

# Daily Current Affairs



15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>  
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classes

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# Major GST shake-up: 12% and 28% slabs to be axed

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has proposed to reduce the number of slabs under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, retaining the 5% and 18% slabs, while introducing a lower concessional rate below 1% and a high "sin rate" of 40% on just five to seven items each, according to official sources.

This would mean eliminating the 12% and 28% tax brackets entirely. Of these, 99% of items currently in the 12% slab will be moved to the 5% rate, and 90% of goods and services in the 28% bracket will be moved to 18%. There will be no additional cess levied over and above the GST rates.

These reforms would be part of a "Deepavali gift" from the Centre in the form of the "next-generation GST reforms", Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his Independence Day speech at Delhi's Red Fort on Friday.

"There will, of course, be a hit to revenue, but it will not be so huge as to materially affect the fiscal deficit," an official source said. "The thinking is that the lower rates will increase consumption, reduce evasion, and widen the tax net, leading to higher revenues by the end of the financial year."

The Ministry of Finance, in a press release issued soon after the speech, said that the Centre has sent its proposal on GST rate rationalisation and reforms to the Group of Ministers,

## Rate revisions

The 12% and 28% GST slabs will be done away with soon. Of these, 99% of items currently in the 12% slab will be moved to the 5% rate and 90% of goods and services in the 28% bracket will move to 18% slab

### CURRENT SLABS

- 0.25% (diamonds & semi-precious stones)
- 3% (jewellery & precious metals)
- Apart from these, the slabs were 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% and compensation cess

### PROPOSED SLABS

- Less than 1% (only items earlier in 0.25% and 3% slabs)
- Apart from this, the main slabs will be 5%, 18%, with a 40% rate applicable on only five to seven 'sin' goods

which has been constituted by the GST Council to examine the issue.

It added that the GST Council would deliberate in its next meeting – likely to be held in September or October, according to sources – on the recommendations of the GoM and would strive to implement the bulk of the reforms within this financial year. The Centre would be engaging with the States over the next few weeks to achieve a consensus on these reforms.

### Revenue impact

According to sources, the 28% tax slab currently accounts for 11% of the revenue from the GST, the 12% slab accounts for 5%, and the 5% slab accounts for 7% of the revenue. The bulk of the revenue – around 67% – comes from the 18% slab.

The Centre has also proposed that the rates on aspirational items, such as white goods, would be reduced. Air conditioners are currently taxed at 28%,

which will see a reduction, while other white goods currently taxed at 18% could potentially see their rates reduced as well.

"A few years ago, the Reserve Bank of India calculated that the average GST rate in India had settled at 11.6%, which will now substantially come down," the sources explained.

They added that there would be only five to seven "sin goods", such as tobacco and gutka, in the 40% category, while the concessional rate of less than 1% would apply to the few items that are taxed below 5% and above 0%.

### Other reforms

To promote "ease of living", the Centre has proposed using technology to speed up and ease the GST registration process and implement pre-filled returns, thus reducing manual intervention and eliminating mismatches, while refunds could be processed in a faster and more automated manner.

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## 1. GST Reform Proposal

- The Centre proposes reducing GST slabs to simplify the tax system.
- Current slabs: **0.25%, 3%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% + cess.**
- Proposed: **5%, 18% main slabs**, with **<1% concessional rate** and a **40% "sin goods" slab** (e.g., tobacco, gutkha).

## 2. Items Affected

- **12% slab:** 99% items to move → 5%.
- **28% slab:** 90% items to move → 18%.
- **Air conditioners, white goods, aspirational items** → shifted from 28% to 18%.
- **Sin goods:** remain in 40% bracket.

## 3. Economic Rationale

- Lower rates → boost consumption, reduce evasion, widen tax base.
- Expected to increase **tax buoyancy** and government revenue by FY end.
- No extra cess above GST slab rates.

## 4. Revenue Impact

- **28% slab:** currently 11% of GST revenue.
- **12% slab:** 7% of revenue.
- **5% slab:** 7% of revenue.
- **18% slab:** ~67% of revenue → bulk contributor.

## 5. Implementation & Timeline

- To be deliberated in **Sept–Oct GST Council meeting**.
- Centre consulting states for consensus.
- Aim: roll out reforms within **FY 2025–26**.

## 6. Other Reforms

- **Ease of Living:**
  - Technology to speed GST registration.
  - Pre-filled returns → reduce mismatch & manual intervention.



# Yet again, plastic treaty talks end in stalemate

**Jacob Koshy**  
GENEVA

Countries, for the second time since October 2024, failed to agree on a legally binding agreement to an ambitious treaty to end plastic pollution.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2), a group of about 180 countries, has been deliberating at the United Nations offices in Geneva since August 5 towards a consensus agreement. The process was to conclude on the August 14. However multiple draft versions of the text couldn't reconcile deep differences between blocs of nations.

Several of the Arab states, the U.S. and India



**Strong opposition:** Activists stage a protest during plastic treaty talks at the United Nations Offices in Geneva on Wednesday. AFP

are against any curbs on the production of plastic polymers. A majority of the countries, about 80-100, back an "ambitious" treaty that, at its heart, has a phase-out plan for plastics. As many as 57 countries called for toxic-free reuse, refill and repair sys-

tems; 89 demanded cuts to plastic production; 120 supported strong controls on chemicals; another 120 backed voting in the Conference of the Parties to break the deadlock and 130 championed a dedicated Article on health. Primarily led by the European

Union and its 27 member states, the countries looking for an ambitious treaty include several countries in Africa, several Pacific Island states, countries in Latin America and Japan.

However the countries opposed to them represent a larger share of the world's population.

While there is an established United Nations process to bridge differences, and countries do hold nuanced positions on why some provisions – there are about 32 Articles in the draft text – are acceptable and others absolute 'red lines', several observers say that the lack of a voting process ultimately proves to be an obstacle to making progress.

"We came to Geneva to secure a global plastics treaty because we know the stakes could not be higher," Jessika Roswall, European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, said in a statement. "While the latest text does not meet all our ambitions, it is a step forward."

Inger Andersen, Executive Chairperson, UN Environment Programme, at a press conference said, "I am disappointed...but this is how the multilateral treaty works. We have for the first time heard the deep red lines been mentioned in a true way that will enable a pathway for us to move forward."

## 1. Background

- Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2) with ~180 countries.
- Aim: Draft a **legally binding treaty** to end plastic pollution.
- Talks took place at **UN offices in Geneva (Aug 5–14, 2025)**.
- Second failure since **Oct 2024**.

## 2. Division among countries

- **U.S., India & several Arab states** → Oppose curbs on production of plastic polymers.
- **European Union (EU) + 27 states + countries in Africa, Pacific Islands, Latin America, Japan** → Demand ambitious treaty with phase-out of plastics.

## 3. Positions

- 57 countries: Push for **toxic-free reuse, refill, repair systems**.
- 89 countries: Called for **cuts in plastic production**.
- 120 countries: Supported **chemical controls**.
- 120 countries: Wanted **Conference of Parties voting system**.
- 130 countries: Championed **dedicated Article on Health**.

## Concerns

No consensus due to **deep divides** ('red lines') between nations.

Risk that **weak treaty** may emerge, failing to address root problem of over-production



## NEW ROLE

# IOC appoints Bindra as Mental Health Ambassador for athletes



ANI

Abhinav Bindra has been named one of nine IOC mental health ambassadors, the IOC announced on Friday. Bindra had been part of the working group since its inception a few years back. Mental Health Ambassadors are tasked with breaking stigma, encouraging open conversation and promoting well-being within sport.

# Trump drops ceasefire demand, says Kyiv should make a deal to end war

**Reuters**

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW/KYIV

Ukraine should make a deal to end the war with Russia because "Russia is a very big power, and they're not", U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday, after hosting a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin that failed to yield a ceasefire.

Mr. Trump also agreed with Mr. Putin that negotiators should go straight to a peace settlement, not via a ceasefire as Ukraine and its European allies — until now with U.S. support — have been demanding.

Calling the meeting "timely and extremely useful", Mr. Putin said that Russia respects the U.S.'s position on the conflict, which, he said, Moscow seeks to end peacefully.

## Change of stance

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who spoke to Mr. Trump on the phone after the summit, said he would travel to the U.S. on Monday. Before the summit, Mr. Trump had said he would not be happy unless a ceasefire is agreed upon. However, he later said that a three-way meeting will be scheduled if "all works out" after his talks with Mr. Zelenskyy.

Monday's talks will be held in the White House Oval Office, where Mr. Trump and U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance gave the Ukrainian President a brutal public dressing-down in February, accusing him of ingratitude. Mr. Zelenskyy, who spoke with Mr. Trump on the phone after the summit, said that he supported the idea of a three-way meeting.



**Firm grasp:** U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands at the end of a joint press conference after a U.S.-Russia summit on Ukraine in Alaska on August 15. AFP

## India welcomes 'progress' made to end Ukraine conflict

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday welcomed the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska and appreciated the "progress made" on a path to ending the conflict in Ukraine. Although the meeting ended without any concrete announcement, the cordial nature of the summit could mean some relief for India facing 50% U.S. tariffs on its exports to the U.S., including 25% penalty tariffs for the import of Russian oil.

However, Mr. Trump did not make a categorical statement that these would now be reconsidered.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Presidents' "leadership in the pursuit of peace is highly commendable".



The way forward can only be through diplomacy. The world wants to see an early end to the conflict in Ukraine  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

"The way forward can only be through diplomacy. The world wants to see an early end to the conflict in Ukraine," it said in a statement.

However, the Ministry declined to comment on Mr. Trump's claims that India had stopped being an "oil client" for Russia. Mr. Trump also repeated earlier comments, which India has denied, on his role in mediating the India-Pakistan ceasefire in May this year.

In an interview to U.S.'s

Fox News, Mr. Trump said that he would consider the question of the penalty tariffs on Russian oil in "two or three weeks", possibly indicating the August 27 deadline could pass for India without an implementation of punitive 25% tariffs.

When asked specifically about tariffs on China which imports even more oil than India, Mr. Trump said that "because of what happened today, I think I don't have to think about that now," adding, "I think you know, the meeting [with Putin] went very well".


Indian oil refining PSUs, however, have continued to purchase up to 2 million bpd (barrels per day) of Russian oil, and said that they had no instructions from the government to "buy or not to buy" from Russia.



## 1. Trump-Putin Summit Outcome

- U.S. President **Donald Trump** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin** met in Alaska (Aug 15, 2025).
- Instead of insisting on a **ceasefire**, Trump proposed that **Ukraine should directly negotiate a peace settlement with Russia**, acknowledging Russia's position as a "very big power."
- Putin welcomed the stance, calling it "timely and extremely useful," signaling Moscow's readiness to end the conflict on negotiated terms.

## 2. Ukraine's Response

- Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** spoke with Trump post-summit and agreed to travel to the U.S. for further discussions.
  - Initially, Zelenskyy opposed dropping the ceasefire demand but later indicated willingness to explore a **three-way meeting** if conditions worked out.
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# INDIA bloc considers moving a motion seeking removal of CEC

Leaders say Gyanesh Kumar behaved like 'BJP spokesperson' by accusing Opposition of 'spreading misinformation' during a press conference; there is consensus in the bloc on the issue and it has the numbers to move the motion, says Venugopal

**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he INDIA bloc is considering moving a motion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, seeking his removal. The idea was mooted at the meeting of the Opposition's Parliamentary floor leaders on Monday.

According to sources, the Opposition discussed if it should continue with protests against the Election Commission, especially after the Supreme Court, in an interim order, directed the poll body to publish the details of 65 lakh voters excluded from the draft electoral roll published on August 1 following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in poll-bound Bihar.

The leaders concurred that after the CEC's Sunday press conference, in which he accused the Opposition of "spreading misinforma-



Leaders from INDIA bloc parties protesting in Delhi on Monday against the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. PTI

tion", the protests had to continue. Congress leaders suggested that the Opposition should step up the pressure by moving a motion against Mr. Kumar for making 'politically charged accusations'.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal told *The Hindu* that there was a consensus in the INDIA bloc on the issue and that the Opposition has enough numbers to move the motion.

"He (Mr. Kumar) spoke not like the Chief Election Commissioner but like a BJP politician. In the entire press conference, he did not answer the questions raised by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the other parties. Instead, he ridiculed the Opposition for raising the questions," he said. "Is it the duty of the CEC to indulge in politics?"

Mr. Venugopal flagged the Chief Election Commis-

sioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which provides immunity to the CEC and Election Commissioners for all decisions taken by them in present and the past. He said that one should "read between the lines" why such an immunity was extended.

According to the Act, the CEC can be removed in the same manner and grounds as a Supreme Court judge. Parliament can dismiss the CEC by a motion with two-thirds majority in both the Houses. In order for the motion to be accepted, at least 50 members have to sign in its favour.

Later in the day, the INDIA bloc leaders held a press conference to "rebut" Sunday's presser by the CEC. They flagged that the CEC failed to answer questions on why the SIR was being done in "such a

hurry" when the State elections were three months away.

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ramgopal Yadav said that while the poll body asked Mr. Gandhi to give an affidavit, the SP had submitted affidavits with complaints of around 18,000 voters being removed from the list in 2022. "In the 2022 Uttar Pradesh polls, when Akhilesh Yadav said names of SP supporters have been removed from the voter list, we gave affidavits. But no action has been taken," he said.

Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra said that if the voter list on which the last General Election was conducted was incorrect, the Lok Sabha should be dissolved.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Jha attacked the CEC and said: "Yesterday we were looking for our CEC, we found a new BJP spokesperson."

## 1. Motion Against CEC

- INDIA bloc is considering moving a motion for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Gyanesh Kumar**.
- Triggered after his remarks in a press conference where he accused the Opposition of "spreading misinformation" about electoral rolls.

## 2. Legal Provision

- CEC and Election Commissioners enjoy **protection under the Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.
- Removal of CEC is possible only through a **motion passed with a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament**, similar to the removal of Supreme Court judges.

## 3. Opposition's Stand

- Claims Kumar behaved like a **"BJP spokesperson"** instead of an independent constitutional authority.
- Opposition parties, led by Congress leader **K.C. Venugopal**, argue there is consensus and sufficient numbers to move the motion.

## Voter Roll Issue

Controversy over exclusion of **65,000 voters** in the draft electoral roll in Bihar (Special Intensive Revision).

Allegations of large-scale voter deletions in Uttar Pradesh polls (SP claimed 18,000 voters removed).

## Counterattack on CEC

Opposition accused him of **politically charged remarks** and lack of accountability in addressing concerns about voter disenfranchisement.

Leaders from Congress, SP, Trinamool Congress, RJD, and others criticized him.



### Article 324 (Constitution of India):

Provides for Election Commission of India (ECI) – CEC and other Election Commissioners.

### Removal of CEC:

- Same as a **Supreme Court Judge** – by Parliament with **two-thirds majority in both Houses**.
- Other Election Commissioners can be removed on the recommendation of the CEC.

### Precedent:

- So far, **no CEC has been removed by Parliament**.
- The safeguard exists to ensure independence of the ECI.



**T.N. Seshan (1990–96):** Known for strengthening the authority of ECI and electoral reforms.



**S.Y. Quraishi:** Advocated for state funding of elections.



**2023 Amendment Act:** Changed appointment process of CEC and ECs to a **panel (PM, LoP, and a Union Minister nominated by PM)**, reducing judiciary's earlier role after Supreme Court ruling.



**Current Debate:** Allegations that the Act reduces independence of the ECI.

# How should toll collection practices be reformed?

What has the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament recommended? What was said about FASTags?

**Jagriti Chandra**

## The story so far:

**T**he Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has recommended significant reforms to toll collection practices on national highways, such as calling for an end to the perpetual tolling system. The report was submitted before Parliament on August 12.

## What are the key recommendations?

The PAC headed by Congress MP K.C.Venugopal has advocated for discontinuing or significantly reducing toll charges on national highways once the capital expenditure and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered. The Committee expressed concern that current toll practices allow for indefinite collection regardless of road quality, traffic volume, or user affordability, creating what it termed a “regime of

perpetual tolling”. The panel emphasised that any continuation of toll collection beyond cost recovery should only be permitted with clear justification and approval from a proposed independent oversight authority. It proposed establishing a specialised regulatory authority to ensure transparency and fairness in toll determination, collection, and regulation. The PAC noted that while toll rates currently increase annually by a fixed 3% increment plus partial indexation to the Wholesale Price Index, there exists no institutional mechanism to independently evaluate whether these charges are justified relative to actual operational and maintenance costs or future service requirements. The panel has also insisted that highway users should receive toll reimbursements when construction is in progress and commuters cannot properly utilise the roadways. Regarding FASTags, the panel observed that despite their extensive

implementation, traffic bottlenecks persist on NHs due to malfunctioning scanner readings at collection points, and suggested establishing on-location services for motorists to top up, buy, or exchange FASTags.

## How is toll determined?

Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 empowers the Government to levy fees for services or benefits rendered on national highways while Section 9 empowers the Union government to make rules in this regard. Accordingly, the policy for the collection of user fee is formulated and governed by the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. The levy of user fee is based on the base rates fixed under the NH Fee Rules across the country and is not related to the cost of construction or its recovery.

The rates of fees have been increasing by 3% each year from April 1, 2008. In

order to cover the impact of variable cost of operation and maintenance, 40% of annual increase of WPI is provided. The fee is to be collected by the Union government if a highway is publicly funded or by the concessionaire if it follows any of these models – Build Operate Transfer (BoT), Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) or developed under Infrastructure Investment Trust.

An amendment in 2008 allowed user fees to be collected in perpetuity. So, if the concession period is over, the highway is handed over to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the toll collected will go directly to the Consolidated Fund of India. The toll collection has gone up from ₹1,046 crore in 2005-06 to ₹55,000 crore in the financial year 2023-24. Of this ₹25,000 crore will go to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the remaining to the concessionaire toll plaza.

## How has the Ministry responded?

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledged the Committee's concerns and informed the PAC that it has initiated a comprehensive study with NITI Aayog to revise the user fee determination framework. Ministry representatives indicated that the study's scope has been finalised and will cover parameters such as vehicle operating cost, damage to the highway due to vehicle use as well as user's willingness to pay.

## THE GIST

▼ The PAC headed by Congress MP K. C. Venugopal has advocated for discontinuing or significantly reducing toll charges on national highways once the capital expenditure and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered.

▼ The rates of fees have been increasing by 3% each year from April 1, 2008.

▼ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledged the Committee's concerns and informed the PAC that it has initiated a comprehensive study with NITI Aayog to revise the user fee determination framework.



## 1. Background

- **Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament** submitted report on Aug 12.
  - Called for major reforms in **toll collection practices on national highways**.
  - Focus on ending *perpetual tolling system* and ensuring transparency.
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## 2. Key Recommendations

- **End perpetual tolling:** Toll should not continue once capital expenditure & maintenance expenses are fully recovered.
- **Reduce toll rates:** After recovery, charges should be discontinued or significantly reduced.
- **Independent oversight:** Establish a specialised **regulatory authority** for toll determination, collection & regulation.
- **Transparency:** Ensure fairness in toll charges; prevent arbitrary collection.
- **FASTag reforms:**
  - Fix bottlenecks at scanners.
  - Create on-location services for topping up, buying or exchanging FASTags.

### 3. Legal & Policy Context

- **Section 7, National Highways Act (1956):** Govt can levy fees for services/benefits on NH.
  - **Section 9:** Union Govt may make rules for tolls.
  - **NH Fee Rules (2008):** Base rates fixed; increased annually by **3% + partial WPI indexation**.
  - **2008 Amendment:** Allowed collection of tolls in perpetuity. If concession period ends, highway handed to NHAI, but toll continues → funds go to Consolidated Fund of India.
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### 4. Revenue Impact

- **Current structure:**
  - 28% slab = 11% of GST revenue
  - 12% slab = 5%
  - 5% slab = 7%
  - **Bulk (67%)** from 18% slab
- Toll revenue rose from **₹1,046 crore (2005-06)** → **₹55,000 crore (2023-24)**.
- Of this, ₹25,000 crore goes to Consolidated Fund, rest to concessionaires.

# The complex web of factors behind India's persistent stunting crisis

A host of factors including teenage pregnancies, poor maternal and child nutrition, and lack of sanitation perpetuates stunting

## DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

In 2018, when POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched, the government had set a target to reduce stunting among children in India by at least 2% points each year. A stunted child is too short for his or her age as a result of chronic or recurrent malnutrition.

In 2016, 38.4% of children under five were stunted in India. As per this plan, the share should have fallen to 26.4% by 2022. During the launch, however, the government had set an even more ambitious target – to bring stunting down to 25% by 2022 – a goal it called 'Mission 25 by 2022'. Seven years after the launch, Poshan Tracker data for June 2025 showed that 37% of children under five in India were stunted – barely 1% point lower than in 2016 (Chart 1).

"The fact that the needle has barely moved points to deeper systemic issues," says Dr. Vandana Prasad, a community paediatrician and former member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. She calls persistent stunting "the tip of the iceberg of deprivation".

Research shows that stunting is linked to a host of factors – from teenage pregnancies and poor diets of both the mother and the child to anaemia during pregnancy and inadequate breastfeeding in the early years (Table 3). Evidence also points to associations with caesarean deliveries (C-section), children living in unsanitary conditions, and drinking unsafe water. Data further shows a strong link between stunting and the mother's level of education.

"Stunting is often visible right at the time of birth. Nearly half of India's stunted children are already small when they are born," says Dr. Prasad, underscoring how deeply it is tied to maternal health.

Teen mothers are more likely to give birth to babies who struggle to

grow. Experts say this is because a woman's body is not ready for pregnancy at such a young age. Adolescent mothers are also less likely to be able to adequately care for their child after birth. Despite legal restrictions, child marriages have not been eradicated in India. Consequently, as of 2019-21, close to 7% of women aged 15-19 had begun childbearing in India.

Education plays a key role in breaking the cycle of stunting. Data from 2019-21 shows that nearly 46% of children born to mothers with no schooling were stunted, compared to only 26% of children whose mothers had 12 or more years of schooling. Mothers with higher levels of education are far more likely to access antenatal care, follow better nutrition practices, and delay early pregnancies, all of which improve child health outcomes.

C-sections have increased in India from 9% in 2005-06 to over 22% in 2021. While C-sections are not a direct cause of stunting, they can disrupt early breastfeeding practices. Babies delivered surgically often miss out on immediate breastfeeding, especially the first milk or colostrum, which contains all the nutrients an infant needs. "C-sections can directly affect the woman's ability to initiate breastfeeding, because she herself is sick or may be isolated from the baby, who has been taken away to the SNCU (special newborn care units) or NICU (neonatal intensive care unit)," says Dr. Prasad.

While India has a strong tradition of breastfeeding, only 64% of babies under the age of six months are exclusively breastfed. Here, class divides play a serious role. "A teacher in a government school may get six months' maternity leave to breastfeed. But a domestic worker is back to work within two weeks. How will she feed her child every two hours as required," Dr. Prasad asks.

The quality of diet for both the mother and child is another key factor linked to stunting. Carbohy-

drate-heavy meals dominate most Indian households, especially among the poor. "In some Adivasi communities I have worked in, people eat mounds of rice because that is all they have access to. People eat dal once a week or even once a month," says Dr. Prasad.

Only around 11% of Indian children under two years met the standard for a minimum acceptable diet in India, as of 2019-21. The minimum acceptable diet measures the share of children aged 6-23 months who receive both adequate dietary diversity and meal frequency (or, for non-breastfed children, at least two milk feeds along with diverse and frequent meals). While some States have introduced eggs in Anganwadi meals, access to protein and micronutrient-rich foods is limited.

Anaemia among mothers, closely tied to women's nutrition, is another reason for stunting among children. In 2019-21, in India, nearly 57% of women aged 15-49 and 67% of children under the age of five were anaemic.

Sanitation deepens the disadvantage. Children exposed to open defecation and unsafe water are far more vulnerable to infections that sap their nutrition and stunt their growth. Open defecation, in particular, contaminates groundwater, which enters drinking supplies. This disrupts gut health by damaging the balance of good bacteria needed to absorb food. According to 2019-21 data, 19% of Indian households still practiced open defecation. Dr. Prasad explains, "There is a vicious cycle between infection and malnutrition. A malnourished child falls sick more often. When sick, the child eats less and absorbs less, which pushes the child further into malnourishment."

The consequences stretch far beyond height. "Stunting has a correlation with poverty, less education, less employability, and weaker cognitive skills," she says. "It locks families into an intergenerational cycle of deprivation."

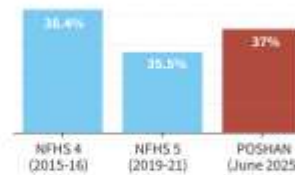
## Short-changed

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Survey and the POSHAN tracker for June 2025



Chart 1

The share of children aged below five years who were stunted in India across years



Scan the QR code to listen to Dr. Vandana Prasad's full interview

Chart 2: State-wise share of children aged below five years who were stunted as of June 2025. Data were analysed only for larger States

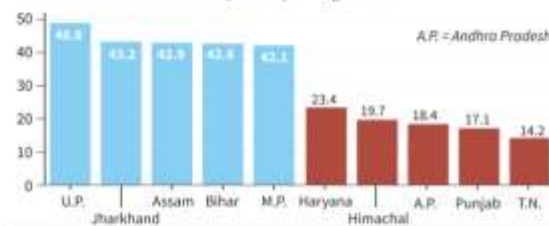


Table 3: Factors linked to stunting and their prevalence according to NFHS 5 (2019-21). Figures are in % and are average figures for India

Factors linked to stunting	NFHS 5 (2019-21) in %
Teenage pregnancy (women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing)	6.8
Anaemia in children aged 6 to 59 months	67.1
Anaemia in mothers aged 15-49 years	57
Caesarean deliveries	22
Exclusive breastfeeding (for first 6 months)	64
Children (6-23 months) with a minimum acceptable diet	11
Share of households with no toilet facility	19



## **Stunting in India:**

**POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018):** Target to reduce stunting among children under 5 by 2% annually.

**NFHS-4 (2015-16):**  
38.4% of children under 5 stunted.

**NFHS-5 (2019-21):**  
Reduced to 35.5%.

**POSHAN Tracker (June 2025):** Still high at 37%.

**Global Goal (SDG 2.2):**  
End malnutrition by 2030, India still lagging.

## Factors Behind Stunting

### 1. Teenage Pregnancies

- Adolescent mothers → biologically less capable of supporting fetal growth.
- Early marriages persist despite laws.
- NFHS-5: **6.8% teenage pregnancy rate.**
- Poor maternal nutrition affects birth weight and infant health.

### 2. Maternal Health & Nutrition

- **Anaemia in mothers (15–49 years):** ~57% prevalence (NFHS-5).
- Leads to underweight babies and impaired growth.
- Inadequate antenatal care, low access to healthcare, and early pregnancies compound the problem.

### 3. Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices


- Exclusive breastfeeding not followed widely.
- Early cessation of breastfeeding, delayed complementary feeding.
- Only 11% of children under 2 receive a “minimum acceptable diet”.



## 4. Sanitation & Water

- Poor sanitation → diarrhoea & infections → nutrient loss.
- 19% households without toilet facilities (NFHS-5).
- Environmental enteropathy (gut infections from poor hygiene) prevents absorption of nutrients.

## 5. Poverty & Food Insecurity

- Reliance on calorie-heavy but nutrient-poor diets.
  - Example: In some areas, diet consists mainly of rice/pooled food.
  - Access to eggs, milk, pulses still limited despite government schemes.
- 
- 



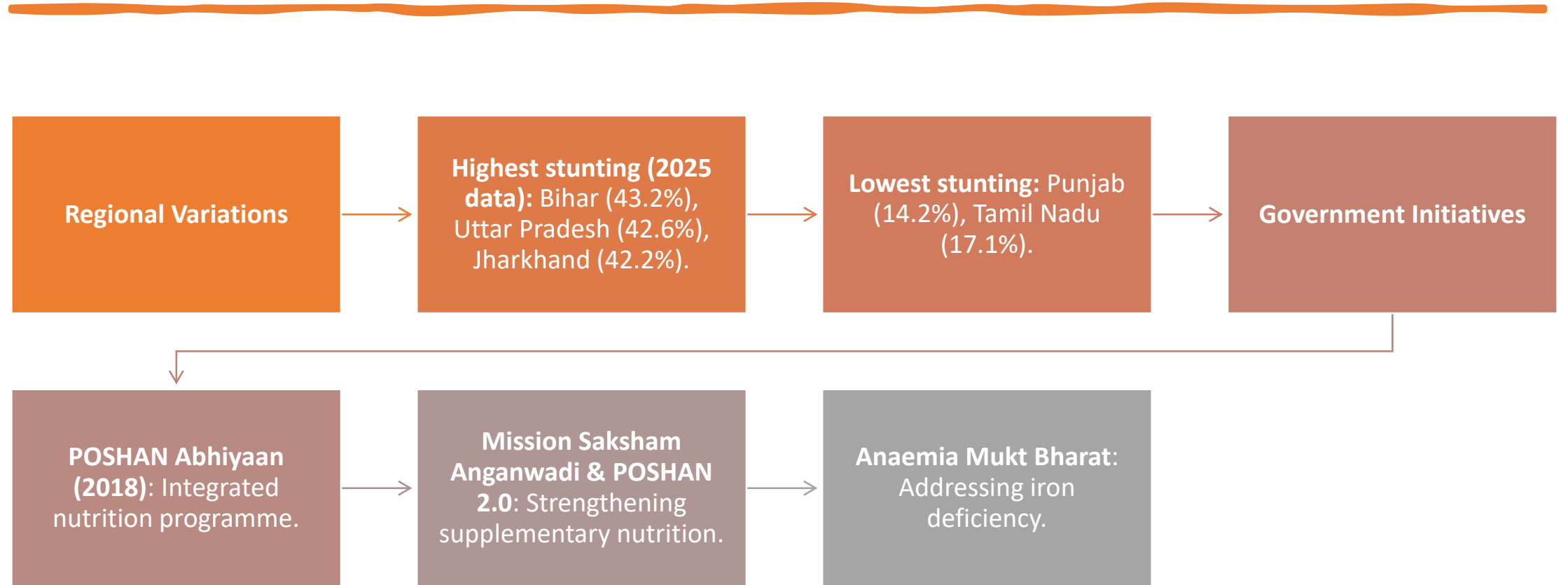
**Statistical Data  
(NFHS-5, 2019-21)**

**46%** of children  
born to mothers  
with no schooling  
were stunted.

**Children with  
anaemic mothers:  
67% stunted.**

**Cesarean deliveries:**  
Associated with  
poorer feeding  
practices.

**Minimum  
acceptable diet:**  
Only 11% coverage.



## Global Comparison:

India's stunting prevalence (~37%) much higher than global average (~22%).

Comparable to Sub-Saharan Africa levels despite being a major food producer.

**Economic Angle:** Stunting reduces productivity & GDP (World Bank estimates: **2–3% GDP loss** due to malnutrition).

**UNICEF Concept:** “Triple burden of malnutrition” – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, obesity. India faces the first two heavily.



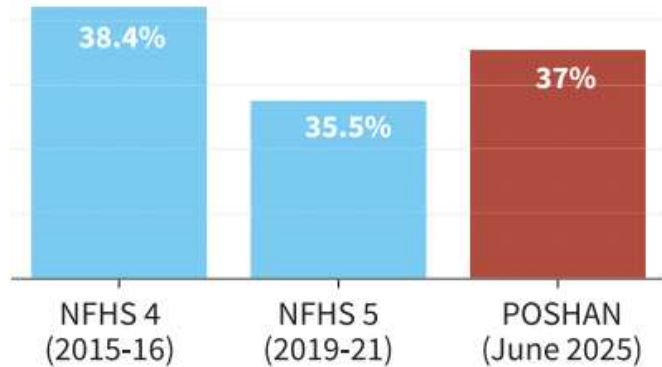
# Short-changed

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Survey and the POSHAN tracker for June 2025



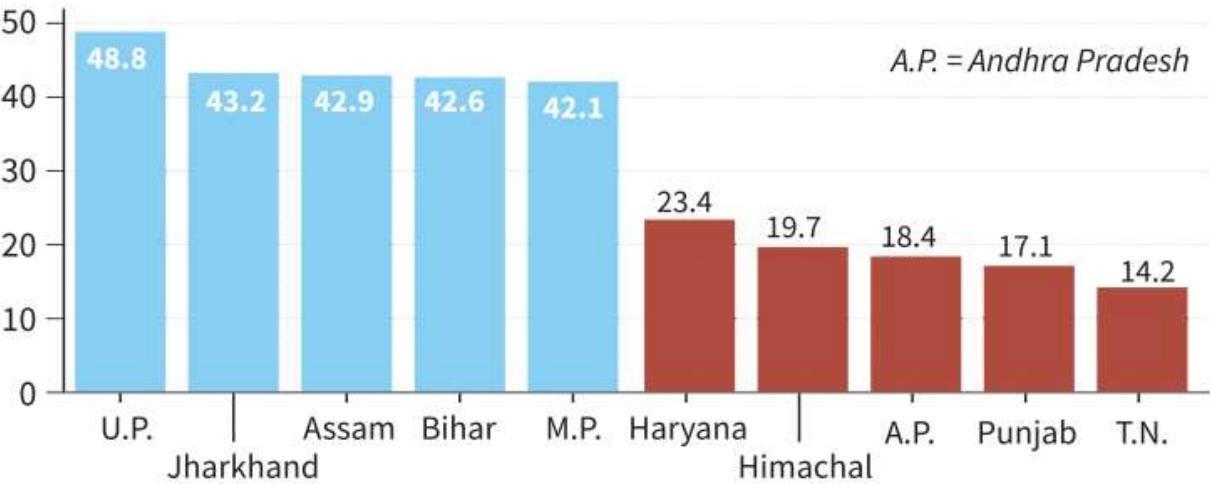
## Chart 1

The share of children aged below five years who were stunted in India across years



Scan the QR code to listen to Dr. Vandana Prasad's full interview

**Chart 2:** State-wise share of children aged below five years who were stunted as of June 2025. Data were analysed only for larger States



**Table 3:** Factors linked to stunting and their prevalence according to NFHS 5 (2019-21). Figures are in % and are average figures for India

Factors linked to stunting	NFHS 5 (2019-21) in %
Teenage pregnancy (women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing)	6.8
Anaemia in children aged 6 to 59 months	67.1
Anaemia in mothers aged 15-49 years	57
Caesarean deliveries	22
Exclusive breastfeeding (for first 6 months)	64
Children (6-23 months) with a minimum acceptable diet	11
Share of households with no toilet facility	19



# Bills to oust arrested Ministers trigger chaos

The Bills were referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 LS and 10 RS members

The Union government says the pieces of legislation are intended to bring 'morality back into politics'

Amit Shah and Venugopal engage in sharp exchange over the former's arrest in 2010

**Sandeep Phukan**  
**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

Opposition and ruling party MPs exchanged barbs in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday over the government's claim of bringing in political morality through three new Bills allowing the removal of elected representatives arrested on serious criminal charges.

As the Bills were introduced, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader K.C. Venugopal engaged in a sharp spat over Mr. Shah's 2010 arrest while he was Home Minister of Gujarat.

Trinamool Congress MPs escalated their protest by tearing copies of the proposed legislation in front of Mr. Shah's seat, resulting in a brief jostle between Opposition and rul-

ing party MPs. BJP members, including Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Ravneet Singh Bittu, stepped in to shield Mr. Shah, while the Trinamool accused the Ministers of "pushing and shoving" women MPs.

As the Home Minister introduced the three Bills, Opposition MPs shouted that they were "unconstitutional and anti-federal". A resolution was passed by a voice vote to refer them to a Joint Committee of Parliament that will have 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. The Committee has been mandated to submit its report to the House by the Winter Session.

The three Bills are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill,

### Bills in focus

The three Bills tabled by the Home Minister propose the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers under certain conditions



**1** Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025

**2** Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025

**3** Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Conditions for removal:	Removal authority:	Additional provision:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges</li><li>Facing charges of offences punishable with imprisonment of five years or more</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The President (for PM and Union Ministers)</li><li>Governors (for CMs and State Ministers)</li><li>Lieutenant-Governors (for Ministers in Union Territories)</li></ul>	The legislation allows for the possibility of reappointment once the detained Minister or Chief Minister is released

2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The Bills propose that any Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, or Ministers who are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days without obtaining bail, on charges of committing an offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more, shall be removed from office by the

31st day. For example, the Prime Minister in this situation can be removed by the President, or a Chief Minister by the Governor of the State, if they do not resign on their own.

**'Return to medieval era'** Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, speaking at an event to felicitate the joint Opposition Vice-Presidential can-

didate, said the Bills would take the country back to "medieval times when the King could remove anybody at will".

He explained how the proposed legislation could be used. "He tells ED to put a case and a democratically elected person is wiped out within 30 days," Mr. Gandhi said.

As soon as the Bills were tabled in the Lok Sabha at

2:00 p.m., the House witnessed uproarious scenes as Opposition members trooped into the well, raising slogans. Opposition MPs, including the AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress MPs Manish Tewari and Mr. Venugopal, opposed the introduction of the Bills, saying that they were against the Constitution and federalism.

## Political morality

"Leaders of the BJP are saying that this Bill is to bring morality into politics. Can I ask the Home Minister a question? When he was the Home Minister of Gujarat, he was arrested. Did he uphold morality at that time?" Mr. Venugopal asked.

Mr. Shah promptly responded by accusing the then-Congress government at the Centre of levelling false allegations.

"I want to set the record straight. Fake allegations were levelled against me, but despite that, I abided by morality and ethics and not only resigned but did not accept any constitutional post until I was cleared of all charges," the Home Minister said.

"The Constitution is being amended to turn this country into a police state," warned Mr. Owaisi.

"The Bill opens the door for political misuse," said Mr. Tewari.

Accusing the government of bringing the Bills in "undue haste", Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premchandran said, "These Bills are not being introduced as per the procedures of the House... They have not even been circulated to members."

**RAHUL SLAMS BILLS**  
» PAGE 5



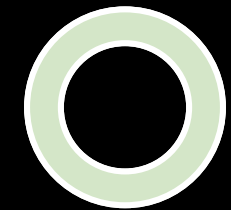
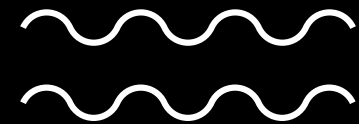
- The government has introduced **three new Bills** allowing the removal of elected representatives (PM, CMs, Ministers) arrested on **serious criminal charges**.
- **Bills introduced:**
  1. **Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025**
  2. **Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025**
  3. **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025**
- **Conditions for removal:**
  - If arrested & detained for **30 consecutive days** on serious criminal charges.
  - If facing charges punishable with **imprisonment of 5 years or more**.
- **Removal authority:**
  - **President** (for PM & Union Ministers)
  - **Governors** (for CMs & State Ministers)
  - **Lt. Governors** (for Union Territories Ministers)
- Opposition (Congress, Trinamool, AIMIM, RSP, etc.) called the Bills **unconstitutional & anti-federal**.
- The Bills were referred to a **Joint Committee of Parliament** (21 Lok Sabha + 10 Rajya Sabha MPs).

**Article 75(2):** PM and Ministers hold office "during the pleasure of the President." Traditionally, the PM resigns if arrested, but no **automatic removal provision** exists.

**Article 164(1B):** Ministers disqualified if defecting (anti-defection law), but **not for criminal cases unless convicted**.

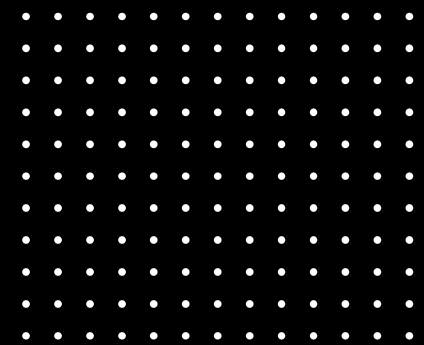
**Rationale:** Government claims the Bills bring "morality back to politics."

**Criticism:** Opposition alleges misuse, warning this could be weaponised politically.



- **SC Judgments:**

- *Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013)* → MPs/MLAs convicted for 2+ years are **immediately disqualified**.
- *Public Interest Foundation v. Union of India (2018)* → Court asked Parliament to frame laws to curb criminalization.





# India successfully test-fires Agni-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said the launch validated all operational and technical parameters and was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. "The intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from Chandipur on August 20. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters," the Ministry said.

The missile tested on Wednesday was a variant of Agni-5, India's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of 5,000 km. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the system has been developed keeping in view the country's security requirements.

## **Previous trial**

The previous trial of Agni-5 was conducted on March 11, 2024, when the DRDO successfully tested the missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle technology, allowing it to strike multiple targets with a single launch.



The intermediate-range Agni-5 missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. FILE PHOTO

**Event:** India successfully test-fired its **Agni-5** intermediate-range ballistic missile

**Date & Place:** August 20, 2025, from **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha**

**Range:** 5,000 km (classified as an **ICBM**)

**Developer:** DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)

**Operational Control:** Strategic Forces Command

**Purpose:** Validate all operational & technical parameters

## Strategic Significance

### 1. Strengthening Nuclear Deterrence

- Extends India's strike capability to cover entire Asia (including China), parts of Europe & Africa.
- Enhances India's **credible minimum deterrence posture** under its nuclear doctrine.

### 2. Technological Edge

- MIRV capability places India among few nations (USA, Russia, China) with this advanced technology.
- Validates India's progress towards a **modernized strategic arsenal**.

### 3. Geopolitical Message

- Conducted amid global security challenges (U.S.-China competition, Russia-Ukraine war, Indo-Pacific tensions).
- Reinforces India's image as a responsible nuclear power capable of safeguarding its sovereignty.



- **Agni Missile Series:**
  - Agni-I (700–1,200 km), Agni-II (2,000 km), Agni-III (3,500 km), Agni-IV (4,000 km), **Agni-V (5,000 km).**
  - **Agni-P:** Next-gen canisterized system.
- **Part of India's Nuclear Triad:** Complements **Arihant-class submarines** and **air-delivered nuclear weapons.**
- **India's No First Use (NFU) Doctrine:** Agni-5 strengthens deterrence while upholding NFU.



# Push for transparency: What SC's order on Bihar SIR says

APURVA VISHWANATH  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday issued an interim order directing the Election Commission of India (ECI) to make available online a searchable list of approximately 65 lakh voter names omitted from the draft electoral roll for Bihar, along with reasons for deletion, such as death, migration, and duplication.

The interim order pushes for greater transparency in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar, and partially addresses the contentious issue of including Aadhaar as a valid proof of identity and residence in the process.

Here's a breakdown of the order, and its impact on the SIR.

## Challenge to SIR

With the state set to head to polls in November, the ECI announced the Bihar SIR

late in June. It said that demographic changes in the last 20 years meant that current electoral rolls contained many "repeated entries", and "the situation [warranted] an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment as an elector".

Soon after this announcement, multiple petitioners challenged the SIR on both substantive and procedural grounds.

The substantive grounds included questions on the ECI's powers to conduct such an exercise. The procedural grounds pertained to the modalities of conducting the SIR, including whether the 11 documents notified by the ECI to prove "citizenship" were valid; whether the 2003 voter list could be a valid cut-off date for inclusion; and whether Aadhaar could be excluded as a valid proof of identity for inclusion in the voters' list.

These issues are yet to be determined by the apex court. However, in oral observations, the SC has indicated that ECI has the power to conduct such an exercise. This can also be



The Election Commission is currently looking at requests for corrections.

X/@CEOBIhar

inferred from the fact that the SC has allowed the SIR to continue.

"You (ECI) are exercising the power of intensive survey as a preliminary enquiry into every voter identity. The powers [to do so] are *prima facie* traceable, so we do not wish to interdict...but your manner has to be reasonable, has to give certain comfort to citizens," Justice Joydalya Bagchi, one of the two judges hearing the case, said.

This essentially leaves the procedural as-

pects of conducting the SIR still open for adjudication.

## SC's interim order

The ECI had, in its affidavit, told the SC that it was not required by law to publish a separate list of electors removed from the draft electoral rolls or to provide reasons for their non-inclusion. This was in opposition to a plea by the Association for Democratic Reforms seeking the release of names and

details of the 65 lakh electors who did not make it to the draft published on August 1.

The ECI, in court, cited apprehensions that political parties might aggregate the data and that the publication could be a violation of the fundamental right to privacy.

The SC has, however, pushed back on this argument, underlining a citizen's fundamental right to know why he or she has been deleted from the voter list. The court has directed the ECI to publish lists in which one can search by entering the EPIC number whether a voter has been deleted, and the reasons for such deletion.

The lists are required to be booth-wise, and also have to be displayed on the notice board of respective Panchayat Bhavans and offices of the Block Development Officer or Panchayat Officers.

This essentially enables individuals and political parties to check if a voter from the constituency has been removed from the rolls, and whether this exclusion is justified. As per the ECI, 7.24 crore of the 7.90 crore total voters have filled their forms in the SIR

process. Of the 65 lakh individuals who have not been included in the draft rolls, 22 lakh are dead, the ECI said.

## Recourse after deletion

The ECI had said that those whose names have not been included in the draft roll can submit Form 6, the ECI's form for registration of new electors, by September 1. Incidentally, Form 6 allows Aadhaar, both as proof of identity and residence for enrolment. The Electoral Registration Officer verifies the information submitted in Form 6, and enrolls a new voter.

In its interim order, the SC directed that "aggrieved persons may submit their claims along with a copy of their Aadhaar Card".

That said, whether this means that Aadhaar can be a valid document to be included as a voter again is still unclear. In its oral observations, the court said that "these are issues for the next stage".

The court will hear the case again on August 22, and the issue of how to handle unfair exclusions is likely to be brought up then.

EXPLAINED  
LAW

## Supreme Court's Interim Order (August 14, 2025)

- Directed **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to publish online a **searchable list of ~65 lakh deleted voter names** from Bihar's draft electoral roll.
  - Reasons for deletion (death, migration, duplication) must be provided.
  - Linked to ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** process in Bihar.
- 

## Legal & Procedural Aspects

- **Challenge to SIR:** Petitioners argued ECI exceeded powers, questioned validity of "citizenship" requirement & Aadhaar inclusion as proof.
- **SC Observation:** ECI has power to conduct SIR but must act **reasonably & transparently**, ensuring citizens' comfort.
- **Privacy Concerns:** ECI feared online publication could aggregate data & violate privacy. Court balanced with transparency demand.



# Civil and criminal cases: what they are, how they differ

VINEET BHALLA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

IN THE last two weeks, the Supreme Court has twice intervened in cases in which High Courts allowed criminal proceedings to continue in what were essentially civil disputes.

On Wednesday, a Bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan set aside a Rajasthan HC order that had denied pre-arrest bail to a couple in a case involving an unpaid sum for a plywood consignment. "There is no question of criminal breach of trust once there is a sale transaction. This is a settled position of law," Justice Pardiwala had said.

On August 4, the same Bench stripped a judge of the Allahabad HC of his criminal roster for allowing criminal proceedings in a case of an unpaid business transaction. The apex court had called the HC's reasoning "shocking" and a "mockery of justice". After

the Chief Justice of India intervened, the Bench on August 8 recalled its directive that the Allahabad HC judge should never be assigned a criminal case.

## Civil & criminal law

Civil and criminal law differ in terms of their purpose, parties involved, and procedure.

Civil law is designed to resolve disputes between private individuals or organisations. Civil cases, known as suits, typically involve disagreements over rights and duties of the parties to the case towards each other. The goal is not to punish but to provide a remedy, usually in the form of monetary compensation (called damages) or a specific action ordered by the court to a party to do or not to do something (called an injunction).

Examples of civil cases include property disputes, contract breaches, family law matters like divorce and child custody, and cases for recovery of money. In a civil suit, the per-

son who files the case is called the plaintiff, and the person against whom it is filed is the defendant.

Criminal law deals with acts that are considered offences against the state or society as a whole. The objective is to punish the offender and deter others from committing similar crimes. The state, represented by a prosecutor, initiates criminal proceedings against the accused. If found guilty, the accused can face penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment and even death. Offences like theft, cheating, assault, and murder fall under criminal law.

A key distinction between civil and criminal cases is with regard to the burden of proof. In a civil case, the plaintiff must prove their case on a "preponderance of probabilities", meaning their version of events is more likely to be true than the defendant's. In a

criminal case, the prosecution has the much higher burden of proving the guilt of the accused "beyond a reasonable doubt". This higher standard reflects the serious consequences of criminal conviction, which can involve the loss of liberty.

Some actions can give rise to both civil and criminal proceedings. For instance, in the two aforementioned cases before the SC, it was alleged that both a breach of contract, which is a civil wrong, and cheating and breach of trust, both criminal offences, had occurred.

## Length of proceedings

A common perception — one that was noted by the Allahabad HC judge in his later-overruled order — is that civil proceedings are more time-consuming than criminal trials. *Prima facie*, data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for district courts across

India support this notion. As of August 14, 2025, 70.17% of criminal trials were disposed of within a year, while only 37.91% of civil suits were resolved in the same timeframe.

The nature of both kinds of cases has a role to play in civil cases taking longer, according to Surya Prakash B S, program director at DAKSH, a think tank focused on law and justice system reforms.

"In criminal cases, there is life and liberty involved," he told *The Indian Express*, suggesting a greater sense of urgency. In contrast, "in civil matters, parties may drag proceedings in the hope of arriving at an out-of-court settlement". However, Prakash cautioned against drawing simple conclusions from such data.

Shreya Tripathy, a senior resident fellow at the legal policy think tank Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy pointed out the difficulty in tracking cases through the system. "A case which might show as disposed for a district

court could very well end up being appealed against in the High Court, where it will be shown as a separate, pending case," she told *The Indian Express*. This makes it hard to determine the total time taken from filing to final resolution, she said.

Data from the NJDG also show variations depending on the specific type of case. For instance, while civil suits take an average of 4.91 years for disposal, execution petitions, filed to enforce a court order in a civil case, take about 3.97 years to conclude.

Bail applications in criminal cases are decided in about 6.12 months on average. However, criminal sessions court cases involving allegations of serious criminal offences take an average of 4.65 years, which is comparable to the time taken for civil suits.

Magisterial criminal cases, involving lighter criminal offence punishable by not more than three years' imprisonment, last 2.45 years on average.

EXPLAINED  
LAW



Supreme Court recently intervened in two cases where High Courts allowed criminal proceedings in essentially civil disputes.

Example: Rajasthan HC case (plywood consignment) – SC said breach of contract is **civil wrong**, not criminal.

Example: Allahabad HC case – SC said a criminal case should not be assigned in a business transaction issue.

## 2. Difference between Civil and Criminal Law

### Civil Law

- Deals with disputes between individuals/organisations.
- Purpose: **remedy, not punishment.**
- Relief: usually **monetary compensation (damages)** or injunction (specific action/order).
- Parties: Plaintiff vs Defendant.

### Criminal Law

- Deals with **offences against state/society.**
- Purpose: **punish offender, deter others.**
- Initiated by State Prosecutor.
- Relief: Imprisonment, fines, or even death penalty.



### 3. Burden of Proof

**Civil cases:**  
“Preponderance of probabilities” → plaintiff must show their version is more likely.

**Criminal cases:** “Beyond reasonable doubt” → higher standard since liberty is at stake.

### 4. Overlap

Some actions can give rise to both civil & criminal proceedings.

Example: breach of contract (civil) + cheating/breach of trust (criminal).

• **NJDG data (as of Aug 14, 2025):**

- 70.17% of criminal trials disposed within a year.
- Only 37.91% of civil suits resolved in same period.

• **Average disposal time:**

- Civil suits: **4.91 years.**
- Execution petitions: **3.97 years.**
- Bail in criminal cases: **6.12 months.**
- Criminal trials (serious offences): **4.65 years.**
- Magisterial trials (minor offences): **2.45 years.**



Thank you 😊

