



Sanskriti IAS



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SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS

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TOPICS:-

- 1. Global crises demand more than 'citizen sacrifice'**
(GS Paper II Governance)
- 2. Tariffs to carbon, the new rules shaping India's trade**
(GS Paper III Economy)
- 3. Court order hands EC a clean chit. But SIR's deleted still await justice**
(GS Paper II Polity)

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1. GLOBAL CRISES DEMAND MORE THAN ‘CITIZEN SACRIFICE’

(GS Paper II Governance)

This editorial ‘Global crises demand more than ‘citizen sacrifice’ was published in **The Hindu** on 28th May 2026, highlights why **citizen sacrifice** cannot replace **institutional preparedness, public investment** and **accountable governance** during global crises.

Citizen Appeals and the Social Contract

- Appeals for restraint have value amid **global uncertainty**, but they shift crisis burdens from institutions to citizens.
- The **social contract** weakens when citizens pay taxes and obey laws, yet governments offer partial reforms and recycled promises.
- Responsible consumption can support resilience, but **behavioural appeals** cannot replace long-term correction or institutional reform.
- Symbolic solidarity may build unity, but **national resilience** requires strong institutions, public investment and preparedness.

Institutional Responsibility During Global Crises

- Food, finance, climate and technology shocks cross borders, so **behavioural nationalism** cannot insulate India from interconnected crises.
- Crisis management needs **policy coherence**, institutional competence and long-term planning, not only moral obligations for citizens.
- Post-COVID resilience remains uneven because **public health** investment has lagged behind private and corporate expansion.
- Economic resilience needs social protection, as **informal labour** and gig workers cannot rely on consumption patriotism alone.
- Genuine self-reliance requires investment in **higher education**, research, manufacturing ecosystems and scientific temper beyond elite campuses.

Governance Priorities for Durable Resilience

- Public trust during crises depends on **transparent communication**, honest acknowledgement of uncertainty and freedom for experts and media.
- Sustainable urbanisation needs better **public transport**, green spaces and planning, not mere appeals to conserve electricity.

- Business confidence requires **policy predictability**, as researchers, entrepreneurs and investors depend on stable regulatory environments.
- Democratic strength depends on **open debate**, not treating criticism as anti-national or weakening institutional course correction.

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From Individual Resilience to State Capacity

- **State capacity:** Crisis resilience depends on converting early warnings into timely action, as seen in Odisha's cyclone preparedness and COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Public goods:** Strong health, transport, education, energy and welfare systems reduce dependence on sacrifice, as seen in PM-GKAY during COVID-19.
- **Crisis federalism:** Centre-State coordination is vital during pandemics, migration and climate shocks, as seen in GST Council-style cooperative mechanisms.
- **Institutional memory:** Lessons from COVID-19, oxygen shortages and supply-chain shocks should strengthen preparedness instead of fading after emergencies.
- **Trust architecture:** Citizens respond better when governments communicate honestly, as seen in Kerala's early COVID-19 briefings and public-health messaging.
- **Equity focus:** Sacrifice appeals burden informal workers and migrants more, as shown by the 2020 lockdown's impact on urban labourers.
- **Governance legitimacy:** National resilience becomes credible when citizen responsibility is matched by accountable institutions, as seen in disaster-ready coastal governance.

2. TARIFFS TO CARBON, THE NEW RULES SHAPING INDIA'S TRADE

(GS Paper III Economy)

This editorial 'Tariffs to carbon, the new rules shaping India's trade' was published in **The Hindu** on 28th May 2026, highlights how carbon-linked **trade rules** such as CBAM are reshaping India's **export competitiveness, market access** and climate-trade strategy.

CBAM and India's Export Challenge

- The European Union's **CBAM** will apply from January 2026, imposing carbon-linked charges on imports based on embedded emissions.
- India's **carbon-intensive exports** to Europe, especially steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen, face higher compliance pressure.
- Market access is now shaped by **carbon standards**, not tariffs alone, making India's EU trade negotiations less protective against CBAM costs.
- Steel and aluminium exporters may face tighter **supplier selection**, lower margins and pressure to invest in cleaner technologies.

Wider Trade and Price Effects

- CBAM may raise global **fertiliser prices**, as Egypt, Russia and Morocco supply both the EU and India.
- Higher fertiliser import bills can affect **farm profitability**, agricultural costs and food prices through global price transmission.
- Similar carbon tariff policies by developed countries could restrict **developing economies**, making market access increasingly climate-linked.

Carbon Rules as a New Trade Framework

- CBAM differs from traditional **non-tariff measures** because it is price-based, quantifiable and directly tied to production emissions.
- Exporters meeting product standards may still lose competitiveness if **carbon intensity** raises costs in destination markets.
- Clean-energy transition is costlier than ordinary quality compliance, making **carbon-neutral production** difficult in the short run.
- Comparative advantage now depends on **carbon efficiency**, not only production cost, pricing or conventional export quality.

Domestic Reform and Global Negotiation

- India needs stronger **carbon policies**, clean-energy investment and stricter implementation to improve firms' carbon efficiency.
- Import dependence on emission-intensive goods such as fertilisers should fall through **domestic production**, balanced fertiliser use and Soil Health Cards.
- India must seek fair **technology transfer** and transitional support so developed countries do not create an uneven trade field.

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Green Industrial Policy for Trade Competitiveness

- **Export resilience:** India needs a green industrial strategy to protect market access, as CBAM exposes steel and aluminium exports.
- **MSME support:** Smaller exporters need finance and carbon-accounting support, as MSMEs face EU Monitoring, Reporting and Verification barriers.
- **Sectoral roadmaps:** Steel, aluminium, cement and fertilisers need de-carbonisation plans, as the National Green Hydrogen Mission targets hard-to-abate sectors.
- **Clean finance:** Green credit and technology incentives can ease cleaner production costs, as seen in the Solar PV PLI scheme.
- **Carbon markets:** Credible carbon markets can improve compliance capacity, as India notified the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme in 2023.
- **Climate diplomacy:** India must seek equity, finance and technology transfer, since CBAM-style rules can burden developing-country exporters.
- **Development balance:** Green trade policy must protect jobs and growth while preparing exports for carbon-linked markets such as the EU.

3. COURT ORDER HANDS EC A CLEAN CHIT. BUT SIR'S DELETED STILL AWAIT JUSTICE

(GS Paper II Polity)

This editorial 'Court order hands EC a clean chit. But SIR's deleted still await justice' was published in **The Indian Express** on 28th May 2026, highlights how the Supreme Court's **SIR verdict validates** the Election Commission's process while leaving deleted voters' citizenship and restoration questions unresolved.

Supreme Court's Validation of SIR

- The Supreme Court upheld the **Special Intensive Revision** of Bihar's electoral rolls, rejecting constitutional and legal challenges to the Election Commission's exercise.
- The Court examined whether the **ECI** had power, legitimate purpose, proportionality and compliance with the **RPA, 1950** and 1960 Rules.
- It accepted that the SIR addressed **cumulative inaccuracies** in the electoral roll and fell within the Commission's mandate to maintain purity.

- The judgment found the process neither arbitrary nor unconstitutional, citing **procedural safeguards** and the inclusion of Aadhaar as an additional identity document.

Unresolved Problem of Deleted Voters

- The Court's clean chit does not address the fate of nearly **65 lakh** excluded voters from Bihar's draft roll.
- The judgment noted that post-exercise data did not show **widespread disenfranchisement**, partly because deletion lists and reasons were disclosed.
- Nearly **27 lakh** excluded voters were in West Bengal, yet the order leaves their citizenship claims unresolved before the competent authority.
- The Court held that inclusion in the **electoral roll** has presumptive validity, but this presumption is rebuttable and does not curtail ECI's scrutiny powers.

Limits of the Verdict and Democratic Concerns

- The Court backed the ECI's **institutional expertise**, saying it could not substitute judicial judgment in matters of implementation.
- It accepted the Commission's document-based process, though questions remain over whether the documents were sufficient for detecting **ineligible voters**.
- The order says SIR is not a citizenship determination, but deletion practically affects voters until citizenship is decided under the **Citizenship Act**.
- The verdict favours the ECI, yet justice for deleted voters depends on timely references to competent authorities and restoration before elections.

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Balancing Electoral Integrity with Voter Inclusion

- **Clean rolls:** Electoral integrity needs accurate lists, but revisions like SIR must not weaken genuine citizens' voting rights.
- **Due process:** Deletion must ensure notice, reasons and appeal, as **Form 7** objections can affect voter inclusion.
- **Vulnerable voters:** Migrants, poor households and elderly citizens face exclusion risks, as seen during **Assam NRC** documentation gaps.
- **Transparency standards:** Public trust improves when deletion data, verification criteria and grievance outcomes are disclosed through **ECI** mechanisms.
- **Institutional neutrality:** The Election Commission's credibility depends on roll revision appearing impartial, as seen in debates over **Bihar SIR**.
- **Timely restoration:** Wrongly deleted voters need quick correction through **Form 6/8**, since delays can deny practical participation.
- **Democratic legitimacy:** Free and fair elections require roll purity and inclusion, as **Article 326** rests on universal adult franchise.