

## CLASS 02

# GK Including Current Affairs

April 2026 · Faculty edition

Source: clatgurukul.com daily blogs (Mar–Apr 2026)

### TODAY'S TWO PILLARS

## A

### DELIMITATION & FEDERALISM

The 2026 trigger · Article 82 · Bommai · 850-seat LS · 131st Amendment defeat · Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam · DMK push

14 slides

## B

### INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAMME

Skyroot Vikram-1 · PFBR-500 Kalpakkam · Artemis II · OST 1967 · IN-SPACe · Liability Convention · Mission Shakti

14 slides

FROM CLASS 01 → CLASS 02

# Recap & Today's Build

What we covered last week · what we attack today

## CLASS 01 RECAP

AI

India AI Impact Summit 2026

MISSION

IndiaAI compute stack & DPDP linkage

LAW

DPDP Act 2023 — data governance

POLICY

Atmanirbhar Bharat AI angle

## TODAY → CLASS 02 BUILD

A1

Article 82 + 1976 Freeze + 2026 trigger

A2

S.R. Bommai (1994) — Federalism = Basic Structure

A3

131st Amendment Bill DEFEATED 298-230 (April 2026)

B1

Skyroot Vikram-1 — first Indian PRIVATE orbital launch

B2

PFBR-500 Kalpakkam goes critical — thorium arc

B3

OST 1967 + Liability Conv 1972 + Artemis II

# A

PART

A

# Delimitation & Federalism

*The 2026 trigger meets India's federal compact*

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Article 82 · Article 327 · Article 329 · Bommai (1994) · 84th & 87th Amendments · 106th & 131st Bill

# What is Delimitation?



*The exercise of fixing the boundaries of territorial constituencies of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies on the basis of the latest Census, with the aim of “one citizen — one vote — one value.”*

## 01 WHO DOES IT

An independent statutory Delimitation Commission (DC). Members: a retired SC judge (Chair), the CEC, and State Election Commissioners. Set up under the Delimitation Commission Act passed by Parliament under Art 327.

## 02 ITS ORDERS

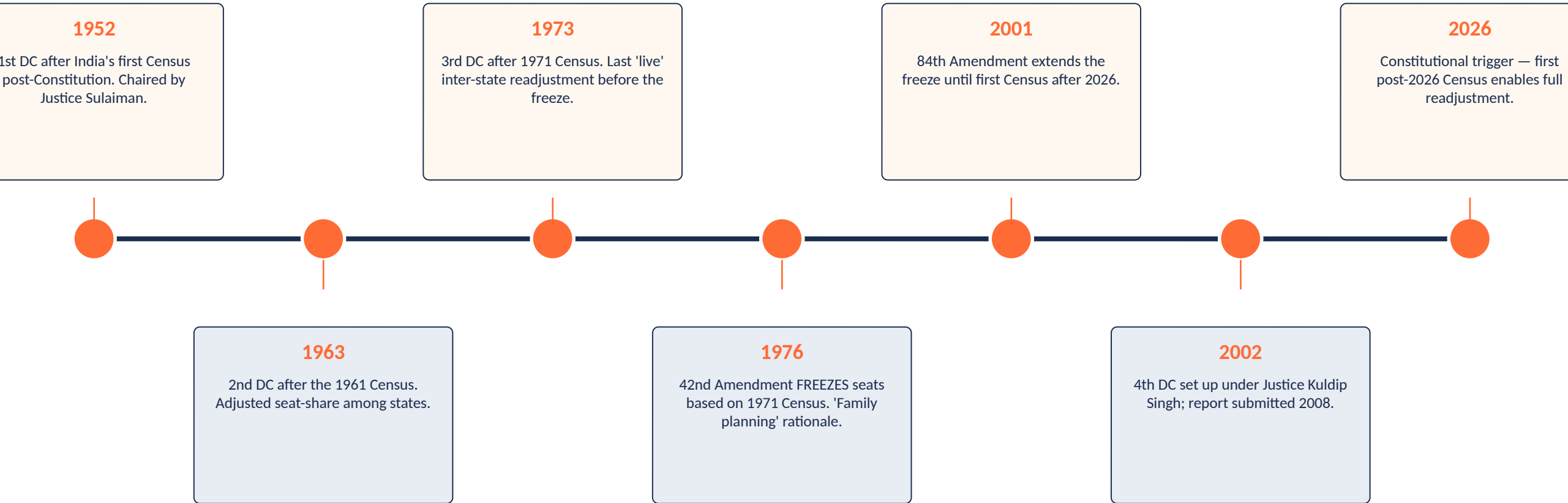
Have the FORCE OF LAW. Cannot be challenged in any court (Art 329). Affirmed in *Meghraj Kothari v UoI* (1966) — boundary delimitation = political question.

## 03 WHEN IT KICKS IN

After every Census, per Art 82. But India FROZE this exercise via the 42nd (1976) and 84th (2001) Amendments — 50 years of standstill ending with the first Census after 2026.

# India's Four Delimitation Commissions

Each followed a major Census; the 4th's report submitted in 2008



CLUSTER E · BY THE NUMBERS

# The 2026 Trigger in Four Numbers

Why Census 2027 + Delimitation will be the biggest polity event of the decade

## LS STRENGTH

543

current seats

Frozen since 1976. Possibly rising to 850 post-DC.

## CENSUS USED

1971

data still in force

55-year-old population data — by far the world's longest electoral freeze.

## MP : CITIZEN

25L

Indians per MP

Among the worst representative ratios globally. Post-DC ~16 lakh.

## 131ST BILL

298

vs 230 — DEFEATED

April 2026: Modi govt's first major LS defeat. Women's quota stays linked.

# Article 82 · The Exact Wording Matters

“

*“Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine.”*

## 01 POST-42ND PROVISIO

“It shall not be necessary to readjust ... until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published.” Census 2027 (likely) becomes the legal trigger.

## 02 ARTICLE 327

Empowers PARLIAMENT to legislate on elections to LS & State Assemblies. The Delimitation Act 2002 was passed under this. Art 328 gives a residual power to State Legislatures.

## 03 ARTICLE 329

BARS court interference with delimitation orders. Election disputes only via election petition. Meghraj Kothari (1966) reaffirmed the bar.

CLUSTER E · THE POLITICAL FAULT-LINE

# North vs South — The Demographic Divergence

Why southern states fear the 2026 readjustment

## NORTH (HIGH GROWTH)

State	Now	Post-DC	Δ
UP	80	→ ~143	+63
Bihar	40	→ ~79	+39
MP	29	→ ~52	+23
Rajasthan	25	→ ~44	+19

## SOUTH (REPLACEMENT-LEVEL)

State	Now	Post-DC	Δ
Tamil Nadu	39	→ ~49	+10
Karnataka	28	→ ~36	+8
Andhra+Tel.	42	→ ~54	+12
Kerala	20	→ ~20	0

## THE CORE GRIEVANCE

Southern states reduced TFR to ~2.1 decades earlier. Pure-population delimitation post-2026 → south's share of LS FALLS even as absolute seat-count rises. They call this the "penalty for performance". Govt's April 2026 compromise: keep south's CURRENT share, add seats only in the north — but % share still slips if total expands. Tharoor demands a "great national consultation"; DMK launches TN agitation.

# Federalism = Basic Structure

## LANDMARK JUDGMENT

### S.R. Bommai v Union of India

(1994) 3 SCC 1 · 9-Judge Constitution Bench · Justice P.B. Sawant et al

# 1994

#### HOLDINGS

- Federalism is part of the BASIC STRUCTURE of the Constitution
- Secularism is also a basic feature
- Art 356 proclamations are subject to JUDICIAL REVIEW
- Floor test in the Assembly is the only test of majority — not Governor's subjective satisfaction
- Strikes down 6 of 9 dismissals examined in the bench's review

#### WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

If a post-2026 delimitation drastically alters the federal balance — e.g. by stripping the South's share — Bommai becomes the constitutional anchor. Federalism cannot be 'unitarised' through electoral mathematics. Tharoor's call for a "great national consultation" and the DMK's TN agitation invoke this principle. Cooperative federalism = consultation between Centre and states, not a fait accompli.

# 106th Amendment & the 131st Bill Defeat



*The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023) reserves 33% of seats for women in LS & State Assemblies — but operative ONLY after delimitation following the first post-2026 Census. The 131st Amendment Bill (April 2026) tried to de-link the two. It lost 298–230.*

## 01 ART 330A & 332A

Inserted by the 106th. 33% reservation in LS and State Assemblies. Excludes Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils. Sub-quota for SC/ST within the women's reservation. 15-year sunset (Art 334A).

## 02 ART 243D

Local-body 33% women quota — operative since the 73rd Amendment 1992 — already delivered 14+ lakh women representatives. The proven federal precedent.

## 03 WHY 131 LOST

Several southern parties feared the 131st could fast-track delimitation under cover of women's reservation. Cross-bench coalition defeated it 298–230. First major LS defeat for the Modi government.

# How Other Federations Reapportion

*India's 50-year freeze is unique in major democracies*

Country	Frequency	House Size	Method
USA	Every 10 years	Fixed at 435	Reapportionment via Hill / Huntington formula
Australia	After each Census (~5 yrs)	150 (variable)	AEC redistributes; min 5 per state
Germany	Each Bundestag election	~600 (variable)	Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
UK	Boundary Comm. ~8-10 yrs	650 (variable)	Independent Boundary Commissions
INDIA	FROZEN 1976 → 2026	543 (rising to ~850?)	Delimitation Commission post-Census

CLUSTER E · ARCHITECTURAL CUE

# The 850-Seat Lok Sabha

The new Sansad Bhavan was built to accommodate the post-2026 expansion

## INSIDE THE NEW PARLIAMENT (28 May 2023)

- Lok Sabha chamber capacity: 888 seats (current strength: 543)
- Rajya Sabha chamber capacity: 384 seats (current: 245)
- Joint sitting capacity: ~1,272
- Triangular footprint, 64,500 sq m, designed by HCP
- Architectural cue: 850-seat LS in active planning

## WHY EXPAND?

- Current MP-citizen ratio is ~25 lakh — among the worst globally
- Post-expansion target ratio: ~16 lakh per MP
- Govt's April 2026 compromise: keep South's CURRENT share, add seats only in the North
- But: South's % share still slips if total rises (denominator effect)
- Tharoor: demands a 'great national consultation' before expansion

### KEY TAKEAWAY ›

Architecture has already locked-in the policy direction. The political question is now WHO gets the new seats — and federal arithmetic decides which states gain or lose representational weight.

VOCABULARY DRILL

# Glossary — Delimitation & Federalism

High-yield CLAT terminology — memorise verbatim

## Delimitation

Fixing constituency boundaries on Census data

## Readjustment

Re-allocation of LS seats among states (Art 82)

## Territorial Constituency

A geographic LS or Assembly seat

## Freeze

Constitutional bar on changing seat numbers (1976→2026)

## TFR / Replacement-level

Total Fertility Rate ~2.1 = stable population

## Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

106th CAA, 2023 — 33% women quota

## Quasi-federal

Federal in form, unitary in spirit (K.C. Wheare)

## Asymmetric federalism

Unequal autonomy across states (NE, J&K)

## Cooperative federalism

Centre-state consultation model (NCT 2018)

## Basic Structure

Non-amendable constitutional core (Kesavananda 1973)

## Pro-rata addition

Proportional seat-preservation formula

## MMP

Mixed Member Proportional (Germany)

# B

PART

**B**

## India's Space Programme

*Skyroot · PFBR-500 · Artemis II · IN-SPACe · OST 1967*

From Aryabhata (1975) to private orbital launches in 2026 — fifty years of an Indian space miracle

# ISRO at 56 — Quick Snapshot



*Established 15 August 1969; HQ Bengaluru. Vikram Sarabhai is the “Father of the Indian Space Programme.” Today it operates three launchers, has put 100+ foreign satellites in orbit, and supports a fast-growing private sector.*

## 01 PARENT

Department of Space, under the Prime Minister's Office. Current Chairman: V. Narayanan. ISRO is the R&D and mission-execution arm.

## 02 LAUNCHERS

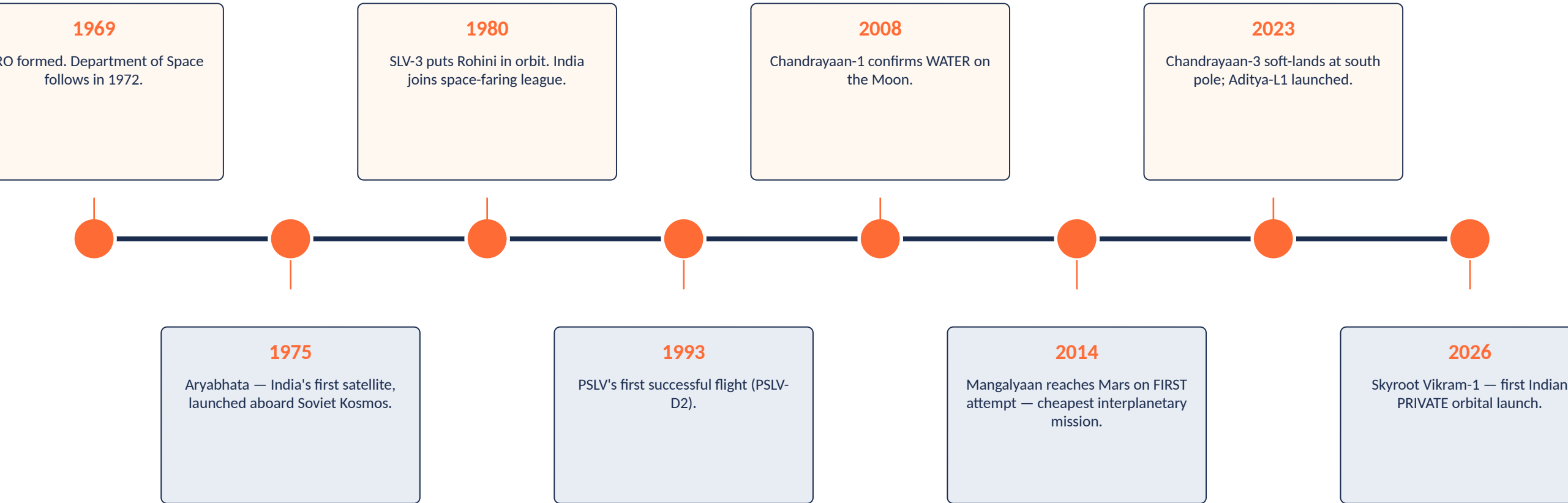
PSLV — workhorse since 1993. GSLV-Mk II for medium GTO. LVM-3 (GSLV-Mk III) for heavy lift & Chandrayaan-3, Gaganyaan. SSLV (small-sat) and NGLV in pipeline.

## 03 MARQUEE MISSIONS

Aryabhata 1975 · Chandrayaan-1 (2008, water on Moon) · Mangalyaan 2013 (Mars on first try) · Chandrayaan-3 2023 (south-pole landing) · Aditya-L1 2023 (Sun) · Gaganyaan 2027 (planned).

# ISRO — From Aryabhata to Vikram-1

Hand-cycled rocket parts in the 1960s → private orbital launches in 2026



CLUSTER I · BY THE NUMBERS

# India's Space Sector in Four Numbers

Why the 2020 reform & Space Policy 2023 are macroeconomic, not just scientific

FOREIGN SATS  
LAUNCHED

430+

via PSLV / LVM-3

From 36 countries since 1999. NSIL is the commercial arm.

SPACE ECONOMY

8.4

USD billion (2023)

Target USD 44 bn by 2033 per Space Policy 2023.

PRIVATE STARTUPS

200+

registered with IN-SPACe

From <10 in 2019. Skyroot, Agnikul, Pixxel, Bellatrix, Dhruva Space lead.

FDI IN MFG

100

% automatic route

49% in launch vehicles via auto; beyond via approval. 100% in sat mfg.

# Skyroot Vikram-1 — Private Orbital

## LANDMARK JUDGMENT

### Vikram-1 / Skyroot Aerospace

2026

*Launched April 2026 from Sriharikota · 3-stage solid-fuel · 480 kg LEO · IN-SPACe authorisation*

#### HOLDINGS

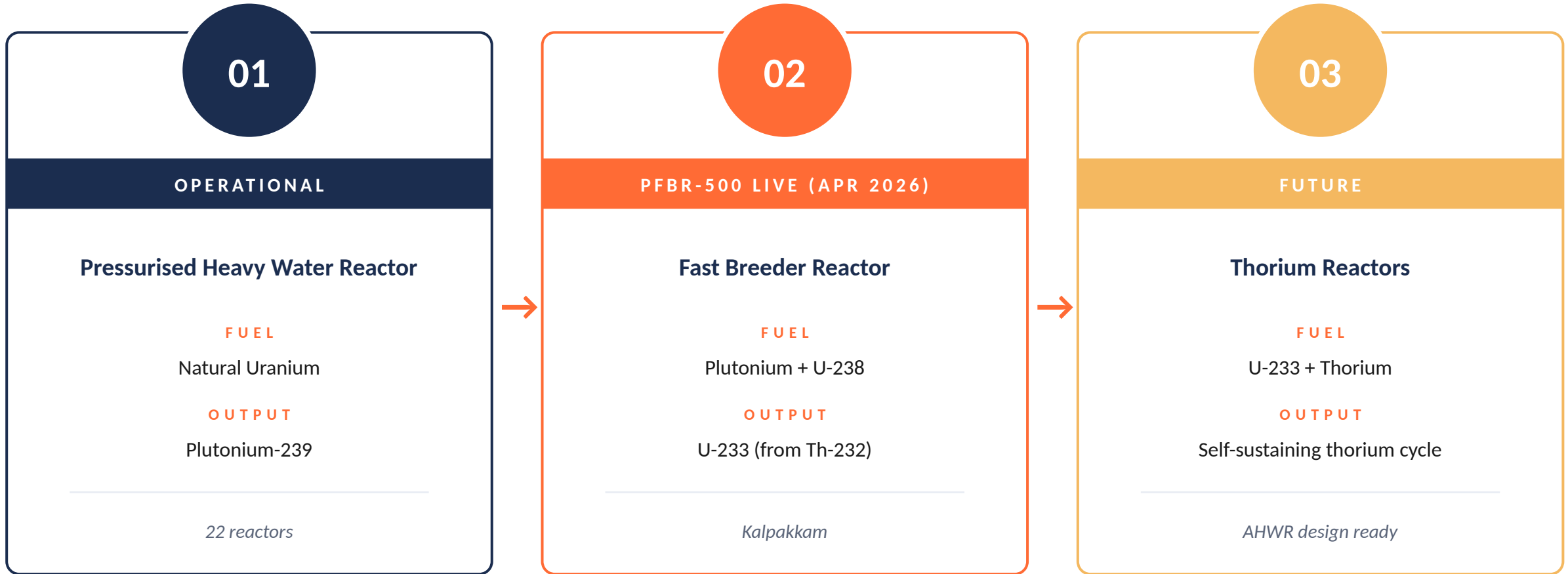
- First-ever Indian PRIVATE orbital launch
- Skyroot — Hyderabad-based, founded 2018 by Pawan Chandana & Naga Bharath Daka
- Predecessor Vikram-S (Mission Prarambh) flew sub-orbital in November 2022
- Range support by ISRO; full authorisation by IN-SPACe under Space Policy 2023
- Validates the post-2020 demonopolisation of India's space sector

#### WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Constitutional & regulatory significance: Article VI of the OST 1967 holds INDIA internationally responsible for Skyroot's activities. Hence the IN-SPACe single-window licence + indemnity contract structure. Pending Space Activities Bill will codify domestic liability. Vikram-1 puts India in the US/China private-launch league. Other private firms in the pipeline: Agnikul (Chennai, Agnibaan), Pixxel (hyperspectral), Dhruva (microsats), Bellatrix (electric propulsion).

# Bhabha's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme

Why PFBR-500 going critical in April 2026 is a milestone



INDIA HOLDS THE WORLD'S 3RD-LARGEST THORIUM RESERVES → STAGE 3 = ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

# PFBR-500 Kalpakkam Goes Critical



*On 11 April 2026, India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe, sodium-cooled, plutonium-fuelled) achieved its first sustained chain reaction at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu — operationalising Stage-2 of Bhabha's three-stage thorium plan.*

## 01 BHAVINI

Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. PSU under DAE. Operates PFBR. India is the second nation (after Russia) with an operational commercial-scale FBR.

## 02 STRATEGIC GAIN

Breeder reactor produces MORE fissile material than it consumes. Generates U-233 from Th-232 — exactly the feedstock for Stage-3 thorium reactors. Energy independence in sight.

## 03 WORLD CONTEXT

India holds ~25% of world's known thorium reserves (Kerala beach sands). Stage-3 AHWR (Advanced Heavy-Water Reactor) design ready at BARC. Climate-friendly + dual-use deterrence.

CLUSTER I · INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW

# The 5 UN Space Treaties

Memorise the year, name and India's status — high-yield for CLAT

<p><b>1967</b> MAGNA CARTA</p>	<p><b>1968</b> ASTRONAUTS</p>	<p><b>1972</b> DAMAGE</p>	<p><b>1975</b> REGISTRY</p>	<p><b>1979</b> NOT RATIFIED</p>
<p><b>OST</b> Outer Space Treaty</p> <hr/> <p>No appropriation · States liable for nationals' acts (Art VI)</p>	<p><b>RA</b> Rescue Agreement</p> <hr/> <p>Return astronauts &amp; space objects to launching state</p>	<p><b>LC</b> Liability Convention</p> <hr/> <p>Absolute liability on Earth · Fault-based in space</p>	<p><b>RC</b> Registration Conv.</p> <hr/> <p>Each launching state registers space objects</p>	<p><b>MA</b> Moon Agreement</p> <hr/> <p>Common heritage of mankind · Only ~18 ratifications</p>
<p>Ratified 1982</p>	<p>Ratified</p>	<p>Ratified</p>	<p>Ratified</p>	<p>India NOT a party</p>

# Who Pays When Space Things Fall?

## LANDMARK JUDGMENT

### Cosmos 954 — USSR satellite over Canada

1978

*Sovereign claim under Liability Convention 1972 · USSR settled CAD 3 million ex gratia*

#### HOLDINGS

- Cosmos 954 — Soviet nuclear-powered surveillance satellite
- Re-entered uncontrolled over Canada in January 1978
- Spread radioactive debris across Northwest Territories
- Canada invoked the Liability Convention 1972
- USSR paid CAD 3 million in 1981 settlement (ex gratia)
- Only major case settled under the LC regime

#### WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Two distinct liability regimes:

- Article II LC: ABSOLUTE liability for damage on Earth's surface or to aircraft.
- Article III LC: FAULT-based for damage in outer space (sat-to-sat collisions, etc.).

For India after Vikram-1: under OST Art VI, the Republic of India is internationally answerable for Skyroot's launch even though it's a private firm. IN-SPACE's authorisation contract embeds an indemnity/insurance regime — the Space Activities Bill (when passed) will codify it. Hence: 'private but state-backed' is the operating frame for Indian NewSpace.

# Artemis II — Humans Beyond LEO Again

First crewed mission past Low Earth Orbit since Apollo 17 (1972)

## THE MISSION

- 10-day lunar flyby — NO landing (that's Artemis III)
- Spacecraft: Orion atop SLS Block 1
- Crew: Reid Wiseman (Cdr), Victor Glover, Christina Koch, Jeremy Hansen (CSA)
- Christina Koch — first woman beyond LEO
- Victor Glover — first African-American on a lunar mission
- Jeremy Hansen — first non-American on a lunar mission

## ARTEMIS ACCORDS

- US-led 2020 framework for cooperative lunar/Mars exploration
- 30+ signatories (incl. India — June 2023)
- Builds on OST 1967; introduces 'safety zones' (controversial)
- Russia and China NOT signatories
- India's signing reflects 'Quad-aligned' space diplomacy
- Operationalises norms for private actors on celestial bodies

## KEY TAKEAWAY ›

Artemis II proves the Orion-SLS architecture for crewed deep-space flight. India's Gaganyaan + Bharatiya Antariksha Station (2035) + Indian on Moon (2040) ride on the same regulatory & geopolitical rails. Watch for treaty-vs-Accord tensions in CLAT IR questions.

## CLUSTER I · INDIAN CREWED FLIGHT

# Gaganyaan — Bharat in Space

India aims to be the 4th nation with indigenous human spaceflight

## CREW

# 3

*astronauts (Vyomanauts)*

All four selected: IAF Group Captains.  
Training at Bengaluru, Russia & USA.

## ALTITUDE

# 400

*km — Low Earth Orbit*

Target ~3-day mission. Splashdown in  
Indian Ocean / Arabian Sea.

## TEST FLIGHTS

# G1

*G2 unmanned rehearsals*

TV-D1 abort test cleared 2023. G1  
unmanned scheduled before crewed  
flight.

## STATION 2035

# BAS

*Bharatiya Antariksha Station*

Indian on Moon planned 2040. Indian  
space hierarchy is now multi-decade.

CLUSTER I · INDIAN SATELLITE ECOSYSTEM

# Categories of Indian Satellites

Communication · Earth observation · Navigation · Science · Defence

Type	Series / Examples	Use	Orbit
Communication	INSAT, GSAT	TV, telephony, broadband, govt communications	Geostationary
Earth Observation	IRS, RISAT, Cartosat-3	Resources, mapping, sub-30 cm imaging	Sun-synchronous LEO
Navigation	NavIC (7 sats)	Regional positioning, ~1,500 km of Indian territory	GEO + Inclined GSO
Scientific	Astrosat, Aditya-L1	X-ray astronomy, solar observation at L1 point	LEO / Halo
Defence	EMISAT, GSAT-7 'Rukmini', RISAT-2BR1	ELINT, naval comms, SAR surveillance	LEO / GEO

# Mission Shakti & Defence Space



*On 27 March 2019, India became the 4th country (after USSR, USA, China) to demonstrate Anti-Satellite (ASAT) capability — intercepting an Indian satellite in Low Earth Orbit. The test was conducted by DRDO and announced by PM Modi.*

## 01 OST COMPLIANCE

OST Art IV bars only WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION in orbit. Conventional kinetic ASAT against your OWN sat at low altitude is treaty-compliant. Debris was short-lived.

## 02 DSA

Defence Space Agency (DSA) set up 2019, Bengaluru. Tri-service. Planning satellite-based surveillance Phase III. Focus on counter-ASAT, jamming defences, indigenous SBS.

## 03 DSRO

Defence Space Research Organisation handles R&D. Project NETRA — domestic Space Situational Awareness (SSA). IS4OM — system for safe & sustainable operations management.

VOCABULARY DRILL

# Glossary — India's Space Programme

High-yield CLAT terminology — memorise verbatim

**OST 1967**

Outer Space Treaty — 'Magna Carta of space'

**IN-SPACE**

Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre

**NSIL**

NewSpace India Ltd — ISRO's commercial PSU

**NGE**

Non-Govt Entity (private space firm)

**PFBR**

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (Stage 2)

**BHAVINI**

Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd

**LEO / GEO**

Low Earth Orbit (~400 km) / Geostationary (~36,000 km)

**ASAT**

Anti-Satellite weapon (Mission Shakti, 2019)

**COPUOS**

UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

**NavIC**

Navigation with Indian Constellation

**Artemis Accords**

US-led 2020 lunar framework; India signed 2023

**Kessler Syndrome**

Cascading debris collisions in orbit

SYNTHESIS

# How These Two Themes Connect

*Federalism + technology sovereignty in one CLAT lecture*

## CONSTITUTIONAL ANCHORS

- Atomic energy is in the UNION list (7th Sch., Entry 6) — Centre dominant
- Space activities = unlisted; drawn under Art 248 residuary powers
- Treaty obligations (OST, LC) bind India under Art 253
- Cooperative federalism: states host launch (TN-Sriharikota) & nuclear (TN-Kalpakkam) sites

## EXPECTED CLAT QUESTION TYPES

- MCQs on amendments — 42nd, 84th, 87th, 91st, 106th
- Treaty identification — OST Art VI vs LC Art II vs Moon Agreement
- Bommai-style federalism in Legal Reasoning passages
- Static GK — ISRO chronology, FBR, Artemis crew, ASAT date
- Current-affairs MCQs — Skyroot date, PFBR location, 131st Bill vote

### KEY TAKEAWAY ›

*Both themes test India's CONSTITUTIONAL & POLITICAL maturity in 2026: delimitation tests the federal compact among states; space privatisation tests the federal-private partnership and India's international treaty obligations.*

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

8 things to remember from Class 02

01

Article 82 + 1976 freeze + 84th Amend = the 2026 trigger. First post-freeze readjustment in 50 years.

02

Bommai (1994) — 9-Judge bench — federalism is part of the BASIC STRUCTURE.

03

131st Amendment Bill (April 2026) DEFEATED 298-230. Women's quota stays linked to delimitation.

04

850-seat LS architecture is already locked in. Political question = WHO gets the new seats.

05

Skyroot Vikram-1 (April 2026) = first Indian PRIVATE orbital launch. Space Policy 2023 validated.

06

PFBR-500 Kalpakkam goes critical = Stage-2 of Bhabha's 3-stage thorium plan now operational.

07

OST 1967 Art VI: India is internationally liable for private launches. Hence IN-SPACE regime.

08

Artemis II splashed down April 2026 — first humans beyond LEO since Apollo 17. India is an Accords signatory.



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# THANK YOU.

*That wraps Class 02.*

01

**ATTEMPT**

25-MCQ Practice Sheet (25 min)

02

**REVISE**

Re-read this deck within 24 h

03

**READ**

clatgurukul.com — daily IE-based blog