



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUND



- It was **launched in 2008**.
- It is a **multilateral climate fund** that enables climate action in over 70 low and middle income countries.

Purpose: The purpose of CIF is to finance comprehensive measures for **climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing and emerging economies**.

- CIF deploys highly concessional finance to empower **transformations in clean technology**, energy access, climate resilience, nature-based solutions, and other areas.
- **CIF comprises two funds:** the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF).
- It is the only climate fund **working exclusively through six AAA-rated multilateral development banks (MDBs)** namely;
 - Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank International Finance Corporation and World Bank

Governance: The **Clean Technology Fund (CTF) Trust Fund Committee** is the decision-making body responsible for determining and overseeing the operations and activities of the fund.

- In 2024, CIF became the first multilateral climate fund to **list bonds on the capital markets**, with the **CIF Capital Markets Mechanism (CCMM)**.

Secretariat: The CIF Secretariat is hosted by the **World Bank**.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

THE RISKS BEHIND DIGITAL GOLD: SEBI'S WARNING

- Digital gold enables investors to **buy, sell, and store gold electronically** without physically holding it.
- Its price is linked to physical gold and **transactions are recorded using blockchain technology.**
- It offers easy access, low entry amounts, and no storage hassles, allowing quick liquidation or conversion into coins, bars, or jewellery when needed.
- The recent 59% surge in gold prices, with MCX spot gold rising from ₹76,577 to ₹1.22 lakh per 10 gm in a year, has significantly boosted investor interest in digital and e-gold products.

Why SEBI Issued a Caution on Digital Gold Investments?

- SEBI noted that many online platforms are promoting digital and e-gold products as easy, convenient alternatives to physical gold.
- The regulator clarified that **these products are not recognised as securities and do not fall under its regulatory framework** or commodity derivatives laws.
- Since digital gold remains unregulated, investors lack legal protection or oversight, making such investments risky and potentially misleading.

Why Digital Gold Is Considered Risky for Investors

- SEBI warned that digital gold operates outside any regulatory oversight, leaving investors without legal protection or recourse under securities market laws.
- These products carry counterparty and operational risks, meaning investors could lose money if the platform defaults.
- Unlike gold ETFs or commodity derivatives, digital gold doesn't require demat accounts or margin deposits, making it easy to access but riskier.
- Offered widely by jewellers and online platforms, digital gold's popularity—amplified by social media marketing—has grown rapidly, prompting Sebi's caution against its unregulated and high-risk nature.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

Regulated Gold Investment as an Option

- Experts recommend that investors avoid unregulated digital gold and instead choose Sebi-regulated products to ensure safety and transparency.
 - Sebi allows **gold investments through Gold ETFs, exchange-traded commodity derivatives, Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** — all of which are traded on regulated exchanges like MCX and NSE under strict risk management and margin frameworks.
 - These regulated avenues, along with **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)**, offer secure trading, transparent pricing, and clearing corporation guarantees, significantly reducing counterparty and operational risks compared to unregulated digital gold platforms.
-

SUPREME COURT—CENTRE RIFT OVER TRIBUNALS

- Tribunals are judicial or quasi-judicial bodies created to handle specific types of disputes that require expertise or faster resolution.
- Their main goals are to reduce the burden on regular courts and to bring technical expertise in areas such as taxation, administration, and corporate law.
- **Judicial Independence and Supreme Court's Directives**
 - The Supreme Court has emphasised that **tribunals must enjoy the same independence from the executive as the judiciary**.
 - The Court recommended that administrative control over tribunals be placed under the Law Ministry, not the ministries they adjudicate against, and later proposed an independent National Tribunals Commission.
 - These reforms, however, have not been implemented.
- **Constitutional Basis of Tribunals**
 - Tribunals were formally established through the **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)**, which introduced **Articles 323A and 323B**:
 - **Article 323A**: Allows Parliament to create **administrative tribunals** for public service matters.

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

- **Article 323B:** Allows Parliament and state legislatures to create tribunals on subjects like **taxation, land reforms, and labour**.
 - In **2010**, the Supreme Court clarified that tribunals could also be formed on **other subjects under the Seventh Schedule**.

Tribunals Reforms Act Faces Challenge Over Judicial Independence

- The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, has been challenged by the Madras Bar Association (MBA) for allegedly undermining judicial independence and violating the separation of powers.
- Tribunals, which handle specialised cases in areas like taxation, corporate law, and administration, have been affected nationwide by the ongoing case.
- The MBA argued that the Act reintroduced provisions—such as a four-year term for tribunal members and a minimum appointment age of 50—that were part of an earlier ordinance struck down by the Supreme Court in July 2021.
- By re-enacting the same provisions without addressing the legal flaws identified earlier, the petitioners claim Parliament attempted to override a judicial verdict, amounting to “legislative overruling” and weakening the judiciary’s autonomy.

Key Arguments in the Tribunal Reforms Case

- The Madras Bar Association (MBA) argued that the four-year tenure for tribunal members makes them vulnerable to government pressure, as they might act cautiously to secure reappointment.
 - They also said the minimum age limit of 50 years unfairly excludes younger, capable lawyers, even though individuals can become High Court judges at a younger age.
 - **Government’s Defence: Experience and Policy Autonomy**
 - The Union government defended the provisions, saying the age limit ensures sufficient experience, and the four-year term with reappointment offers enough job security. It argued that the Act represents a policy decision within Parliament’s authority, and that by striking down these rules, the judiciary would overstep its powers and violate the principle of separation of powers.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

INDIA-BHUTAN RELATIONS - STRENGTHENING TIMELESS TIES

- The Prime Minister of India's **two-day state visit to Bhutan** marks a momentous occasion — the 70th birthday celebrations of the Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck (K4), father of the current monarch King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.
- The **visit reaffirms the India-Bhutan special partnership**, rooted in mutual trust, shared spiritual heritage, and developmental cooperation under **India's Neighbourhood First Policy**.

India-Bhutan Relations - Historical Depth and Enduring Friendship:

- The Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, ascended the throne in 1972 at age 16, continuing his father's policy of **close ties with India**.
- Appointed Chairman of Bhutan's Planning Commission (1971), he **coordinated the first Five-Year Plans** modeled on India's planning framework.
- Pegged Bhutan's currency (Ngultrum) to the Indian Rupee at a 1:1 rate (1974), ensuring **stable bilateral trade and financial integration**.
- **Diplomatic and global outreach:**
 - Expanded Bhutan's diplomatic footprint while keeping India informed — joining the **UN (1971) and SAARC (1985)** as a founding member.
 - Initiated border talks with **China (1984)** in consultation with Indian leadership, reflecting **strategic transparency and coordination**.
- **Hydropower cooperation - The economic backbone:**
 - Laid the foundation for Bhutan's hydropower partnership with India — the **Chukha (336 MW), Kurichhu (60 MW), and Tala (1,020 MW)** projects.
 - These projects, built on a **grant-loan model (60:40)**, became the bedrock of **Bhutan's export revenue and India's clean energy import**.
- **Security cooperation:**
 - Spearheaded **Operation All Clear (2003)** with Indian support to eliminate insurgent camps of ULFA, NDFB, and KLO from Bhutanese soil.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

- Strengthened **defence and border cooperation**, marking a milestone in regional security synergy.
- **Democratic transition and treaty modernisation:**
 - Abdicated the throne in 2006, paving the way for Bhutan's **democratic transformation (2008)**.
 - Oversaw the **India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty (2007)**, replacing the **1949** provision that Bhutan would be "guided by India" with mutual cooperation and sovereign equality.

Way Forward to Further Strengthen India-Bhutan Relations:

- **Deepening connectivity:** Fast-track the Gelephu-Samtse rail links and border infrastructure to enhance trade and mobility.
- **Energy diversification:** Expand cooperation in solar, hydro, and green hydrogen under the **India-Bhutan Energy Compact**.
- **Digital integration:** Implement **UPI** integration and promote **digital public infrastructure** in Bhutan.
- **Regional stability:** Maintain **coordinated security frameworks** against trans-border threats.
- **Cultural diplomacy:** Use shared Buddhist heritage to promote **people-to-people connect** and **regional soft power**.

Conclusion:

- The Indian PM's **visit** to Bhutan not only commemorates the visionary leadership of K4 but also **rejuvenates the multidimensional India-Bhutan partnership**.
 - From hydropower and connectivity to innovation and spiritual bonds, the relationship **epitomises India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies**.
 - As both nations embrace new technological and developmental frontiers, their enduring friendship continues to stand as a **model of mutual trust, respect, and shared prosperity in South Asia**.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

THE INFIRMITIES IN THE SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR) OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, empowered under **Article 324 of the Constitution**, bears the crucial duty of ensuring **free, fair, and credible elections**.
- However, the recent **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls ordered by the ECI in **twelve States and Union Territories**, including **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal**, has **triggered strong protests** and even **legal challenges** before the **Supreme Court of India**.
- Conducted only **months before key Assembly elections**, the SIR has raised **serious questions about timing, legality, and voter citizenship verification**.
- This controversy highlights **deeper constitutional tensions** between administrative discretion and democratic safeguards.

The Context and Nature of the SIR

- The **SIR** represents a **comprehensive, door-to-door revision** of electoral rolls involving **enumeration, verification, and adjudication of claims and objections**.
- The **ECI justified** this move by citing **demographic changes** caused by **urbanisation, migration, and mortality** since the last SIR in **2002–03**.
- However, the **Opposition and State governments** criticised the **haste and timing** of the exercise, noting that a **summary revision** had already been completed in **2024**.
- The **Bihar Assembly election**, preceded by a similar SIR, became the testing ground for these concerns, with opponents alleging that such **massive revisions close to elections** could **disenfranchise voters** and **compromise electoral fairness**.

The Legal Framework: Section 21 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950

- The **legal foundation** for electoral roll revision is laid down in **Section 21 of the RP Act, 1950**, which distinguishes between two types of revisions:
 - **Revision before general elections:** A **summary revision**, mandatory before every Lok Sabha or Assembly election.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

- **Revision in any year:** An **intensive revision**, undertaken at the ECI's discretion to ensure the accuracy of rolls.
- As per **Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**, the former is **summary in nature**, while the latter is **intensive**, almost akin to **preparing a new electoral roll**.
- Therefore, **intensive revisions** are ideally **delinked from election cycles**, to be conducted when **no imminent elections** are due.

The Question of Timing and Administrative Discretion

- While the ECI's **authority to revise rolls** is **undisputed**, its **decision to conduct an SIR immediately before elections** is **deeply problematic**.
- Between **2003 and 2024**, India witnessed **five general elections** and numerous State polls, yet **no such SIR** was ordered.
- This **sudden urgency** raises concerns of **opacity, haste, and potential bias**.
- An **intensive revision** requires **massive fieldwork, public verification, and time for appeals**, all of which may be **compromised under electoral deadlines**.
- Such timing risks **damaging public trust** in the ECI, an institution whose **credibility depends on both neutrality and perception of fairness**.

Conclusion

- The **SIR of electoral rolls** exposes **critical tensions between administrative autonomy and constitutional accountability**.
 - While the ECI's intent to maintain **accurate voter rolls** is legitimate, the **timing, scope, and procedural ambiguities** of the SIR demand scrutiny.
 - The **absence of a defined legal framework for citizenship verification** has led to **institutional overreach and citizen vulnerability**.
 - Moving forward, both the **Union Government** and the ECI must ensure **transparency, coordination, and fairness** in electoral roll management.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 November 2025

GREATER FLAMINGO SANCTUARY



- **Location:** It is located in Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district of **Tamil Nadu**.

- It is nestled within the ecologically sensitive **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**.
- It is home to a variety of ecosystems, including mangroves, sand dunes, mudflats, and marshes.
- It is a critical stopover point along **the Central Asian Flyway** for thousands of migratory wetland birds.

Fauna: This region supports 128 bird species, including **Greater and Lesser Flamingos** and provide habitats for marine life, including **fish, crustaceans, molluscs,** and nesting sea turtles.

Flora: It features diverse ecosystems and mangrove forests like **Avicennia and Rhizophora**, which stabilise the coastline.

Key Facts about Greater Flamingo

- It is a large **wading bird** known for its distinctive pink feathers and unique feeding habits.
 - **Distribution:** Its range spans Africa, western Asia, and southern Europe.
 - **Habitat:** It is usually found in shallow, saline, alkaline wetlands, such as salt lakes, coastal lagoons, intertidal mudflats, and saltworks during the breeding season.
 - **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN:** Least concern
 - **Wild Life Protection Act:** Schedule-II.
-