raising serious questions about the integrity of the database.  
ये विसंगतियां डेटा एंट्री त्रुटियों या असत्यापित बड़े पैमाने पर संशोधनों का संकेत देती हैं, जो डेटाबेस की अखंडता पर गंभीर सवाल उठाती हैं।
- Moreover, **data transparency** remained the primary concern. The lists of additions and deletions were not published in **machine-readable formats**, preventing independent audit or public scrutiny.  
इसके अलावा, डेटा पारदर्शिता मुख्य चिंता बनी रही। जोड़ और हटाई गई प्रविष्टियों की सूची मशीन-पठनीय प्रारूप में प्रकाशित नहीं की गई, जिससे स्वतंत्र ऑडिट या सार्वजनिक निरीक्षण असंभव हो गया।
- Collectively, these anomalies — from **demographic distortions** and **manual errors** to **opaque data handling** — expose the fragility of electoral roll management and underscore the urgent need for **technology-driven verification** and **transparent data governance** in revisions.  
कुल मिलाकर, ये विसंगतियां — जनसांख्यिकीय विकृतियों, मैनुअल त्रुटियों, और अस्पष्ट डेटा प्रबंधन से — चुनावी रोल प्रबंधन की नाजुकता को उजागर करती हैं और संशोधनों में तकनीक-आधारित सत्यापन और पारदर्शी डेटा संचालन की तात्कालिक आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करती हैं।

## On ECI-Net

### ECI-Net पर

- **ECI-Net** is among the world's largest and most dynamic **digital databases**, housing records of nearly **one billion voters**.  
**ECI-Net** दुनिया के सबसे बड़े और सबसे गतिशील डिजिटल डेटाबेस में से एक है, जिसमें लगभग एक अरब मतदाताओं के रिकॉर्ड हैं।
- Continuously updated through **additions**, **address changes**, and **profile modifications**, it is searchable by **Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) ID** and **voter-name**, and administered by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, Pune, India's premier computing R&D institution.  
लगातार जोड़, पते में बदलाव, और प्रोफाइल संशोधन के माध्यम से अपडेट किया जाता है, इसे चुनावी फोटो पहचान पत्र (EPIC ID) और मतदाता नाम से खोजा जा सकता है, और इसे सेंटरल फॉर डेवलपमेंट ऑफ एडवांस्ड कंप्यूटिंग (C-DAC), पुणे, भारत के प्रमुख कंप्यूटिंग R&D संस्थान द्वारा संचालित किया जाता है।
- Globally, few systems match the **scale**, **functionality**, and **democratic significance** of this **mission-critical database**.  
वैश्विक स्तर पर, इस मिशन-क्रिटिकल डेटाबेस के पैमाने, कार्यक्षमता और लोकतांत्रिक महत्व के बराबर बहुत कम प्रणालियाँ हैं।
- By design, ECI-Net can detect **duplicates**, flag **inconsistencies**, and facilitate corrections through **authorised verification**.  
डिज़ाइन के अनुसार, ECI-Net प्रतिलिपियों का पता लगा सकता है, विसंगतियों को चिन्हित कर सकता है, और अधिकृत सत्यापन के माध्यम से सुधार की सुविधा प्रदान कर सकता है।
- Its architecture can instantly produce **real-time demographic and statistical reports** transparently and accurately.  
इसकी संरचना रीयल-टाइम जनसांख्यिकीय और सांख्यिकीय रिपोर्ट को तुरंत पारदर्शी और सटीक रूप से तैयार कर सकती है।
- With the integration of **data analytic APIs**, the system can automatically identify and resolve most anomalies and **demographic inconsistencies** identified during recent revisions.  
डेटा एनालिटिक API के एकीकरण के साथ, प्रणाली हाल की संशोधनों के दौरान पहचानी गई अधिकांश विसंगतियों और जनसांख्यिकीय असंगतियों को स्वतः पहचान और हल कर सकती है।
- However, the lack of disclosure and system-level analytics raises serious concerns.  
हालांकि, प्रकटीकरण और सिस्टम-स्तरीय एनालिटिक्स की कमी गंभीर चिंता पैदा करती है।
- If automated audit and analytical tools already exist, they could have easily detected **duplication**, **demographic distortions**, and **data irregularities** without large-scale manual intervention.



यदि स्वचालित ऑडिट और विश्लेषणात्मक उपकरण पहले से मौजूद हैं, तो उन्होंने बड़े पैमाने पर मैनुअल हस्तक्षेप के बिना **प्रतिलिपि, जनसांख्यिकीय विकृतियां, और डेटा अनियमितताएं** आसानी से पता लगा ली होतीं।

- The failure to utilise these digital capabilities suggests **institutional inertia** or deliberate avoidance of **technology-based transparency**.  
इन डिजिटल क्षमताओं का उपयोग न करना **संस्थागत जड़ता** या **तकनीक-आधारित पारदर्शिता** से जानबूझकर बचने का संकेत देता है।
- Such practices weaken confidence in the integrity of existing **SoPs**.  
इस तरह की प्रथाएँ मौजूदा **SoPs** की अखंडता में विश्वास को कमजोर करती हैं।
- Despite strong technical expertise within its leadership, the reliance on **manual verification** over **software-driven protocols** remains inexplicable.  
अपनी नेतृत्व टीम में मजबूत तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता के बावजूद, **सॉफ्टवेयर-आधारित प्रोटोकॉल** की बजाय **मैनुअल सत्यापन** पर निर्भरता अजीब बनी हुई है।
- Until **data-driven audits** and **system-level transparency** are prioritised, claims of **purification of electoral rolls** will continue to invite public scepticism and institutional introspection.  
जब तक **डेटा-आधारित ऑडिट** और **सिस्टम-स्तरीय पारदर्शिता** को प्राथमिकता नहीं दी जाती, **चुनावी रोल्ल के शुद्धिकरण** के दावे सार्वजनिक संदेह और संस्थागत आत्मनिरीक्षण को आमंत्रित करते रहेंगे।

## The Way Ahead

आगे का रास्ता

- Today, India has one of the world's most advanced **digital ecosystems** — from **Aadhaar-linked databases** and **UPI** to **data analytics** and **e-governance**.  
आज, भारत के पास दुनिया के सबसे उन्नत **डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम** में से एक है — **आधार-लिंक डेटाबेस** और **UPI** से लेकर **डेटा एनालिटिक्स** और **ई-गवर्नेंस** तक।
- Yet, the procedures guiding **SIR 2025** show little reflection of this progress.  
फिर भी, **SIR 2025** को मार्गदर्शित करने वाली प्रक्रियाएँ इस प्रगति को कम ही दर्शाती हैं।
- The weaknesses are not merely administrative but structural, stemming from the absence of **traceability** and **database integration**.  
कमजोरियां केवल प्रशासनिक नहीं बल्कि संरचनात्मक हैं, जो **ट्रेसबिलिटी** और **डेटाबेस एकीकरण** की अनुपस्थिति से उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- Reforming the **SoPs** is therefore not optional; it is vital for safeguarding **democratic credibility**.  
इसलिए, **SoPs** का सुधार वैकल्पिक नहीं है; यह **लोकतांत्रिक विश्वसनीयता** की सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The electoral roll must be recognised as a **living, dynamic national asset** rather than a static, state-bound record.  
चुनावी रोल को एक **सजीव, गतिशील राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति** के रूप में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए, न कि एक स्थिर, राज्य-सीमित रिकॉर्ड के रूप में।
- Its accuracy directly shapes the integrity of elections and **public confidence** in electoral governance.  
इसकी सटीकता सीधे चुनावों की अखंडता और चुनावी प्रशासन में **सार्वजनिक विश्वास** को आकार देती है।
- Recent judicial observations have underscored the need to learn from the **Bihar experience** as preparations begin for a nationwide revision.  
हालिया न्यायिक टिप्पणियों ने यह रेखांकित किया है कि जब राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पुनरीक्षण की तैयारी शुरू होती है, तो **बिहार अनुभव** से सीखने की आवश्यकता है।
- Future **SIR exercises** must demonstrate **procedural correctness**, visible **fairness**, **transparency**, and **accountability**.  
भविष्य के **SIR अभ्यास** को **प्रक्रियात्मक शुद्धता**, स्पष्ट **न्यायसंगतता**, **पारदर्शिता**, और **जवाबदेही** प्रदर्शित करनी चाहिए।
- The focus should shift to **software-driven verification**, **digital audit trails**, and **real-time corrections**.  
ध्यान **सॉफ्टवेयर-आधारित सत्यापन**, **डिजिटल ऑडिट ट्रेल्स**, और **रीयल-टाइम सुधारों** की ओर होना चाहिए।



- The **ECI-Net** should be made more **user-friendly**, technical glitches should be fixed promptly, and an efficient and quick **grievance redressal mechanism** should be incorporated.  
**ECI-Net** को अधिक **यूजर-फ्रेंडली** बनाया जाना चाहिए, तकनीकी गड़बड़ियों को तुरंत ठीक किया जाना चाहिए, और एक कुशल और त्वरित **शिकायत निवारण तंत्र** को शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।
- The **2025 SIR** must not become another verification ritual; it must transform into a **trust revolution** powered by **technology** based on **transparency, verification, and integrity**.  
**2025 SIR** किसी अन्य सत्यापन अनुष्ठान में नहीं बदलना चाहिए; इसे **पारदर्शिता, सत्यापन, और अखंडता** पर आधारित **तकनीक द्वारा संचालित विश्वास क्रांति** में बदलना चाहिए।

<b>GS Paper III: Economy, S&amp;T, Environment, DM, &amp;IS</b>	
<b>TOPICS COVERED</b>	<b>22_10_2025</b>
1.	<b>Net FDI inflow fell by 159% in August: RBI's data reveals</b> अगस्त में नेट FDI प्रवाह 159% गिरा: RBI का डेटा प्रकट करता है
2.	<b>Chimps imbibe two cocktails' worth of ethanol daily from ripe fruits</b> चिंपैंज़ी प्रतिदिन पके फलों से दो कॉकटेल के बराबर एथेनॉल ग्रहण करते
3.	<b>QUIZ</b>
4.	<b>Core sector growth slows to 3-month low of 3% in Sept.</b> मुख्य क्षेत्र की वृद्धि सितंबर में 3% की 3-महीने की न्यूनतम दर पर धीमी
5.	<b>India 'must counter China's plaint at WTO on EV car sop, battery PLI plan'</b> भारत को WTO में EV कार सब्सिडी और बैटरी PLI योजना पर चीन की शिकायत का जवाब देना चाहिए

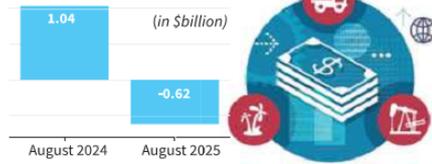


# Net FDI inflow fell by 159% in August: RBI's data reveals

GS III: FDI

## FDI fall

While the total amount of money leaving the country fell in August 2025, the amount invested in India fell more, leaving net FDI in the negative



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

Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India fell 159% in August, with more money leaving the country than entering it, according to official data. This is the second time this financial year that outflows have exceeded inflows.

However, the picture is reversed when looked at over a longer time period, with net FDI between April and August 2025 more than 121% higher than in the same five-month period of the previous year.

The Hindu's analysis of data released by the Reserve Bank of India shows that the repatriation and disinvestment by foreign firms in India and the investments done abroad by Indian companies — which add up to the total money leaving the country — was higher than the gross amount that was invested into India in August 2025.

Gross investments into India stood at \$6,049 million in August 2025, 30.6% lower than their level in August last year and 45.5% lower than in July this year. This was the lowest level of gross inflows in this financial year so far.

The amount repatriated and disinvested by foreign companies operating in India stood at \$4,928 million in August 2025, down 5.4% from the amount in August 2024 but nearly 30% higher than the amount in July 2025.

Foreign investments by Indian companies contracted 29.7% in August 2025 to \$1,736 million, the lowest in this financial

## Core sector growth slows to 3-month low

NEW DELHI

Growth in activity in the eight core sectors slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September on contraction in the coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products, as well as a relatively sharp slowdown in fertilizers, as per official data. » PAGE 12

year. Taken together, this meant that net FDI into India — the difference between the gross amount coming in and the total amount going out — stood at -\$616 million in August 2025, 159% lower than in August last year. That is, more money left the country in August 2025 than entering it that month.

This had happened in May 2025 as well, albeit at a smaller scale, as net FDI had stood at -\$5 million during that month.

### Rosier long-term

Net FDI in the April-August 2025 period was \$10,128 million, more than 121% higher than in the same period last year. This was driven by an 18.2% increase in gross inflows (\$43,760 million) entering the country and a 6.1% contraction in repatriation and disinvestment (\$21,205 million) leaving India during this period.

Foreign investment by Indian companies stood at \$12,427 million in the April-August 2025 period, up nearly 26% over the same period of the previous year.

## Net FDI inflow fell by 159% in August: RBI's data reveals

अगस्त में नेट FDI प्रवाह 159% गिरा: RBI का डेटा प्रकट करता है

• Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India fell **159% in August**, with more money leaving the country than entering it, according to official data.

आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत में नेट विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश (FDI) अगस्त में 159% गिरा, जिसमें देश से बाहर जाने वाला पैसा देश में आने वाले पैसे से अधिक था।

• This is the second time this financial year that outflows have exceeded inflows.

यह इस वित्तीय वर्ष में दूसरी बार है जब देश से बाहर जाने वाला पैसा (outflows) देश में आने वाले पैसे (inflows) से अधिक हुआ।

• However, the picture is reversed when looked at over a longer time period, with net FDI between **April and August 2025 more than 121% higher** than in the same five-month period of the previous year.

हालांकि, लंबे समय के दृष्टिकोण से देखा जाए तो स्थिति उलट है, क्योंकि अप्रैल से अगस्त 2025 तक नेट FDI पिछले वर्ष के समान पांच महीने की अवधि की तुलना में 121% से अधिक बढ़ा।

• The Hindu's analysis of data released by the Reserve Bank of India shows that the repatriation and disinvestment by foreign firms in India and the investments done abroad by Indian companies — which add up to the total money leaving the country — was higher than the gross amount that was invested into India in August 2025.

The Hindu के विश्लेषण के अनुसार, RBI द्वारा जारी आंकड़े दिखाते हैं कि भारत में विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा पैसे वापस भेजना और निवेश घटाना (repatriation और disinvestment) और भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेश में किया गया निवेश — जो देश से बाहर जाने वाले कुल पैसे में जुड़ता है — अगस्त 2025 में भारत में निवेश की कुल राशि से अधिक था।

• Gross investments into India stood at **\$6,049 million in August 2025, 30.6% lower** than their level in August last year and **45.5% lower** than in July this year.

भारत में कुल निवेश अगस्त 2025 में \$6,049 मिलियन था, जो पिछले वर्ष अगस्त के स्तर से 30.6% कम और इस वर्ष जुलाई से 45.5% कम था।

• This was the **lowest level of gross inflows in this financial year so far.**

यह इस वित्तीय वर्ष में अब तक के सकल निवेश (gross inflows) का सबसे निचला स्तर था।

• The amount repatriated and disinvested by foreign companies operating in India stood at **\$4,928 million in August 2025, down 5.4% from the amount in August 2024** but nearly **30% higher than the amount in July 2025.**

भारत में कार्यरत विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा पैसे वापस भेजना और निवेश घटाना (repatriation और disinvestment) अगस्त 2025 में \$4,928 मिलियन था, जो अगस्त 2024 की तुलना में 5.4% कम था लेकिन जुलाई 2025 की तुलना में लगभग 30% अधिक था।

• Foreign investments by Indian companies contracted **29.7% in August 2025 to \$1,736 million**, the lowest in this financial year. भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशी निवेश अगस्त 2025 में 29.7% घटकर \$1,736

मिलियन हो गया, जो इस वित्तीय वर्ष में सबसे कम है।



- Taken together, this meant that net FDI into India — the difference between the gross amount coming in and the total amount going out — stood at **-\$616 million in August 2025, 159% lower than in August last year.**  
सामूहिक रूप से, इसका मतलब है कि भारत में नेट FDI — आने वाली कुल राशि और बाहर जाने वाली कुल राशि के बीच का अंतर — अगस्त 2025 में **-\$616 मिलियन** था, जो पिछले वर्ष अगस्त की तुलना में **159% कम** था।
- That is, more money left the country in August 2025 than entering it that month.  
यानी, अगस्त 2025 में देश से बाहर जाने वाला पैसा उस महीने में आने वाले पैसे से अधिक था।
- This had happened in May 2025 as well, albeit at a smaller scale, as net FDI had stood at **-\$5 million during that month.**  
यह मई 2025 में भी हुआ था, हालांकि कम पैमाने पर, क्योंकि उस महीने में नेट FDI **-\$5 मिलियन** था।

### Rosier long-term

#### दीर्घकालिक रूप से बेहतर स्थिति

- Net FDI in the **April-August 2025 period was \$10,128 million, more than 121% higher than in the same period last year.**  
अप्रैल-अगस्त 2025 की अवधि में नेट FDI **\$10,128 मिलियन** था, जो पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में **121% से अधिक** था।
- This was driven by an **18.2% increase in gross inflows (\$43,760 million) entering the country** and a **6.1% contraction in repatriation and disinvestment (\$21,205 million) leaving India** during this period.  
यह इस अवधि के दौरान देश में आने वाले सकल निवेश में **18.2% वृद्धि (\$43,760 मिलियन)** और देश से बाहर जाने वाले पैसे में **6.1% गिरावट (repatriation और disinvestment \$21,205 मिलियन)** के कारण हुआ।
- Foreign investment by Indian companies stood at **\$12,427 million in the April-August 2025 period, up nearly 26% over the same period of the previous year.**  
भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशी निवेश **अप्रैल-अगस्त 2025 की अवधि में \$12,427 मिलियन** था, जो पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में लगभग **26% अधिक** था।



# Chimps imbibe two cocktails' worth of ethanol daily from ripe fruits

Do chimpanzees actively prefer fruits with higher alcohol content, or are they simply attracted to the sweetness of ripe fruits? Robert Dudley, who first proposed the drunken monkey hypothesis in 2014, has theorised that alcohol in fruits could serve as a cue for ripeness – a signal of extra calories and perhaps enhanced taste

CS III, S&T  
Ipsita Herlekar

**W**hile humans have been drinking alcohol for thousands of years, some scientists think this history could go back millions of years. According to the drunken monkey hypothesis, humans' taste and indeed preference for alcohol may have evolutionary roots, shaped by our primate ancestors consuming small doses of alcohol found inside ripe fruit. Our bodies may also have evolved to metabolise alcoholic compounds more effectively as a result.

In a new study in *Science Advances*, researchers at the University of California (UC), Berkeley, analysed ripe fruits eaten by wild chimpanzees, the closest relatives of humans, to discover that chimpanzees could be ingesting as much alcohol as in one to two glasses of wine every day.

## Ripe fruits

Chimpanzees share about 98.8% of their DNA with humans, making them an excellent model for exploring questions about human evolution. Their fruit-heavy diet is also believed to resemble that of our last common ancestor. By estimating the chimpanzees' daily alcohol intake from these fruits, researchers can gain insights into the levels that may have been ingested by this ancestor as well.

The researchers conducted their studies in two forests in Africa: one in Ngogo in Kibale National Park in Uganda, home to one of the world's largest known chimpanzee communities; and the other in the Tai National Park in Côte d'Ivoire.

From previous observations, the researchers had already identified the fruit varieties the chimpanzees consumed. They collected ripe fruits from these feeding sites – sometimes plucked directly from branches, at others scooped up from the ground just after they dropped – and tested them in the lab for their alcohol content. Since they also knew the approximate quantity of fruit a single chimpanzee ate, they were able to estimate the amount of alcohol the individual ingested in a single day.

The lab results confirmed that the fruits the chimpanzees consumed did contain small amounts of ethanol. The microbe yeast, which is used to brew beer and wine, is naturally present in fruits. When the fruits ripen, their sugar content increases and the yeast ferments these sugars into alcohol.

## 'Nearly two drinks'

The lab results also showed that ripe fruits contained less than 1% alcohol. To compare, a pint of beer (473 ml) typically



An adult female and an infant chimpanzee feeding on *Ficus sur* in Kibale National Park, Uganda, 2005. ALAIN HOULE (HARVARD UNIVERSITY)

contains 4-6% alcohol by volume. However, unlike humans, a large portion of a chimpanzee's diet consists of fruits: nearly three-quarters of their intake, amounting to around 4.5 kg per day.

"The chimpanzees are eating 5-10% of their body weight in a day in ripe fruit, so even low concentrations yield a high daily total, a substantial dosage of alcohol," Robert Dudley, an evolutionary physiologist at UC Berkeley, and coauthor of the study, said.

Researchers calculated that the total alcohol intake from consuming fruits amounted to roughly 14 grams – equivalent to a glass of wine, or two when adjusted for a chimpanzee's body weight.

"Across all sites, male and female chimpanzees are consuming about 14 grams of pure ethanol per day in their diet, which is equal to one standard American drink," said Alexsey Maro, a PhD researcher at UC Berkeley, and the first author of the paper. "When you adjust for body mass, because chimps weigh almost 40 kg versus a typical human at 70 kg, it goes up to nearly two drinks."

## 'An evolved attraction'

Among the 21 fruit varieties the researchers identified in the chimpanzees' diet, the primates showed a strong preference for sticky figs (*Ficus mucuso*). Only 75 of these figs, which are abundant and sugary, can contain as much as 10 grams of alcohol – a significant amount when consumed in a



These findings suggest that an attraction to ethanol is deeply embedded in animal and human evolutionary history

KIMBERLEY HOCKINGS

University of Exeter

single bout.

However, despite consuming as much as 14 g of alcohol in a day, the chimpanzees didn't display any obvious signs of intoxication. Researchers suggested this was because they didn't imbibe the alcohol in one go but spread it throughout the day. The researchers also said such low-level exposure to natural alcohol may have influenced key physiological adaptations.

"Our research shows that chimpanzees in Cantanchez National Park in Guinea-Bissau share fermented fruits with each other and use leaf tools to access fermented palm wine harvested by humans, indicating an evolved attraction and tolerance to ethanol," Kimberley Hockings, a primatologist at the University of Exeter who has been studying apes in West Africa, said. "These findings suggest that an attraction to ethanol is deeply embedded in animal and human evolutionary history."

This interpretation is aligned with research by Matthew Carrigan, an

associate professor of biology at College of Central Florida, USA. His work has concluded that about 10 million years ago, the last common ancestor of living African apes and modern humans experienced a genetic mutation that increased the rate of ethanol metabolism 40-fold.

## Cue for ripeness

The UC Berkeley study also raises a few questions. Do chimpanzees actively prefer fruits with higher alcohol content, or are they simply attracted to the sweetness of ripe fruits?

Dr. Dudley, who first proposed the drunken monkey hypothesis in 2014, has theorised that alcohol in fruits could serve as a cue for ripeness – a signal of extra calories and perhaps enhanced taste that adds to the pleasure of eating.

While previous studies have documented alcohol use in chimpanzees, the UC Berkeley effort is the first to measure the alcohol content of the fruits they consume.

Tetsuro Matsuzawa, former director of the Primate Research Institute at Kyoto University, Japan, said, "These observations contribute to a growing body of evidence for the drunken monkey hypothesis. From tool-assisted palm wine drinking to the spontaneous consumption of fermented fruits, wild chimpanzees consistently show behaviours that suggest an evolved attraction to ethanol."

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. [ipstaherlekar@gmail.com](mailto:ipstaherlekar@gmail.com))

## THE GIST

Chimpanzees share approximately 98.8% of their DNA with humans. Their diet is also believed to resemble that of our last common ancestor. By estimating chimpanzees' alcohol intake, researchers can gain insights into this ancestor's diet

The surveyed chimpanzees consumed 5-10% of their body weight in ripe fruit per day, so even low concentrations yielded a high daily total. Alcohol intake amounted to 14 grams of pure ethanol per day. When adjusted for body mass, it amounted to two drinks

Among the 21 fruit identified in the chimpanzees' diet, the primates showed a preference for sticky figs. Only 75 of these figs can contain as much as 10 grams of alcohol. Researchers say such exposure to alcohol may have influenced key physiological adaptations

## Chimps imbibe two cocktails' worth of ethanol daily from ripe fruits

चिंपैंजी प्रतिदिन पके फलों से दो कॉकटेल के बराबर एथेनॉल ग्रहण करते

## Drunken Monkey Hypothesis and Chimpanzees' Alcohol Intake

ड्रंकन मंकी परिकल्पना और चिंपैंजियों का अल्कोहल सेवन

- While humans have been drinking alcohol for thousands of years, some scientists think this history could go back **millions of years**. जबकि मनुष्य **हजारों वर्षों** से शराब पी रहे हैं, कुछ वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि यह इतिहास **लाखों वर्ष** पुराना हो सकता है।



- According to the **drunken monkey hypothesis**, humans' taste and preference for alcohol may have **evolutionary roots**, shaped by our primate ancestors consuming small doses of alcohol found inside ripe fruit.  
**इंकन मंकी परिकल्पना** के अनुसार, मनुष्यों का शराब के प्रति स्वाद और झुकाव **विकासवादी कारणों** से जुड़ा हो सकता है, जो हमारे **प्राइमेट पूर्वजों** द्वारा पके फलों में पाए जाने वाले अल्कोहल की थोड़ी मात्रा के सेवन से विकसित हुआ।
- Our bodies may also have evolved to **metabolise alcoholic compounds** more effectively as a result.  
इसके परिणामस्वरूप हमारे शरीर ने **अल्कोहलिक यौगिकों को पचाने की क्षमता** अधिक प्रभावी रूप से विकसित कर ली होगी।
- In a new study in **Science Advances**, researchers at the **University of California (UC), Berkeley** analysed ripe fruits eaten by wild chimpanzees to discover that chimpanzees could be ingesting as much alcohol as in **one to two glasses of wine every day**.  
**साइंस एडवांसेस** में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन में, **कैलिफ़ोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय (UC), बर्कले** के शोधकर्ताओं ने जंगली चिंपैंजियों द्वारा खाए गए पके फलों का विश्लेषण किया और पाया कि चिंपैंजी प्रतिदिन **एक से दो गिलास वाइन** के बराबर अल्कोहल का सेवन कर रहे हो सकते हैं।

## Ripe Fruits and Evolutionary Insight पके फल और विकासवादी समझ

- **Chimpanzees share about 98.8% of their DNA with humans**, making them an excellent model for exploring questions about **human evolution**.  
**चिंपैंजी मनुष्यों के साथ लगभग 98.8% DNA साझा करते हैं**, जिससे वे **मानव विकास** से जुड़े प्रश्नों के अध्ययन के लिए उत्कृष्ट मॉडल बनते हैं।
- Their **fruit-heavy diet** is also believed to resemble that of our **last common ancestor**.  
उनका **फलों पर आधारित आहार** हमारे **अंतिम सामान्य पूर्वज** के आहार से मेल खाता माना जाता है।
- By estimating the chimpanzees' **daily alcohol intake** from these fruits, researchers can gain insights into the levels that may have been ingested by this ancestor as well.  
इन फलों से चिंपैंजियों के **दैनिक अल्कोहल सेवन** का अनुमान लगाकर, वैज्ञानिक यह समझ सकते हैं कि हमारे पूर्वज कितना अल्कोहल ग्रहण करते थे।
- The researchers conducted their studies in two forests in Africa: **Ngogo in Kibale National Park (Uganda)** and **Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)**.  
वैज्ञानिकों ने अफ्रीका के दो वनों में अध्ययन किया: **नोगो (किबाले राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, युगांडा)** और **ताई राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (कोट डी'आईवॉर)**।
- From previous observations, the researchers had already identified the **fruit varieties** the chimpanzees consumed.  
पहले के अवलोकनों से, शोधकर्ताओं ने पहले ही उन **फलों की किस्मों** की पहचान कर ली थी जिन्हें चिंपैंजी खाते हैं।
- They collected ripe fruits from these feeding sites — sometimes plucked directly from branches, at others scooped up from the ground — and **tested them in the lab** for their alcohol content.  
उन्होंने इन भोजन स्थलों से पके फलों को एकत्र किया — कभी सीधे शाखाओं से तो कभी जमीन से उठाकर — और उन्हें **प्रयोगशाला में अल्कोहल की मात्रा के लिए परीक्षण किया**।
- Since they also knew the **approximate quantity** of fruit a chimpanzee ate, they were able to **estimate the amount of alcohol** an individual ingested in a single day.  
क्योंकि उन्हें यह भी पता था कि एक चिंपैंजी प्रतिदिन **लगभग कितनी मात्रा में फल खाता है**, इसलिए वे एक दिन में उसके द्वारा ग्रहण किए गए **अल्कोहल की मात्रा** का अनुमान लगा सके।

## Fermentation and Alcohol Content किण्वन और अल्कोहल की मात्रा

- The lab results confirmed that the fruits the chimpanzees consumed did contain **small amounts of ethanol**.  
प्रयोगशाला परिणामों ने पुष्टि की कि चिंपैंजियों द्वारा खाए गए फलों में **थोड़ी मात्रा में एथेनॉल** मौजूद थी।



- The microbe **yeast**, used to brew beer and wine, is **naturally present** in fruits.  
यीस्ट नामक सूक्ष्मजीव, जो बियर और वाइन बनाने में प्रयुक्त होता है, फलों में **स्वाभाविक रूप से मौजूद** रहता है।
- When the fruits ripen, their **sugar content increases** and the yeast **ferments these sugars into alcohol**.  
जब फल पकते हैं, तो उनमें **शुगर की मात्रा बढ़ जाती है** और यीस्ट इन शर्कराओं को **अल्कोहल में बदल देता** है।

### 'Nearly Two Drinks' Equivalent 'लगभग दो ड्रिंक' के बराबर

- The lab results showed that ripe fruits contained **less than 1% alcohol**.  
प्रयोगशाला परिणामों से पता चला कि पके फलों में **1% से कम अल्कोहल** था।
- For comparison, a **pint of beer (473 ml)** typically contains **4-6% alcohol by volume**.  
तुलना के लिए, **एक पिंट बीयर (473 मिलीलीटर)** में आमतौर पर **4-6% अल्कोहल** होती है।
- Unlike humans, a large portion of a chimpanzee's diet consists of fruits — **nearly three-quarters**, amounting to around **4.5 kg per day**.  
मनुष्यों के विपरीत, चिंपैंजियों के आहार का बड़ा हिस्सा फलों से बना होता है — **लगभग तीन-चौथाई**, जो प्रतिदिन लगभग **4.5 किलोग्राम** होता है।
- "The chimpanzees are eating **5-10% of their body weight** in ripe fruit, so even low concentrations yield a high daily total," said **Robert Dudley**, evolutionary physiologist at UC Berkeley.  
"चिंपैंजी प्रतिदिन अपने **शरीर के वजन का 5-10%** पके फलों के रूप में खाते हैं, इसलिए कम सांद्रता में भी दैनिक अल्कोहल की मात्रा अधिक होती है," — कहा **रॉबर्ट डडली**, UC बर्कले के विकासवादी शरीर विज्ञानी ने।
- Researchers calculated that the total alcohol intake amounted to roughly **14 grams** — equivalent to a **glass of wine**, or **two when adjusted for body weight**.  
वैज्ञानिकों ने अनुमान लगाया कि कुल अल्कोहल सेवन लगभग **14 ग्राम** था — जो **एक गिलास वाइन** के बराबर है, या **शरीर के वजन के अनुसार दो गिलास** के बराबर।
- "Across all sites, male and female chimpanzees are consuming about **14 grams of pure ethanol per day**, equal to **one standard American drink**," said **Alexsey Maro**, PhD researcher at UC Berkeley.  
"सभी स्थानों पर, नर और मादा चिंपैंजी प्रतिदिन लगभग **14 ग्राम शुद्ध एथेनॉल** का सेवन करते हैं, जो **एक मानक अमेरिकी ड्रिंक** के बराबर है," — कहा **एलेक्सी मारो**, UC बर्कले के पीएचडी शोधकर्ता ने।
- "When adjusted for body mass, because chimps weigh almost **40 kg** versus a typical human at **70 kg**, it goes up to **nearly two drinks**."  
"जब **शरीर के वजन (चिंपैंजी – लगभग 40 किग्रा, मनुष्य – 70 किग्रा)** के अनुसार समायोजित किया जाता है, तो यह मात्रा **लगभग दो ड्रिंक** के बराबर हो जाती है।"

### An Evolved Attraction एक विकसित आकर्षण

- Among the **21 fruit varieties** the researchers identified in the chimpanzees' diet, the primates showed a strong preference for **sticky figs (Ficus mucuso)**.  
चिंपैंजियों के आहार में शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा पहचानी गई **21 फल प्रजातियों** में, प्राइमेट्स ने **चिपचिपे अंजीर (Ficus mucuso)** के प्रति अधिक झुकाव दिखाया।
- Only **75 of these figs**, which are abundant and sugary, can contain as much as **10 grams of alcohol** — a significant amount when consumed in a single bout.  
केवल **75 अंजीर**, जो प्रचुर मात्रा में और मीठे होते हैं, में **10 ग्राम अल्कोहल** तक हो सकता है — जो एक बार में सेवन करने पर एक **महत्वपूर्ण मात्रा** है।
- Despite consuming as much as **14 g of alcohol** in a day, the chimpanzees didn't display any obvious **signs of intoxication**.  
दिनभर में **14 ग्राम अल्कोहल** लेने के बावजूद, चिंपैंजियों में **नशे के स्पष्ट लक्षण** नहीं दिखाई दिए।
- Researchers suggested this was because they didn't imbibe the alcohol **in one go** but **spread it throughout the day**.



शोधकर्ताओं ने सुझाव दिया कि ऐसा इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि उन्होंने अल्कोहल को एक साथ नहीं, बल्कि दिन भर में धीरे-धीरे ग्रहण किया।

- The researchers also said such **low-level exposure** to natural alcohol may have influenced **key physiological adaptations**.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी कहा कि प्राकृतिक अल्कोहल के इस प्रकार के कम स्तर के संपर्क ने महत्वपूर्ण शारीरिक अनुकूलन को प्रभावित किया हो सकता है।
- “Our research shows that chimpanzees in **Cantanchez National Park (Guinea-Bissau)** share fermented fruits with each other and use **leaf tools** to access fermented **palm wine** harvested by humans,” said **Kimberley Hockings**, primatologist at the **University of Exeter**.  
“हमारे शोध से पता चलता है कि गिनी-बिसाऊ के कांताचेज़ नेशनल पार्क में चिंपैंजी एक-दूसरे के साथ **किण्वित फल साझा करते हैं** और मनुष्यों द्वारा एकत्रित **किण्वित पाम वाइन** तक पहुंचने के लिए **पत्तियों से बने उपकरणों** का उपयोग करते हैं,” — कहा **किम्बरली हॉकिंग्स**, **एक्सेटर विश्वविद्यालय** की प्राइमेटोलॉजिस्ट ने।
- This indicates an **evolved attraction and tolerance to ethanol**.  
यह **एथेनॉल के प्रति विकसित आकर्षण और सहनशीलता** को दर्शाता है।
- “These findings suggest that an attraction to ethanol is **deeply embedded** in animal and human **evolutionary history**.”  
“ये निष्कर्ष संकेत देते हैं कि एथेनॉल के प्रति आकर्षण **जानवरों और मनुष्यों की विकासवादी इतिहास में गहराई से निहित है।**”
- This interpretation aligns with research by **Matthew Carrigan**, associate professor of biology at **College of Central Florida, USA**.  
यह व्याख्या **मैथ्यू कैरिगन**, **कॉलेज ऑफ सेंट्रल फ्लोरिडा, USA** के जीवविज्ञान सहयोगी प्रोफेसर के शोध के अनुरूप है।
- His work concluded that about **10 million years ago**, the **last common ancestor** of African apes and modern humans experienced a **genetic mutation** that increased the rate of **ethanol metabolism 40-fold**.  
उनके अध्ययन से निष्कर्ष निकला कि लगभग **1 करोड़ वर्ष पहले**, अफ्रीकी वानरों और आधुनिक मनुष्यों के अंतिम सामान्य पूर्वज में एक **आनुवंशिक परिवर्तन (genetic mutation)** हुआ, जिसने **एथेनॉल के मेटाबॉलिज़्म की दर को 40 गुना बढ़ा दिया**।

## Cue for Ripeness

### पकने का संकेत

- The **UC Berkeley study** raises questions — do chimpanzees actively prefer fruits with **higher alcohol content**, or are they simply attracted to the **sweetness of ripe fruits**?  
**UC बर्कले अध्ययन** ने प्रश्न उठाया — क्या चिंपैंजी अधिक **अल्कोहल युक्त फलों** को सक्रिय रूप से पसंद करते हैं, या वे केवल **पके फलों की मिठास** से आकर्षित होते हैं?
- Dr. Robert Dudley**, who first proposed the **drunken monkey hypothesis in 2014**, theorised that alcohol in fruits could serve as a **cue for ripeness** — a signal of **extra calories** and **enhanced taste** that adds to the pleasure of eating.  
**डॉ. रॉबर्ट डडली**, जिन्होंने **2014 में ड्रंकन मंकी परिकल्पना** प्रस्तुत की थी, ने सिद्धांत दिया कि फलों में मौजूद अल्कोहल **पकने का संकेत (cue for ripeness)** हो सकता है — जो **अधिक कैलोरी और बेहतर स्वाद** का संकेत देता है, जिससे खाने का आनंद बढ़ जाता है।
- While previous studies have documented **alcohol use in chimpanzees**, the **UC Berkeley effort** is the **first** to measure the **alcohol content of the fruits** they consume.  
हालांकि पिछले अध्ययनों में चिंपैंजियों द्वारा **अल्कोहल सेवन** का उल्लेख किया गया था, लेकिन **UC बर्कले का यह अध्ययन** पहला है जिसने उनके द्वारा खाए गए फलों की **अल्कोहल मात्रा** को मापा।
- Tetsuro Matsuzawa**, former director of the **Primate Research Institute at Kyoto University, Japan**, said these observations contribute to the **growing evidence** for the drunken monkey hypothesis.  
**त्सेत्सुरो मात्सुज़ावा**, **क्योटो विश्वविद्यालय, जापान के प्राइमेट रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट** के पूर्व निदेशक ने कहा कि ये अवलोकन **ड्रंकन मंकी परिकल्पना के बढ़ते प्रमाणों** में योगदान करते हैं।
- From **tool-assisted palm wine drinking** to the **spontaneous consumption of fermented fruits**, wild chimpanzees consistently show behaviours suggesting an **evolved attraction to ethanol**.



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



उपकरणों की सहायता से पाम वाइन पीने से लेकर स्वतः किण्वित फलों के सेवन तक, जंगली चिंपेंजी लगातार ऐसे व्यवहार दिखाते हैं जो एथेनॉल के प्रति विकसित आकर्षण का संकेत देते हैं।

### GS III: Economics

### QUIZ

#### World Statistics Day: First Observed in 2010

- **World Statistics Day** is an international observance established to recognize the importance of **statistics** in shaping societies and economies.
- The **first World Statistics Day** was celebrated on **20 October 2010**, under the theme: "**Celebrating the many achievements in statistics.**"
- The observance was initiated by the **United Nations Statistical Commission** during its **41st session in February 2010**, which proposed celebrating 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day.
- The **UN General Assembly** formally endorsed this proposal, setting aside **20 October each year** to honor the role of statistics in government, business, and community decision-making.

#### World Statistics Day 2025: 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'

- **Frequency:** Every five years, as designated by the United Nations Statistical Commission
- **Purpose:** To emphasize the importance of high-quality, accessible, and timely statistics in shaping policies and fostering sustainable development globally
- **Significance in 2025:** Coincides with the United Nations' 80th anniversary, highlighting the critical role of data in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Questions and Answers to the October 20 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The year in which **World Statistics Day** was first observed.

**Ans: 2010; it is observed every five years**

2. The motto of this year's World Statistics Day. **Ans: 'Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone'**

3. Number of member states which make up the **United Nations**. **Ans: 193 member states**

4. The fourth most widely practised religion in the world. **Ans: Buddhism**

5. This is the largest of all Orders, constituting 25% of all known animal species. **Ans: The insect Order Coleoptera**

6. The world's largest company by market cap estimated to be in excess of \$4.5 trillion. **Ans: Nvidia**

Visual: Name this scientist. **Ans: Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis**

**Early Birds:** Patrick Vijayan| Lalchand Bhutani| Anil Warriar| Deepak Gogiyal| Anubhav Gupta

80th anniversary, highlighting the critical role of data in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

#### Theme Explanation

- **Theme:** "Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone"
- **Focus Areas:**
  - **Inclusivity:** Ensuring that statistical data is accessible to all, leaving no one behind
  - **Quality:** Emphasizing the need for reliable and accurate data to inform decision-making
  - **Innovation:** Promoting the use of modern technologies and methodologies in data collection and analysis
  - **Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to enhance statistical systems

#### Number of Member States in the United Nations

- The **United Nations** comprises **193 member states**.
- Each member state holds one seat in the **UN General Assembly**, ensuring **equal representation**.
- Membership is open to all **sovereign states** that accept the **obligations of the UN Charter** and are able and willing to carry out these obligations.



- The UN was established on **24 October 1945**, with **51 founding member states**.
- Membership has expanded over time, with the most recent addition being **South Sudan** in **2011**.

### Membership Criteria

- States wishing to join the UN must be recommended by the **UN Security Council** and approved by a **two-thirds majority** in the **General Assembly**.
- The admission process ensures that new members are committed to upholding the principles of the **UN Charter**.

### Buddhism: The Fourth Most Widely Practised Religion in the World

- **Buddhism** is the **fourth largest religion globally**, following **Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism**.
- It is a **spiritual tradition and philosophy** founded by **Siddhartha Gautama**, known as the **Buddha**, in **India** around the **5th–4th century BCE**.
- Buddhism emphasizes **ethical conduct, meditation, and wisdom** as a path to **enlightenment (Nirvana)**.

### Global Distribution

- Buddhism is practiced predominantly in **East Asia, Southeast Asia, and parts of South Asia**.
- Major countries with Buddhist populations include **China, Thailand, Japan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, South Korea, and Bhutan**.
- **World population practicing Buddhism** is estimated at around **500 million**, constituting roughly **6–7% of the global population**.

### Core Teachings

- **The Four Noble Truths:**
  - Life involves **suffering (dukkha)**.
  - Suffering arises from **desire (tanha)**.
  - There is a cessation of suffering (**Nirvana**).
  - The **Eightfold Path** leads to the cessation of suffering.
- **The Eightfold Path:**
  - **Right View, Right Intention, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration.**
- Buddhism encourages **mindfulness, compassion, and non-violence**.

### Branches of Buddhism

- **Theravāda:** Practiced mainly in **Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar**.
- **Mahayana:** Found in **China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam**.
- **Vajrayana (Tibetan Buddhism):** Found in **Tibet, Bhutan, and Mongolia**.

### Historical and Cultural Significance

- Buddhism spread via **trade routes like the Silk Road**, influencing art, culture, and philosophy across **Asia**.
- Iconic Buddhist symbols include the **Dharma Wheel (Dharmachakra)** and **Lotus Flower**.
- UNESCO World Heritage sites such as **Bodh Gaya (India), Borobudur (Indonesia), and Angkor Wat (Cambodia)** reflect Buddhist heritage.

### Insect Order Coleoptera: The Largest Order of Animals

- **Coleoptera**, commonly known as **beetles**, is the **largest order of animals** in the world.



**TELEGRAM CHANNEL:** <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

**CONTACT: 9971932488**



- It constitutes roughly **25% of all known animal species**, making it a highly diverse and successful group.
- The name “Coleoptera” comes from Greek: ‘**koleos**’ meaning **sheath** and ‘**ptera**’ meaning **wings**, referring to their **hardened forewings (elytra)** that protect the hindwings and abdomen.

### Global Diversity

- Coleoptera includes **over 400,000 described species**, and scientists estimate there may be **more than 500,000 species** yet to be discovered.
- Beetles inhabit almost every ecosystem, including **forests, deserts, freshwater, and agricultural landscapes**.
- Major families include **Carabidae (ground beetles), Scarabaeidae (scarab beetles), Coccinellidae (ladybugs), and Curculionidae (weevils)**.

### Morphology and Adaptations

- Beetles have **chewing mouthparts, complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult)**, and a wide variety of **body shapes and sizes**.
- The **elytra** provide protection from predators, dehydration, and physical damage.
- Beetles have evolved to **exploit diverse food sources**, including plants, fungi, decaying matter, and other insects.

### Ecological and Economic Importance

- **Pollinators:** Some beetles help in **pollination of flowers**.
- **Decomposers:** Many species feed on dead plants and animals, aiding **nutrient cycling**.
- **Pest Control:** Predatory beetles control populations of **pests** in agriculture.
- **Pests:** Some beetles, such as the **Colorado potato beetle** or **boll weevil**, are major agricultural pests.

### Nvidia: The World’s Largest Company by Market Capitalization

- **Nvidia Corporation** is an **American multinational technology company** headquartered in **Santa Clara, California**.
- It is currently recognized as the **world’s largest company by market capitalization**, estimated to exceed **\$4.5 trillion**.
- Nvidia is a **leading designer of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)**, which are critical for **gaming, AI, data centers, and supercomputing applications**.

### Historical Background

- Founded in **1993** by **Jensen Huang, Chris Malachowsky, and Curtis Priem**.
- Initially focused on **graphics cards for PCs**, Nvidia later expanded into **high-performance computing and AI solutions**.
- Nvidia pioneered **GPU-accelerated computing**, enabling massive improvements in **parallel processing for AI and machine learning**.



# Core sector growth slows to 3-month low of 3% in Sept.

Slowdown driven by 4 fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products; Steel was the only one of the eight core sectors that saw growth quicken in September to 14.1%

## GS III: Industries

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**G**rowth in activity in the eight core sectors of the economy slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September dragged down by contraction in the coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products as well as a relatively sharp slowdown in fertilizers, official data showed.

The data in the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows the index's performance in September was faster than a year earlier but slowest since this June.

### Fuel-related sectors

The slower growth was driven by fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products.



**Growth worries:** Crude oil sector contracted 1.25% from a contraction of 3.9% last September. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The coal sector contracted 1.19% compared with 2.6% growth a year earlier, and a 11.4% growth in August.

Crude oil sector contracted 1.25% from a contraction of 3.9% in September last year. Notably, the crude oil sector had grown

2.4% in August, the first month of growth in eight months.

The natural gas sector witnessed the largest contraction, of 3.8%, in September. The sector contracted for 15 consecutive months, data showed.

Likely due to the side in

the crude oil sector, refinery products contracted by 3.6% this September compared with a 5.8% growth a year earlier.

### Fertilizers slow down

The fertilizer sector saw growth slowing to 1.6% in September compared with 1.9% a year earlier and 4.6% in August 2025. The cement sector, too, saw growth slowing to 5.3% in September from 7.6% a year earlier.

Growth in the electricity sector slowed to 2.1% in September, faster than the 0.5% seen in September 2024, but slower than the 4.1% in August this year.

The steel sector was the only one of the eight core sectors that saw growth quicken in September to 14.1% from 1.8% in September last year, and 13.6% in August 2025.

## Core sector growth slows to 3-month low of 3% in Sept.

### मुख्य क्षेत्र की वृद्धि सितंबर में 3% की 3-महीने की न्यूनतम दर पर धीमी

- Slowdown driven by **4 fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products**; Steel was the only one of the **eight core sectors** that saw growth quicken in September to 14.1%

**धीमी वृद्धि 4 ईंधन-संबंधित क्षेत्रों — कोयला, कच्चा तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस और रिफाइनरी उत्पादों द्वारा प्रेरित;** इस सितंबर में वृद्धि तेज होने वाला अकेला क्षेत्र **स्टील** था, जो 14.1% पर पहुंचा।

- Growth in activity in the **eight core sectors of the economy** slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September dragged down by contraction in the coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products as well as a relatively sharp slowdown in fertilizers, official data showed.

आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **अर्थव्यवस्था के आठ मुख्य क्षेत्रों** में गतिविधि की वृद्धि सितंबर में 3% की **तीन महीने की न्यूनतम दर** पर धीमी हो गई, जो कोयला, कच्चा तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस और रिफाइनरी उत्पादों में संकुचन और उर्वरक क्षेत्र में अपेक्षाकृत तेज़ मंदी से प्रभावित थी।

- The data in the **Index of Eight Core Industries** released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** shows the index's performance in September was faster than a year earlier but slowest since this June.

**वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आठ मुख्य उद्योगों के सूचकांक** के आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि सितंबर में सूचकांक का प्रदर्शन पिछले वर्ष से तेज था लेकिन इस जून के बाद सबसे धीमा था।



## Fuel-related sectors ईंधन-संबंधित क्षेत्र

- The slower growth was driven by fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products.  
धीमी वृद्धि ईंधन-संबंधित क्षेत्रों — कोयला, कच्चा तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस और रिफाइनरी उत्पादों द्वारा प्रेरित थी।
- The **coal sector** contracted 1.19% compared with 2.6% growth a year earlier, and a 11.4% growth in August.  
**कोयला क्षेत्र** 1.19% सिकुड़ गया, जबकि पिछले वर्ष 2.6% की वृद्धि हुई थी, और अगस्त में 11.4% वृद्धि दर्ज की गई थी।
- Crude oil sector** contracted 1.25% from a contraction of 3.9% in September last year. Notably, the crude oil sector had grown 2.4% in August, the first month of growth in eight months.  
**कच्चा तेल क्षेत्र** 1.25% सिकुड़ गया, जबकि पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में यह 3.9% सिकुड़ चुका था। ध्यान देने योग्य है कि अगस्त में कच्चा तेल क्षेत्र 2.4% बढ़ा था, जो आठ महीनों में पहली वृद्धि थी।
- The **natural gas sector** witnessed the largest contraction, of 3.8%, in September. The sector contracted for **15 consecutive months**, data showed.  
**प्राकृतिक गैस क्षेत्र** में सितंबर में सबसे बड़ा संकुचन 3.8% दर्ज किया गया। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, यह क्षेत्र लगातार **15 महीने** से सिकुड़ रहा है।
- Likely due to the slide in the crude oil sector, **refinery products** contracted by 3.6% this September compared with a 5.8% growth a year earlier.  
कच्चा तेल क्षेत्र में गिरावट के कारण, इस सितंबर में **रिफाइनरी उत्पाद** 3.6% सिकुड़ गए, जबकि पिछले वर्ष 5.8% की वृद्धि हुई थी।

## Fertilizers slow down उर्वरक क्षेत्र की मंदी

- The **fertilizer sector** saw growth slowing to 1.6% in September compared with 1.9% a year earlier and 4.6% in August 2025.  
**उर्वरक क्षेत्र** में वृद्धि सितंबर में 1.6% तक धीमी हो गई, जबकि पिछले वर्ष यह 1.9% और अगस्त 2025 में 4.6% थी।
- The **cement sector**, too, saw growth slowing to 5.3% in September from 7.6% a year earlier.  
**सीमेंट क्षेत्र** में भी वृद्धि पिछले वर्ष 7.6% से घटकर सितंबर में 5.3% हो गई।
- Growth in the **electricity sector** slowed to 2.1% in September, faster than the 0.5% seen in September 2024, but slower than the 4.1% in August this year.  
**विद्युत क्षेत्र** में वृद्धि सितंबर में 2.1% पर धीमी हो गई, जो सितंबर 2024 में 0.5% थी, लेकिन इस वर्ष अगस्त में 4.1% से कम थी।
- The **steel sector** was the only one of the eight core sectors that saw growth quicken in September to 14.1% from 1.8% in September last year, and 13.6% in August 2025.  
**स्टील क्षेत्र** आठ मुख्य क्षेत्रों में अकेला ऐसा क्षेत्र था जिसने सितंबर में वृद्धि तेज़ होकर 14.1% पर पहुंची, जो पिछले वर्ष सितंबर में 1.8% और अगस्त 2025 में 13.6% थी।

## India 'must counter China's plaint at WTO on EV car sop, battery PLI plan'

CS III: External Sector

Amiti Sen  
NEW DELHI

New Delhi needs to counter Beijing's complaint against India's incentive scheme for EV passenger

cars and production linked incentive (PLI) schemes for new-generation batteries and automobiles, experts have said. China officially submitted its complaint on Monday arguing that these

schemes discriminate against foreign producers. However, the overwhelming view in India is that the idea behind these schemes is not to discriminate against foreign players

but to develop domestic manufacturing in new technology areas. "Domestic incentive continues to be a grey area at the WTO and New Delhi must not give in to pres-

sure from Beijing. Developing countries must have the policy space to develop their manufacturing, especially in new technology areas," said a Delhi-based representative of an inter-

national non-profit trade organisation. In its request for consultations with India submitted to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body, China singled out three schemes

— the PLI ACC battery storage scheme, the PLI auto scheme and the EV passenger cars scheme — for being allegedly violative of WTO rules. It said the schemes were contingent

upon the use of local, over imported goods or were otherwise discriminating against goods of Chinese origin. (The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

## India 'must counter China's plaint at WTO on EV car sop, battery PLI plan'



## भारत को WTO में EV कार सब्सिडी और बैटरी PLI योजना पर चीन की शिकायत का जवाब देना चाहिए

- New Delhi needs to counter **Beijing's complaint** against India's **incentive scheme for EV passenger cars** and **production linked incentive (PLI) schemes** for **new-generation batteries and automobiles**, experts have said.  
विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि नई दिल्ली को **चीन की शिकायत** का जवाब देना चाहिए, जो भारत की **EV पैसेंजर कारों के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजना** और **नई पीढ़ी की बैटरियों और ऑटोमोबाइल्स के लिए उत्पादन-सम्बंधित प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजनाओं** के खिलाफ है।
- China officially submitted its complaint on Monday arguing that these schemes **discriminate against foreign producers**.  
चीन ने सोमवार को आधिकारिक रूप से अपनी शिकायत दर्ज कराई, जिसमें कहा गया कि ये योजनाएं **विदेशी उत्पादकों के खिलाफ भेदभावपूर्ण** हैं।
- However, the overwhelming view in India is that the idea behind these schemes is not to **discriminate against foreign players** but to **develop domestic manufacturing in new technology areas**.  
हालांकि, भारत में व्यापक दृष्टिकोण यह है कि इन योजनाओं का उद्देश्य **विदेशी खिलाड़ियों के खिलाफ भेदभाव करना नहीं बल्कि नई तकनीकी क्षेत्रों में घरेलू निर्माण को विकसित करना** है।
- "Domestic incentive continues to be a **grey area at the WTO** and New Delhi must not give in to **pressure from Beijing**. Developing countries must have the **policy space to develop their manufacturing, especially in new technology areas**," said a Delhi-based representative of an international non-profit trade organisation.  
"घरेलू प्रोत्साहन WTO में एक **संदिग्ध क्षेत्र** बना हुआ है और नई दिल्ली को **बीजिंग के दबाव** में नहीं आना चाहिए। विकासशील देशों के पास अपनी **निर्माण नीतियों को विकसित करने की स्वतंत्रता**, विशेषकर नई तकनीकी क्षेत्रों में, होनी चाहिए," एक दिल्ली स्थित अंतरराष्ट्रीय गैर-लाभकारी व्यापार संगठन के प्रतिनिधि ने कहा।
- In its request for consultations with India submitted to the WTO's **Dispute Settlement Body**, China singled out three schemes — the **PLI ACC battery storage scheme, the PLI auto scheme, and the EV passenger cars scheme** — for being allegedly **violative of WTO rules**.  
WTO के **विवाद निपटान निकाय** को भारत के साथ परामर्श के लिए अपनी याचिका में, चीन ने तीन योजनाओं को अलग किया — **PLI ACC बैटरी स्टोरेज योजना, PLI ऑटो योजना, और EV पैसेंजर कार योजना** — जिन्हें कथित रूप से **WTO नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाला** बताया गया।
- It said the schemes were contingent upon the use of **local, over imported goods** or were otherwise **discriminating against goods of Chinese origin**.  
इसमें कहा गया कि ये योजनाएं **स्थानीय वस्तुओं के उपयोग पर निर्भर** हैं न कि आयातित वस्तुओं पर, या अन्यथा **चीनी मूल की वस्तुओं के खिलाफ भेदभावपूर्ण** हैं।