



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**17th October 2026**



# China Export Bans on Technologies



**CONTEXT:** China released draft plan “Announcement No. 48” (Ministry of Commerce + Ministry of Science & Technology) restricting exports of 40+ technologies in AI, biomedicine and photovoltaics.

## What China has done?

- **14 proposed for complete export ban, 26 for restricted export** (licensing)
- Mainly 3 sectors:
  - Solar/PV
  - AI
  - Biotech
- Most solar products and most AI technologies remain freely exportable; **the controls target next-generation manufacturing know-how, not finished goods**

## China’s stated rationale

- **National security:**
  - PV for aerospace and defence
  - AI misuse risk
- Aligns with “**international practice**” of export controls
- Technologies already in the public domain are generally exempt

## Why China is actually doing it? Strategic Reasons

- **Dual-use framing is legal cover for strategic denial**
- **Targets the value-chain upgrade of competitors**
- **Fits China’s pattern of weaponising chokepoints**
- **Timing:**
  - coincides with EU–China preliminary deal capping Chinese hybrid-vehicle sales (350,000/year)
  - EU discussion of tightening market access
  - G20 trade ministers’ agreement on curbing structural excess capacity, which China did not sign.

## Trade imbalance backdrop

- India’s trade deficit with China in H1 FY27: \$69 billion, 27% higher than H1 FY26.
- Sitharaman: China uses non-tariff barriers
- India opened several anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigations in Jul–Sep quarter against China

## Impact on India

- **Solar and clean energy**
  - Disrupts India’s move up the solar chain
  - Chinese firms face constraints in solo investments, JVs and licensing deals
  - Risk to 2030 target of 500 GW non-fossil capacity and net-zero 2070
- **Technology and strategic**
  - AI tech export controls from both US and China **narrow options for India AI Mission**
  - Biotech/gene therapy export controls **affects India’s pharma and biomanufacturing ambitions (BioE3 policy)**
- **Trade and diplomacy**
  - **Deficit sustainability:** pressure on rupee, current account and domestic MSMEs (dumping)
  - **Weakens the “managed thaw”** in India–China relations (post-2024 border arrangement)



# China Export Bans on Technologies



**CONTEXT:** China released draft plan “Announcement No. 48” (Ministry of Commerce + Ministry of Science & Technology) restricting exports of 40+ technologies in AI, biomedicine and photovoltaics.

## What is India planning to do?

- **Diplomatic:** Sustained dialogue (“sit and talk” approach)
- **Trade defence:** Anti-dumping/anti-subsidy probes
- **Currency:** Rupee and local-currency trade
- **Plurilateral:** BRICS (New Delhi summit, Sept 2026)
- **Bilateral deals:** Finalise India–US trade deal; FTAs with EU, UK, EFTA etc.
- **Industrial policy:** PLI schemes, ALMM for solar, domestic polysilicon/wafer capacity
- **Tech/strategic:** IndiaAI Mission, National Critical Mineral Mission, Semiconductor Mission, BioE3

## Way Forward

- Reduce critical dependencies
- Technology partnerships with trusted partners: US, Quad, EU, Japan, Korea etc.
- Strengthen domestic R&D
- Expand exports to China
- Monitor draft finalisation

## Conclusions

- **Strategic autonomy through diversification and domestic capability, not decoupling**
- **“Interdependence is being weaponized; resilience, not self-sufficiency alone, is the policy response.”**

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

*Weaponization of economic interdependence is the new face of geopolitics. Analyse with reference to India–China relations.*  
(15 Marks, 250 words)



# SIR vs SSR



**CONTEXT:** On 16 Oct 2026 the ECI announced a Special Summary Revision (SSR) for 17 States/UTs. The annual SSR was skipped in 2026 because of the SIR.

## SSR (Special Summary Revision)

- **Updates the existing roll** with additions (new 18-year-olds, shifted residents) and deletions (dead, shifted, duplicate)
- **Annual and pre-election exercise**
- **Existing electors are automatically carried over to the draft roll**

## SIR (Special Intensive Revision)

- **A fresh, house-to-house, enumeration-based revision. It is done under S.21(3) of RPA, 1950 and the 1960 Rules.**
- Ordered by the ECI in **2025 after a gap of about 20 years**. Earlier intensive revisions followed the 2002-03 guidelines.
- **Every existing elector had to fill an enumeration form** and submit documents to prove eligibility

## Legal basis

- **Constitutional basis (common to both)**
  - **Art 324:** superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections vest in the ECI
  - **Mohinder Singh Gill (1978):** Art 324 is a reservoir of residuary power where statute is silent
  - **Art 325:** one general roll; no exclusion on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex
  - **Art 326:** universal adult suffrage. Voting age is 18 (61st Amendment, 1988)
  - **Art 327/328:** Parliament/State legislatures can legislate on rolls

## Statutory basis

- **RPA 1950:**
  - **S.21(2):** revision of the roll before each general election / Assembly election and “in any year in the prescribed manner”.
  - **S.21(3):** the ECI may order a special revision at any time, recording reasons.
- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:** prescribe the procedure

## Prelims Pointers

- **ERO (Electoral Registration Officer)** prepares the roll for each Assembly constituency
- **Forms:**
  - **Form 6 (new elector)**
  - **Form 7 (objection or deletion)**
  - **Form 8 (correction or shifting)**



# SIR vs SSR



**CONTEXT:** On 16 Oct 2026 the ECI announced a Special Summary Revision (SSR) for 17 States/UTs. The annual SSR was skipped in 2026 because of the SIR.

| Parameter                            | SSR                                    | SIR (2025 model)                                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Nature</b>                        | Routine, annual update                 | Extraordinary, ground-up re-verification                    |
| <b>Starting point</b>                | Existing roll retained                 | Roll rebuilt through enumeration                            |
| <b>Burden</b>                        | On the State: ERO verifies and deletes | On the elector: fill the form, prove eligibility            |
| <b>Citizenship check</b>             | No fresh citizenship test              | Documentary proof of eligibility/citizenship                |
| <b>Draft roll</b>                    | All existing electors auto-included    | Only those who returned forms                               |
| <b>"Logical discrepancy" notices</b> | None                                   | Centrally generated, software-flagged, followed by hearings |
| <b>Claims and objections</b>         | One month after draft                  | Same window, but on a much larger scale                     |
| <b>Last held</b>                     | Annually (skipped 2026)                | 2002-03 (earlier model), then 2025-26                       |
| <b>Legal footing</b>                 | S.21(2) + 1960 Rules                   | S.21(3) + 1960 Rules (special revision)                     |

## Importance of the exercises

- **SSR (Special Summary Revision)**
  - Keeps the roll current
  - Upholds Art 326 (universal adult suffrage) with minimal disruption
  - Low-cost and routine
  - Pre-election hygiene: RPA 1950 requires revision before each general or Assembly election

## Importance of the exercises

- **SIR (Special Intensive Revision)**
  - **Rationale cited by the ECI:**
    - rapid urbanisation and migration
    - the last intensive revision occurred in the early 2000s
  - **Stated objective: no eligible citizen left out while no ineligible person is included**
  - **Targets known roll defects: duplicate entries, dead or migrated voters, and possible foreign nationals**



**CONTEXT:** On 16 Oct 2026 the ECI announced a Special Summary Revision (SSR) for 17 States/UTs. The annual SSR was skipped in 2026 because of the SIR.

## Issues in the exercises

### SIR-specific

- Burden of proof reversed
- Major deletions: In UP, the final roll after SIR was about 13.24% smaller than the October 2025 roll
- Appeals lag
- Gender skew: Bihar's gender ratio fell from 907 to 892. Young married women were struck off.
- "Logical discrepancy" notices: software-flagged and centrally generated, with notice and hearing burdens on electors.
- Uneven treatment: Assam was handled separately as a "Special Revision", with the NRC cited as a reason.

### SSR-specific

- Relies on the same rolls: **the SSR rolls are built on the SIR-truncated rolls**, so the exclusion errors carry over unless the special drive works.
- **Re-enrolment burden: left-out electors still have to apply (Form 6), unless the house-to-house visits reach them.**

### Corrective measures (SSR, Oct 2026)

- **Existing electors auto-carried** into the draft roll. No enumeration form is needed.
- **No mapping to older rolls**
- **Special drive for the "left out"** using Form 6 **without the ancestry declaration.**
- **Cap on Form 7 filings.**
- **Searchable text-PDF rolls** given to parties and candidates.
- **One-month claims and objections window**, with the statutory process (notice, hearing) for deletions.
- **No "logical discrepancy" checks**

## Way Ahead

- **Report re-enrolments separately from fresh enrolments for audit**
- **Make the house-to-house drive proactive:** BLOs and BLAs should reach the left-out, especially women, migrants and the elderly
- **Restore wrongly deleted groups**
- **Publish deletions with reasons**, and run an independent audit and social audit
- **Algorithmic fairness:** make flagging criteria explainable, with human review

## MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

*The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has been defended as necessary for electoral integrity and criticised as a threat to universal adult suffrage. Critically examine.*

(15 marks, 250 words)



**Newspaper :** Indian Express, **Page No :** 1, 2

## A real-time dashboard to watch local spikes in air pollution: Inside the country's biggest monitoring centre

- Country's largest pollution monitoring centre
- Run by: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)
- Monitored round the clock
- Platform: E-Datalens Air Quality Analytics platform, developed for DPCC by Datalens Technologies Pvt Ltd (Indian company)
- Tech partners: Delta Americas, Hewlett Packard, Cisco, NetApp

- **PM10 jump trigger** for alert:  $>50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  between two hourly readings
- **Poor dispersion benchmark:** Wind speed  $<4 \text{ km/h}$
- **Good dispersion:**  $>10 \text{ km/h}$
- **Escalation acknowledgement time target: 30 min**
  - **Median acknowledgement time: 57 min**
- **Camera alert trigger: 6 hours with no transmission**
- **Forecast:**
  - **Hourly AQI for the next 72 hours**
  - **30-day colour-coded AQI category record**
  - **20-day mean AQI**

### Hyperlocal source apportionment:

Linking spikes to specific local sources (a site, road or industry) rather than only city-wide averages.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Economy**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No : 11**

## AT1 Bonds (Additional Tier-1)

- perpetual, unsecured, subordinated debt instruments issued by banks
- **Perpetual:**
  - **no maturity date**
  - issuer has a **call option** (typically after 5 years or more), but no obligation to exercise it
- **Coupon is discretionary and non-cumulative;** the bank can skip payment without it being a default

## **Main Purpose: Loss-absorption**

- Write-down (temporary or permanent) or conversion to equity when a trigger is hit
- Aim: bail-in (investors absorb losses) instead of bail-out (taxpayer money)
- Rationale: post-2008 reform to protect depositors and public funds

## **Regulatory framework (India)**

- Issued under RBI's Basel III capital regulations (Master Circular on Basel III Capital Regulations)



# Dark Patterns of online shopping

**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Economy

**Newspaper :** The Indian Express, **Page No : 11**

## • THE DARK PATTERNS OF ONLINE SHOPPING

How e-commerce platforms use deceptive tactics to influence purchases and increase costs

### DRIP PRICING

Advertising a lower price upfront, but revealing additional charges such as platform fees, handling fees or convenience fees only at checkout.



### BASKET SNEAKING

Automatically adding paid services, subscriptions, insurance or charity donations to a customer's cart without their consent.



### FALSE URGENCY

Displaying misleading messages such as "Only 2 left" or countdown timers to pressure customers into making immediate purchases.



### BAIT AND SWITCH

Advertising a product or service at an attractive price, but offering something different or more expensive when the customer proceeds.



### SUBSCRIPTION TRAPS

Making subscriptions easy to activate but difficult to cancel, often through hidden cancellation options or lengthy procedures.



### DISGUISED ADVERTISEMENTS

Presenting paid promotions as ordinary product recommendations, reviews or other content without clearly identifying them as advertisements.



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Polity**

**Newspaper : The Indian Express, Page No : 6**

## Census Enumerators

- Centre amended the **Census Rules, 1990** via gazette notification (**issued by the RG&CCI**)
- **Eligible now:**
  - **Teachers of any educational institution** of the government, local authority, aided or unaided private bodies, societies
  - **Clerks or officials of the Central Govt, State Govt, local authority or establishment**
  - **Any person the State/UT administration considers suitable**
- **Requirement of about 34 lakh enumerators** for Population Enumeration, which govt school teachers alone cannot meet

## **Census 2027**

- **Phase 1:** House Listing Operations (HLO)
- **Phase 2:** Population Enumeration (PE), with a set of **40 questions**
- First **digital** Census
- First to enumerate **caste** in independent India, other than SC/ST
- Enumerators collect data via **apps on their personal phones**
- Official line on privacy: data is centralised, and it is deleted from the enumerator's device once the task is complete

## **Census**

- **Census Act, 1948** is the parent Act. Census Rules, 1990 are made under it.
- Census is on the **Union List (Entry 69, Seventh Schedule)**.
- Conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI)** under **the MHA**.
- Census is conducted **every 10 years**. The first synchronous Census was in **1881**
- **Census Act, 1948**
  - a. **Sec. 5:** the Central Govt may appoint Census officers and may employ any person as enumerator
  - b. **Sec. 11:** makes it a compulsory duty for appointed persons to serve (the legal basis for requisitioning staff).



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Defence  
**Newspaper :** The Hindu, **Page No : 10**

**INS Smarthak**

| Point                  | Detail                                      |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Name meaning           | <i>Samarthak</i> = "the proponent"          |
| Type                   | Indigenous <b>multi-purpose vessel</b>      |
| Primary role           | <b>Trials and evaluation</b> platform       |
| Indigenous content     | <b>Over 75%</b>                             |
| Builder                | L&T (private sector)                        |
| Place of commissioning | Karwar (Karnataka)<br>(mouth of river Kali) |

**INS Smarthak**

**Roles and functions**

- Testing and training of **new sensors and weapons developed by domestic industry.**
- Validating indigenous technologies **before wider deployment.**
- Maritime surveillance and reconnaissance.
- Offshore patrolling.
- Disaster relief operations (HADR).



**Q1. With reference to Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds issued by banks, consider the following statements:**

1. AT1 bonds are perpetual, unsecured and subordinated debt instruments issued by banks.
2. Being perpetual instruments, they have no maturity date, although the issuer may exercise a call option, typically after five years or more.
3. The bank's coupon payments are cumulative, and skipping a payment automatically constitutes a default.
4. AT1 instruments are designed to absorb losses through temporary or permanent write-downs or conversion into equity when specified triggers are activated.

**How many of the above given statements is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

**Answer: c**

**Q2. With reference to the Census of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Census 2027 is India's first fully digital Census and will be conducted in two phases: House Listing Operations followed by Population Enumeration.
2. Census 2027 will enumerate castes beyond Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, marking the first such enumeration in independent India.
3. Census is a subject under the Concurrent List, Entry 69 of the Seventh Schedule.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q3. With reference to the INS Samarthak, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an indigenously developed multipurpose vessel.
2. Maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, and offshore patrolling are among its intended functions.
3. It can support Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d**

**Q4. With reference to the revision of electoral rolls in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Special Summary Revision (SSR) updates existing electoral rolls by adding eligible new electors, including newly eligible 18-year-olds and shifted residents, and deleting entries relating to deceased, shifted or duplicate electors.
2. Unlike Special Intensive Revision (SIR), SSR requires every existing elector to undergo fresh house-to-house enumeration and submit eligibility documents before being included in the draft roll.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Q5. Which of the following are dark patterns used in online shopping:**

1. Drip pricing
2. Basket sneaking
3. Bait and switch
4. Subscription traps

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: d**





# **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

---

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,  
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,  
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : [www.vajiramandravi.com](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)