

Daily Current Affairs





4
The Hindu



0
**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



2
**The Indian
Express**



0
Jansatta



2
**Financial
Express**



**You either face your
demons.**

**Or they raise your
children.**

44

- **Supreme Court's principal observations**

Issue	Court's observation
Temporary reforms	Reforms cannot be a knee-jerk reaction introduced only after a paper leak or examination crisis.
Committee-hopping	The government should not create a new committee and discard the previous committee's recommendations.
Institutional memory	Knowledge, procedures and expertise must remain within NTA even when senior officers are transferred.
Permanent mechanism	A dedicated structure is required to implement, monitor and continuously improve examination reforms.
Infrastructure	NTA needs secure premises, confidential operational facilities and adequate permanent staff.
Technology	NTA must have secure software, indigenous technological capability, cybersecurity systems and protected data storage.
Human resources	The Court questioned how many proposed senior officers had actually been appointed and taken charge.
Candidate experience	Reforms must cover grievance redressal, candidate-friendly systems and transparent communication.
UPSC comparison	Like UPSC, NTA should develop expertise and institutional continuity through repeated examination management.
Continuity	Reform processes must pass from one generation of officers to the next rather than depend on individuals.

Committee/task force	Leadership	Broad role
High-Level Committee on Examination Reforms	Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former ISRO Chairman	Recommended structural, operational and security reforms in the examination system.
Technology-focused task force	Nandan Nilekani, Infosys co-founder	Examined technology-led improvements and reportedly refined the earlier recommendations.
Supreme Court's concern	Bench led by Justice P.S. Narasimha	Whether the recommendations have actually been converted into permanent NTA systems.

Reform area	Proposed measure
Question-paper security	Encryption, controlled access, secured printing and tamper-evident movement
Data protection	Sovereign database and secure examination-data storage
Cybersecurity	Specialised information-security officers and continuous threat monitoring
Technology	Use of AI, blockchain and indigenous digital infrastructure
Translation	Secure multilingual question-paper translation systems
Staffing	Appointment of technology, finance, operations and information-security officers
Testing centres	Accredited centres with standard infrastructure and surveillance
Candidate support	Improved grievance, communication and facilitation systems
R&D	Dedicated research division for testing science and examination security
Accountability	Documented responsibility at each stage of examination preparation and delivery

Constitutional provision/principle	Relevance
Article 14	Paper leaks create unequal advantages and undermine equality of opportunity.
Article 21	A deeply unfair examination process may affect students' dignity, education and future opportunities.
Article 16	Relevant where public recruitment examinations are compromised.
Fairness in state action	Public examination bodies must act transparently, reasonably and without arbitrariness.
Public trust doctrine	NTA holds responsibility for protecting the integrity of examinations affecting millions of candidates.

- **Prelims facts**

- NTA is an autonomous testing organisation under the Ministry of Education.
- It was established in 2017 and began functioning in 2018.
- The Radhakrishnan Committee was chaired by former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Radhakrishnan.
- Nandan Nilekani is a co-founder of Infosys and was the founding Chairman of UIDAI.
- The relevant anti-cheating law is the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.
- UPSC is a constitutional body under Article 315; NTA is not a constitutional body.
- The Supreme Court Bench in this reported hearing comprised Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe.

Maharashtra govt. to test drivers on 'working knowledge' of Marathi

Maharashtra to issue notice granting one-month grace period to learn the language, followed by licence suspension and, finally, permanent cancellation; ruling party leader calls it 'an injustice'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Wednesday announced a drive to act against autorickshaw and taxi drivers without a "working knowledge" of Marathi from August 20.

"The licences of autorickshaw and taxi drivers refusing to learn Marathi could be suspended or cancelled," warned Mr. Sarnaik. He said functional knowledge of Marathi language among commercial vehicle drivers will be assessed and the entire process of verifying Marathi language knowledge while issuing new badges to drivers will be videographed.

The State Transport Department will send a notice to drivers who refuse to learn the language or are seen violating the rules. The notice will grant a one-month grace period to learn Marathi and authorities will suspend the li-



Flying squads will carry out checks and ensure implementation of the amended rules. FILE PHOTO

cence for three months if the drivers refuse to learn the language. If the situation persists thereafter, the licences will be cancelled.

Additional Transport Commissioner Ravi Gaikwad will lead the month-long drive against non-Marathi taxi and autorickshaw drivers across the State. Regional Transport Office (RTO) flying squads have been instructed through videoconference to carry out checks and ensure implementation of the amended rules.

Mr. Sarnaik reiterated that the aim is to promote Marathi and increase its usage in day-to-day conversations, saying, "If any driver openly challenges the order, it will not be tolerated and action will be taken."

After a 105-day campaign by the government to encourage non-Marathi taxi and autorickshaw drivers to learn the language, 1.65 lakh drivers received certificates of proficiency. In April, the government had also released a Marathi language guidebook in an

effort to help drivers to learn the language.

The autorickshaw drivers' and owners' association headed by Shashank Rao and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Nirupam on Wednesday called the government decision to implement the rule immediately "an injustice" and demanded time for drivers to learn Marathi.

'Don't threaten them'

"The government should not threaten them or create an atmosphere of confrontation. They are already worried about their livelihood," said Mr. Nirupam, widely perceived as the north Indian face of the Eknath Shinde-led party in Mumbai.

He claimed that allowing RTO officials to test drivers' proficiency in Marathi could create another avenue for corruption and harassment. The former MP claimed the Transport Minister has agreed to heed his request.

(With inputs from PTI)

Stage

Proposed action

Initial verification

RTO flying squads will test functional Marathi knowledge.

Documentation

Verification and badge-issuance processes will be videographed.

First failure/refusal

Driver will receive a notice and one month to learn Marathi.

Continued non-compliance

Commercial driving authorisation may be suspended for three months.

Failure after suspension

Government has warned of cancellation of the relevant authorisation.

Document

Holder

Purpose

Driving licence

Individual driver

Authorises a person to drive a specified vehicle class.

Public-service/commercial badge

Individual driver

Additional authorisation connected with driving a public-service vehicle.

Vehicle permit

Vehicle owner/operator

Permits a particular vehicle to operate commercially on specified conditions.

Aggregator licence

Platform/company

Authorises an app-based aggregator to operate.

- **Government's justification**

- Taxi and autorickshaw drivers provide a public-facing service.
 - Basic Marathi can facilitate communication with local passengers.
 - It may help drivers understand destinations, road signs, complaints and emergency instructions.
 - Marathi is Maharashtra's official language.
 - Drivers were offered training before enforcement.
 - A one-month opportunity is reportedly available after notice.
 - Videography may improve transparency and reduce arbitrary assessments.
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- **Article 29(1): Protection of language and culture**

- Article 29 protects the right of citizens to conserve their distinct language, script or culture. It supports linguistic diversity but does not automatically invalidate reasonable promotion of a State's official language.

- **. Article 345: Official language of a State**

- A State legislature may adopt one or more languages used in the State as its official language. Marathi's official status supports its use in government administration, but **official-language status alone may not automatically authorise cancellation of an individual's occupational licence**. Separate statutory authority and proportionality are still required.

Test	Question
Legitimate aim	Is better passenger communication a valid public objective?
Rational connection	Does basic Marathi knowledge help achieve that objective?
Necessity	Could translation cards, multilingual apps or a longer training programme achieve it with less harm?
Balancing	Is the public benefit greater than the loss of livelihood caused by suspension or cancellation?
Procedural safeguards	Are testing, notice, hearing, retesting and appeal procedures fair?

Arguments supporting the policy

Improves communication with Marathi-speaking passengers

Promotes the State's official language

Public-service drivers need local familiarity

Training was offered before enforcement

Videography can ensure transparency

Local-language requirements exist in some regulated occupations

One-month notice prevents immediate punishment

Arguments opposing the policy

May disproportionately affect migrant workers

“Working knowledge” remains insufficiently defined

Language ability is not the same as driving competence

RTO discretion may enable harassment or corruption

Suspension may deprive families of their livelihood

Less restrictive alternatives are available

One month may be inadequate for some learners

OPS TO BEGIN IN INDIA, FOLLOWED BY BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA

Nelco's direct-to-device satcom set for 2028 launch

OJASVI GUPTA

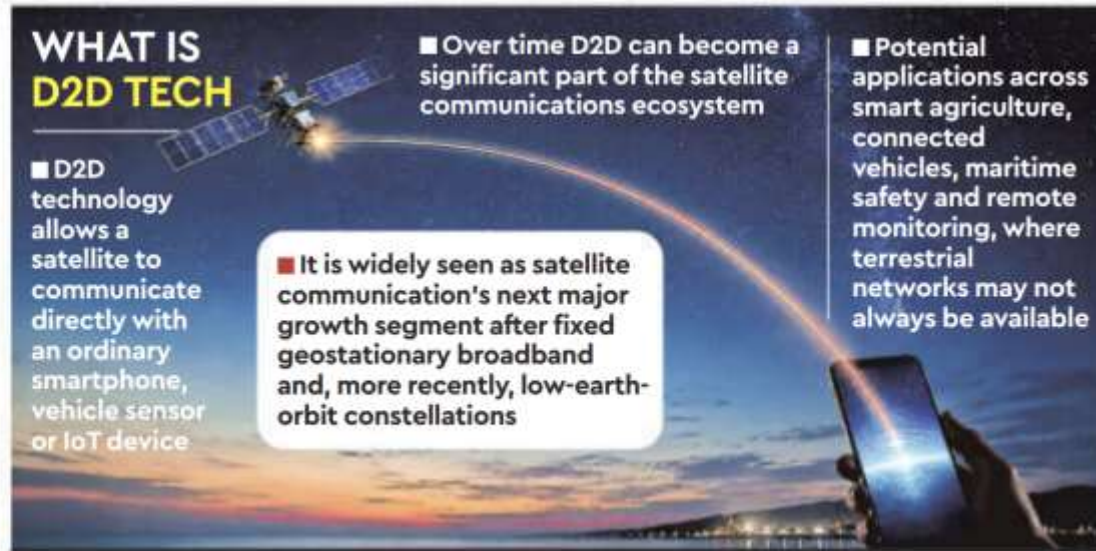
New Delhi, August 19

INDIA WILL BE among the first markets for Nelco's direct-to-device (D2D) satellite connectivity as the Tata Group-backed satellite communications provider plans to launch commercial services by early 2028.

The company will also look to begin operations in other South Asian markets like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as it expands beyond its core satellite connectivity and capacity-reselling business.

Nelco Managing Director and CEO P J Nath said the opportunity in the D2D market is large, adding over time D2D can become a significant part of the satellite communications ecosystem.

"D2D technology allows a satellite to communicate directly with an ordinary smartphone, vehicle sensor or IoT device," Nath said. He added it is widely seen as satellite communication's next major growth segment after fixed geostationary broadband and, more recently, low-earth-orbit con-



stellations.

Nelco has recently acquired a minority stake in Lunar Holdco for ₹191.2 crore (\$20 million). Lunar brings to the table satellite mobile connectivity solutions under the Elveo Mobile brand. The strategy is to team up with mobile operators rather than compete with them or sell services directly to consumers. The D2D model will remain predominantly B2B and B2G.

The investment in Lunar is

a strategic one. "We don't want to be just a reseller this time. We want a far bigger and deeper engagement, a strategic partner, not a distributor," Nath said, adding that the investment also gives Nelco a route to expand beyond India into other markets.

The company, currently operates in the geostationary (GEO) satellites and expects low Earth orbit (LEO) to create new markets rather than simply displace its existing busi-

ness. In India, there have been delays in opening up LEO services in India.

Nelco sees potential applications across smart agriculture, connected vehicles, maritime safety and remote monitoring, where terrestrial networks may not always be available. While the company plans to build a presence across South Asia, it expects D2D to become a significant growth opportunity over the next five to 10 years as more devices come online.

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- Tata Group-backed **Nelco Limited** plans to launch commercial direct-to-device satellite communication services in India by early 2028. Trials are expected to begin by the end of 2027.
 - After India, the company intends to enter Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other South Asian markets.
 - To support this expansion, Nelco has invested **\$20 million—approximately ₹191.2 crore—in Lunar Holdco Inc.**, a US-based company operating under the **Elveo Mobile** brand. Nelco will hold a strategic minority interest rather than control the company.

Particular

Indian company

Parent group

Technology

Proposed trials

Proposed commercial launch

First major market

Subsequent markets

Strategic investment

Investee company

Commercial brand

Instrument used

Return on CCDs

Nature of holding

Core satellite band

Satellite architecture

Intended customers

Consumer connectivity

Details

Nelco Limited

Tata Group

Direct-to-Device satellite communication

By the end of 2027

Early 2028

India

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries

\$20 million or approximately ₹191.2 crore

Lunar Holdco Inc.

Elveo Mobile

Compulsorily Convertible Debentures

7% annual compounded return

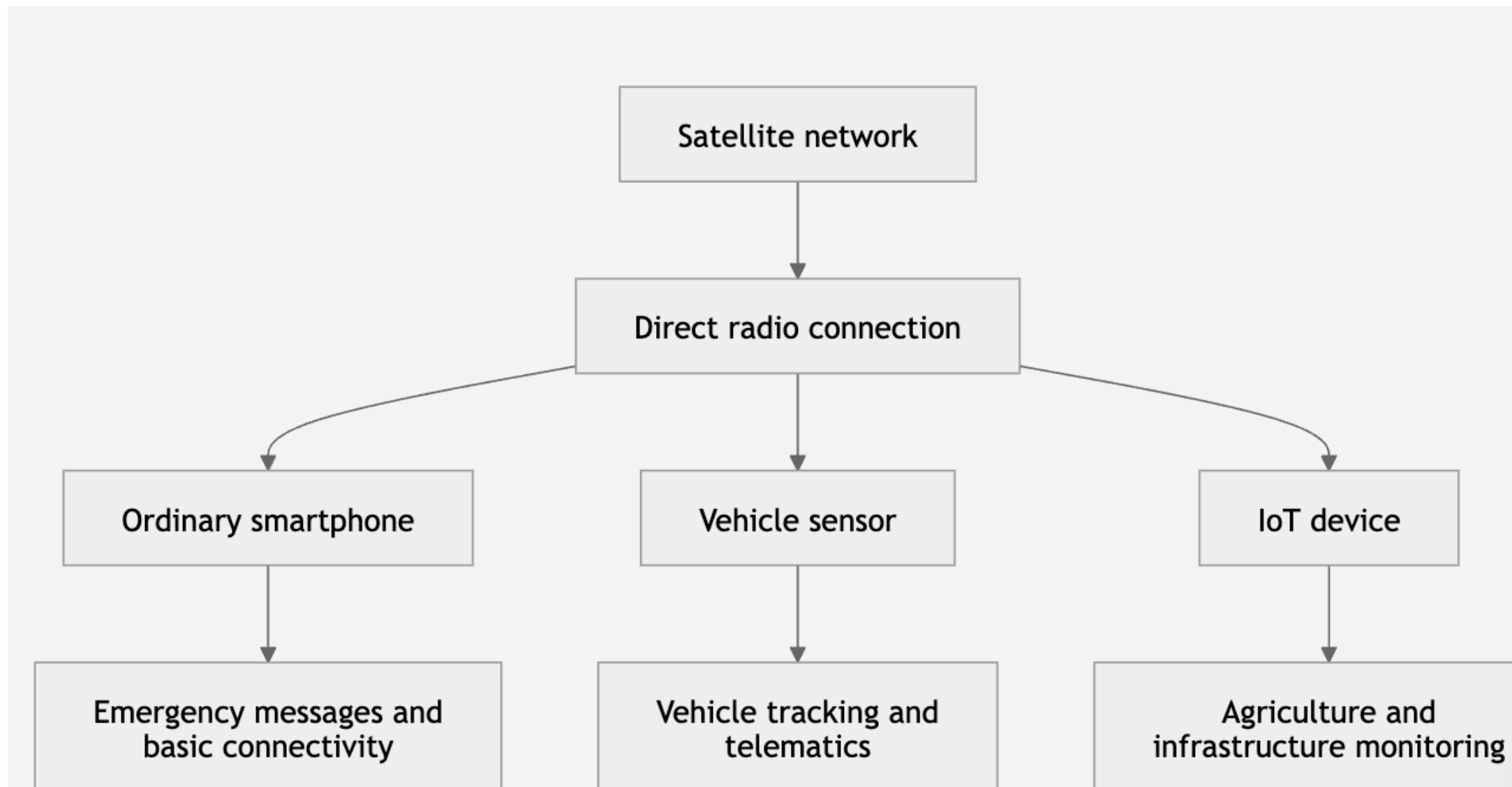
Strategic minority interest

S-band

Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit network

Predominantly B2B and B2G

Expected through partnerships with telecom companies



Feature	Terrestrial mobile network	Direct-to-Device satellite service
Connection source	Ground-based mobile tower	Satellite in space
Coverage	Strong in populated and networked areas	Useful in remote or uncovered areas
Device requirement	Ordinary mobile phone	Increasingly compatible with ordinary phones and IoT devices
Infrastructure	Towers, fibre and base stations	Satellite constellation and ground gateways
Best use	Normal urban and rural communication	Coverage gaps, disasters, oceans and remote regions
Capacity	Generally high	Initially more limited
Cost	Usually lower	Likely to remain relatively expensive initially
Latency	Generally low	Depends on satellite orbit and network design
Emergency resilience	Towers can fail during disasters	Can continue if ground networks are disrupted

Type	Approximate position	Major characteristics
Geostationary Orbit or GEO	About 35,786 km above Earth	A satellite appears stationary relative to Earth; wide coverage but higher latency
Low Earth Orbit or LEO	Roughly 160–2,000 km	Lower latency, but many satellites are needed for continuous coverage
Non-Geostationary Orbit or NGSO	Includes LEO and certain other non-GEO orbits	Satellites move relative to Earth and generally operate as a constellation

India eyes supply-chain gains after Google Pixel's China exit

ASHUTOSH MISHRA &
OJASVI GUPTA
New Delhi, August 19

GOOGLE'S PLAN TO move Pixel smartphone production out of China by 2027 could give India a fresh opportunity to move up the electronics value chain, beyond assembling phones to making the components and sub-assemblies that go into them. But India will have to contend with Vietnam, which has a deeper and more established electronics supply chain.

According to reports, Google plans to shift Pixel production out of China as part of efforts to diversify its supply chain. The company has been expanding manufacturing in both India and Vietnam, with Vietnam taking on high-end Pixel development and production.

For India, the real opportunity could lie in components such as display and camera modules, multi-layer and high-density interconnect (HDI) printed circuit boards, passive components, lithium-ion cells and mobile enclosures, industry experts said.

"India has already demonstrated that it can become a

MOBILE HUB

■ Google plans to shift Pixel production out of China as part of efforts to diversify

■ The company has been expanding manufacturing in both India and Vietnam



■ Vietnam, with its more established electronics supply chain, is a strong competitor

global-scale electronics assembly and export base. The next logical step is to deepen domestic value addition by building the component and sub-assembly ecosystem," said Colonel Suhail Zaidi (Retd), director general, Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT).

The push comes as India builds capacity in these segments. The latest approvals under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) have taken the total to 106 projects across about 30 product categories and 15 states, with projected investment of ₹69,548 crore.

India already has a sizable smartphone export base,

though a large part of it is assembly. Smartphone exports reached about \$30 billion in calendar 2025, making phones the country's largest individual export category, according to government data.

Google has also been scaling up exports from India. Its manufacturing partners exported about 350,000 Pixel handsets in 2024 and another 250,000 units in the first five months of 2025, with Malaysia and Thailand among the destinations, according to the latest available data.

The tech giant began manufacturing Pixel phones in India in 2024 and has since expanded production through partners including Foxconn and Dixon Technologies.

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- Reports indicate that Google plans to move Pixel hardware production out of China by 2027 as part of a broader supply-chain diversification strategy.
 - India and Vietnam are expected to become the principal beneficiaries. Google has already expanded Pixel manufacturing in both countries, while Vietnam is developing and producing high-end Pixel devices.
 - This remains a **reported plan based on industry sources**, rather than a fully detailed official commitment from Google regarding the final allocation of every product and component.

Particular	Details
Company	Google
Product family	Pixel smartphones and potentially watches and earbuds
Proposed China exit	By 2027
Main alternative locations	India and Vietnam
Pixel manufacturing began in India	2024
Major Indian partners	Foxconn and Dixon Technologies
Reported exports in 2024	Approximately 3.5 lakh Pixel handsets
Reported exports in first five months of 2025	Approximately 2.5 lakh handsets
India's smartphone exports in 2025	Approximately \$30 billion
ECMS-approved projects	106
ECMS projected investment	₹69,548 crore
States covered under ECMS	15
Projected direct jobs	74,628
Projected indirect jobs	Approximately 2.5 lakh

Factor	Explanation
Geopolitical tensions	US-China tensions create long-term policy and trade uncertainty
Supply-chain concentration	Excessive dependence on one country increases disruption risk
Tariff exposure	Production diversification may reduce vulnerability to future tariffs
Pandemic experience	COVID-19 exposed the risks of geographically concentrated production
Indian market	India is one of the world's largest smartphone markets
Export potential	India is developing into a major smartphone export platform
Government incentives	Indian manufacturing schemes reduce investment costs
Vietnam's ecosystem	Vietnam already possesses established electronics suppliers and skilled production capacity

Value-chain stage

India's present or potential role

Final assembly

Already expanding rapidly

Enclosures

Growing domestic manufacturing capacity

Printed circuit boards

Significant future opportunity

Display modules

High-value opportunity

Camera modules

Important for premium smartphones

Battery cells

Opportunity to reduce import dependence

Passive components

Resistors, capacitors and related parts

Semiconductor packaging

Higher-technology manufacturing opportunity

Product engineering

Design, testing and manufacturing-process development

Research and development

Long-term source of intellectual property and value addition

Assembly-led model

Imported components are put together in India

Generates employment

Relatively low domestic value addition

Easily relocated to another country

Limited intellectual property

Lower supplier integration

Export numbers can be high despite import dependence

Deep manufacturing model

Components and sub-components are produced domestically

Generates employment plus technological capability

Higher domestic value addition

Creates a more durable industrial ecosystem

Greater potential for design and process knowledge

Builds domestic supplier networks

More export income is retained within India

Area	India	Vietnam
Domestic market	Very large	Relatively small
Labour availability	Large workforce	Established electronics workforce
Supplier ecosystem	Expanding	Deeper and more mature in electronics
Smartphone exports	Growing rapidly	Already strongly integrated into global supply chains
Government incentives	Substantial	Competitive investment environment
Component manufacturing	Still developing	Better-established supplier base
Logistics	Improving but uneven	Strong export-oriented coastal manufacturing clusters
High-end Pixel development	Emerging opportunity	Already involved in development and production
Scale potential	Extremely high	Strong but limited by smaller population and land base

210 Indian Peacekeepers Receive UN Medals in South Sudan

Category	Number
Total Indian peacekeepers honoured	210
Women peacekeepers	6
Staff officers	7
Location of ceremony	Juba, South Sudan
Mission	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
Mission abbreviation	UNMISS

Feature	Explanation
Awarding authority	United Nations
Recipients	Eligible military, police and other mission personnel
Basis	Qualifying service in a designated UN mission
Purpose	Recognition of international peacekeeping service
Nature	Service medal, not ordinarily an individual gallantry award
Ribbon	Usually designed according to the colours and identity of the particular mission

- **What is UN Peacekeeping?**

- UN peacekeeping is an instrument used by the United Nations to help conflict-affected countries establish conditions for sustainable peace.
- The first UN peacekeeping operation was the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organization**, established in 1948 to monitor ceasefire arrangements in the Middle East.
- Peacekeeping is not expressly mentioned in the UN Charter. It evolved as a practical mechanism between purely peaceful dispute settlement under Chapter VI and enforcement action under Chapter VII. It is sometimes informally described as “Chapter VI-and-a-half.”

Principle

Meaning

Consent of parties

Major parties to the conflict should accept the mission's presence

Impartiality

Peacekeepers must implement the mandate without favouring a party

Limited use of force

Force is normally used only in self-defence and defence of the mandate

International legitimacy

Operations function under a mandate authorised through the UN system

Multinational character

Personnel are contributed by different UN member states

Political objective

Military deployment supports a broader political peace process

UN organ	Principal role
UN Security Council	Establishes most peacekeeping missions and determines their mandates
UN Secretary-General	Directs implementation through the UN Secretariat
Department of Peace Operations	Plans and manages peacekeeping operations
General Assembly	Approves peacekeeping budgets and oversees financial matters
Fifth Committee	Examines administrative and budgetary requirements
Troop-contributing countries	Provide military and police personnel
Host country	Provides consent and cooperation, depending on the mandate

Particular	Details
Full name	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
Abbreviation	UNMISS
Established	2011
Establishing resolution	UN Security Council Resolution 1996
Headquarters	Juba
Country	South Sudan
Immediate historical context	Independence of South Sudan
Principal focus	Civilian protection and durable peace



Indicator	Reported position
Indian military and police personnel deployed globally	More than 4,200
Women among deployed Indian personnel	155
Indian military personnel in UNMISS as of April 2026	1,775
India's position in UNMISS at that time	Largest troop contributor
Indian personnel who have served since 1948	More than 2,00,000
Missions in which Indians have participated	49 of the 71 missions created since 1948

Mission/region

Korea

Congo

Lebanon

Democratic Republic of the Congo

South Sudan

Abyei

Liberia

Golan Heights and Middle East

Cyprus

Western Sahara

Nature of involvement

Medical contribution during the Korean War

Major military contribution to ONUC

Participation in UNIFIL

Military, aviation and medical personnel

Infantry, engineering, medical and staff personnel

Military and police deployment

All-women Formed Police Unit

Military observers and support personnel

Police and other mission personnel

Military observers

National Sports Awards 2025

Award	Primary purpose
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna	Highest sporting honour for exceptional performance
Arjuna Award	Consistent outstanding sporting performance
Arjuna Award—Lifetime	Lifetime contribution by retired sportspersons
Dronacharya Award	Outstanding contribution by coaches
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar	Promotion and development of sports by organisations
MAKA Trophy	Recognition of high-performing universities in sports
Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award	Achievement in adventure activities

Award category	Number selected
Arjuna Award	17 sportspersons
Arjuna Award—Lifetime	1 sportsperson
Dronacharya Award—Regular	3 coaches
Dronacharya Award—Lifetime	2 coaches
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar	1 organisation
Total individual sportspersons and coaches	23
Organisations recognised	1



Arjuna Award recipients

Awardee	Discipline
Tejaswin Shankar	Athletics
Muhammed Ajmal V	Athletics
Priyanka Goswami	Athletics
Treesa Jolly	Badminton
Pullela Gayatri Gopichand	Badminton
Narender	Boxing
Vidit Santosh Gujarathi	Chess
Divya Jitendra Deshmukh	Chess
Dhanush Srikanth	Deaf shooting
Lalremsiami	Hockey
Rajkumar Pal	Hockey
Surjeet	Kabaddi
Pooja	Kabaddi
Rudransh Khandelwal	Para-shooting
Ekta Bhyan	Para-athletics
Arvind Singh	Rowing
Akhil Sheoran	Shooting

Discipline	Number of recipients
Athletics	3
Badminton	2
Chess	2
Hockey	2
Kabaddi	2
Shooting	1
Deaf shooting	1
Para-shooting	1
Para-athletics	1
Boxing	1
Rowing	1
Total	17

Arjuna Award—Lifetime

Awardee	Discipline
I. Arumainayagam	Football

The Lifetime category recognises retired sportspersons who achieved distinction during their active careers and continue contributing to sports promotion.

Dronacharya Award—Regular category

Coach	Discipline
Parveer Singh	Athletics
Chhote Lal Yadav	Boxing
Neha Nandkumar Chavan	Shooting

Dronacharya Award—Lifetime category

Coach	Discipline
Dharmendra Singh Yadav	Boxing
Virender Kumar	Wrestling

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

Recipient

Location/identity

Army Paralympic Node

Pune

The Army Paralympic Node has been recognised for its visible role in promoting and developing sport, particularly by supporting para-athletes associated with the armed forces.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

The official 2025 announcement reproduced by the Ministry does **not list a recipient for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**.

Students should not assume that every National Sports Awards announcement necessarily contains a Khel Ratna recipient. For the 2025 awards, the official list contains Arjuna, Arjuna Lifetime, Dronacharya and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan categories.

What are the National Sports Awards?

National Sports Awards are administered by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to recognise outstanding sportspersons, coaches, institutions and organisations.

- **Selection process**

- Applications are invited through an online portal. Eligible sportspersons, coaches and organisations can self-apply.
- The applications are evaluated by a selection committee consisting of:
 - A chairperson, generally a retired judge
 - Eminent sportspersons
 - Sports administrators
 - Individuals with experience in sports journalism
 - Other subject experts

Significance of the 2025 selection

Recognition of diverse sports

The Arjuna list covers athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, deaf shooting, hockey, kabaddi, para-sports, rowing and shooting.

Para-sports inclusion

Ekta Bhyan and Rudransh Khandelwal represent the growing prominence of Indian para-athletes.

Recognition of the Army Paralympic Node further strengthens the institutional focus on para-sports.

Recognition of deaf sports

Dhanush Srikanth's selection under deaf shooting shows that excellence in deaf sports is being recognised within the principal national award structure.

Gender representation

Women feature across athletics, badminton, chess, hockey, kabaddi and para-athletics. Neha Nandkumar Chavan is also recognised in the Dronacharya regular category.

Recognition beyond cricket

No cricketer appears in this list. The selection highlights achievements across Olympic, Paralympic and indigenous sports.

Question	Answer
Announcement date	18 August 2026
Award year	2025
Ministry	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Selection committee chairperson	Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, retired Supreme Court judge
Arjuna Award recipients	17
Arjuna Lifetime recipient	I. Arumainayagam
Dronacharya regular recipients	3
Dronacharya lifetime recipients	2
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan recipient	Army Paralympic Node, Pune
Highest sporting honour	Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna
Arjuna Award instituted	1961
Dronacharya Award instituted	1985
Khel Ratna instituted	1991–92
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar instituted	2009
National Sports Day	29 August

ONGC Receives US Licence for Venezuela Operations

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- India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, through its overseas subsidiary **ONGC Videsh Limited**, has secured a licence from the US Treasury Department's **Office of Foreign Assets Control** to resume wider operations in Venezuela.
 - The licence reduces the sanctions-related risks that had prevented ONGC Videsh from investing freely, entering new operational arrangements, making payments and recovering accumulated dividends from its Venezuelan oil assets.
 - ONGC is now considering higher production, fresh investment and taking over the operatorship of certain projects from Venezuela's state-owned oil company, **Petróleos de Venezuela S.A.**, commonly called PDVSA

Particular	Details
Indian company	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
Overseas subsidiary	ONGC Videsh Limited
Country of operation	Venezuela
US authority granting relief	Office of Foreign Assets Control
Parent department of OFAC	US Department of the Treasury
Major Venezuelan partner	PDVSA
Principal projects	San Cristóbal and Carabobo-1
ONGC Videsh interest in San Cristóbal	40%
Direct ONGC Videsh interest in Carabobo-1	Approximately 11%
Combined interest of Indian companies in Carabobo-1	Approximately 18%
Reported frozen dividends	More than \$500 million; some estimates approach \$600 million
Target production	Approximately 30,000 barrels per day
Proposed timeframe	About one year after operational expansion
Present reported production range	Approximately 12,000–15,000 barrels per day
Nature of projects	Upstream oil exploration and production

Feature	Details
Parent company	ONGC
Ownership	Government-controlled through ONGC
Role	Acquisition and management of overseas oil and gas assets
Activities	Exploration, development, production and investment
Strategic objective	Strengthening India's access to overseas energy resources
Venezuelan assets	San Cristóbal and Carabobo-1

Particular	Details
ONGC Videsh participating interest	40%
Venezuelan partner	PDVSA-linked enterprise
Operating structure	Joint venture
Nature of asset	Producing oil field
FY26 output attributed in the article	Approximately 0.265 million tonnes of oil equivalent
Growth opportunity	Higher output through investment, maintenance and operational control

Carabobo-1 project

Carabobo-1 is part of Venezuela's Orinoco heavy-oil region.

There are two different figures that may appear for India's participation:

Stake description	Approximate interest 
Direct ONGC Videsh interest	11%
Combined interest of ONGC Videsh and other Indian partners	18%

The uploaded article's **11% figure** refers to ONGC Videsh's direct interest. Reports citing **18%** generally refer to the combined holding of the participating Indian companies. This distinction should be retained in examination answers. [Reuters report on ONGC's Venezuelan assets ↗](#)

Word of the day

Aspersions:

a disparaging remark

Synonyms: criticism, attack, contempt, insult

Usage: *She was angry at the aspersions made about her work.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/aspersion

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əspɜːʃən/



Thank you 😊

