



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**28th April 2026**



# Media - Democracy and Security



**CONTEXT:** The independent journalists from Punjab alleged a systematic targeting of voices by the ruling government in the State.

Type of Media	Examples	Key Feature / Focus
Print Media	Newspapers, magazines, journals	Detailed, credible, and archival information
Electronic Media	Television, radio	Audio-visual communication with wide mass reach
Digital / New Media	Social media, websites, blogs, OTT platforms	Real-time, interactive, user-generated content
Traditional / Folk Media	Street plays, puppetry, folk songs	Grassroots communication and cultural transmission
Outdoor / Transit Media	Hoardings, billboards, digital displays	High visibility and advertising outreach



## Significance in Democracy

- Informational Function - informed citizenry
- Watchdog - Exposes corruption, misuse of power
- Accountability - Transparency

- Platform for Public Discourse - Encourages debate, dissent, pluralism
- Bridge between state and citizens
- Agenda Setting & Opinion Building - Shapes public priorities and political narratives

## Role in Internal Security

- Information Dissemination during Crises - Real-time updates - public awareness and compliance
- Counter-Radicalisation - Promotes inclusive narratives, national integration
- Early Warning & Surveillance Role - Aids governance response
- Strategic Communication Shapes perception during conflicts - crucial in hybrid warfare

## Media - Challenges

1. TRP-driven sensationalism → decline in quality journalism
2. Fake news & misinformation → threat to social harmony
3. Political interference → erosion of editorial independence
4. Corporate ownership concentration → biased coverage
5. Paid news phenomenon → commercialization of content
6. Trial by media → undermines due process
7. Decline in investigative journalism → weak accountability
8. Algorithmic bias (digital media) → echo chambers & polarization
9. Threats to journalists → safety and press freedom concerns
10. Regulatory gaps / overreach → censorship vs freedom dilemma
11. Media as a non state security factor



**CONTEXT:** The independent journalists from Punjab alleged a systematic targeting of voices by the ruling government in the State.

The Times of India

### 'Fake news': French navy slams Pakistan media over misinformation on Operation Sindoor; calls Rafale claim

India News: The French Navy has debunked Pakistani media claims of a French officer confirming Pakistani air superiority and the downing of...

23 Nov 2025



PIB

<https://www.pib.gov.in> > FAQ\_fact

### Fact Check Unit

The objective of the Fact Check Unit is to act as a deterrent to creators and disseminators of fake news & misinformation and to provide people with an easy ... [Read more](#)

The Economist

### Investigative journalism in India is under threat

India's government uses tax, regulation and advertising budgets to constrain media freedom, with new laws weakening investigative journalism...

1 month ago

thewire.in

### Adani Group in RSFs Press Freedom Predators List

New Delhi: Reporters Without Borders (RSF), who publish the Press Freedom Index in which India ranks 151st out of 180 countries,...

30 Nov 2025



## Media – Regulations Existing Regulatory Framework

### Constitutional Provisions

Article 19(1)(a): Freedom of speech & expression

Article 19(2): Reasonable restrictions (security, public order)

### Institutional Mechanisms

Press Council of India (print media ethics)

News Broadcasting Association (self-regulation)

IT Rules (digital media oversight)

## A tightening of the fist in India's digital public square

Imagine this. You leave a sharp, satirical comment on social media or under a news article about rising fuel prices, and it gets a few likes. A few hours later, the comment disappears. The platform does not explain. Your account remains, but you notice that posts on similar topics no longer appear publicly. You have not been charged with any offence. No court has issued an order. Yet something has quietly shifted.

This is not a far-fetched scenario. It is a plausible outcome under the draft amendments to India's Information Technology Rules released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on March 30, 2026. Presented as technical clarifications, the changes mark a deeper transformation in how speech is governed online and who gets to decide its limits.

### Core area of concern

At the centre of concern is a proposed expansion of executive power that risks bypassing Parliament and the courts. One provision, Rule 3(4), would require platforms to comply with a wide array of government-issued instruments, including advisories, directions and standard operating procedures, as a condition for retaining "safe harbour" protection under Section 79 of the IT Act. In plain terms, platforms would be legally safer if they follow government instructions, even when those instructions do not arise from formal law.

This sits uneasily with the Supreme Court of India's landmark ruling in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* (2015), which held that platforms are only required to act on unlawful content when they receive a court order or a government notification grounded in law. By allowing informal directives to trigger compliance obligations, the draft rules appear to dilute that constitutional safeguard.

The likely result is not targeted moderation but broad over-censorship. Faced with uncertain and potentially unpublished directives, platforms will err on the side of removal. It is the predictable



Vikram Raj

Journalist associated with the Internet Freedom Foundation

logic of risk management. When liability is unclear, speech becomes expendable.

A second shift expands the scope of state oversight far beyond traditional publishers. Amendments to Rule 8 bring ordinary users who post or share news and current affairs content within the ambit of the government's oversight mechanism. This includes the Inter-Departmental Committee, a body empowered to review content and recommend blocking.

This is not merely an administrative adjustment. It reintroduces, through a different route, a regulatory framework that has already faced judicial scrutiny. In 2021, the Bombay High Court stayed key provisions of the IT Rules, citing concerns under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The Madras High Court later observed that such oversight could undermine media independence. Those challenges remain pending. Yet, the new draft effectively reconstructs the same architecture while those questions are unresolved.

### An undefined role

Equally troubling is the transformation of the Inter-Departmental Committee itself. Originally designed to address grievances, it is now empowered to examine any "matter" referred by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The term is left undefined. A procedure is currently in place under Rule 14 but compliance remains an issue. There is no clear threshold for intervention, and no guarantee that affected users will be heard before action is taken.

This shift from grievance redress to proactive scrutiny changes the character of the body. It becomes less a forum for dispute resolution and more an instrument of preemptive control.

The third major concern lies in expanded data retention obligations. The draft clarifies that platform duties to retain user data operate in addition to requirements under any other law. In practice, this could mean that personal data, browsing activity and communication records are stored for extended periods, potentially years,

depending on overlapping legal mandates.

The risks here are not abstract. Longer retention increases the surface area for misuse, whether through unauthorised access, data breaches or function creep. It also alters the relationship between citizens and digital spaces. When every interaction may be archived indefinitely, self-censorship follows naturally.

Taken together, these amendments signal a shift toward a model where executive discretion plays a dominant role in shaping online speech. The concern is not only about individual provisions but about their cumulative effect. Each change reinforces the other. Informal directives gain force through safe harbour rules. Oversight expands to include ordinary users. Data retention deepens the state's informational reach.

### Upsetting the balance

Supporters of the policy may argue that governments require flexible tools to manage harmful content. That is true in principle. But constitutional systems impose limits on how that power is exercised. Delegated legislation must remain within the bounds of its parent statute, a principle affirmed in cases such as *Indian Express Newspapers vs Union of India* (1986). When rules begin to create new obligations that are not clearly grounded in law, the balance between regulation and overreach begins to tilt.

The short public consultation period, which ended on April 14, only heightens the concern. Changes of this magnitude deserve wider debate, legislative scrutiny and careful alignment with existing judicial rulings.

India's digital public sphere has grown precisely because it has allowed a diversity of voices, from professional journalists to ordinary citizens. That openness has always required some regulation. The question now is whether the new rules preserve that openness or narrow it through administrative control.

The answer will shape not only how platforms operate but also how freely citizens can speak, critique, and participate in public life.

The draft amendments to India's Information Technology Rules trigger fears of digital overreach and a departure from existing judicial rulings



# Media - Democracy and Security



**CONTEXT:** The independent journalists from Punjab alleged a systematic targeting of voices by the ruling government in the State.

## Way Forward

### Strengthening Ethical Journalism

- Self-regulation, editorial accountability
- Revive investigative journalism

### Media Literacy

- Citizen awareness to detect misinformation
- Critical thinking in digital consumption

### Technological Solutions

- AI-based fact-checking, deepfake detection

### Institutional Reforms

- Independent regulatory bodies

### Security-Media Coordination

- Protocols during crises/terror operations

## Mains Practice Question

Q. Discuss how media functions as both a force multiplier and a potential threat to democratic order and internal security in India.

(250 word / 15 Marks)



**CONTEXT:** Once regarded as an ideal haven for astronomical research, the Atacama Desert is increasingly threatened by light pollution arising from urban expansion, industrial activity, and the growth of mining operations and wind energy projects.

## COMPONENTS OF LIGHT POLLUTION

### GLARE

Excessive brightness from artificial lights causes visual discomfort and reduces visibility.



Causes discomfort and reduces visibility; can lead to safety issues.

### SKYGLOW

Brightening of the night sky over cities and towns due to scattered artificial light.



Reduces the natural darkness of the sky and obscures stars.

### LIGHT TRESPASS

Unwanted or unnecessary light spreads into areas where it is not needed.



Disturbs people, affects sleep, and disrupts the natural night environment.

### LIGHT CLUTTER

Excessive grouping of bright lights in an area creates a confusing and distracting environment.



Creates visual confusion and can distract drivers and pedestrians.



Light pollution affects human health, wildlife, energy use, and our ability to see the stars.

## Light Pollution - Impacts

1. Human Health → Disrupts circadian rhythm, reduces melatonin
2. Plants → Disturbs growth cycles, flowering, and seasonal patterns
3. Animals & Wildlife → Alters behaviour, feeding, and predator-prey balance
4. Bird Migration → Disorients navigation → affects breeding and nesting
5. Marine Life → Misguides species (e.g., turtle hatchlings), threatens survival
6. Insect Biodiversity → Decline in populations → disrupts food chains
7. Ecosystems → Imbalance due to interconnected species disruption
8. Astronomy → Skyglow hampers observation of celestial bodies
9. Energy & Environment → Wastage of energy → higher emissions
10. Economic Impact → Affects astro-tourism and scientific research



# Light Pollution



**CONTEXT:** Once regarded as an ideal haven for astronomical research, the Atacama Desert is increasingly threatened by light pollution arising from urban expansion, industrial activity, and the growth of mining operations and wind energy projects.

Initiative	Type	Key Objective / Role
International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) / Dark sky International	Global NGO	Promotes responsible lighting; certifies Dark Sky Parks/Reserves
Globe at Night Campaign	Citizen Science (Global)	Collects public data on night sky visibility to assess light pollution
World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness	Global Research Tool	Maps global light pollution levels for policy and awareness
International Year of Light (2015)	UN Initiative	Promotes sustainable and efficient use of lighting
Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (Ladakh)	India	India's first Dark Sky Reserve to protect astronomy research zones
National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)	India	Supports conservation of fragile ecosystems, including light pollution awareness in Himalayan regions
Outdoor Lighting Guidelines (various states/ULBs)	India	Promote energy-efficient and downward-directed lighting to reduce skyglow
Smart Cities Mission	India	Adoption of LED lighting and smart systems (indirectly reduces wastage and light pollution)

## Way forward

- Directional & Energy-Efficient Lighting → Downward-focused lights, LEDs, motion sensors to reduce wastage
- Dark Sky Parks/Reserves → Controlled lighting zones for conservation and astronomy
- Light-Optimized Urban Planning → Proper placement and minimal required lighting
- Regulations & Policies → Limits on brightness, direction, and timing (e.g., dimming billboards)
- Smart Lighting Technologies → Use of LEDs, timers, and automated systems
- Public Awareness → Promote responsible use; switch off unnecessary lights

## Mains Practice Question

Q. "Light pollution represents the unintended consequence of urbanisation". Discuss  
(15 Marks / 250 Words)



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Regional and Global Groupings  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number : 12**

**Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

- Permanent regional intergovernmental body, founded in 2001 in Shanghai, China.
- Created by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan (1996), and Uzbekistan
- SCO Charter (2003)- serves as the organisation’s constitutional document.
- Evolution of SCO: India and Pakistan in 2017, Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024
- Observers: Afghanistan, Mongolia.
- Principle of the “Shanghai Spirit” - mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, respect for cultural diversity, and the pursuit of common development.
- Official Language: Russian and Chinese.
- Headquarters: Beijing, China.
- Second permanent body - The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), which is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Body	Function
Council of Heads of State	Apex decision-making body that sets the overall strategic direction of the SCO.
Council of Heads of Government	Reviews and advances multilateral cooperation, especially economic and administrative matters.
Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs	Aligns and coordinates the foreign policy positions of member states.
Council of National Coordinators	Handles day-to-day coordination and prepares agendas for major SCO meetings.
Secretariat	Permanent executive organ responsible for implementation and administrative coordination (based in Beijing).
Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)	Specialized body to combat terrorism, separatism, and extremism (based in Tashkent).
SCO Business Council	Promotes trade, investment, and business collaboration among member countries.
SCO Interbank Consortium	Facilitates financial cooperation through coordination among member states’ banks.

The SCO members account for **23%** of global GDP along with **43%** of the world's population



**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Regional and Global Groupings  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number : 12**

**CSE 2022**

Q: Consider the following:

1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
2. Missile Technology Control Regime
3. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India is a member of which of the above?

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



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Cooperative Federalism, Planning  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number : 12**

- Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India.
- Vice Chairperson: Appointed by the Prime Minister.
- Ex-Officio Members: Up to four - Union Council of Ministers are nominated by the PM.
- Governing Council: "Team India," it includes the PM, Vice-Chairperson, ex-officio members, full-time members, Chief Ministers of states, and Lieutenant Governors of UTs.
- Special invitees - UT administrators of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Appointed by the Prime Minister (PM) for a set term
- Full-Time Members: Experts in the domains of economics, science, and other disciplines.
- Special Invitees: Experts, specialists, and practitioners from various fields.
- Regional Councils: Formed to address specific regional issues - Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors and are chaired by the PM or an appointed representative.

### Key Functions of NITI Aayog

- **Policy Formulation:** Prepares long-term, strategic, and sectoral policies for India's economic development.
- **Cooperative Federalism:** Acts as a bridge between the central and state governments for coordinated policy implementation.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Tracks the implementation of schemes and evaluates the outcomes.
- **Think Tank:** Provides knowledge, innovation, and thought leadership to address national challenges.

Three of the five new members – Abhay Karandikar, M. Srinivas, and Gowardhan Das – have had long careers in health, biotechnology, and science.

Mr. Karandikar, who is currently the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, was previously the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Professor of electrical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

Dr. Srinivas, until recently, was the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.

Mr. Das, who is currently the Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, was Professor, School of Molecular Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He was also the BJP's candidate in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election but quit the party prior to joining the insti-

One of the other two full-time members is an economist. K.V. Raju is currently member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. He specialises in agricultural policy, rural development, and water policy.

The other full-time member is Rajeev Gauba, a former Cabinet Secretary.

The NITI Aayog's newly appointed Vice-Chairman, Ashok Lahiri, is an economist. He was the Chief Economic Adviser from 2002 to 2007 and has served at several international policy institutions, including the World Bank and the IMF.

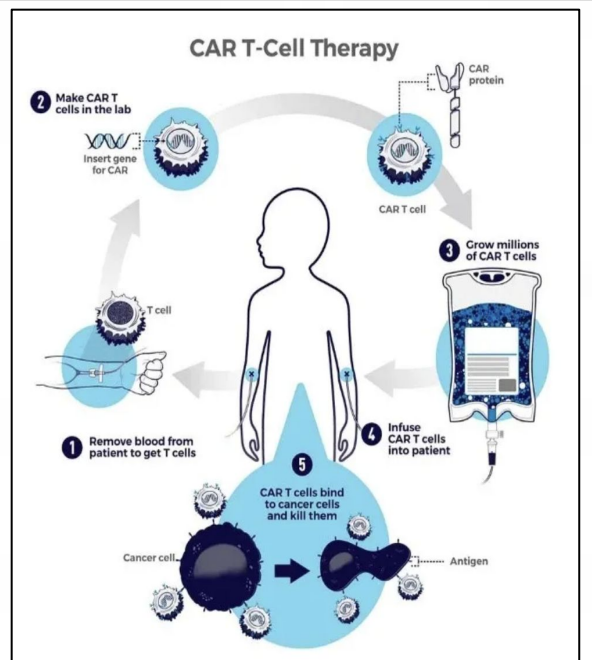


**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Science and Technology  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number:** Science

## How CAR T Cell Therapy Works?

CAR T cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy that uses genetically modified immune cells to target and kill cancer cells. It is a personalised treatment that involves the following steps:

- **T cell collection:** Patient's T cells are isolated from their blood using **apheresis**, a process similar to blood donation.
- **T cell engineering:** The collected T cells are genetically engineered to express the chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), using viruses as **vectors**. This gives the T cells specificity to target the cancer antigen.
- **T cell expansion:** The engineered CAR T cells are grown in the lab to expand their numbers to hundreds of millions. This process takes **2-3 weeks**.
- **Infusion into the patient:** The expanded CAR T cells are infused back into the patient as an **intravenous injection**. The patient is usually pretreated with **chemotherapy** beforehand to deplete existing T cells.
- **CAR T cells multiply and kill cancer cells:** In the patient's body, the infused CAR T cells bind to and kill cancer cells displaying the antigen on their surface. The CAR T cells proliferate and persist in the body, providing an ongoing cancer-killing ability.



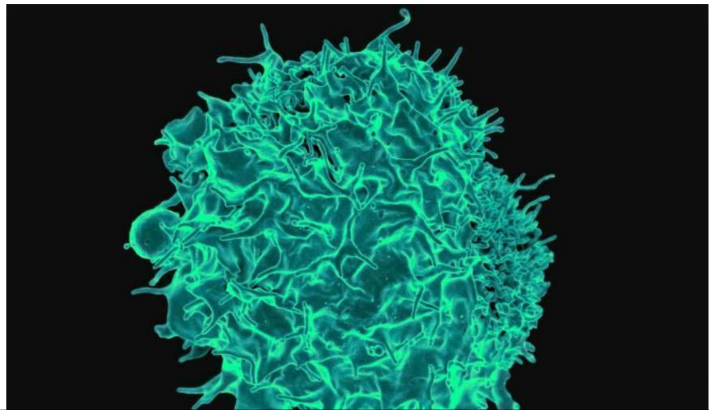
Scientists have developed a highly sensitive receptor that can detect trace amounts of proteins on solid tumours, overcoming a major biological hurdle to using CAR T-cell therapy against cancers such as kidney or ovarian cancer; this can help eliminate previously undetectable tumour cells

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, an approach that modifies a patient's own immune cells to hunt down cancer, has transformed treatment for blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma. But the same strategy has struggled when applied to solid tumours such as kidney or ovarian cancer.

One of the biggest obstacles is antigen heterogeneity. Tumours are not made of identical cells. Instead, they resemble a patchwork: some cells display the protein that CAR-T cells detect while others appear to lack it. CAR-T cells only destroy 'visible' targets, so the invisible cells survive and allow the cancer to grow back.

Now, a study published in *Science* on February 26 has suggested these supposedly invisible cells may not be invisible after all. Many tumour cells thought to lack the target protein actually carry small amounts – too little for current CAR-T cells to detect.



## Making T-cells more sensitive

To do this, the researchers developed a new receptor design called an **HLA-independent T-cell (HIT) receptor**.

Traditional CAR-T cells use receptors with molecular components that tell the immune cell when to attack. These triggers usually require a strong signal, meaning many copies of the target protein must be present on a cancer cell to elicit a response from T-cells.

The HIT receptor takes a different approach. Instead of changing the strength of the signal, it connects the cancer-detecting sensor directly to the T-cell's natural activation pathway – the internal system T-cells normally use to recognise infected cells – while bypassing the HLA system, the genetic ID tag that T-cells usually require to identify a target.

By co-opting this natural machinery, the receptor becomes able to detect antigens at much lower densities than a synthetic CAR.



# International Big Cat Alliance



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Environment Conservation  
**Newspaper:** The Indian Express; **Page Number : 11**

## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- Launched - India, 2023
- Founding Members (16): Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Suriname, & Uganda.
- Aim - conservation of seven big cats, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma harbouring our planet.
- Membership: Open to 97 'range' countries, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.
- IBCA enables global cooperation for big cat conservation through knowledge sharing, capacity building, partnerships, and financial support.
- Funding: First five years, supported by India's 'total grant assistance' of \$100 million
- Later it is expected to sustain itself through membership fees and contributions from bilateral and multilateral institutions and the private sector.
- Governance Structure:
  - A General Assembly consisting of all member countries.
  - A Council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.
  - Upon the recommendation of the Council, the General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General for a specific term



# China – Pak Space cooperation



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: India and its neighbourhood  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number :** 8

**Gunjan Singh**

The Chinese space programme has undertaken major strides since it built and launched its first satellite in 1970. In last half a century Beijing has conducted satellite launches, built its own navigation system, carried out successful spacewalks, and built and operated its own space station. China is also in the process of undertaking a manned moon mission by 2030. China has also consistently promoted its space technologies and pushed for cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This entails “a service network weaved by satellites and ground stations among the BRI partner countries has promoted the space industry to better benefit the local people”. China has also used its launching platform, the Long March, to promote its soft power by launching satellite for a number of other countries.

The ‘all-weather friendship’ between China and Pakistan has been replicated in their space cooperation as well. The partnership began in 1990 with China launching Pakistan’s Badr-I satellite. Today, China has built and launched satellites for Pakistan and in 2026 announced that it will send one Pakistani astronaut to the Tiangong space station.

**Lunar mission and satellite launches**  
 China has selected Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, two Pakistani candidates who will be trained in China for a visit to the Tiangong space station. However, only one of them will be visiting the space station as the payload specialist. This is being done under the 2025 agreement between the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission. China had also launched the ICUBE-Q in 2024 on Chang’e 6 orbiter. This was

developed in a collaboration between the Pakistan’s Institute of Space Technology (IST) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). The ICUBE-Q, a lunar CubeSat weighing about 7kg was to explore the far side of the moon. It was successful in capturing images of the moon and the sun and transmitting them back to Earth. China has been the only country which has launched a number of Pakistani satellites in the last two decades. This has helped Pakistan build a network of reconnaissance and communication satellite network. The latest mission in April 2026 saw Pakistan’s indigenous electro-optical satellite, EO-3 being launched from China’s Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. In 2025 China had launched three Pakistani satellites, a remote-sensing satellite (PRSS-2) in October 2025, Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1) in July 2025 and PRSC-EO1 in January 2025. In 2024 China had launched the second communication

satellite for Pakistan, PakSat MM1. The first Pakistani communication satellite PAKSAT-IR was launched in 2011.

**Navigation cooperation**  
 BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is China’s indigenous navigation system. It is also seen as the plausible alternative to the United States, Global Positioning System (GPS). The BeiDou system is considered to be very precise with providing information with 2 centimetres precision and this can be improved to 5 millimetres after image processing. This can be very helpful in disaster relief, urban planning, traffic guidance as well as environmental management. In 2014 Pakistan became the first foreign country to use the BeiDou navigation system. Under the China-Pakistan defence cooperation, the Pakistani military is all equipped to use the BeiDou system. In 2020 Chinese Satellite Navigation Office (CSNO) had announced that they will be establishing a Continuously Operating Radar Station (CORS) network in Pakistan which will be BeiDou enabled. The developments highlight that the ties between China and Pakistan has moved to the space arena as well, giving Islamabad a strategic advantage. The dual nature of space technology also helps Pakistan gain access to better navigation, telecommunication and disaster relief. (Dr. Gunjan Singh is an Associate Professor at OP Jindal Global University.)

Programmes	Aim
Long March rockets	Backbone launch system for satellites, crewed missions, and deep space exploration.
Tiangong space station	Permanent modular space station for long-term human presence and microgravity research.
BeiDou Navigation System	Global navigation, positioning, and timing system independent of GPS.
Shenzhou missions	Crewed missions to Tiangong for research and sustained human spaceflight capability.
Tianzhou cargo missions	Supplies, fuel, and equipment transport to support space station operations.
Tianwen missions	Planetary exploration (Mars, asteroid, Moon) and scientific studies.
ICUBE-Q	Demonstration of quantum communication and advanced space technology experiments.

**CSE 2016**

- Q. What is ‘Greased Lightning10 (GL-10)’, recently in the news?
- Electric plane tested by NASA
  - Solar-powered two-seater aircraft designed by Japan
  - Space observatory launched by China
  - Reusable rocket designed by ISRO



**Q1. With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:**

1. It was founded in 2001 in Shanghai and its headquarters is located in Beijing.
2. The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is headquartered in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

**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**

**Q2. With reference to the composition and structure of NITI Aayog, consider the following statements:**

1. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
2. The Vice-Chairperson is appointed by the President of India.
3. Regional Councils are chaired by the Prime Minister or his nominated representative.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Q3. With reference to CAR-T Cell Therapy, consider the following statements:**

1. It involves genetically modifying a patient's T-cells to target and destroy cancer cells.
2. It is used for treating bacterial infections only.

**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**

**Q4. With reference to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), consider the following statements:**

1. It was launched by India in 2023 for the conservation of seven big cat species.
2. Membership of IBCA is restricted only to the founding member countries.

**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. Match the following:**

China's Space Program	Aim
A. Long March rockets	1. Planetary exploration and scientific studies
B. Tiangong space station	2. Backbone launch system for satellites and crewed missions
C. Tianwen missions	3. Permanent modular space station for long-term human presence

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

- a) A-3, B-1, C-2
- b) A-2, B-3, C-1
- c) A-2, B-1, C-3
- d) A-1, B-2, C-3

**Answer: b**





# **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)