



**TATHASTU**  
Institute Of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Institute Of Civil Services



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## Topics Covered

- SC asks govt. to regulate user content on Internet
- Burden of proof
- India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal at Defence Ministers' Dialogue
- Enabling a modern and future-ready labour ecosystem
- IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics

### SC asks govt. to regulate user content on Internet

#### Background (Why this issue came up)

Social media today allows anyone to create and upload videos, posts, reels, commentary, etc. **This user-generated content (UGC)** spreads very fast and often contains:

- Obscene or adult content
- Misinformation or defamatory claims
- Content labelled as "anti-national", sometimes loosely
- Content that damages reputations within minutes

Even though platforms can remove harmful content, **takedowns take about 24 hours**, by which time millions may have already seen the post. Many victims have no voice or quick remedies, and by the time they approach the court, **harm is irreversible**.

This led the Supreme Court to intervene.

## SC asks govt. to regulate user content on Internet

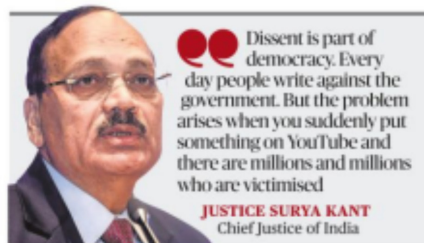
Court suggests 'impartial and autonomous authority' to vet content; it says that like free speech, rights of victims of online abuse have to be protected, and wants 'preventive mechanisms' in place

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to work on guidelines for user-generated content to protect innocents from becoming victims of obscene, even perverse, "anti-national" or personally damaging online content.

The top court considered the idea of an "impartial and autonomous authority", neither bound to private broadcasters nor the government, to vet "prima facie permissible" content.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said user-generated content, potentially disastrous to reputations or even hav-



**JUSTICE SURYA KANT**  
Chief Justice of India

ing "adult content", go viral even before social media intermediaries could take them down.

#### Suggestion on Aadhaar

At one point, referring to the easy access to uncurated material online, the court said a few seconds of 'adult content' warning was not enough. It suggested further checks such as sharing Aadhaar details to verify the age of users.

The Chief Justice found it "very strange" the phenomenon that users could create their own online channels and still be not accountable to anyone. "Is there no sense of responsibility?" he asked.

The court clarified that it did not intend to have the proposed guidelines for user-generated content "tinker" with free speech. Though the right was subject to reasonable regula-

tion under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, it was nevertheless to be respected and protected. However, misuse of online speech has exposed millions of innocent people to abuse. They too have a right to be protected, it reasoned.

#### 'Millions victimised'

"Dissent is part of democracy. Every day people write against the government. But the problem arises when you suddenly put something on YouTube and there are millions and millions who are victimised. They do not have a voice. They do not have a platform, and by the time they rush to court, the damage is done," Chief Justice Kant said.

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## What the Supreme Court Said?

1. **Need for Guidelines for User-Generated Content:** The Supreme Court asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to draft **new guidelines** that can **prevent** harmful UGC from going viral before removal.
2. **Proposal for an Independent Authority:** The court suggested thinking about an “**impartial and autonomous authority**” —
  - not controlled by the government
  - not controlled by private broadcasters
  - capable of checking whether content is prima facie allowed

This is to create a **neutral system** of scrutiny.

### 3. Aadhaar-Based Age Verification (Suggestion, Not Order)

The CJI suggested exploring stronger age-verification methods, including **Aadhaar-based verification**, to prevent minors from accessing adult content.

It was only a discussion point, not a directive.

### 4. Free Speech Will Not Be Harmed

- They do **not want to curb free speech** under Article 19(1)(a).
- Regulations must only target misuse, not opinions or dissent.
- Innocent victims **also** have a right to protection.

## Burden of proof

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is conducting a process called **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in **12 States and Union Territories**.

This means the ECI wants to update and “clean” the voter lists.

### What is the Issue?

**Method of SIR:** Voters receive **enumeration forms** from Block Level Officers (BLOs). They must fill details and match them with **old electoral records from 2002–2005**. Only if the match is successful, their name stays in the voter list.

### Why it is raising concerns?

- The ECI says most forms have been delivered.
- But **many genuine voters** are still struggling to get the forms.
- BLOs are **not making the required home visits**, making the process unclear and unfair.
- People are confused about **what documents** they must provide for inclusion in voter rolls.

### Burden of proof

**SIR's enumeration process of putting the onus on residents for eligibility is flawed**

**T**he Election Commission of India (ECI)'s SIR of electoral rolls, being held in 12 States and Union Territories (UT), demands urgent judicial scrutiny due to its implementation and its base methodology. While the Supreme Court continues to hear challenges to the constitutionality of the SIR process pioneered in Bihar, the same flawed approach is being persisted with in other States. Voters are to fill enumeration forms delivered by Block Level Officers (BLO) and match their details against electoral rolls from 2002-2005. Though data from Bihar suggest that the process did not dramatically alter election outcomes, it saw a sharp decline in the gender ratio of the electorate. Other localised distortions also warrant concern. The ECI claims that enumeration forms have been delivered to most electors in the 12 States and UTs, but genuine voters continue to scramble for forms, and confusion persists about the documentation required for enrolment on the draft rolls due next month. The guideline mandating that BLOs visit households appears to be only on paper. The Gauhati High Court, in *Dr. Manmohan Singh* (1999), interpreted requirements in the Representation of the People Act, 1950 expansively: an ordinary resident is a habitual resident with the intention to dwell permanently – whom any reasonable person would accept as a resident of that place. Operating from this principle, the ECI and the judiciary have historically presumed that any resident adult was, by default, a valid voter.

## Burden of proof

### Constitutional and Legal Concerns:

#### Earlier judicial interpretation

The **Gauhati High Court (1999)** ruled that:

- Anyone who is a **habitual resident** of a place and intends to live there permanently is an **ordinary resident**.
- Such a person should be presumed to be a **valid voter**.

#### The reversal under SIR

SIR reverses this principle:

- Earlier: The **state had to prove** if a person was not a voter.
- Now: **Every voter must prove** that they are a legitimate voter.
- Even people who have voted for years must prove their status using old or difficult documents.

This creates a **risk of mass disenfranchisement**, especially for:

- **Married women** (changed homes)
- **Migrants** (no documents from 2002–2005)
- **Poor and marginalised groups**

In Bihar, SIR caused a **sharp decline in women's voter ratio**.

#### Core Issue

The ECI seems to be prioritizing “**purifying**” the voter rolls over **protecting the right to vote**, which is a foundational democratic right.

The Court must decide:

- Should citizens bear the burden to prove they deserve to be on the rolls?
- Or should the ECI ensure error-free enrolment, as always done historically?

## India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal

### Progress on BrahMos Missile Deal

- India and Indonesia moved forward on the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** sale.
- A senior official said the deal could be finalised “very soon”.
- This would make Indonesia another important BrahMos buyer after the Philippines.

#### Why it matters:

BrahMos is one of the world's fastest cruise missiles (supersonic, precision strike). Exporting it boosts India's defence diplomacy and strengthens Indonesia's coastal security.

## India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal at Defence Ministers' Dialogue

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

India and Indonesia strengthened their defence partnership as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Indonesian Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsuddin co-chaired the third India-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi on Thursday. Both sides also made notable progress on the proposed BrahMos supersonic missile deal.

A senior defence official said the discussions reflected a "progressive approach" from both nations, adding that the agreement "might get locked at the earliest".

The Ministers recalled Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India as the Chief Guest for Republic Day this year and noted that his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi had bolstered the Comprehensive Strategic



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a meeting with Indonesia's Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsuddin in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Partnership. The participation of 352 personnel from the Indonesian Armed Forces in the parade was highlighted as a symbol of defence cooperation.

According to the Defence Ministry, while reiterating their commitment to a free, open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, the two sides emphasised adherence to international law and respect for sovereignty. They noted strong alignment between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative,

agreeing to intensify collaboration through multi-lateral platforms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association, where India currently holds the chair.

Both countries were committed to enhancing cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber-resilience, and joint operational readiness. Indonesia welcomed India's proposal to form a Joint Defence Industry Cooperation Committee aimed at advancing technology transfer, and joint research and development.

### Indo-Pacific Cooperation

Both countries:

- Reaffirmed commitment to a **free, open, stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific**.
- Emphasised **international law and sovereignty** (aimed at countering aggressive activities in the region).
- Highlighted alignment between:
  - ◆ **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**
  - ◆ **India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**

They agreed to work together in platforms like:

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** — India is current Chair.

### Modern Labour Ecosystem

#### Background

For decades, India's labour laws were scattered across **29+ separate Acts**, created at different times (from pre-independence to recent years). This made compliance difficult and left many workers — especially in the **informal sector** — outside the protections of the law.

The **Second National Commission on Labour** recommended merging these laws into broader codes. After wide consultations (2015–2019), Parliament passed **four Labour Codes** between 2019–2020.





## Enabling a modern and future-ready labour ecosystem

November 21, 2025 will go down as a milestone in India's journey of Viksit Bharat – a day when the much awaited four Labour Codes were made effective by the Government of India. India has taken a giant leap in labour rights with the implementation of four modernised Labour Codes (the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020). These reforms create a fair, modern and future-ready labour ecosystem – one that empowers workers, enhances enterprise competitiveness and strengthens India's path towards a Viksit Bharat and Aamrit Mahatma Bharat.

India's labour framework has evolved gradually over several decades, leading to the creation of multiple pieces of legislation operating across different time periods and economic contexts. While these laws have played an important role in shaping employment relations, the growing size and diversity of India's workforce brought to the fore the need for simplification and consolidation. The Second National Commission on Labour recommended grouping existing laws into broader functional codes. Extensive consultations with industry, employers, trade unions and State governments between 2015 and 2019 led to these four comprehensive Labour Codes being enacted.

**A workforce that is both large and young**  
India today has one of the world's largest and youngest workforces, with more than 643 million workers, and is expected to contribute nearly two-thirds of new global workforce entrants in the coming years, as in the World Economic Forum. Recent labour market trends point to a positive momentum: between 2017-18 and 2022-24, India created 16.83 crore jobs, the unemployment rate declined from 6% to 3.2%, and formal employment expanded significantly.

Given that a large share of India's workforce still remains in the informal sector, the need for a simplified and coherent labour framework has been particularly important to help extend protections and improve productivity of the unorganised sector. The coverage under the Code



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is President,  
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The Four  
Labour Codes  
will result in a  
modern labour  
regulatory  
system that  
supports the  
growing  
dynamism of  
the Indian  
economy

for Social Security has been extended to the unorganised sector also. These developments reflect the growing dynamism of the economy and emphasise the need for a modern labour regulatory system that supports this trajectory.

For workers, the Labour Codes provide a stronger and more consistent set of protections. Universal minimum wages, a national floor wage, mandatory appointment letters, timely payment of wages, and clear rules on working hours – including the 48-hour work week – reinforce fairness and security. The OSH Code's emphasis on safety committees, free preventive health check-ups and improved workplace standards strengthens the focus on well-being and productivity.

The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for universal Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) coverage with no geographic restrictions, streamlined Employee Provident Fund (EPF) procedures for quicker resolutions, and support for the construction sector through simplified coo payments. It also establishes a National Social Security Fund for various worker categories.

Another major reform under these codes is the simplification of compliance requirements. The shift to single registrations, single licence and single return significantly reduces administrative burdens, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). A uniform definition of wages introduces clarity across multiple laws, helping reduce disputes and improving predictability in wage-related calculations. Decriminalisation of minor offences and the introduction of digital processes such as algorithm-based inspections encourage transparency and trust-based compliance.

### Preparing for the future of work

India's workforce is diversifying, with the rapid growth of gig and platform-based employment, flexible working models and digital-enabled livelihoods. In this context, the Social Security Code's inclusion of gig and platform workers is timely. With the size of this workforce expected to grow from one crore in 2024-25 to 2.35 crore by 2029-30, establishing a framework for social protection is a forward-looking measure that

aligns with the changing nature of work.

The Codes also emphasise formalisation, which remains vital for long-term economic progress. Clearer rules, standardised definitions and transparent processes encourage more enterprises to enter the formal economy and help extend protections to a larger share of the workforce.

### A boost for women in the workforce

Women's participation in the workforce has improved yet remains below its potential. According to the International Labour Organization's India Employment Report 2024, India's female labour force participation rate stands at 32.8%. The Labour Codes help strengthen the enabling environment by reinforcing equal remuneration, enhancing maternity benefits and expanding social protection to unorganised, gig and platform workers. The OSH Code also allows women to work at night with their consent and has adequate safety arrangements, thereby widening opportunities across several sectors. Together, these provisions support greater access and continuity of employment for women as the economy evolves. A modern labour framework must balance the need for worker protection with the requirements of a competitive business environment. The Labour Codes aim to provide this balance by offering clearer industrial relations norms and faster dispute resolution, while ensuring that workers have access to essential rights, safety and social security. This balanced approach supports investment, promotes stability and helps strengthen India's position in global value chains.

The next few days will be crucial as the implementation process for these Codes moves forward. It will be important for States to align with the minimum thresholds and guiding principles laid out in the Codes to ensure uniformity and clarity across the country. After the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, this represents one of the most significant structural reforms. This reform momentum should continue, supporting greater investments, and thereby contributing to higher employment generation in the country.

## On November 21, 2025?

The Government of India **implemented all four Labour Codes:**

1. Code on Wages, 2019
2. Industrial Relations Code, 2020
3. Social Security Code, 2020
4. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020

This is one of the biggest reforms after GST.

It creates a **unified, modern labour framework**

## Key Benefits for Workers

### 1. Stronger protections

- Universal minimum wages + national floor wage
- Mandatory appointment letters
- Timely wage payment
- Clear working hours → 48-hour week
- Better safety standards + free health check-ups (under OSH Code)

### 2. Wider social security

- Extended across India
- Easier EPF procedures
- Support fund for unorganised and construction workers
- **Gig and platform workers** included for the first time



## Benefits for Businesses

### 1. Simplified compliance

- Single registration
- Single licence
- Single return
- Digital inspections (algorithm-based)
- Minor offences decriminalised

### 2. Uniform definition of “wages”

Reduces disputes and increases clarity.

### Focus on the Future of Work

- Gig and platform economy expected to grow from **1 crore (2024-25) → 2.35 crore (2029-30)**
- Codes prepare for flexible work, digital livelihoods and workplace modernisation.

### Boost for Women

- Equal remuneration assured
- Enhanced maternity benefits
- Night-shift allowed with consent + safety measures
- Social security for women in unorganised and gig work

## IMF gives ‘C’ grade for India’s national accounts statistics

### Background

Every year, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** reviews the quality of economic data produced by countries.

IMF checks whether the economic statistics used for policymaking are reliable, timely, and accurate. Good-quality national statistics are important because governments, investors, and global institutions depend on them to judge a country’s economic health.

# IMF gives ‘C’ grade for India’s national accounts statistics

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

The International Monetary Fund’s annual review has given India’s national accounts statistics – including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) – a grade of ‘C’, the second-



## What happened?

The IMF has given **India's national accounts statistics** — mainly **GDP** and **GVA** numbers — a **grade 'C'**, which is the **second-lowest** rating.

Grades go from **A → D**, where **A** is best, **D** is worst.

## A 'C' grade means:

The data is available and usable **But there are weaknesses that limit accuracy and reliability**

## Why did IMF give a 'C'?

### 1. Outdated base year (2011–12)

GDP and CPI calculations still use the base year **2011–12**.

India's economy has changed a lot since then

Old consumption patterns and price levels don't reflect today's reality

### 2. Use of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for deflators

Instead of **Producer Price Index (PPI)** (which India does not have), India uses **WPI** to adjust nominal GDP into real GDP.

WPI is not ideal for services

This affects accuracy of GDP growth rates

## Large differences between GDP (production method) and GDP (expenditure method)

## IMF says:

Sometimes the production-side and expenditure-side GDP don't match

## Informal sector measurement issues

India has a large unorganised sector, which is hard to measure.

## What about inflation data (CPI)?

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) received a 'B' grade — better than GDP data.

But IMF still notes issues:

- CPI base year is also **2011–12**
- Consumption basket and weights are outdated

Today's spending habits (online services, new foods, transport changes) are not reflected