



A Reconnection in Tianjin: Modi-Xi Meeting and Its Strategic Implications

Introduction

The recent meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit has drawn significant global attention. This interaction comes at a time when India's strategic equations with both the United States and China are under flux. For decades, India-China ties have been shaped by the shadow of unresolved border disputes, punctuated by phases of engagement and confrontation.

Against this backdrop, the Modi-Xi dialogue in Tianjin is being considered a cautiously positive step. It reflects a recognition of shared concerns in bilateral relations, despite contentious issues like the unresolved Line of Actual Control (LAC) dispute, the legacy of the 1962 war, and the 2020 Galwan clashes. For students preparing for **CLAT Current Affairs 2026**, understanding the nuances of such meetings is critical as they directly connect to international relations, diplomacy, and India's security and foreign policy debates.

For aspirants looking for **best online coaching for CLAT**, such topics form a core part of the current affairs section since they test comprehension, analysis, and awareness of international diplomacy.

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the **SCO Summit in Tianjin (2025)**.
- The meeting gains importance because:
 1. It occurred amid strains in India-US relations triggered by new US tariffs on Indian goods.
 2. India-China ties remain unstable due to lingering border tensions since 1962, especially worsened after the **2020 Galwan clash**.
 3. The meeting highlighted “positive momentum” and steady progress since their last meeting in **Kazan, Russia (2024)**.
 4. Both leaders endorsed continuing dialogue while acknowledging that the border issue remains a “work in progress.”

For **online coaching for CLAT**, keeping track of such developments helps students connect static knowledge (India-China wars, SCO, international treaties) with dynamic current affairs.

Point-Wise Summary of the Article

1. Backdrop of the Meeting

- Modi and Xi met at Tianjin during the SCO Summit, which was significant given global turbulence, particularly India-US trade tensions.
- The meeting followed Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Delhi in August 2025, which had prepared ground for dialogue.

2. Statements Released

- The official Indian statement noted “positive momentum” and “steady progress” in bilateral relations.



- Leaders emphasized stability, peace along borders, and maintenance of disengagement at friction points.

3. Template of Past Engagements

- India and China have a long history of fraught relations since the **1962 war**.
- Bilateral relations often oscillate between deep freeze (after Galwan 2020) and cautious revival (like Tianjin 2025).

4. Cautious Optimism

- The meeting is seen as political endorsement but not a breakthrough.
- Both leaders acknowledged border issues as a “work in progress.”

5. Geopolitical Context

- The US-India relations are under stress due to tariffs imposed by Washington, prompting India to strengthen Asian connections.
- The SCO summit setting reinforced Asian-led dialogue in contrast to Western dominance.

6. China's Position

- Xi Jinping emphasized cooperative ties and development opportunities over threats.
- China has been pursuing policies to balance ties with India while managing its tensions with the US and Pakistan.

7. India's Strategic Balancing

- India balances relations with both the US and China while safeguarding national interests.
- India's rapprochement with the US post-2008 nuclear deal is crucial, but maintaining stability with China remains equally important.

8. Symbolism of Meeting

- The “dragon and elephant” imagery reflects attempts at peaceful coexistence.
- Yet, mistrust persists due to military standoffs and geopolitical rivalries.

Explanation of Peculiar Terms (Notes)

1. SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation):

A regional political, economic, and security alliance led by China and Russia, of which India is a member.

2. Galwan Valley Clash (2020):

A violent clash between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh, leading to casualties on both sides—the first fatalities on the border in decades.

3. NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty):

An international treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. India never signed it, causing differences with the US during the Cold War.

4. Work in Progress (Border Talks):

Diplomatic term implying no resolution yet, but talks are continuing.



5. Dragon and Elephant Analogy:

A symbolic metaphor for China (dragon) and India (elephant), emphasizing cooperation over confrontation.

CLAT-Oriented Analysis

1. Relevance for CLAT Current Affairs 2026:

- The **India-China relationship** is one of the most frequently tested international relations topics in law entrance exams.
- The **border issue** connects with constitutional law (territorial sovereignty), international law, and security studies.

2. Possible CLAT Questions:

- What was the outcome of the Modi-Xi meeting in Tianjin (2025)?
- Which summit provided the setting for their meeting?
- How do historical events like the 1962 war and 2020 Galwan clash shape India-China relations?

3. Interdisciplinary Importance:

- Connects history (1962 war), geography (border disputes in Ladakh/Arunachal), political science (foreign policy), and law (territorial disputes under international law).

4. Strategic Implications:

- India must navigate between **US strategic partnership** and **China's regional influence**.
- Future CLAT aspirants must note how global power shifts affect India's legal, trade, and security frameworks.

By Ready For Exam



Green Credits Linked to Canopy Density: A Shift Towards Sustainable Forestry

Introduction

India is taking significant strides in integrating environmental sustainability with economic policy. One such initiative is the **Green Credit Programme (GCP)**, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the **UN Climate Conference in Dubai (COP28) in November 2023**. The GCP aims to incentivize eco-friendly practices through a system of tradable credits for activities such as afforestation, water conservation, and waste management.

In August 2025, the Union Environment Ministry revised the methodology of granting **green credits for tree plantation**. Now, credits will be awarded only after a minimum of **five years**, provided plantations achieve a **minimum canopy density of 40%** and demonstrate survival. This new approach shifts the focus from mere **tree planting numbers** to **tree survival and ecosystem health**, addressing long-standing criticisms of India's plantation drives that often neglected long-term sustainability.

For aspirants preparing for **CLAT Current Affairs 2026**, this policy change is highly relevant. It not only deals with **environmental law and policy** but also reflects India's commitment to sustainable development goals (SDGs). Those seeking the **best online coaching for CLAT** must recognize how such schemes blend **law, policy, economics, and environmental science** into one comprehensive governance mechanism.

Why in News

- The **Union Environment Ministry** announced a **new methodology** for awarding green credits under the GCP.
- Tree plantation credits will be given only after **five years**, based on:
 1. **Minimum canopy density of 40%.**
 2. **Tree survival** rather than just the number planted.
- Credits will be **non-tradable and non-transferable**, except in the case of transfer between a holding company and its subsidiaries.
- So far, **57,986 hectares of degraded land** have been registered under the programme.
- This marks a shift from the earlier benchmark of **1,100 trees per hectare within two years**, which focused on quantity over quality.

This policy overhaul is significant for **Current Affairs 2026** because it highlights the balance between economic incentives and ecological responsibility.

Point-wise Summary

1. Background of GCP

- Launched in 2023 at the **UN Climate Conference in Dubai**.
- Aims to incentivize eco-friendly practices like afforestation, water conservation, and sustainable waste management.
- Based on **market trading of green credits**.



2. New Rules (2025 Revision)

- Credits for plantations awarded **only after 5 years**.
- Plantation must achieve **minimum canopy density of 40%** and survival.
- Credits will be **non-tradable** and **non-transferable**, except for intra-company transfers.

3. Old Rules vs New Rules

- **Old benchmark:** 1,100 trees per hectare within two years.
- **New benchmark:** Survival and canopy density after five years.
- Focus shifted from **quantity to quality** of plantations.

4. Implementation Status

- Nearly **57,986 hectares** of degraded forest land registered under GCP.
- Credits linked to restoration activities in designated areas.

5. Key Incentives for Stakeholders

- Companies, groups, and individuals can participate voluntarily.
- Green credits can be used for **reporting under environmental, social, and governance (ESG) norms**.
- Credits will motivate industries to meet **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** obligations.

6. Policy Implications

- Encourages survival-focused plantations rather than tokenistic planting.
- Aims to improve **biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, and carbon sequestration**.
- Provides a globally calibrated system aligning with **climate commitments**.

Explanation of Peculiar Terms (Notes)

1. Green Credit Programme (GCP):

A market-based mechanism to incentivize eco-friendly practices by issuing “green credits” for activities like afforestation and water conservation.

2. Canopy Density:

The proportion of land covered by the crowns of trees. A minimum canopy density of 40% ensures meaningful forest cover.

3. Non-tradable and Non-transferable Credits:

Credits cannot be sold or transferred for profit in the open market, ensuring their use for genuine environmental commitments.

4. ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance):

A set of standards for companies to measure sustainability and ethical impact, widely used by investors.

5. Afforestation vs Reforestation:

- *Afforestation:* Creating a forest where none existed before.



- *Reforestation*: Restoring a forest in degraded or deforested land.

CLAT-Oriented Analysis

1. Relevance for CLAT Current Affairs 2026

- GCP is an **intersection of law, economics, and environment**, making it an important exam topic.
- It reflects India's compliance with **international climate commitments (Paris Agreement, COP28)**.

2. Legal Angle

- Connects to **Article 48A of the Indian Constitution** (State's duty to protect the environment).
- Relates to **judicial precedents** like *MC Mehta v. Union of India* (environmental protection).

3. Potential CLAT Questions

- What is the minimum canopy density required for green credits under GCP?
- When was the Green Credit Programme launched and by whom?
- How does GCP link with corporate CSR obligations?

4. Strategic Importance

- Aligns India's domestic environmental policy with **global SDGs**.
- Promotes a **quality-over-quantity** approach to climate action.

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\$467 Billion Needed Until 2030 to Decarbonise India's Emission-Heavy Sectors

Introduction

Climate change and global warming are among the most pressing challenges of our time. For India, a rapidly developing economy with heavy industrial dependence, the path to sustainable growth requires balancing development with decarbonisation. The latest study by the **Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)** has brought this issue into sharp focus by estimating that India will need an additional **\$467 billion in investments between now and 2030** to decarbonise four of its most **emission-heavy sectors**: power, steel, cement, and road transport.

These four sectors together account for over **half of India's CO₂ emissions**, making them central to India's climate strategy and its obligations under the **Paris Agreement**. The report underlines that without major investments in green technology, energy efficiency, and carbon capture systems, India will not be able to meet its long-term decarbonisation goals.

For aspirants preparing for **CLAT Current Affairs 2026**, this issue is significant because it links **law, environment, economy, and international obligations**. Students seeking the **best online coaching for CLAT** or **online coaching for CLAT** should understand how India's environmental policies connect to constitutional provisions, international treaties, and global governance.

Why in News

- A **CSEP study** by Janak Raj and Rakesh Mohan estimated that **\$467 billion** in additional investment is required for decarbonisation of four emission-heavy sectors in India by 2030.
- These sectors are:
 1. **Power sector**
 2. **Steel industry**
 3. **Cement industry**
 4. **Road transport**
- Together, they contribute over **50% of India's CO₂ emissions**.
- The study is the **first-of-its-kind bottom-up sector-specific assessment** of climate finance requirements in India.
- It also notes that India's earlier climate targets for 2030 (such as 50% electricity from non-fossil sources and creation of carbon sinks) have already seen progress, but further decarbonisation requires massive funding.

This makes the report highly relevant for **Current Affairs 2026**, as it reflects both domestic challenges and international obligations.

Point-wise Summary

1. **Scale of Investment Required**
 - Total additional investment needed: **\$467 billion** until 2030.



- Sectoral breakdown:
 - **Steel industry** – \$251 billion
 - **Cement industry** – \$141 billion
 - **Power sector** – \$47 billion
 - **Road transport** – \$18 billion

2. Sectoral Challenges

- **Steel & Cement Industries:**
 - Most difficult to decarbonise due to dependence on fossil fuels.
 - Require adoption of **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** technology.
- **Power Sector:**
 - Already undergoing transition to renewables.
 - Requires further \$47 billion to meet decarbonisation goals.
- **Road Transport:**
 - Requires \$18 billion, largely for **electric mobility** and **alternative fuels**.

3. Current Progress

- **Electricity Goal Achieved:** In 2025, India achieved its target of 50% electricity installed capacity from **non-fossil sources**.
- **Carbon Sinks:** Goal of creating **2.5–3 billion tonnes of carbon sinks** in forests and trees likely achieved.
- **Emission Intensity:** Reduction target of **45% (from 2005 levels)** expected to be met well before 2030.

4. Implications for Policy and Economy

- Decarbonisation of heavy industries is critical for achieving **net-zero commitments**.
- Requires both **domestic financing** and **international climate finance**.
- Without adequate funding, India risks falling short of its Paris Agreement obligations.

5. Overall Significance

- India is on track for some climate targets but faces major financing gaps.
- Study highlights need for **public-private partnerships, global cooperation, and policy innovation**.

Explanation of Peculiar Terms (Notes)

1. Decarbonisation:

Process of reducing carbon emissions, particularly CO₂, by shifting to clean energy, improving efficiency, or capturing emissions.



2. **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):**

A technology that captures CO₂ emissions from industries and stores them underground to prevent release into the atmosphere.

3. **Carbon Sinks:**

Natural systems (like forests, oceans, soils) that absorb more carbon than they emit, helping to balance greenhouse gas levels.

4. **Emission Intensity:**

The amount of CO₂ emissions produced per unit of GDP. Lowering intensity means producing less CO₂ per unit of economic output.

5. **Paris Agreement (2015):**

A global treaty under the UNFCCC aiming to limit global warming to below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

CLAT-Oriented Analysis

1. **Relevance to CLAT Current Affairs 2026**

- Connects **environmental law** (Article 48A, Article 51A(g)), **international law** (Paris Agreement, UNFCCC), and **economic governance**.
- CLAT frequently tests on **sustainability, climate policy, and global treaties**.

2. **Legal Perspective**

- Indian courts have recognized the **Right to a Healthy Environment** as part of **Article 21 (Right to Life)**.
- Key cases: *MC Mehta v. Union of India*, *Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar*.

3. **Policy Implications**

- Large-scale financing needs indicate scope for **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in green technology.
- Creates opportunities for **green jobs and industries** in India.

4. **Potential CLAT Questions**

- Which four sectors require \$467 billion for decarbonisation by 2030?
- What is CCS and why is it important for steel and cement industries?
- Has India achieved its 2030 target of 50% non-fossil electricity capacity?



Chinese Flicks & Tricks End India's Dream Run at Badminton World Championships 2025

Introduction

Sports stories often transcend the game itself, becoming symbolic of resilience, strategy, and global competitiveness. One such episode unfolded at the **BWF World Championships 2025**, where India's ace men's doubles pair, **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty**, saw their remarkable run end in the semifinals against the Chinese duo of **Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi**.

Despite a strong start, the Indians lost in three hard-fought games (19-21, 21-18, 12-21), with a critical **0-9 deficit in the decider** proving too much to overcome. The 67-minute thriller was a showcase of tactical brilliance, pressure handling, and the razor-thin margins that define elite sports.

For **CLAT Current Affairs 2026**, this match is important not merely as a sports update but as an illustration of **India's growing global sporting presence**, the psychological demands of international competitions, and the institutional support behind athletes. Students preparing with the **best online coaching for CLAT** must analyze such developments as case studies in discipline, teamwork, and international competitiveness.

Why in News

- At the **BWF World Championships 2025**, Satwik-Chirag lost in the semifinals to China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi.
- The defeat ended India's hopes of winning its first-ever **men's doubles gold at the Worlds**.
- The Indian duo had earlier enjoyed a **dream run**, defeating several strong pairs en route to the semifinals.
- Despite their exit, the pair secured a **bronze medal**, extending India's tradition of consistent podium finishes at the World Championships.
- The tournament also saw **Japan's Akane Yamaguchi** win her third world title in women's singles, strengthening her claim as one of the greatest shuttlers in history.

Point-wise Summary of the Match and Event

1. The Match Overview

- Satwik-Chirag began strongly, leading 11-5 in the opening game.
- The Chinese duo regrouped quickly and won the first game 21-19.
- Indians bounced back to take the second game 21-18.
- In the decider, a disastrous **0-9 start** sealed their fate, with China winning 21-12.

2. Key Turning Points

- Tactical errors after the mid-game interval in the first set.
- The inability to recover from a poor start in the third game.
- Chinese pair's **variation of flick serves and deceptive play** disrupted Indian rhythm.



3. India's Medal Streak at Worlds

- India's strong history in the tournament includes medals by:
 - 2011: Ashwini Ponnappa & Jwala Gutta (bronze)
 - 2013: PV Sindhu (bronze)
 - 2017: PV Sindhu (silver), Saina Nehwal (bronze)
 - 2019: PV Sindhu (gold)
 - 2022: Lakshya Sen (bronze)
 - 2023: Satwik-Chirag (bronze)
 - 2025: Satwik-Chirag (bronze)

4. Akane Yamaguchi's Achievement

- Won her **third world championship title**.
- Defeated tough competition with dominant performances.
- Solidified her place as one of the greatest women shuttlers of her era.

5. Significance for India

- Another **World Championship medal** highlights India's rising stature in global badminton.
- Satwik-Chirag's consistency cements them as top contenders in men's doubles globally.

Explanation of Peculiar Terms (Notes)

1. BWF (Badminton World Federation):

The global governing body for badminton, organizing major tournaments including the World Championships.

2. Flick Serve:

A deceptive serve in badminton where the shuttle is hit quickly upwards to surprise the opponent, preventing them from anticipating a short serve.

3. Decider:

The third and final game in a best-of-three match, determining the winner.

4. Unforced Error:

A mistake made by a player without being forced by the opponent's skillful play, often reflecting pressure or lapses in concentration.

5. Podium Finish:

Securing a medal position (gold, silver, or bronze) in a sporting event.

CLAT-Oriented Analysis

1. Relevance for CLAT Current Affairs 2026



- Sports news like this can appear in **reading comprehension passages**, testing aspirants on inference, analysis, and contextual vocabulary.
- Such events may also feature in **general knowledge sections**, connecting sports with national pride and international relations.

2. Legal and Institutional Dimensions

- India's success in badminton is linked to institutional support from **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** and government schemes like **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**.
- Questions may arise around **sports law, contracts, sponsorships, and doping regulations**.

3. Possible CLAT Questions

- Which Indian men's doubles pair won bronze at the 2025 BWF World Championships?
- Who won the women's singles gold at the same tournament?
- What was the scoreline in Satwik-Chirag's semifinal defeat?
- What is a flick serve in badminton?

4. Analytical Perspective

- The narrow margins of defeat highlight the role of **psychology in elite sports**.
- India's consistency at the World Championships reflects systemic progress but also underscores the need for **sports law reforms, infrastructure, and athlete welfare policies**.

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