



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

11th September 2026



India-China REALITIES amid Xi's India visit

11th September 2026

CONTEXT: CAN DIPLOMACY MOVE FASTER THAN TRUST?

One handshake. Two very different relationships.

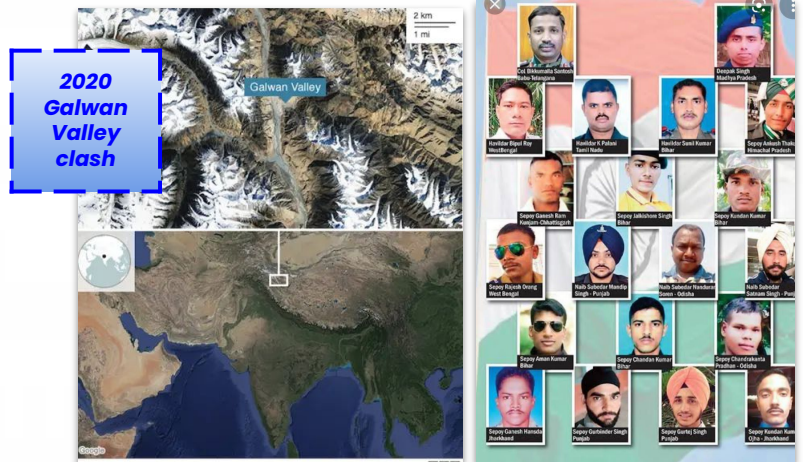


Reuters

Xi's India visit to help diplomatic thaw, but business ties bound by suspicion

10 September 2026 — Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India, his first in seven years, aims to advance diplomat...

World's biggest relationship:
Xi and Modi look to rebuild
ties for 2.8bn people



2026: diplomatic relationship

1. **Disengagement** talks
2. **Visa + Direct flights**
3. **Joint ventures**
4. "Relaxed" **investment** norms
5. **BRICS Leaders' Summit**

First, what exactly is the India-China problem?

Panchsheel Agreement, 1954

**Then came 1962
Sino-Indian War:
Line of Actual Control**

**Rajiv Gandhi's 1988
visit to China.**

**1993 Agreement on Maintenance of
Peace and Tranquillity Along the LAC**

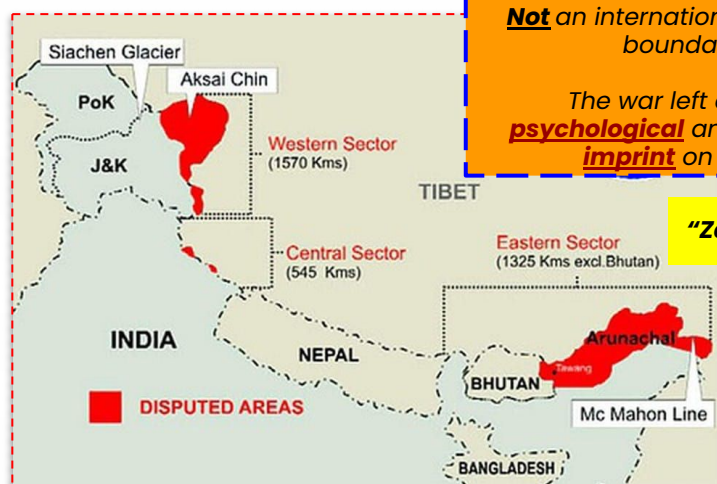
**1996 Agreement on
Confidence-Building Measures in the
Military Field Along the LAC**

**For decades: formula of
Border dispute + Military restraint +
Political dialogue + Growing trade**

**Electronics + IT + Pharma
2020 conflict**



1. Mutual respect for **territorial integrity** and **sovereignty**
2. Mutual **non-aggression**
3. Mutual **non-interference** in internal affairs
4. **Equality** and **mutual benefit**
5. **Peaceful coexistence**



Not an internationally agreed boundary.

The war left a **deep psychological** and **strategic imprint** on India.

"Zangnan"



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India lost 20 soldiers.

Border rivalry + economic interdependence + geopolitical competition + multilateral cooperation



India-China is a classic case of
"competitive coexistence."



Hindi Chini Bye Bye?



Amul
Attack this Instead

1. **Military** mobilisation;
2. Accelerated **border infrastructure**;
3. **Diplomatic** pressure;
4. Press Note 3 (2020) **Chinese investments**;
5. **Scrutiny of Chinese technology**;
6. Restrictions on several Chinese **mobile applications**;
7. **Tighter screening** of strategic economic linkages.

Post Galwan realisation 1: Economics + National security

Cheap + efficient + readily available = beneficial.



What happens if the supplier is also a
strategic competitor?

1. ports
2. telecommunications
3. power infrastructure
4. defence-linked manufacturing
5. critical digital systems.

"In **FY2024-25**, India's exports to China were about **\$14.25 billion**, while imports were about **\$113.46 billion**."

India's manufacturing weakness appears in a different form with China. Bilateral trade reached about **\$151 billion in 2025-26**, but India's deficit rose to roughly **\$112 billion**.

This creates a **paradox**. India wants to reduce its economic dependence on China but **Indian businesses** also want access to the cheap and increasingly sophisticated manufactured goods that China produces at enormous scale. The political desire for greater economic security runs up against the commercial logic of keeping access to Chinese production.

India's response:

Press Note 3 (2020)

- "raw materials, intermediate goods and capital goods"
- **COVID-19** opportunistic takeovers
- **Policy trade-off**. Security screening vs ease of doing business



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Post Galwan realisation 2: "Geopolitical realism"

India Today
26 October 2024

New satellite images confirm initial disengagement in Depsang and Demchok
#Satellite #India #China #LAC | Ankit Kumar



India's incentives

- stable northern **border**;
- lower **military pressure**;
- **economic access** + **supply-chain** stability;
- focus on **development**;
- continued engagement with **BRICS** and **SCO**;
- **strategic autonomy** amid great-power competition.

No Dragon This

India imported \$4b auto components from China in first six months FY26
China is India's largest import destination for electronics and auto components



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

Met President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Kazan BRICS Summit.

India-China relations are important for the people of our countries, and for regional and global peace and stability.

Mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual sensitivity will guide bilateral relations.



China's incentives

- India = **major market**.
- **US-China** strategic rivalry
- China wants **space in the Global South**.
- **Not want acute tensions with multiple major Asian powers.**

Post Galwan realisation 3: "Mutual trust deficit"

China's investment-risk calculation

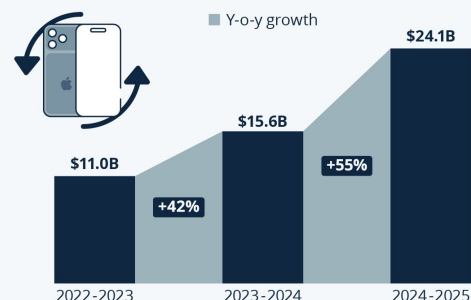
China's BYD aims to build electric vehicles in India, but is facing delays due to stringent investment rules. The company has submitted a \$1 billion investment proposal but is yet to receive approval. Meanwhile, BYD targets wealthy Indian buyers with imported premium EVs and launched a new seven-seater family car priced between \$32,000-\$35,500.

And DELHI's questions

1. Can a company linked to **sensitive technologies** access **critical infrastructure**?
2. What happens to **Indian data**?
3. Can technology become a **channel for espionage**?
4. Could Chinese firms gain **dominant positions in strategic sectors**?
5. What happens if **relations deteriorate again**?

The Apple Effect? India's Smartphone Exports Surge

Total value of India's smartphone exports, by fiscal year*



* India's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry



statista



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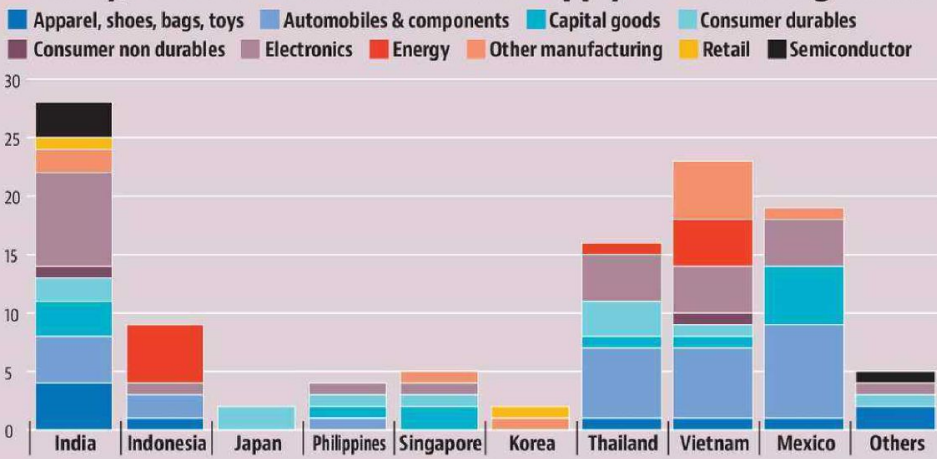
CONTEXT: CAN DIPLOMACY MOVE FASTER THAN TRUST?

Post Galwan realisation 4: "Decoupling vs De-risking"

Decoupling means attempting to substantially separate two economies from one another.

De-risking means reducing excessive dependence or vulnerabilities while retaining economically useful interdependence.

Country, sector-wise beneficiaries of supply chain reconfiguration



India's current trajectory increasingly resembles:

De-risking rather than complete decoupling.

- **COMPLETE economic separation** = costly
 - **Chinese supply-chain dependence** in MFG + Ind
- That question extends far beyond China**

1. Defense
2. Energy
3. Semiconductors
4. Tech + markets

India's China policy is thus built on 3 simultaneous tracks



India–China REALITIES amid Xi's India visit

CONTEXT: CAN DIPLOMACY MOVE FASTER THAN TRUST?

Mains Practise Question

“India–China relations are characterised by cooperation at some levels and competition at others.” Explain with suitable examples.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



PM Modi: Need cooperation in Space

11th September 2026

CONTEXT: At the International Space Summit in Paris on September 10, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited France and other countries to become "co-travellers" in India's next phase of space exploration.

India's space journey: from scarcity to capability



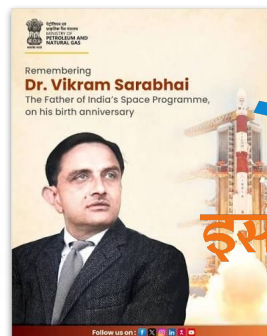
Indian Space Research Organisation

Estb: 15th Aug; u/ Department of Space.

ISRO's toys: Sat + Navic + ComSat + RS + SLVs + Img
Space Applications

communication → weather forecasting → navigation →
agriculture → disaster management → resource mapping →
defence → scientific research.

India's space programme = developmental logic.



ANTRIX vs. NSIL vs. IN-SPACE



Feature	ANTRIX Corp. (Foreign Salesman)	NSIL (NewSpace India Ltd) (Factory Manager)	IN-SPACE (Referee & Coach)
Established	1992	2019	2020
Type	PSU (Marketing Arm)	PSU (Commercial Arm)	Autonomous (Regulator & Promoter)
Primary Role	Marketing ISRO's products/services to International clients.	" Productionising " space tech. It hires industry to <i>make</i> rockets (e.g., PSLV) and satellites. It owns the operational launchers.	The Regulator. It acts as a single-window agency to allow NGEs to use ISRO facilities.
Key Mandate	Commercial exploitation of space products.	Manufacturing of SSLV/PSLV by industry; Technology Transfer .	Authorizing private launches; building the ecosystem.

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The next steps

Gaganyaan Mission

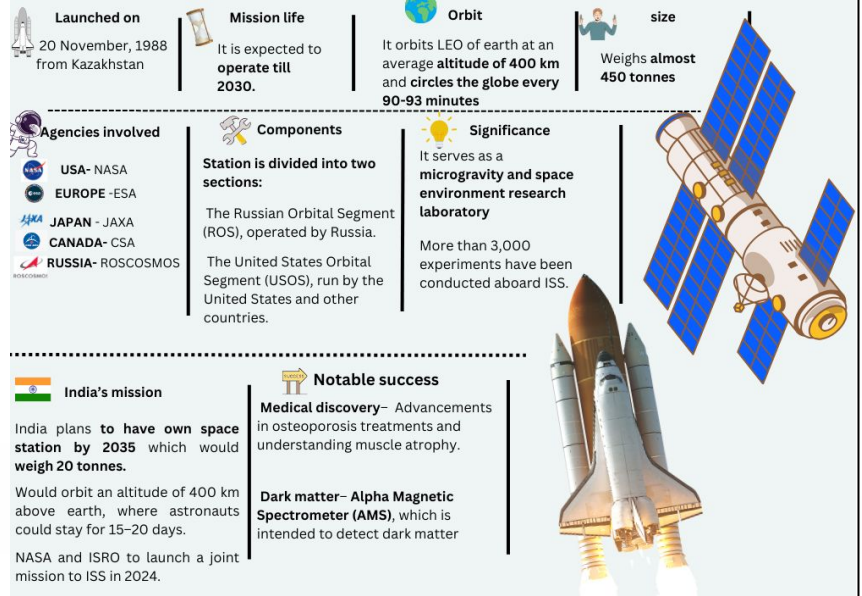


Bharatiya Antariksh Station

“Send an Indian astronaut to the Moon by 2040”

International Space Station

Largest modular space station in low Earth orbit also the largest human made structure in space



Some Initiatives to promote the space sector

Indian Space Policy 2023

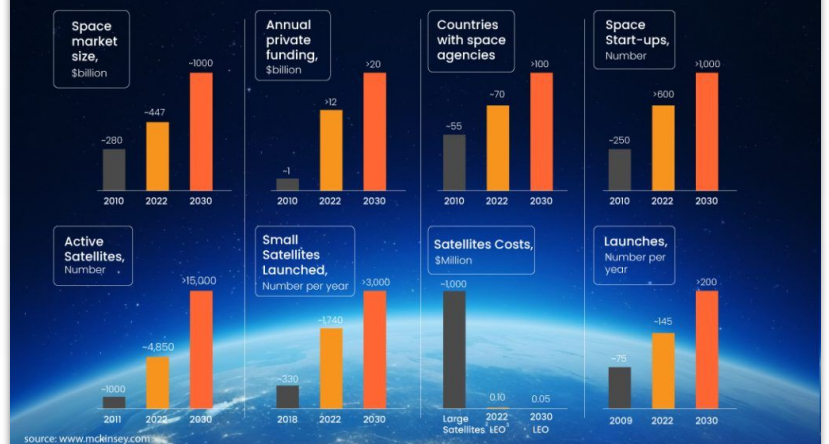
International Joint Strategic Initiatives: NISAR + Axiom 4

Private Space Ecosystem

₹1,000–crore VC Fund + 100% FDI

Launch Vehicle Tech Transfer

A Glimpse into the Projected Future Growth of the Global Space Industry



The Rise of India's Space Power



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How are Indian Space Startups faring?

SKYROOT AEROSPACE

Mission Prarambh is first Indian private rocket launch from Sriharikota, achieving an apogee of 89.5 km

Successfully test-fired the second stage of **Vikram-1 Rocket**

Kalam-1200 is the largest propulsion system ever built by India's private sector



AGNIKUL COSMOS

The launch demonstrated **India's first semi-cryogenic engine**

Built India's first private launchpad, "**Dhanush**" at Sriharikota

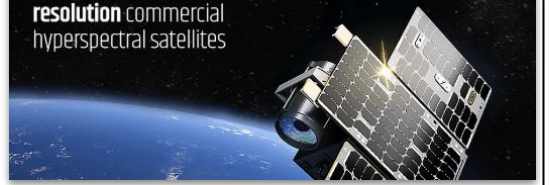
Agnibaan SORTed Launch achieved the world's first rocket flight powered by a **fully 3D-printed engine**



PIXXELSPACE INDIA

Firefly Constellation launched the **world's highest-resolution** commercial hyperspectral satellites

The satellites capture data across **150+ spectral bands** with **40-kilometre** swath width



GALAXEYE SPACE

Developed **world's first fusion of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** with optical imagery

Enhances **rapid disaster response & climate monitoring**

Positioned India at the frontier of **AI-driven geospatial intelligence**

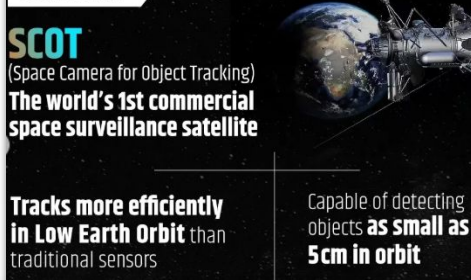


DIGANTARA

SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking) **The world's 1st commercial space surveillance satellite**

Tracks more efficiently in Low Earth Orbit than traditional sensors

Capable of detecting objects **as small as 5cm** in orbit

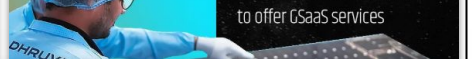


DHRUVA SPACE

Thybolt Mission completed 15,000+ orbits with their maiden satellites **Thybolt-1 & Thybolt-2**

First Indian private firm to demo **store-and-forward satellite capability**

Ground Stations as a Service (GSaaS) received authorisation from IN-SPACE to offer GSaaS services



Now IR angle: So who owns space?

Outer Space Treaty, 1967

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space

- outer space is free for exploration and use by all States;
- celestial bodies cannot be appropriated by national sovereignty;
- space activities should be conducted for peaceful purposes;
- States bear international responsibility for national space activities;
- States must authorise and continuously supervise the activities of non-governmental entities;
- States are internationally liable for damage caused by their space objects in specified circumstances.

PRELIMS POINTER — Five UN Space Treaties

1. Outer Space Treaty, 1967

Foundation of space law.

2. Rescue Agreement, 1968

Concerns assistance to astronauts and return of astronauts and space objects.

3. Liability Convention, 1972

Deals with international liability for damage caused by space objects.

4. Registration Convention, 1975

Requires States to maintain and furnish information concerning objects launched into outer space.

5. Moon Agreement, 1979

Addresses activities on the Moon + celestial bodies



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Why Modi's “protect space together” line matters

R&D + Tech + Microgravity

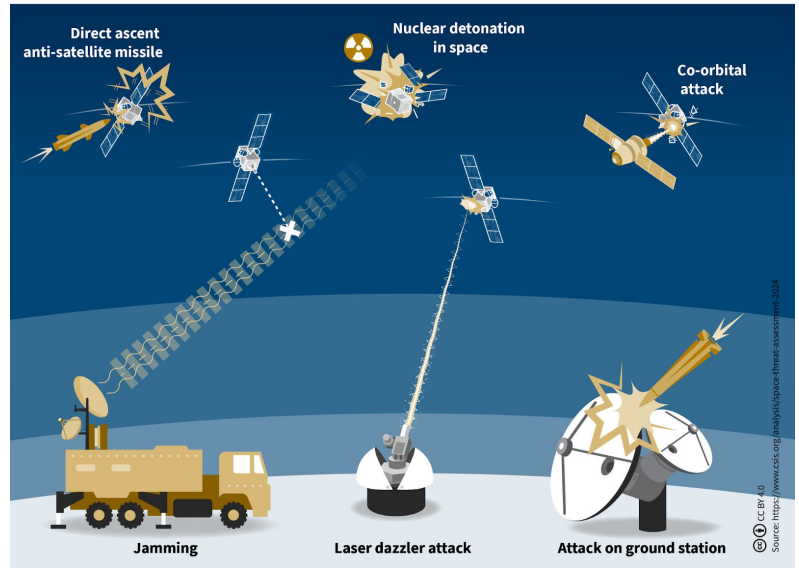
“Space is the next Earth”

Wars in Space?

Space Debris

Commercialisation

Different types of anti-satellite weapons and measures



Mains Practise Question

“The future of India's space programme will depend not merely on technological capability but on regulatory capacity and international cooperation.” Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Mains Value Addition

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number : 17

'Seeds Bill will not harm farmer rights'

Mandatory Registration: all seed varieties, seed producers, processing units, and dealers. Unregistered seeds strictly barred from commercial sale.

Digital Traceability (QR Codes): curb spurious seeds. All seed packets. End-to-end tracking of its origin, manufacturer, and laboratory clearance.

Testing: New seed varieties' mandatory **Value for Cultivation and Use** trials across multiple geographic zones before market release.

Central Accreditation System: Large multi-state seed firms can secure a single national accreditation. No separate state-by-state licenses.

Stricter Penalties: selling fake or substandard seeds = severe fines of **up to ₹30 lakh /+ 3 years of imprisonment**. Minor administrative decriminalized.

Exemptions for Traditional Farmers: rights to save, grow, sow, re-sow, and share/sell **unbranded traditional varieties** without mandatory registration.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said the proposed Seeds Bill would not be detrimental to the rights of farmers. Mr. Chouhan, who met about 20 farmers' organisations over the draft Seeds Bill and the Pesticides Management Bill, told their leaders that the Centre would **finalise every policy on the basis of consensus after discussions with farmers.**

He said **70% of seeds used by Indian farmers were outside the purview of the existing Act** and it was necessary to **crack down on "fake" seeds.** He said the government was committed to protecting farmers' rights and that



Mains Value Addition

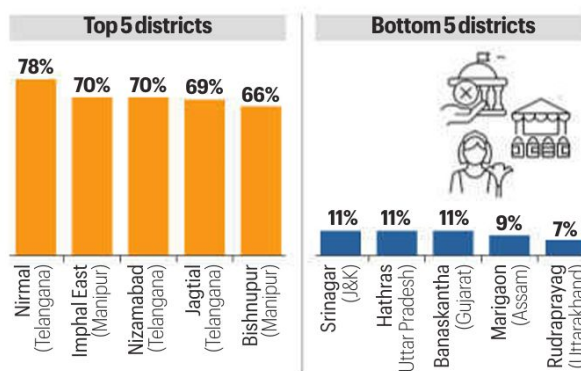
Newspaper: The Indian Express Page Number : 15

IN A FIRST, GOVT RELEASES DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

At 78%, Telangana district Nirmal on top in women's share in informal workers

All-India share of women in informal workforce	29%
Districts where women constitute $\geq 50\%$ of informal workers	25 districts
Of these 25 districts, from South + Northeast	22
Districts where women constitute $\geq 33\%$	237 districts
Nirmal, Telangana	78% women informal workers
All-India average emolument/hired worker	~₹1.3 lakh
Increase in establishments	58.5 lakh
Jobs created in 2025	74.5 lakh
Jobs created previous period	1.1 crore

• Women as % of informal workers



NOTE: DATA IS FOR UNINCORPORATED NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, SOURCE: MOSPI



1. Regionalisation of women's economic participation

25 districts have $\geq 50\%$ women in informal employment, but **22 are in southern/northeastern India**.

2. Participation–remuneration paradox

Women can constitute a majority of informal workers while remaining concentrated in **low-paying activities**.

3. Informal economy $\neq$ marginal economy

7.92 crore unincorporated establishments and the top 50 districts generating $\sim \frac{1}{3}$ of **GVA** show that informality is deeply embedded in India's economic structure.

Potential recommendations to flagship schemes

 e-Shram	 PM Vishwakarma Yojna	 UDYAM Assist Platform	 Skill India Digital Hub
• Enable interoperability with VCs to create a unified, trusted worker profile • Provide real-time benefit matching alerts and auto-fill applications basis verified data from trusted sources • Introduce consent-based data sharing to give workers control over their personal data and improve trust	• Integrate digital IDs and smart contracts to create tamper-proof worker records, automate loan eligibility checks, and build credit histories, reducing loan rejections. • Issue verifiable digital skill certificates linked to e-Shram to enable portable, trusted profiles • Expand the scheme to include emerging digital trades (e.g., 3D printing) to reflect evolving informal work	• Auto-filling registration forms with verified data from trusted sources such as VCs, Aadhaar and e-Shram • Enable integration with market platforms such as ONDC, GeM auto-generating micro storefronts for UDYAM verified sellers • Implement AI powered local demand matching engine and alert workers about local gigs, orders, or bulk buying schemes	• Issue interoperable, DLT - based skill credentials to provide portable proof of training. • Deploy adaptive learning pathways to match with local needs and individual learning. • Embed immersive learning modules for hands-on training. • Use smart contracts to track and certify apprenticeships



How should RUPPs be regulated?

SYLLABUS :GS 2 : Representation of the People Act, 1951 **Prelims:** Recognised vs unrecognised parties

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number** : 12

How does a party become a RUPP?

Step 1 – Formation

Citizens form an *“association or body of individual citizens of India calling itself a political party”*



Step 2 – Application

It applies to **ECI** under **Section 29A, RPA 1951**



Prelims Statement: Political parties are registered under Article 324?

Step 3 – Scrutiny

ECI examines the application and documents.



Step 4 – Registration

If requirements are satisfied:

Registered Political Party



Step 5 – Electoral performance

If it subsequently meets recognition criteria:

State Party / National Party



POLITICAL PARTY RECOGNITION IN INDIA: COMPLETE GUIDE



NATIONAL PARTY STATUS

(Must fulfill ANY ONE condition)

Condition	Example
6% votes in 4+ states + 4 Lok Sabha seats	CPI(M) – Kerala
2% of Lok Sabha seats (11/543) from 3+ states	BSP – Previously won seats in UP, MP, Punjab
State party in 4+ states	AAP – Delhi, Punjab, etc

Condition	Example
6% state votes + 2 Assembly seats	JMM in Jharkhand
6% state votes + 1 Lok Sabha seat	YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh
3% Assembly seats (or 3+ seats)	RJD in Bihar (2020)
1 LS seat per 25 state seats	NCP in Maharashtra (pre-split)
8% total state votes (Added in 2011)	TRS in Telangana (2014)



11th September 2026

How should RUPPs be regulated?

SYLLABUS :GS 2 : Representation of the People Act, 1951 **Prelims:** Recognised vs unrecognised parties

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number** : 12

So what is the "recognition" system?

PRELIMS POINTER — Election Symbols Order, 1968

The Order governs:

- recognition of political parties,
- reservation of election symbols,
- allotment of symbols.

Election Commission of India.

What is a common symbol?

Recognised party = **reserved symbol**.

A RUPP does **not automatically get a permanently reserved symbol** merely because it is registered.

However, ECI's election-symbol framework = RUPPs allotment of a common symbol subject to applicable conditions.

Therefore:

Registration does not equal permanent symbol reservation.

Registration ≠ Recognition

Feature	Registered Political Party	Unrecognised Political Party	Recognised State/National Party
Registered with ECI	✓		✓
Electoral performance requirement	Not necessary for initial registration		Must satisfy prescribed criteria
Recognised as State/National party	✗		✓
Reserved symbol	Generally ✗		✓
Can contest elections	✓		✓
Can receive political contributions subject to law	✓		✓
Can get certain election-related facilities	✓, subject to rules		More extensive



How should RUPPs be regulated?

11th September 2026

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Other details from the article



India's political parties you've never heard of are getting millions

YouTube · BBC News India · 2 days ago

NewsGram

BBC Investigation Reveals PM Modi's State Gujarat as a Lighthouse For Black Money Politics

Six RUUP received Rs 1700 crore in donations during the financial year 2023-2024, which surpassed five recognized national parties during...

5 days ago

"Letter pad parties"

- **29B** → **Political parties entitled to accept contribution**
- **29C** → **Declaration of donation received by political parties.** (₹20,000)
 1. exists largely on paper,
 2. rarely contests elections,
 3. receives substantial donations,
 4. enjoys tax-related benefits,
 5. maintains weak public disclosure,
 6. and has little meaningful political activity.

Why can't ECI simply deregister every non-performing party?

Once registration is granted, there is no general statutory power of review/de-registration given to ECI.

 **PRELIMS POINTER — Article 19(1)(c)**
Indian National Congress (I) v. Institute of Social Welfare (2002)

 **Exceptions:** Fraud/forgery + abandons the constitutional basis + declared "unlawful"

Then what are "delisted" and "inactive" RUPPs?

Law Commission's 255th Report proposed solution



11th September 2026

SYLLABUS : Prelims: Terms in news for Economics
Newspaper: The Hindu/ The indian express **Page Number :** 15/15

PRELIMS POINTER — Dematerialisation

Demat = De + Materialized

↓
Share Ownership Certificate converted from
Physical Paper (material) to Digital

What is it?



Online Account

that stores



Shares



Mutual
Funds



ETFs

Stock Investments



India has depositories

National Securities Depository Limited

Central Depository Services (India)

Limited

PRELIMS POINTER —
Depository vs
Depository Participant

REGULATOR

Then why is RBI involved?

- Security leg
- Cash/settlement leg

Q: Are BSE/ NSE depositories?

Now Understanding Demat 2.0 pilot

What is
"settlement"?

Transfer security
Transfer money
Agreement that
transaction is complete

PRELIMS POINTER —
Tokenisation

PRELIMS POINTER —
Distributed Ledger
Technology
All DLT is blockchain?

Tokenised security +
programmable
settlement +
CBDC + smart contracts

So what actually
changes under Demat
2.0?

Where does NPCI fit?
Why settle a bond
transaction with
CBDC?

"Faster settlement"
+
Atomic Settlement

Why corporate
bonds first?

What are AT1 Bonds and Corporate Bond Tokenisation

11th September 2026

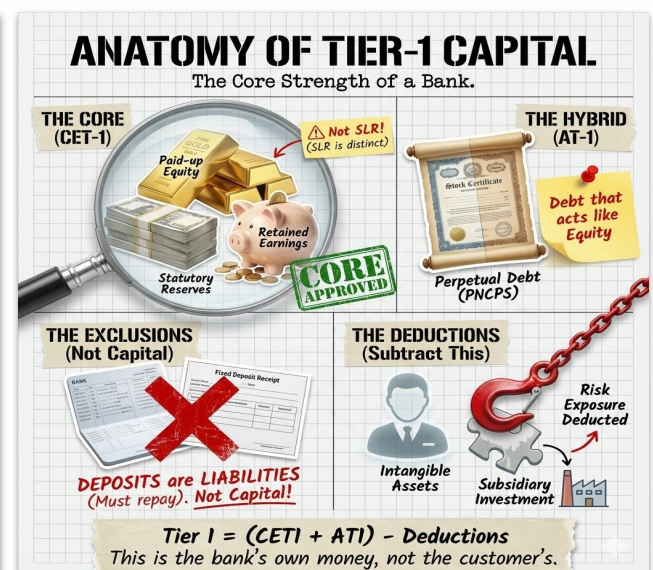
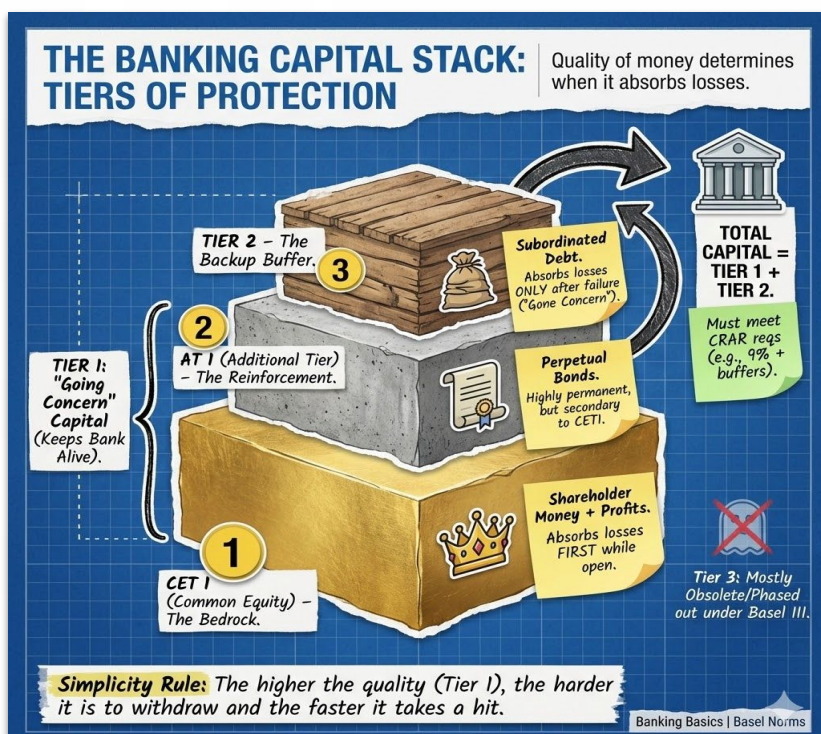
SYLLABUS : Prelims: Terms in news for Economics

Newspaper: The Hindu/ The indian express **Page Number :** 15/15

Who are the major players and what does each one do?

RBI	Central bank; CBDC, payment/settlement and monetary framework
SEBI	Securities-market regulator
NSDL	Securities depository
CDSL	Securities depository
NSE	Stock exchange
BSE	Stock exchange
NPCI	Payment-system infrastructure
HDFC Bank / ICICI Bank	Banking/intermediary participants
CBDC	Digital central-bank money used as settlement asset in pilot
DLT	Technology architecture for distributed records
Smart contract	Programmable code for automated transactions

What are the tiers of Bank's Capital?



No statehood for Ladakh?

11th September 2020

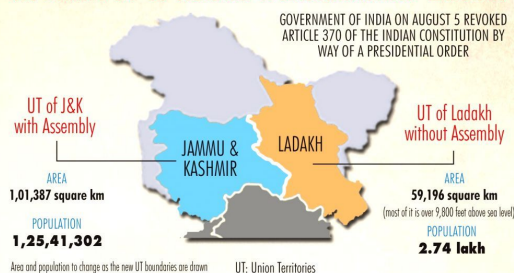
SYLLABUS :GS 2 : Federal structure, Articles 370, 371 A-J, Sixth Schedule **Prelims:** Issues relating to Union Territories

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 16

Why is Ladakh Protesting?

Article 370

IN BRIEF: UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH



JAMMU & KASHMIR AFTER ARTICLE 370 IS REVOKED:

- No dual citizenship
- Central laws can directly apply
- No separate laws for J&K
- Indian citizens from other states can buy land & property
- No two flags
- Elections every five years
- Centre can declare financial emergency under Article 360
- Police will be managed by the Centre

IAN'S GRAPHICS

- "Kashmir-centric political governance"
- Ladakh was made a UT without a Legislature

WHAT ARE THE PROTESTERS DEMANDING?

- Full Statehood for Ladakh**
Protesters say Union Territory (UT) status has reduced Ladakh's autonomy.
- Inclusion in the Sixth Schedule**
This would protect the tribal identity, culture, and land rights of locals.
- Separate Public Service Commission**
To tackle rising unemployment and ensure locals get fair government job access.
- Two Lok Sabha Seats**
Protesters want better representation — one seat is seen as insufficient.

But what are the Hill Councils?

LADAKH'S NEW AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL MODEL:

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

- Ladakh administration proposing setting up five councils in new districts
- Currently, elected hill councils exist only in Leh and Kargil. The proposal extends the same model to all newly created districts.

Five new districts are Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass.

- Councils are expected to have powers over local governance, land, education, health, tourism etc

A NEW TIER ABOVE THE DISTRICTS

Alongside the seven councils, the Centre has proposed a Union Territory-level elected body and Constitutional safeguards

under Article 371 safeguards.

- The proposed UT body will have control over executive, financial and administration

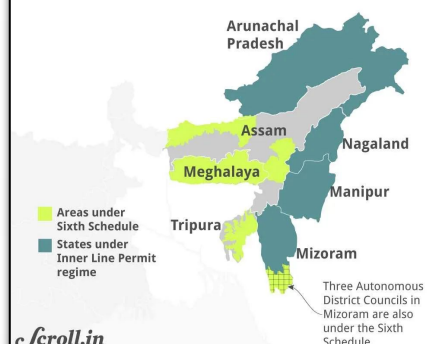
PRELIMS POINTER — AHDCs

The Hill Councils in Ladakh were created under **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Acts of the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir legislature**, rather than directly under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

6th Schedule

- ADCs
- Why the Centre Hesitated?

Regions under the Sixth Schedule and ILP regime in the North East



No statehood for Ladakh?

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Latest updates

Takeaways

- **Resisted granting immediate Statehood**
- "Customized *sui generis* model under **Art 371.**"
- **Democratic Architecture**
 - UT-level elected body
 - Real executive, financial, and legislative powers
 - Panchayati Raj Institutions
 - **Bureaucratic Accountability** + performance appraisals
- Need to **clarify relationship with existing Hill Councils**

PRELIMS POINTER — Art 371

Special arrangements for

- Article 371 → Maharashtra and Gujarat
- Article 371A → Nagaland
- Article 371B → Assam
- Article 371C → Manipur
- Article 371D & 371E → Andhra Pradesh/Telangana-related special provisions
- Article 371F → Sikkim
- Article 371G → Mizoram
- Article 371H → Arunachal Pradesh
- Article 371-I → Goa
- Article 371J → Karnataka



THE 10 PRELIMS TRAPS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Statement	Correct?
Ladakh was a separate State before 2019	✗
Ladakh became a UT in 2019	✓
Ladakh has a Legislative Assembly	✗
J&K became a UT with legislature after 2019	✓
Sixth Schedule currently covers Ladakh	✗
Sixth Schedule covers Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram	✓
NSDL-style constitutional institutions are relevant to Ladakh	✗
Ladakh already has elected Hill Councils	✓



No statehood for Ladakh?

11th September 2026

SYLLABUS :GS 2 : Federal structure, Articles 370, 371 A-J, Sixth Schedule **Prelims:** Issues relating to Union Territories

Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

UPSC PYQ (P) 2019

Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?

- (a) Third Schedule
- (b) Fifth Schedule
- (c) Ninth Schedule
- (d) Twelfth Schedule

UPSC PYQ (P) 2012

Which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India have a bearing on Education?

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



Species in news: Orangutans & Great Indian Bustard

11th September 2026

SYLLABUS :GS 3 : Conservation **Prelims:** Species in News

Newspaper: The Hindu/The Indian Express **Page Number :** 06/11/07

The Great Indian Bustard

"One of heaviest"

Poor frontal vision

Sexual Dimorphism

"opportunistic omnivores"

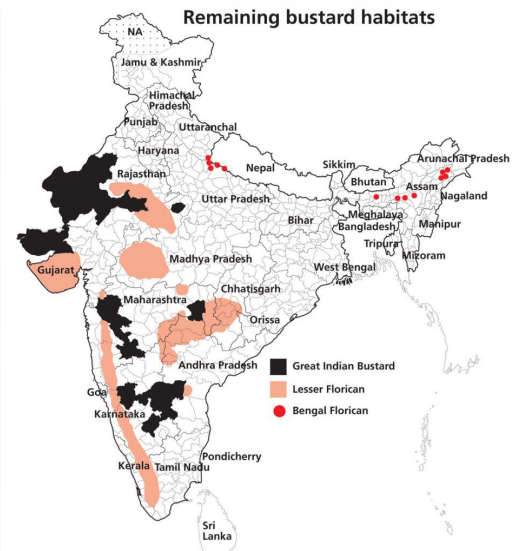
Low reproduction rate

State Bird of Rajasthan!

Ecosystem Preference

Wide, **open**, semi-arid, and uncultivated **agro-pastoral grasslands**

IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
WPA, 1972: Schedule I
CITES: Appendix I
CMS: Appendix I



Habitat & Distribution

Desert National Park (90%+)

Others: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

Major Threats



Conservation Initiatives

Project Great Indian Bustard

Captive Breeding Programme

MoEFCC + Raj FDept + WII
@Sam and Ramdevra (Jaisalmer)

Species Recovery Programme

MoEFCC's Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme

Judicial Intervention

THE CENTRE has deferred environmental clearance to a proposed limestone mine near a Great Indian Bustard habitat at Ramgarh in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer. A critically endangered species, just about 130 Great Indian Bustards live in the wild in India currently.

Conservation missions saving wildlife



Project Tiger



Project Elephant



Cheetah Reintroduction Project



Dolphin Census



Great Indian Bustard Recovery Plan



The Indian Express

Why Supreme Court ordered new safeguards to protect Great Indian Bustard from power lines

The Supreme Court pronounced a significant judgement on December 19 addressing conservation issues of the Great Indian Bustard and on preventing...

27 Dec 2025



Species in news: Orangutans & Great Indian Bustard

11th September 2026

SYLLABUS :GS 3 : Conservation **Prelims:** Species in News

Newspaper: The Hindu/The Indian Express **Page Number :** 06/11/07

Orangutans: "Gardeners of the Forest" + "Gentle Giants"



**World's
largest
arboreal
mammals**

Only great apes native to Asia

Diet: frugivorous + leaves, bark,
insects + small vertebrates

**Longest interbirth
interval of any land
mammal: 7 -9 yrs**

Intelligence & Tool Use

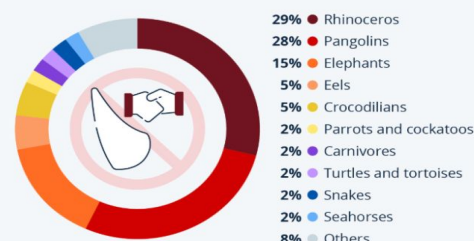
Orangutans: Habitat

Species Name	Geographic Location	IUCN Status
Bornean Orangutan	Island of Borneo (shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei)	Critically Endangered
Sumatran Orangutan	Island of Sumatra (Indonesia)	Critically Endangered
Tapanuli Orangutan	Batang Toru forest, Sumatra (Indonesia) — <i>Discovered as a new species in 2017</i>	Critically Endangered (Most endangered great ape)



The Most Trafficked Animals

Share of all seizure records by species, 2015-2021



Seizure records only provide a partial insight to illegal trade levels so figures may be higher.
Source: World Wildlife Crime Report 2024

CC BY ND

statista

Q1. With reference to recognition of political parties in India, consider the following statements:

1. A party recognised as a State Party in at least four States qualifies for recognition as a National Party.
2. Winning 2% of Lok Sabha seats is sufficient for National Party status even if such members are elected from only two States.
3. A party securing at least 8% of the valid votes polled in a State in a Lok Sabha or Assembly election can qualify for State Party status.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: a

Q2. With reference to registered unrecognised political parties in India, consider the following statements:

1. They must satisfy prescribed electoral performance criteria before contesting elections.
2. They are not entitled to any election-related facilities until they secure recognition.

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: d

Q3. With reference to Ladakh, consider the following statements:

1. It became a Union Territory without a legislature in 2019.
2. It is presently covered under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
3. It has elected Autonomous Hill Development Councils.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to dematerialisation and the Demat 2.0 pilot, consider the following statements:

1. Dematerialisation converts physical securities into electronic form.
2. Demat 2.0 envisages tokenised securities with programmable settlement using central bank digital currency.
3. Distributed Ledger Technology necessarily implies the use of blockchain.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a

Q 5. With reference to the Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Critically Endangered bird adapted to open, semi-arid grasslands.
2. It is primarily herbivorous and protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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





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