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WHAT IS GSAT-7B?



- It is the **Indian Army's first dedicated communications satellite.**
- It is **part of the GSAT-7 series**
- It is **expected to be launched** by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) around **mid-2028.**
- It will be the **heaviest communication satellite India has ever built.**
- It will sit in a **geostationary orbit.**
- **Till now, the Indian Army has been dependent on GSAT-7A** and other surveillance satellites like the **RISAT 2BR1** imaging satellite for communication and surveillance operations.
- **GSAT-7B is designed to provide Indian Army beyond-line-of-sight communications for deployed troops and military formations,** as well as weapon systems, airborne platforms, and other mission-critical assets.
- It will provide the army with **secure, round-the-clock connectivity across remote border areas** and challenging terrain, supporting day-to-day military operations and effective battlefield command and control.

GSAT 7 Series Satellites:

- They are **advanced communication satellites** developed by the **ISRO** to meet the **communication needs of the Indian defence services.**
- **GSAT-7 (Rukmini):**
 - It is an advanced communication satellite developed by ISRO and primarily provides communication **services to the Indian Navy.**
 - It is **India's first military satellite.**
 - It was **launched** in **2013** from an Ariane 5 ECA rocket from Kourou in French Guiana.

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- **GSAT 7A:**
 - It was **launched** in **2018**.
 - It primarily provides communication services to the **Indian Air Force**.
 - It also helps in satellite-controlled operations of UAVs.
- **GSAT-7R (CMS-03):**
 - It was **launched** in **2025**, a **replacement for the Rukmini satellite**.
 - The homegrown satellite enables seamless and secure communications between warships, aircraft, submarines, and maritime operations centres.

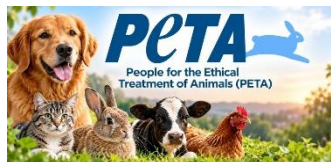
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY



- It is an autonomous **intergovernmental organisation** within the **OECD framework**.
- It **works with governments and industry** to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all.
- **Historical Background:** It was **established in 1974**, in the **wake of the 1973-1974 oil crisis**, to help its members respond to major oil supply disruptions.
- **Mandate:** Tracking and **analyzing global key energy trends**, promoting sound energy policy, and fostering multinational energy technology cooperation.
- **Focus Area:** It focuses on **four main areas**: energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Member Countries:** It consists of **32 member countries** and 14 association countries.
 - A **candidate country to the IEA** must be a member country of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**.
- **India joined this organization in 2017 as an Associate member.**
- **Reports Published by IEA:** World Energy Outlook, World Energy Balances, Energy Technology Perspectives, World Energy Statistics and Net Zero by 2050.

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PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)



- It is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) committed to **ending abusive treatment of animals** in business and society and promoting consideration of animal interests in everyday decision-making and general policies and practices.
- It is the **largest animal rights organization in the world**.
- PETA was founded in 1980 by Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco, who were influenced by Australian ethicist Peter Singer's book *Animal Liberation* (1975).
- It is **based in Norfolk, Virginia, United States**, with entities worldwide.
- Initially recognized for exposing cruelty in research laboratories, PETA has grown into a global entity with **over ten million members** and considerable annual expenditures.
- The very heart of all of PETA's actions is the idea that **it is the right of all beings—human and nonhuman alike—to be free from harm**.
- PETA **advocates that animals should not be used for human benefit and promotes alternatives made possible by technological advancements**.
- PETA **opposes speciesism, a human-supremacist worldview, and focuses on the four areas in which the largest numbers of animals suffer the most intensely for the longest periods of time:**
 - in **laboratories**
 - in the **food industry**
 - in the **clothing trade** and
 - in the **entertainment business**
- PETA also works on a variety of other issues, including the **cruel killing of rodents, birds, and other animals** who are often considered “**pests**” and cruelty to domesticated animals.
- PETA **works through public education, investigations, research, animal rescue, legislation, protests, and negotiations with companies and regulatory agencies**.

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RELIGIOUS CONVERSION AND RESERVATION - CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND SUPREME COURT RULING

- Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the Madras High Court's decision invalidating a Tamil Nadu government order that allowed persons converting to Islam from specified Hindu social categories to obtain Backward Class Muslim certificates without establishing eligibility for the notified communities.
- The Court held that **religious conversion does not automatically establish membership of a different notified backward community**.
- A person does not become a member of a particular Muslim community merely by converting to Islam, and a community certificate cannot independently create legal eligibility.

Constitutional Framework for Reservation

- The Constitution provides distinct legal frameworks for Scheduled Caste status and backward-class identification.
- **Scheduled Castes**
 - **Article 341:** Empowers the President to specify Scheduled Castes for each State or Union Territory. Under Article 341(2), Parliament may subsequently include or exclude communities by law.
 - **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950:** Paragraph 3 currently restricts Scheduled Caste status to persons professing Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism. Conversion to Islam or Christianity does not preserve SC status under the existing Order merely because of a person's former caste identity.
- **Socially and educationally backward classes**
 - **Article 15(4):** Enables special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
 - **Article 16(4):** Permits reservation in public employment for backward classes that, in the State's opinion, are not adequately represented in public services.

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- **Article 342A:** Provides the constitutional framework for identifying socially and educationally backward classes, while recognising States' authority to maintain their own lists for State purposes following the 105th Constitutional Amendment.
- Unlike the Scheduled Caste framework, backward-class identification is not restricted exclusively to Hindu caste identities. Non-Hindu communities may qualify if they satisfy the relevant constitutional criteria.

WHAT IS THE INDIAN CYBERCRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C)?



• I4C has been established under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to act as a **nodal point** at the National level in the **fight against cybercrime**.

- The I4C was **dedicated** to the nation on 10th January 2020.
- It is designed to provide a framework and **ecosystem for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to deal with cybercrime** in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- I4C **brings together academia, industry, public, and government** in the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of cybercrimes.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Objectives:**
 - To act as a nodal point to curb cybercrime in the country.
 - To strengthen the fight against cybercrime committed against women and children.
 - **Facilitate easy filing of cybercrime-related complaints and identifying cybercrime trends and patterns.**
 - To act as an **early warning system for LEAs** for proactive cybercrime prevention and detection.
 - **Awareness creation** among the public about preventing cybercrime.

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- Assist states/UTs in the capacity building of Police Officers, Public Prosecutors and Judicial Officers in the area of cyber forensics, investigation, cyber hygiene, cyber-criminology, etc.
- Identify the research problems and needs of LEAs and take up R&D activities in developing new technologies and forensic tools in collaboration with academia/research institutes within India and abroad.
- To coordinate all activities related to the implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with other countries related to cybercrimes in consultation with the concerned nodal authority in MHA.
- Major Initiatives:
 - Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS): For immediate reporting of financial cyber frauds and preventing the siphoning of funds by cyber criminals on a near-real-time basis.
 - National Toll-Free Helpline number '1930' has been operationalized to provide citizen assistance in lodging online cyber complaints.
 - The social media handle "CyberDost", which provides cyber safety tips at regular intervals.
 - I4C has envisaged the Cyber Crime Volunteers Program to bring together citizens with a passion to serve the nation on a single platform and contribute to the fight against cybercrime in the country.
 - Pratibimb geospatial crime mapping platform maps locations of criminals and crime infrastructure on a map to give visibility to jurisdictional officers.
 - Samanvaya Portal:
 - It is a web-based Joint Cybercrime Investigation Facilitation System.
 - The platform works as a centralized one-stop system for cybercrime data sharing, crime mapping, data analytics, and coordination among police and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) across States and Union Territories.

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RAJMARGYATRA APPLICATION



- It is a **citizen-centric unified mobile application** developed by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.

- This user-friendly app empowers travelers with **comprehensive information on Indian National Highways** while also offering an **efficient complaint redressal system**.
- The app is currently available in **English, Hindi**, and **over 13 other regional languages**.

Key Features:

- **Comprehensive Highway Information:**
 - 'Rajmargyatra' serves as a one-stop repository of essential information for National Highway users.
 - Get **real-time weather conditions, timely broadcast notifications**, and access to details about nearby **toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels**, and other essential services that ensure a seamless and safe journey on National Highways.
- **Hassle-Free Complaint Redressal:**
 - Users can easily **report highway-related issues, attaching geo-tagged videos or photos** for better clarity.
- **Seamless FASTag Services:** 'Rajmargyatra' **integrates** its services with various **bank portals**, making it **convenient for users to recharge their FASTags**, avail monthly passes, and access other FASTag-related banking services – all within a single platform.
- **Over-speeding notifications** and voice assistance to encourage responsible and safe driving behavior.
- **24x7 Emergency Support:** Get immediate assistance by calling the **1033 National Highway Helpline** directly from the app.
- **Toll Plaza Feedback:** Enables National Highway users to rate their toll plaza experience, report concerns and suggest improvements.

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CHINA'S TUNNEL BORING MACHINE (TBM) CURBS: STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

China has introduced fresh global export restrictions on **tunnel boring machines (TBMs)** — critical equipment for metro rail and highway construction — adding to earlier curbs on rare earth magnets that have already hurt Indian automobile manufacturers.

These 3,000-tonne machines are vital for several Indian infrastructure projects, most notably the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (bullet train) Corridor, which includes a 7-km undersea tunnel. The restrictions, announced by China's Commerce and Industry Ministry, will take effect from November 18, 2026.

- TBMs ensure safer excavation compared to conventional blasting methods — crucial for India's bullet train project, where the tunnel passes through densely populated areas.
- China's new rule requires export operators to apply for a licence under provisions of its export control law governing dual-use items.

India's Ongoing TBM Troubles

- India has faced TBM import delays since 2024, though shipments resumed in March 2026 as bilateral tensions eased somewhat.
- In a widely-noted 2024 incident, India raised the issue with Germany's then Vice-Chancellor during a Delhi Metro ride.
- It flagged that machines made in China by German TBM leader Herrenknecht for delivery to India were being blocked.

Impact Depends on How China Uses Its Leverage

- The new licensing mechanism gives China greater bargaining power in trade negotiations — but the actual impact on India depends on how selectively it is applied.
- Union Commerce Minister noted that India is working to develop the relationship with China once again, though “the last word has not yet been scripted.
- Meanwhile, EAM S. Jaishankar and FM Nirmala Sitharaman have flagged concerns over the “one-sided” and “tilted” India-China trade balance.

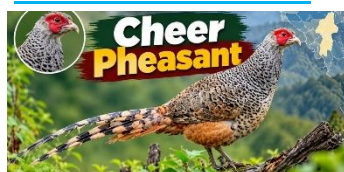
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Conclusion

China's TBM export curbs, following earlier restrictions on rare earth magnets, reveal a recurring pattern — Beijing's willingness to leverage its dominance over critical technologies and equipment as a tool in broader trade diplomacy.

For India, this exposes a strategic vulnerability: dependence on Chinese-manufactured or Chinese-routed machinery for flagship infrastructure projects like the bullet train corridor.

CHEER PHEASANT



- It is also known as **Wallich's pheasant** or **chir pheasant**, belongs to the pheasant family,
- **Habitat:** It is found in **steep, rocky hillsides** studded with scrub, stunted trees and grassy slopes between **1,200 and 3,350 metres**.
- **Distribution:** It is mainly found in **Western Himalaya** from northern Pakistan through **Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**, to central Nepal.
- **Characteristics of Cheer Pheasant:**
 - The cheer pheasant's nest is a simple ground scrape, tucked beneath **undergrowth or sheltered by rocks**.
 - It exhibits **high natal philopatry**, individuals often return to, or remain near, the area where they were born to breed.
 - It **depends on early successional grasslands** created by traditional grass cutting and burning practices.
 - **Diet:** It depends on items such as roots, tubers, bulbs, buried seeds and possibly insect larvae and earthworms.
- **Conservation Status of Cheer Pheasant**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.