

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

### Current Affairs - 03 July 2025

#### PM MODI'S FIVE-NATION VISIT: INDIA'S OUTREACH TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH

PM Modi began a five-nation tour from July 2 to 9, 2025, covering Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia.

##### **Ghana Visit**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit marks the first bilateral trip by an Indian PM to Ghana in three decades. It is also his first visit to the country.
- India is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports, with gold making up over 70% of India's imports from Ghana.
- A proposal for a vaccine manufacturing hub and digital initiatives highlights India's COVID-era goodwill, but the presence of China and the EU makes execution competitive and difficult.

##### **Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) Visit**

- PM Modi's visit marks his first to Trinidad & Tobago and the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM in over two decades.
- Around 40–45% of the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean resides in T&T.
  - Both PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar and President Christine Carla Kangaloo are of Indian origin.
- The visit also commemorates 180 years since the arrival of Indian immigrants in T&T.

##### **Argentina visit**

- PM Modi's visit is the first bilateral trip by an Indian PM to Argentina in 57 years.
- He will hold talks with President Javier Milei, following their earlier meeting at the G20 Summit in 2024.
- India-Argentina ties have grown notably in the mineral resources sector, especially **lithium**—crucial for India's green energy goals. Argentina also supplies soybean and sunflower oil to India.

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#### **Brazil Visit**

- PM Modi will attend the BRICS Leaders' Summit, where he will meet President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.
- Following the summit, PM Modi will undertake a State Visit to Brasilia. He will hold detailed talks with President Lula to deepen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership.
- Brazil remains India's largest trading partner in South America, underscoring the importance of the relationship.
- Still, internal power imbalances—especially China's assertiveness—pose limitations.

#### **Namibia Visit**

- PM Modi's trip marks his first visit to Namibia and only the third by an Indian Prime Minister.
- Bilateral trade has surged from under \$3 million in 2000 to nearly \$600 million in 2025. Indian investments span mining, manufacturing, diamond processing, and services.
- The visit recalls the historic 2022 translocation of eight Namibian cheetahs to India's Kuno National Park—marking the world's first intercontinental relocation of a major carnivore species.
- The visit combines digital diplomacy (launching UPI) and environmental soft power (conservation discussions post-cheetah translocation).

#### **India's Global South Outreach: Challenges**

- PM Modi has embarked on an eight-day, five-nation tour covering three continents.
- This visit aims to strengthen India's diplomatic and economic engagement with the Global South, reflecting India's aspiration to lead among postcolonial, developing nations.

#### **Conclusion**

- This tour lays the foundation for new partnerships in critical minerals, digital public goods, climate action, and vaccine production.
- It may also signal the emergence of "Modi Doctrine 3.0" – a foreign policy approach centered on Global South solidarity, technology-led diplomacy, and institutional reform.

### AI & COPYRIGHT LAW

Recently, in two significant rulings, US courts sided with tech companies developing generative AI, **addressing for the first time whether training AI models on copyrighted content constitutes “theft.”**

Generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini rely on massive datasets—including books, articles, and internet content—for training. While various lawsuits have been filed accusing tech firms of copyright infringement, **the companies argue their use of content is “transformative” and qualifies as “fair use.”**

Though the two court decisions arrived via different legal paths, both support the tech companies’ stance, potentially setting an important precedent for future cases.

These rulings highlight the growing legal acceptance of using copyrighted material in AI training under fair use—provided the output serves a transformative, public-interest purpose.

#### **Case 1: Writers vs Anthropic – Court Rules in Favour of AI Developer**

- In August 2024, writers Andrea Bartz, Charles Graeber, and Kirk Wallace Johnson filed a class action lawsuit against Anthropic, creator of the Claude LLMs.
- They alleged that Anthropic used pirated versions of their books without compensation, harming their livelihoods by enabling free or cheap content generation.

THE CASE AGAINST OPENAI IN INDIA	
<p>In 2024, news agency ANI moved a copyright infringement suit against OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT. Other parties such as Federation of Indian Publishers and the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), Indian Music Industry (IMI) too have moved applications in the suit, seeking to be made parties.</p> <p>OpenAI, during the course of hearings, has made the following arguments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ That it is not storing data directly, and that there is no general prohibition on the use of data under copyright law, likening such use to “reading a book”;</li><li>■ That Indian courts do not have jurisdiction on the matter since</li></ul>	<p>OpenAI has no office in the country, the pre-training processes take place outside India, and training data is stored on foreign servers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ That OpenAI has refined its models to prevent regurgitation, and following the pre-training phase, OpenAI’s models do not have access to the original training data — meaning the responses a user generates on ChatGPT do not directly take from copyright material; and</li><li>■ That OpenAI is not a market rival of ANI; it linked the sources of information from which it generated data.</li></ul> <p>It is yet to be seen how judgments in the US will play out in Indian courts. The next hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 4.</p>

#### **Case 2: Writers vs Meta – Court Sides with Meta, But Flags Compensation Concerns**

- Thirteen authors filed a class action lawsuit against Meta, seeking damages and restitution for allegedly using their copyrighted works to train its LLaMA language models.
- The plaintiffs argued Meta copied large portions of their texts, with the AI generating content derived directly from their work.

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#### Indian Media's Legal Challenge

- In 2024, ANI filed a case against OpenAI for misusing Indian copyrighted content.
- Major Indian media houses like The Indian Express, Hindustan Times, and NDTV have joined through the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), hinting at rising domestic litigation.

#### Significance of the Rulings: A Win, But Not the Final Word

- The court rulings favour Anthropic and Meta by upholding their use of copyrighted material under the “fair use” doctrine.
- However, both companies still face unresolved legal challenges—particularly for sourcing training data from pirated databases like Books3.
- While courts may allow AI's current training practices, unresolved concerns remain: How will creators be protected? What happens to livelihoods and creativity as AI output grows?

#### Conclusion

These rulings mark a significant moment in the evolving legal landscape of AI, **but they don't resolve the fundamental copyright and ethical dilemmas surrounding AI-generated content.**

#### GIG WORKERS IN INDIA: DATA GAPS AND THE NEED FOR INCLUSIVE LABOUR STATISTICS

- India's workforce has undergone a structural transformation in recent years with the rise of gig and platform-based employment.
- From food delivery and ride-hailing to digital freelancing and home services, a new generation of workers is operating outside traditional employment frameworks.
- According to a 2022 NITI Aayog report, **India's gig workforce is projected to grow to 23.5 million by 2029-30.**

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- Recognising this shift, the 2025 Union Budget extended key social protection measures to gig workers.
- However, the country's primary labour statistics source, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), still fails to appropriately reflect this emerging segment.

### Legal Definitions and Policy Intentions

- The legal groundwork for recognising gig and platform workers was laid through the **Code on Social Security, 2020**.
- It defines gig workers as those engaged in income-generating work outside a traditional employer-employee relationship. Platform work, specifically, involves using digital platforms to access clients or services in exchange for payment.
- Chapter I, Section 2(35) of the Code offers this broad definition but does not sufficiently distinguish gig workers from categories like the self-employed or casual labourers.
- Clause 141 of the same Code mandates the creation of a **Social Security Fund** for gig and unorganised workers.
- The **National Social Security Board**, under Section 6, is entrusted with designing and monitoring welfare schemes.

### Towards Inclusive Labour Statistics

- India's labour statistics framework must evolve to support the realities of a changing workforce. This means:
  - **Updating PLFS classification codes** to identify gig and platform workers distinctly.
  - Introducing **special survey modules** or time-use surveys to capture task-based work.
  - Leveraging **digital trace data** (e.g., from platforms like Uber, Urban Company) to supplement official statistics.
  - Ensuring that **beneficiary data from welfare schemes** feeds into national employment databases.



### WHAT IS A GENOME?



- A genome is an **organism's complete set of genetic information.**
- A genome includes all of the hereditary **instructions for creating and maintaining life**, as well as **instructions for reproduction.**
- The **human genome**, like all other cellular life forms, **consists of DNA** (deoxyribonucleic acid) and **includes both the nuclear and mitochondrial DNA.** This is in **contrast to** ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses, whose genome is composed of RNA.

#### From Genome to Genes:

- The instructions in our **genome are made up of DNA.**
  - **Within DNA is a unique chemical code** that guides an organism's growth, development and health.
  - This **code is determined by the order of the four nucleotide bases** that make up DNA: adenine, thymine, cytosine, and guanine.
  - **DNA has a twisted structure** in the shape of a **double helix.**
  - **Single strands of DNA** are coiled up into structures called
  - **Within chromosomes, sections of DNA are organised into genes.**
  - **Genes control different characteristics** such as eye colour and height.
  - **All living things have a unique genome.**
  - There are **23 pairs of chromosomes in the human genome.**
  - Between 1990 and 2003, **all twenty-three pairs were fully sequenced** through an international research undertaking known as the **Human Genome Project.**
  - The **study and analysis of genomes** is called
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### FINANCIAL FRAUD RISK INDICATOR (FRI)



• It was launched by the Department of Telecommunications **Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)**.

- It is a **risk-based metric** that classifies a **mobile number** to have been associated with Medium, High, or **Very High risk of financial fraud**.
- This **classification is an outcome** of inputs obtained from **various stakeholders** including reporting on Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C's) National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's Chakshu platform, and Intelligence shared by banks and financial institutions.
- It **empowers stakeholders-especially banks, NBFCs, and UPI service providers-** to prioritize enforcement and take additional customer protection measures in case a mobile number has high risk.
- The Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) of DoT regularly shares the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) with stakeholders, detailing numbers disconnected due to cybercrime links, failed re-verification, or misuse—many of which are tied to financial frauds.
- Banks and financial institutions **can use FRI in real time to take preventive measures** such as declining suspicious transactions, issuing alerts or warnings to customers, and delaying transactions flagged as high risk.
- The system's utility has already been demonstrated with leading institutions such as PhonePe, Punjab National Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Paytm, and India Post Payments Bank actively using the platform.

**Significance:** The FRI allows for **swift, targeted, and collaborative action** against suspected frauds in both telecom and financial domains.

### MADRAS HIGH COURT QUASHES UNLAWFUL PHONE TAPPING

In a landmark judgment with deep constitutional implications, the Madras High Court **quashed a 2011 phone-tapping order** issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The Court held that such surveillance, absent the conditions of "public emergency" or "public safety," **violated the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21** of the Constitution.

#### Key Highlights of the Judgment:

- **Violation of Article 21 – Right to Privacy:**
  - The Court ruled that **phone tapping constitutes a breach of privacy** unless it adheres to the **procedure established by law**.
  - The Court observed that covert surveillance for crime detection **does not qualify under exceptions** like public emergency or public safety.
- **Key observation by the Madras HC:** “The impugned order does not meet the thresholds of 'public emergency' or 'public safety'... It is a secretive operation which falls outside the legal framework laid down by the Supreme Court.”
- **Case background:**
  - Surveillance was authorised in 2011 under [Section 5(2)] of the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** and (Rule 419-A) of the **Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951**, on the allegation of a bribe of ₹50 lakh to an Income Tax officer.
  - CBI argued interception was necessary to detect and **prevent corruption**.
  - A writ petition (under **Article 226** of the Constitution) was filed in 2018 against the surveillance order.

#### Conclusion:

This verdict is a milestone in **upholding individual liberties** against unlawful state surveillance. It clarifies the constitutional limitations on executive powers, particularly in the context of modern surveillance technologies, and **reinforces the judiciary's role** in safeguarding democratic freedoms in India.



### NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK AND TIGER RESERVE



- Namdapha, a national park and tiger reserve, lies on the **international border between India and Myanmar** within Changlang District in the state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

- It covers an area of 1985.23 sq.km.
- It is located at the **junction of the Indian subcontinent and Indo-China biogeographic Regions**.
- It is nestled **between the Dapha Bum ridge of the Mishmi Hills** of the northeastern Himalayas and the **Patkai Ranges**.
- It has a **common boundary with Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary** (Arunachal Pradesh).
- **River:** The **Namdapha River** (a **tributary of Noa-Dihing River**) flows right across in a north-south direction of this reserve, and hence the name Namdapha has been given.
- **Vegetation:** It consists of **Northern Tropical Evergreen Forest**, **North Indian Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests**, **East Himalayan Moist Temperate Forests**, **Moist Alpine Scrub Forests**.
- **Flora:**
  - It consists of species like **Pinus Merkusi** and **Abies Delavayi** being **exclusive to the park**. It is **home to the Blue Vanda**, which is a rare and **endangered orchard**. It also consists of **medicinal plants like Mishimi Teeta (Copti teeta)**, which is **used by the local tribes** to treat different types of diseases.
- **Fauna:**
  - **Elephants, Himalayan Black Bear, Himalayan Sun Bear, Hoolock Gibbon (only ape in India), Slow Loris**, etc.
  - It is the **only park in the world to have the four feline species of big cats**, namely the **Tiger, Leopard (Panthera Pardus), Snow Leopard (Panthera Uncia)**, and **Clouded Leopard (Neofelis Nebulosa)** and numbers of Lesser cats.