

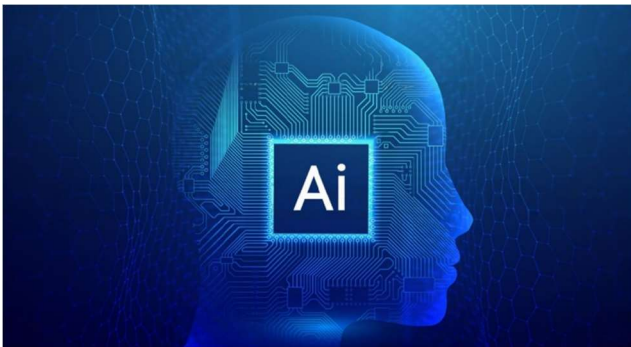
# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

*Date: 12-10-23*

## Creators, Human and AI, Joining Forces

*New lessons from US entertainment industry*

### ET Editorials



The 148-day-long strike by the Writers Guild of America (WGA), the longest interruption to US film and TV production, representing some 12,000 screenwriters, came to an end on September 27. This Tuesday, WGA ratified a new agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). In real terms, the guild secured two important gains — a greater share of the proceeds from streaming content, and setting rules for the use of AI. The latter is particularly important given the trends and direction in the multibillion-dollar

entertainment and gaming industries that have emerged.

No matter how cutting-edge the technology, it is human ingenuity and creativity saddlebacking this tech that makes the ‘business of dreams’ tick. The new technology must be embraced as a tool to enhance and support the creative human, as it always has, whether in the form of the typewriter, phonograph or streaming technology. The rules around the use of AI and requirement for minimum staffing for virtually all TV writers’ rooms will encourage this inevitable jugalbandi. On their part, creators deserve requisite recognition and share of the success in the form of revenue made from an ever-widening viewership on streaming platforms and rising number of gamers.

The writers on strike made other important gains, perhaps less quantifiable ones like standing up and being counted. All too often, screenwriters and game story writers who are rarely in the spotlight are undervalued by industry and public alike. The strike served to remind everyone the world over that writers as content creators lie at the heart of the entertainment business. Also to be applauded is the solidarity forged with other unions, including the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA). The episode has shown two things: one, sometimes, one has to make demands and get what is due for the best of all stakeholders; two, adapting to, and adopting, technology is key to business, creativity and the business of creativity.

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## UN Security Council reform is a song in a loop

*The problem of reforming the United Nations Security Council is akin to a malady presented before doctors — there is agreement only on the diagnosis and not the prescription*

**Shashi Tharoor, [ third-term Member of Parliament (Congress) and former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, former chair of the External Affairs Committee of Parliament and author of 25 books including 'Pax Indica' and (with Samir Saran) 'The New World Disorder' ]**

More than three decades after the debate first started over fundamental reforms at the United Nations (UN), the issue appears to have resurfaced at the ongoing General Assembly session of the world body. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Türkiye was blunt: “The Security Council has ceased to be the guarantor of world security and has become a battleground for the political strategies of only five countries.” Even the UN’s Secretary-General, António Guterres, issued a stern warning: “The world has changed. Our institutions have not. We cannot effectively address problems as they are if institutions do not reflect the world as it is. Instead of solving problems, they risk becoming part of the problem.”

It could not have been put more bluntly, but we have heard this song before. Politically, it is untenable that the five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) enjoy their position, and the privilege of a veto over any Council resolution or decision, merely by virtue of having won a war 76 years ago. In the case of China, the word ‘won’ needs to be placed within inverted commas.

I was serving at the UN when then-Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared that Security Council reform must be accomplished in time for the 50th anniversary of the world organisation in 1995. But even as the urgent rhetoric continues to be spoken, the organisation has missed not only the 50th anniversary of the UN, but even the 60th, the 70th and now the 75th. Left to their own devices, member-states will be arguing the merits of the case well past the UN’s centenary.

### **An unjust situation in terms of equity**

The problem of reforming the Security Council is akin to a malady in which a number of doctors gather around a patient; they all agree on the diagnosis but they cannot agree on the prescription. The diagnosis is clear — the Security Council reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 and not of today. When the UN was founded in 1945, the Council consisted of 11 members out of a total UN membership of 51 countries; in other words, some 22% of the member states were on the Security Council.

Today, there are 193 member-states of the UN, and only 15 members of the Council — fewer than 8%. The one change ever made to the original Charter was in 1965 when the Security Council was expanded

from 11 members to 15 by adding four more elected non-permanent members. So, many more countries, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the membership, do not feel adequately represented on the body. The composition of the Council also gives undue weightage to the balance of power of those days. Europe, for instance, which accounts for barely 5% of the world's population, still controls 33% of the seats in any given year (and that does not count Russia, another European power).

In terms of simple considerations of equity, this situation is unjust: for starters, to those countries whose financial contributions to the UN outweigh those of four of the five permanent members — Japan and Germany have for decades been the second and third largest contributors to the UN budget, while still being referred to as 'enemy states' in the United Nations Charter (since the UN was set up by the victorious Allies of the Second World War). And it denies opportunities to other states such as India, which by its sheer size of population, share of the world economy, or contributions in kind to the UN (through participation in peacekeeping operations, for example) have helped shape the evolution of world affairs in the seven decades since the organisation was born.

### **Stances by countries**

So, the Security Council is clearly ripe for reform to bring it into the second quarter of the 21st century. But for every state that feels it deserves a place on the Security Council, and especially the handful of countries which believe their status in the world ought to be recognised as being in no way inferior to at least three of the existing permanent members, there are several who know they will not benefit from any reform. The small countries that make up more than half the UN's membership accept that reality and are content to compete occasionally for a two-year non-permanent seat on the Council. But the medium-sized and large countries, which are the rivals of the prospective beneficiaries, deeply resent the prospect of a select few breaking free of their current second-rank status in the world body. Many are openly animated by a spirit of competition, historical grievance or simple envy. They have successfully and indefinitely thwarted reform of the membership of the Security Council.

Part of the problem is that the bar to amending the UN Charter has been set rather high. Any amendment requires a two-thirds majority of the overall membership, in other words 129 of the 193 states in the General Assembly, and would further have to be ratified by two-thirds of the member states. Ratification is usually a parliamentary procedure, so, in other words, the only 'prescription' that has any chance of passing is one that will both persuade two-thirds of the UN member-states to support it and not attract the opposition of any of the existing permanent five — or even that of a powerful U.S. Senator who could block ratification in Washington.

That has proved to be a tall order indeed. India's credentials may seem obvious to us, but China is none too keen on diluting its status as the only Asian permanent member; Pakistan, which fancies itself as India's strategic rival on the subcontinent, is unalterably opposed; and to some extent Indonesia seems to feel diminished by the prospect of an Indian seat. In Latin America, Brazil occupies a place analogous to India's in Asia, but Argentina and Mexico have other ideas, pointing to Portuguese-speaking Brazil's inferior credentials in representing largely Hispanic Latin America. And while Africa, given that it accounts for 54 member-states, insists on two permanent seats, how is one to adjudicate the rival credentials of the continent's largest democracy, Nigeria, its historically largest economy, South Africa, and its oldest civilization, Egypt? Another proposal suggests creating a second category of "semi-permanent members" to accommodate such states for, say, 10-year electable terms. It has found no takers among the principal aspirants.

## Continuing gridlock

So, while the debate keeps going round in circles for decades, gridlock continues in the Security Council, as most vividly illustrated recently over the Ukraine conflict, when a Permanent Member of the Security Council invaded a sovereign UN member-state and the Council proved powerless to respond. Russia's increasing resort to the veto has blocked resolutions on Ukraine, Mali, Syria and North Korea. Similar obstructionism by the West has affected proposals to reform the financial institutions established at Bretton Woods in 1944, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. And yet this is the only global system we have got that brings all countries together on a common platform. Can we afford to let it fade into ineffectiveness and irrelevance?



# दैनिक भास्कर

Date: 12-10-23

## नीतिगत कमियों से निचला तबका बेहाल

### संपादकीय

देश के नीतिकारों को इस बात पर चिंतित होना चाहिए कि घरेलू बचत बेहद घट गई है। उसे आयकर के डाटा का विश्लेषण करना चाहिए, जो बताता है कि पांच लाख या उससे कम की सालाना आय वाला तबका कोरोना काल से अब तक 20% कम हो गया है, जबकि दस लाख से ऊपर कमाने वाले 30% बढ़ गए हैं। पांच लाख से कम कमाने वाला वर्ग बहुत बड़ा है। जाहिर है इसमें भी मात्र दो लाख कमाने वालों का हिस्सा और भी बड़ा होगा। सरकार के अनुसार एक किसान (परिवार) की औसत आय 10, 218 रु. प्रतिमाह है, यानी सवा लाख रु. प्रति वर्ष। दरअसल संकट 100-120 करोड़ से ज्यादा की संख्या में लघु व सीमान्त किसान और भूमिहीन मजदूरों के ऊपर है। इसके पीछे योजनाकारों की गलत नीतियां हैं, जिनमें विकास का पैमाना जीडीपी का आयतन मान लिया जाता है और उसके हिसाब से प्रति व्यक्ति आय (राष्ट्रीय आय में कुल आबादी से भाग देकर) निर्धारित कर मान लिया जाता है कि विकास हो रहा है। घरेलू बचत पिछले 19 वर्ष में सबसे कम इसलिए है क्योंकि जनता महंगाई की वजह से बचत तो छोड़िए, रोजमर्रा के खर्च के लिए कर्ज ले रही है। विकास केवल कम रोजगार देने वाले पेट्रोलियम सेक्टर से नहीं, एमएसएमई सेक्टर के साबुन, तेल, कपड़े बनाने वाले उद्योगों में रोजगार मिलने से होगा।

## भारत की रफ्तार

### संपादकीय



भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को लेकर अच्छे अनुमान हमें खुशी का मौका देते हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष ने अपने विश्व आर्थिक अनुमान में कहा है कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था इस साल पहले के अनुमान से कहीं अधिक तेजी से बढ़ेगी। साथ ही, इस साल और अगले साल भी दुनिया की सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था बनी रहेगी। वैसे, एक चिंताजनक अनुमान यह भी है कि विश्व स्तर पर महंगाई के चलते दुनिया में विकास दर थोड़ी धीमी रहेगी। यदि दुनिया महंगाई से प्रभावित रहने वाली है, तो जाहिर है कि तेज विकास के बावजूद भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था पर दबाव लगातार बना रहेगा। अंतरराष्ट्रीय

मुद्रा कोष के अनुसार, भारत की साल 2023-24 में जीडीपी वृद्धि 6.3 प्रतिशत होगी। बहुतों को इस विकास दर पर आश्चर्य होगा, क्योंकि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को लेकर चिंताएं भी बहुत हैं। इसके बावजूद सच है कि भारत के विकास की रफ्तार आशाजनक है। इसी साल जून में समाप्त तिमाही में विकास दर में 7.8 प्रतिशत की मजबूत वृद्धि देखी गई है।

सबसे ज्यादा चिंता विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था को लेकर है। जब भारत की विकास दर तेज है, तब उसे विश्व स्तर पर ज्यादा समर्थन मिलना चाहिए। भारतीय उत्पादों की मांग बढ़नी चाहिए, भारतीय सेवाओं का विस्तार होना चाहिए, लेकिन जब विश्व की अन्य अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में गिरावट का क्रम रहेगा, तो जाहिर है कि भारत को भी अपनी तेजी का वांछित लाभ नहीं मिलेगा। अतः अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष का अनुमान एक तरफ, जहां खुशी देता है, वहीं दूसरी ओर, चिंता भी बढ़ा देता है। आईएमएफ के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री पियरे-ओलिवियर गौरीचास ने एक ब्लॉग में लिखा है कि वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था लंगड़ाकर चल रही है, तेज नहीं। मुद्रा कोष को आशा है कि 2023 में वैश्विक जीडीपी वृद्धि महज तीन प्रतिशत रहेगी। अब विश्व की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को समग्रता में देखा जाए, तो वे कोरोना से पहले के आंकड़ों को भी अभी नहीं छू पाई हैं। अर्थव्यवस्थाओं पर खतरे लगातार मंडरा रहे हैं और इन खतरों से निपटने के लिए जिस तरह की तैयारी विश्व स्तर पर दिखनी चाहिए, वह फिलहाल नदारद है।

समग्रता में विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था की भलाई के लिए देशों को मिलकर सोचना होगा। अक्सर तो यह बात किसी से छिपी नहीं है कि रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध ने यूरोप सहित दुनिया के अनेक देशों में तेल व ऊर्जा का संकट बढ़ाया है। अनेक अच्छी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को कष्ट झेलने पड़े हैं। भारत ने भी किसी तरह से अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों को समझदारी से संभाला है, पर अब जब अरब क्षेत्र में युद्ध छिड़ गया है, तो चिंता बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गई है। गौर करने की बात है कि दुनिया भर में एक तिहाई से ज्यादा तेल की आपूर्ति अरब देशों से ही होती है। ऐसे में, अगर आपूर्ति प्रभावित होती है, तो दुनिया भर में हाहाकार की स्थिति बन जाएगी। दुनिया के अनेक देश तेल की बढ़ती कीमतों से पहले ही परेशान हैं। इसलिए, अरब में छिड़े युद्ध को जल्द शांत करना होगा। बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को युद्ध रोकने के लिए आगे आना पड़ेगा। मुद्रा कोष के

अनुसार, 2024 में मुद्रास्फीति या महंगाई 5.8 प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ेगी, पर ध्यान रहे, अरब क्षेत्र में युद्ध जारी रहा, तो महंगाई को थामना और मुश्किल हो जाएगा। खासकर भारत जैसे देश, जिनके पास अपना तेल नहीं है, मुश्किल में पड़ जाएंगे। अतः भारत को भी शांति के प्रयासों पर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए। ग्लोबल साउथ या गरीब देशों को तो युद्ध के खिलाफ खड़े हो जाना चाहिए, इसी में सबका हित है।

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