DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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EC kicks off SIR 2.0 in 12 States and U.T.s

EC says exercise will be held in poll-bound Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry

The commission says no SIR in Assam for now, because of separate provisions for citizenship

There is likely to be controversy in West Bengal and T.N. as ruling parties have raised concerns

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday kicked off the second phase of the special intensive revision of voter lists in 12 States and Union Territories, including in poll-bound Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and Puducherry. The revision will cover 51 crore voters.

With the announcement of the second round, the voter lists of the States and Union Territories were set to be frozen from Monday midnight.

For now, there will be no SIR in Assam, scheduled to go to the polls next year, and a separate order will be issued later.

"Under the Citizenship Act, there are separate provisions for citizenship in Assam. Under the supervision of the Supreme Court, the exercise of checking citizenship is about to be completed. The June 24 SIR order was for the entire country. Under such circumstances, this would not have applied to Assam," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said at press conference.

The exercise will be in focus in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where the ruling parties – the Trinamool Congress and DMK – have raised concerns. The SIR will be conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

The first phase of the SIR was held in Bihar following which more than 68 lakh names were deleted from the electoral rolls.

Most States had the last SIR of the voter lists done between 2002 and 2004, and they have nearly completed the mapping of current electors according to the last exercise.

Voter mapping involves standardising addresses and correcting discrepancies.

In this phase of the SIR, the house-to-house enumeration will take place for a month from November 4 to December 4, and the draft rolls will be published on December 9.

Claims and objections can be raised from December 9 to January 8. Notices will be issued, and hearings and verifications will take place between December 9 and January 31. Booth-level officers will be trained, and forms will be printed between October 28 and November 3. The final electoral rolls will be published on February 7, the poll body said.

To a question on the demands for putting off the SIR exercise in Kerala where local body elections are scheduled, Mr. Kumar said the poll notification was yet to be issued.

On the SIR in West Bengal, where the ruling Trinamool Congress has raised concerns about the exercise, the CEC said the Commission was doing its constitutional duty by carrying out the SIR, and the State government will perform its duties by giving all support and manpower needed.

Asked whether the poll body will give new EPIC cards to all voters as stated during the SIR in Bihar, Mr. Kumar said fresh voter IDs will be given to only those who have any change in their particulars.

Rolls revision

Phase 2 of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls will be held between November 2025 and February 2026 across 12 States and Union Territories, covering 51 crore voters

TIMELINE
- **Enumeration start:** November 4, 2025
- **Enumeration end:** December 4, 2025
- **Draft electoral rolls release:** December 9, 2025
- **Final electoral rolls publication:** February 7, 2026

UNION TERRITORIES: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry

The first phase of SIR was held in Bihar. FILE PHOTO

DOCUMENT PROCESS
- No documents are to be collected from electors during the enumeration phase
- For electors who have not returned enumeration forms, the booth-level officer may identify a probable cause, such as death or duplication based on an enquiry from nearby electors and note the same
- These names will be displayed on boards of all panchayat and urban local body offices

EC modifies some rules based on Bihar lesson

NEW DELHI
Certain modifications have been made to the process based on the learnings from the just- concluded process in Bihar. In a notice issued to the Chief Electoral Officers of all 12 States and Union Territories, the EC said no documents were to be collected from electors during the enumeration phase. » PAGE 4

SIR 2.0 in 12 States and U.T.s

What is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)?

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started a Special Intensive Revision to update voter lists completely from scratch.
- It ensures every eligible citizen (18 years or older) is correctly listed as a voter, as provided under **Articles 324 and 326** of the Constitution and the **Representation of the People Act, 1950.**

Why is SIR being done?

- Under Section 21 of the RP Act, the ECI can revise voter lists anytime if needed.
- The ECI said the SIR is necessary because, in the last 20 years, rapid urbanisation and migration have caused many changes — with large-scale additions and deletions in voter records.

Pros and Cons of the SIR?

1. **Exclusion of Aadhaar as a document for registration.**
   - Aadhaar is a proof of residence and not of citizenship. Hence, in line with the constitutional requirements, Aadhaar has been excluded as a valid document.
   - On the other hand, Aadhaar has become an omnibus identity card for all sections of the society, especially the under privileged who may not possess any other documents.

2. **Exclusion of migrants from the electoral roll**
   - The RP Act provides that only 'ordinarily residents' should be included in the electoral roll of a constituency. Migrants who have moved away for long periods of time on account of education or employment would be included in the electoral roll of their current residence as per provisions of the RP Act.
   - On the other hand, The RP Act provides that 'persons temporarily absent' do not cease to be 'ordinarily resident'.Many migrant workers shift to other places within the state or outside the state but return at regular intervals to their place of birth and upbringing.

Justice Kant, part of key verdicts, to become next CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Chief Justice of India (CJI), B.R. Gavai, on Monday recommended Justice Surya Kant, the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor to office, and the 53rd Chief Justice of India.

The government had in the previous week written to Chief Justice Gavai seeking his recommendation.

However, the CJI was on an official visit to Bhutan. Chief Justice Gavai gave his recommendation immediately on his return and met Justice Kant with the recommendation letter on Monday, the first working day of the court after the Deepavali holidays.

Chief Justice Gavai is scheduled to retire on November 24.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India, and Supreme Court Judges, the Union Law Ministry seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice for the next appointment, following which the latter replies to the government. The letter from the government kickstarts the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India.

Key cases

Justice Kant has been a part of several impactful decisions of the apex court, including the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which removed the special status to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. Justice Kant He was also part of the Bench which held the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional. He was a member of the Benches which heard the Pegasus spyware case, and the suspension of the sedition law.

He was born on February 10, 1962 at Hisar in Haryana. After completing his graduation from his hometown, Justice Kant earned his Bachelor's degree in Law in 1984 from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. He started his legal practice at the Hisar district court and shifted to Chandigarh in 1985 to practice in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

He was the youngest Advocate-General of Haryana on July 7, 2000, and designated as senior advocate in March 2001. He was elevated as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004. Justice Kant was appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in October 2018.

He was appointed as a Supreme Court judge on May 24, 2019. He is due to retire on February 9, 2027.

Chief Justice Gavai with his successor, Justice Kant, in New Delhi on Monday. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Cyclone Montha

Cyclone **Montha** is expected to hit the **Andhra Pradesh coast** (near **Kakinada**) on **Tuesday evening or night** as a **severe cyclonic storm** with strong winds of 90–110 km/h.The IMD has issued a red alert for 16 districts because very heavy rain is likely.

The cyclone is currently over the **Bay of Bengal**, moving toward Andhra Pradesh, and is expected to get stronger.

Warning signs: Fishermen on the Kothapatnam beach in Prakasam district bringing their boats in on Monday as Cyclone Montha approaches the coastline. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Cyclone set to cross the Andhra coast on Tuesday evening; red alert in 16 districts

Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA

Cyclone Montha is very likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam around Kakinada on Tuesday evening or night as a severe cyclonic storm with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90-100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday. A red alert has been issued for 16 districts in the State on Tuesday.

The cyclonic storm triggered heavy rainfall in three north coastal districts and moderate rainfall in other stations of the State on Monday. Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, and Anakapalli received moderate to heavy rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday.

Stations in the central and south coastal parts of the State received light showers. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure that aid reaches without delay.

Rainfall data compiled by the State Directorate of Economics and Statistics showed Jathara in Visakhapatnam district receiving the day's highest rainfall of 92.25 mm, followed by Madhurawada with 86 mm and Kapuluppada with 85.25 mm. Other stations in the district, including those within the city, received around 70-80 mm. In Anakapalli district, Sabbavaram received 67.5 mm and Rajam received 62.5 mm. Other stations received less than 60 mm. The alerts for SPSR Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Guntur, Krishna, West Godavari, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, Kakinada, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram for Monday will stay till 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the IMD said.

For Tuesday, red alerts have been issued for 16 districts and orange alerts for five districts. Except for SPSR Nellore and the eight districts of the Rayalaseema region, all other districts are under red alert as isolated extremely heavy rainfall is likely, with the cyclonic storm likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning, the IMD added.

At a review meeting, Naidu directed officials to issue hourly bulletins and real-time updates on Cyclone Montha

It said the cyclonic storm over west-central and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal moved northwestwards at a speed of 13 kmph and remained over the same region at 8.30 p.m. It was positioned at 400 km east-northeast of Chennai in Tamil Nadu, 410 km south-southeast of Kakinada and 460 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and 640 km south-southwest of Gopalpur in Odisha. It is likely to move north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning. Continuing to move further north-northwestwards, it is very likely to cross Andhra Pradesh coast in the evening or night.

Meanwhile, the Indian National Centre For Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has issued an alert for the State as high waves, in the range of 2.0-4.7 metres, are forecast between 5.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m. on Monday, off the coast of Andhra Pradesh from Nellore to Srikakulam. Storm surge of height about 1 metre above the astronomical tide is likely to cause inundation over low-lying areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh, it said.

CM's meet

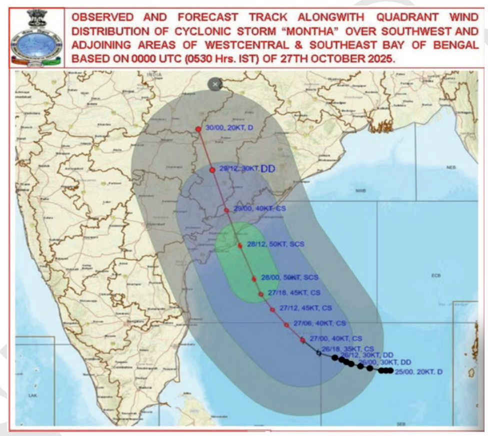
Holding a high-level review meeting on Monday, Mr. Naidu has directed officials to issue hourly bulletins and real-time updates on Cyclone Montha. He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally enquired about the cyclone's impact and the State's preparedness and has assured all possible help.

Mr. Naidu ordered the deployment of satellite phones and additional mobile towers, and directed officials to keep 3,211 generators ready across 110 mandals for power backup at 2,707 villages.

The Chief Minister instructed that National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and SDRF teams remain on standby, and that the Fire Services, Electricity, Roads and Buildings, and Panchayat Raj departments stay fully alert.

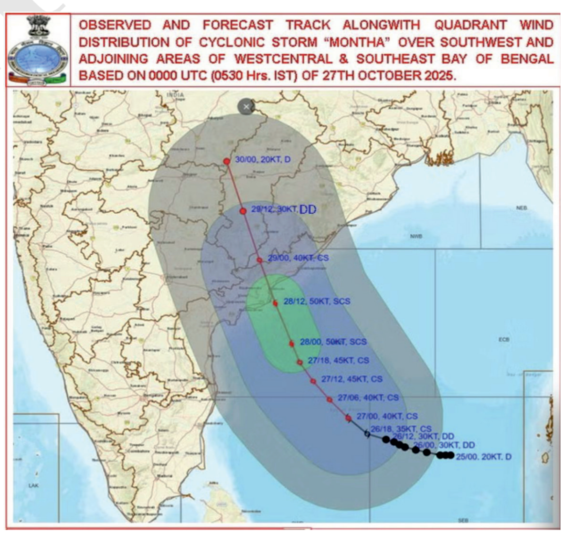
Officials were told to act swiftly to restore infrastructure in case of road breaches, fallen trees, or power line damage. He directed that sanitation be given high priority post-cyclone to prevent disease outbreaks, and that 108 and 104 medical vehicles remain on standby, ensuring medical care for pregnant women and new mothers.

He also directed officials to evacuate residents in coastal areas vulnerable to the cyclone to designated rehabilitation centres.



Cyclone Montha

The cyclonic storm will be identified as **Cyclone "Montha"**, named by Thailand.The states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are expected to be in the direct line of the cyclone's movement. The latest cyclone is expected to cross the coast of Andhra Pradesh later in the day.



Indian public health

Big Tech's contempt for Indian public health

Since 1927, when the topic of drug regulation was first discussed in the Council of State after Sir Haroon Jaffer sought a resolution regarding the "control of the craze for medicinal drugs", the issue of advertisements of drugs claiming to have a therapeutic effect on humans has been a serious public health concern.

It took 27 years before India tackled the issue through the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act (DMRA), 1954. This law prohibits any advertisements of any drugs, whether approved or not by the regulator, for a list of 54 medical conditions. For example, the law prohibits the advertisement of any drug for the treatment of diabetes, regardless of whether its efficacy has been clinically established.

The advent of Internet-based advertising

A lot has changed since 1954, especially in the world of advertisement. The Internet and the rise of Big Tech platforms, in the nature of search engines, social media platforms, video-sharing platforms and online marketplaces for goods, have steadily eaten into the traditional avenues of advertising in print and broadcast formats. This shift has not only upended print journalism across the world which was reliant on advertisements, but also made it far tougher for governments across the world to police advertisements published on these Big Tech platforms headquartered in the United States.

In a deep dive on the advertising policies and practices of the most popular American Big Tech platforms in India, we were astonished to note that not a single one of them warns advertisers not to submit for publication, advertisements which are in violation of the DMRA. Thus, it is no surprise that all Big Tech platforms routinely publish a wide variety of misleading advertisements, especially for ayurvedic and homeopathic products. For example, a simple search for "ayurveda" + "blood pressure tablets" or "homeopathy" + "diabetes" on the most popular search engine and online market place in India will throw up a variety of advertisements on these platforms under the "sponsored" tag, indicating that they have been paid for by advertisers.

One of the most popular social media platforms features video advertisements by a notorious godman with the claim of being able to cure all kinds of diseases using ayurvedic products.

Similarly, a search of the online ad-libraries of these Big Tech platforms reveals a long list of offending advertisements, including those for cow-urine based products to treat cancers; these advertisements were supported by a charitable programme run by the Big Tech platform. All these advertisements are in violation of the DMRA.

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The rise in misleading advertisements by popular platforms is also linked to the immunity that Big Tech enjoys in India

None of these Big Tech platforms runs similar advertisements in the United States for ayurvedic and homeopathic products. The policies of these platforms for advertisements for health-related products to be displayed to users based in the U.S. are elaborate, with some even having pre-screening mechanisms that are meant to ensure compliance with tough American laws; these laws prohibit advertisements for therapeutic claims that are not approved by the drug regulator. In the U.S., violation of American law can attract swift criminal prosecution.

Disregard for Indian law

So, what explains Big Tech's brazen disregard of Indian laws such as the DMRA?

The first reason could be the traditional contempt that American corporations, dating back to Union Carbide, have shown for the lives of Indians. It is possible that this contempt arises from systemic racism that afflicts the management of American corporations, wherein Indian lives are not considered to be comparable to American lives.

The second is that Big Tech has escaped serious punishment earlier for violation of another law called The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PNDT). This law prevents advertisements for products and services related to determination of the sex of the unborn foetus. A PIL was filed in 2008 by an activist before the Supreme Court of India pointing out how Big Tech platforms were in brazen violation of this law. Before the Court, Big Tech was evasive on the point of instituting proactive measures to block such advertisements, insisting that it was under an obligation to remove offending advertisements only if government or others informed them about such violations. To make a long story short, Big Tech fell back into a familiar pattern of deception, by claiming that it was the "intermediary" not the "publisher".

Under Indian law, intermediaries have qualified immunity from legal liability for content generated by their users because they are presumed to lack knowledge of each piece of content that is posted by users. But when it comes to advertisements, Big Tech knows very well that it is the "publisher" and not the "intermediary". The marketing teams of Big Tech on the ground in India actively pitch for advertisements, sign contracts with advertisers and accept payments for the purpose of displaying the advertisement on their platform. They have complete knowledge about these advertisements; hence, they are publishers and not mere intermediaries who can claim immunity under the law.

The PIL regarding the violation of the PNDT languished for nine years before ending with the usual insipid orders for the creation of a government committee to look into the issue. Criminal prosecution was never ordered by the Court despite being the prescribed punishment under the PNDT Act. The abject failure of the Court to enforce the law by ordering criminal prosecutions, and the process which frustrates litigants who represent public interest in such cases undoubtedly emboldened Big Tech's sense of impunity in India.

The third reason is that Big Tech is aware that the U.S. government would never extradite top managerial personnel from America to face criminal prosecution in India for violating the DMRA. Big Tech's employees running Indian subsidiaries located on Indian territory cannot be prosecuted because the Indian subsidiary is a different legal entity from its parent company located in the U.S., which legally owns and operates the advertising platforms in India. Undoubtedly, this implicit immunity is what fuels Big Tech's bad behaviour in India.

The need for reforms

Tackling Big Tech's dangerous violations of the DMRA should be an urgent priority in a country such as India which self-prescribes medicines and has an inherent bias toward "nationalist" tropes.

Registering criminal complaints before courts of competent jurisdiction against the management of these platforms would be a good first step. If Big Tech declines to produce its competent managerial personnel before an Indian court to face these charges, the government will be compelled to ensure reforms that will make Big Tech answerable to Indian sovereignty.

It is perhaps time for India to take a page from the new American playbook to regulate Tik Tok and create new regulatory mechanisms. This is to ensure that the managerial personnel responsible for creating and enforcing content and advertising related policies in India are Indian citizens who are based in Indian territory and answerable to Indian courts. Anything short of the threat of jail time for key managerial personnel will fail to ensure that Big Tech's complies with Indian law.

Further, a failure of Big Tech to comply with these legal requirements should result in a revocation of the immunity granted to Big Tech under Indian intermediary laws from legal action for user-generated content. Big Tech cannot be allowed to enjoy these benefits under Indian law if it does not enforce relevant Indian laws to protect public health in India.

For nearly a century, India has struggled with **fake and misleading drug advertisements** — ads that promise miracle cures for serious diseases.

To deal with this, the **Drugs and Magic Remedies Act of 1954** was created —- bans advertisements for 54 diseases, like diabetes, even if the medicine is genuine.

But with the **rise of the Internet and Big Tech companies** — search engines, social media, and online shopping — fake medical ads have made a big comeback, especially for **Ayurvedic and homeopathic products.**

That's illegal in India.

Yet, these same companies never allow such ads in the United States, because their laws are much stricter there.

Indian public health

So, why does this happen in India?

- First, Big Tech often **ignores Indian laws**, assuming enforcement is weak.
- Second, they **pretend to be intermediaries**, saying they just host ads, not publish them — even though they take money for them.
- Third, **past violations**, like in the case of sex-selection ads under the PNDT Act, went unpunished — giving them the confidence that nothing will happen again.
- And lastly, **U.S.-based managers** are hard to prosecute or bring to Indian courts.

So, what can be done?

India needs to take a tougher stand.

- File **criminal cases** against responsible managers.
- Make **India-based officers** legally answerable.
- **Remove legal protection** for companies that repeatedly break the rules.
- And create **new regulatory laws,** like the U.S. did with TikTok, to ensure Big Tech follows Indian laws and protects public health.

North-South carbon market cooperation

A start for North-South carbon market cooperation

On September 17, 2025, the European Union (EU) and India set out a new comprehensive strategic agenda in their joint communication. Called the New Strategic EU-India Agenda, it primarily addresses five pillars on which their partnership will be enhanced: prosperity and sustainability; technology and innovation; security and defence; connectivity and global issues, and enablers across pillars. Buried in the section on clean transition is a critical line that the EU will link the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

In plain terms, carbon prices paid in India will be deducted from CBAM levies at the EU border. This is a breakthrough. It could prevent Indian exporters from being penalised twice and reward early decarbonisation. However, major barriers still plague its operationalisation. Unless addressed, they will stall this integration before it delivers real gains.

Shashank Pandey

is a lawyer and researcher working on environmental law and climate finance

The linking of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism with the Indian carbon market is significant but there are hurdles to cross

Underdeveloped Indian carbon market

India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), commonly referred to as ICM, is still an evolving architecture. Unlike the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), which has a two decade record of robust auction structure, cap-setting processes, and independent verification, India's scheme is built on fragmented foundations. Current credits are often based on intensity improvements or project-based offsets, not absolute caps on emissions, wherein the ICM is moving. The CBAM, however, requires a tonne-for-tonne accounting of embedded carbon in goods. Without legally binding caps and strong penalties for non-compliance, EU regulators will treat Indian credits as second class.

There is also no current institutional equivalent in India to the EU's independent regulators or emissions registries that guarantee market integrity. In effect, the EU cannot "deduct" Indian carbon prices unless it is confident that the underlying system delivers environmental integrity. Bridging this institutional gap is not a technical fix. It requires a structural redesign of the ICM to mirror the compliance-grade features of the EU's ETS. Imagining this substantive pivot within the Indian our bureaucratic understanding and operation anytime soon is challenging.

CBAM also relies on a clear and stringent carbon price. In the EU's ETS, the price floats around €60 to €80 a tonne. In India, initial carbon credit prices hover in the range of €5 and €10. Unless the carbon price is comparable and enforced across covered sectors, European regulators will not deduct much, if anything, at the border.

Worse, exporters may end up facing both the Indian compliance cost and the EU's full CBAM levy. This creates political risk inside India, where industries may resist a "double burden" and they could lobby to water down India's scheme, i.e., compliance parameters under ICM. Bridging the price gap requires either targeted sectoral carbon contracts or a negotiated floor price that aligns with CBAM expectations. Both are politically difficult options to negotiate.

Fundamental nature of CBAM

Even if technical and price issues are solved, CBAM remains controversial. India and other developing countries have consistently opposed it at the WTO and international dialogues as being a unilateral and protectionist measure. Agreeing to a linkage between India's carbon market and CBAM, therefore, creates a political contradiction that India would be legitimising a mechanism it has formally resisted.

This tension will resurface in disputes. For instance, if the EU deems India's carbon price to be "insufficient" and refuses full deductions, exporters will cry foul, and New Delhi will be forced to escalate the issue politically or legally. There is also a sovereignty issue because carbon pricing is a domestic policy tool, but CBAM effectively gives Brussels a say in whether India's measures are "good enough". For a country that guards its policy space, this could become a red line. Beyond trade law, there is a strategic risk wherein CBAM deductions will work only if India maintains a steady, transparent carbon market. Any domestic political backtracking, for example, rolling back compliance under industry pressure, would immediately expose exporters to full CBAM costs, destabilising trade flows. In short, the linkage is hostage not only to WTO legalities but also to domestic political economy and EU-India trust.

Looking at optimistic resolutions

The Indian carbon market and CBAM linkage is one of the most significant agreements under the strategy agenda by the two big global economies. If it works, it shields Indian exporters, accelerates industrial decarbonisation, and creates a model for North-South carbon market cooperation. But weak domestic architecture, misaligned carbon prices, and political contradictions may sink it. There is an underlying case to be made for more comprehensive collaboration. India can strengthen its market design, and the EU can offer clarity and technical support for a smooth transition. Otherwise, this "breakthrough" will remain on paper, while Indian exporters continue to pay at the border.

On September 17, 2025, **India and the European Union announced a new Strategic Agenda** — a big plan **to deepen cooperation across five areas:** prosperity and sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, connectivity and global issues, and a few cross-cutting enablers.

Now, a major development has happened — the EU plans to link India's Carbon Market with its own **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, or CBAM.**

In simple words, this means: **when Indian exporters pay a carbon price at home, that amount will be deducted from the extra carbon tax they would otherwise pay at the EU border.**

But, there's a catch.

India's carbon market, officially called the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme**, is still **very new and not as strong as the EU's system**.

While the EU's market has been running for nearly 20 years with strict caps, clear rules, and independent checks, India's version is still evolving — based more on project-based offsets than actual emission limits.

Also, the **carbon price in India is just around 5 to 10 euros per tonne, compared to 60 to 80 euros in Europe.** That huge difference means the EU might not accept India's credits as equivalent — and Indian exporters could still end up paying both the Indian fee and the EU's full carbon levy.

There's another challenge — politics.

India and many other developing nations have **long argued that CBAM is unfair and protectionist**. So **linking the two systems might look like India is accepting a policy it** had previously opposed. And if the EU later says India's carbon price is "too low," it could create disputes or even strain diplomatic ties.

Despite these challenges, if the linkage works, it could be groundbreaking — shielding Indian exporters, boosting clean technology, and setting a new example for North–South climate cooperation.

But for that to happen, India needs to strengthen its carbon market structure and pricing, while the EU must offer support and flexibility.If both sides don't move carefully, this breakthrough could remain just a promise on paper — and Indian exporters may still end up paying the price at the border.

CIC appointments

The Central Information Commission (CIC) currently has **no Chief** and only **two members** out of the total **ten sanctioned posts**. The **Central government told the Supreme Court** that these vacancies will be filled in **two to three weeks.**

However, **RTI activists**, represented by **Prashant Bhushan**, argued that the government is being **non-transparent** in the appointment process — saying that **names are suddenly announced without any openness**.

They also pointed out that **over 30,000 RTI appeals** are pending and that delaying appointments is like **"slowly choking" the RTI system**.

The CIC acts as the watchdog of transparency in India, ensuring that the RTI Act works in practice and that citizens' right to know is protected against bureaucratic secrecy.

CIC appointments in 'two or three' weeks, Centre tells top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday that vacancies in the Central Information Commission (CIC), which has no Chief Information Commissioner and is down to just two Information Commissioners out of a total sanctioned strength of 10, will be filled in "two or three" weeks.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj said the shortlisted names of candidates had been forwarded to the high-profile selection committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader

Petitioners said there was a complete information blackout on the appointment process

to Information (RTI) Act were shrouded in opacity while pendency was touching 30,000.

He said even the Chief Information Commissioner had retired. Nothing had been done since the last order of the Supreme Court 10 months ago, directing the government to fill the vacancies. He said the government was applying the slow-choke to RTI.

"The best way to kill the RTI is to not make any ap-