

## Space as social product

- Social theorists like Edward Soja and Andrzej Zieleniec have theorized about individuals' interactions with space and how space becomes a social product and a place for practising discrimination.
- Spatial vulnerability results from the intersection of social relations of production, class relations, institutional relations and entitlement relations.
- Considering the private plantation land as a social space, the authors explain how the land is symbolic of the economic vulnerability of the labourers which has its roots in the history of slave labour, and how this vulnerability forces them to continue living and working in such deplorable conditions.
- The company, with its ownership of the space, claims power over the workers.
- The social exclusion of the community pervades public discourses and government policies as they are considered mere beneficiaries of State schemes.

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## Semiconductor industry

- The basic component of a semiconductor chip is a sliver of silicon, which is etched with billions of microscopic transistors, forming patterns to control the flow of current widening different computational instructions
- The chip-making industry is a highly-concentrated one, with the big players being Taiwan, South Korea and the U.S.
- Therefore, the global chip shortage, U.S.-China tensions over Taiwan, and the supply chain blockages owing to the Russia-Ukraine conflict have led major economies to enter the chip-making sector with a renewed push.

### What are the changes to India's chip-making scheme?

- In December 2021, India announced its roughly \$10 billion dollar production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to encourage semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country.
- It also announced fiscal support for a design-linked initiative (DLI) scheme to drive global and domestic investment related to design software, IP rights etc.
- According to the Electronics and IT Ministry, semiconductor demand in India would increase to \$70-\$80 billion by 2026 with the growing

demand for digital devices and electronic products.

- In the previous version of the scheme, the Centre was offering to fund 30% of the project cost for 45nm to 65nm chip production, 40% for 28nm to 45nm, and 50% or half of the funding for chips 28nm or below.
- The modified scheme provides uniform 50% fiscal support for all nodes. Besides, it will provide 50% of capital expenditure for other steps of the process as well (chip design and ATMP).

### What are the challenges?

- The outlay of the scheme remains \$10 billion. Notably, just the setting up of one semiconductor fab requires an investment of anywhere between \$3 and \$7 billion.
- They also argue that the initial funding should focus on areas like design and R&D, for which India already has an established talent pool.
- Chip-making also requires gallons of ultrapure water in a single day, which experts say, could be a task for the government to provide to factories, compounded also by the drought conditions which often prevail in large parts of the country.
- Another task for the government is to drive up consumer demand in the semiconductor and linked

electronics industry to not end up in a situation where these ventures remain successful only till taxpayers are forced to fund required subsidies.

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### SCO and relation dynamics

- China was vulnerable because of the deal it had struck with Russia on Taiwan in return for a pledge to support Russia in its war with Ukraine.
- China appears to have made up its mind that its future lies with Russia as it does not see itself becoming a partner of the U.S.
- The U.S. seems to have chosen to be with democratic countries in its eventual return to centre stage.
- The emergence of a Red Quad may well be a possibility to counter democratic forces in the Indo-Pacific.
- The U.S.'s decision to modernise the Pakistani air force may be to preempt Pakistan from becoming a closer ally of China.
- India, with its special historic bonds with Russia, was the only country to demand a cessation of hostilities and want diplomacy and democracy.
- India bluntly told Russia that this was not the time for war and that the war

must stop because of the immense challenges it had posed to the world.

- India spoke about the oil crisis and the looming food scarcity, the disruption of supply chains and transit trade access.
- India's real business should have been with China, which had violated every bilateral agreement and occupied territories across the Line of Actual Control
- The only point that Mr. Modi made was that Pakistan should give India transit trade access by land to Afghanistan and Central Asia
- As Chairman of SCO, India cannot transform it from within, because a China-Russia-Iran-Pakistan axis will dominate it.
- India should concentrate on cultivating bilateral relations with democratic nations to build a pole for itself in the new world order
- The ripples of the events in Samarkand became evident in the United Nations General Assembly at its present session when both the U.S. and Russia declared for the first time that they would favour an expansion of the UNSC to make it more effective.

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### **Dharamshala declaration**

- 'The Dharamshala Declaration' aims to recognise India's role in contributing towards global tourism as well as focusing on recovery by also promoting domestic tourism which has been overlooked for long.
- In the declaration, the Tourism Ministry has come up with a strategy and action plan to encourage more Indians to travel domestically and explore India's natural, cultural, and spiritual beauty while simultaneously reaching the goal of an 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (interaction and mutual understanding).
- A draft National Tourism Policy 2022, which aims at improving the framework conditions for tourism development in the country, supporting tourism industries, strengthening tourism support functions and developing tourism sub-sectors.
- The guiding principles include promoting sustainable, responsible and inclusive tourism in line with our civilizational ethos.
- From Gautama to Gandhi, India has always spoken about the inherent need to live harmoniously with nature and within our means.
- The National Green Tourism Mission aims at institutionalising this approach.

- The National Tourism policy also aims to give impetus to digitalisation, innovation and technology through the National Digital Tourism Mission and skilling through the Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Mission.
- The policy also gives a special impetus to private sector participation through public-private-partnerships (PPP).
- The country has an opportunity to position itself as a major tourism destination during India's presidency of the G20 (December 2022-November 2023)
- By 2030, India is estimated to grow at 7%-9% compounded annual growth rate and we expect the enabling policy framework to bring in \$250 billion in GDP contribution from tourism, 140 million jobs in the tourism sector and \$56 billion in foreign exchange earnings with more than 25 million foreign arrivals.
- The Union government wants to reduce dependence on foreign systems, including the widely used U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), and says NavIC provides more accurate domestic navigation and that its use would benefit the economy.
- China, the European Union, Japan and Russia have their own global or regional navigation systems to rival GPS.

### **About IRNSS**

- IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India.
  - It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area.
  - An Extended Service Area lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30 deg south to 50 deg North, Longitude 30 deg East to 130 deg East.
  - IRNSS will provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Service (SPS) which is provided to all the users and Restricted Service (RS), which is an encrypted service provided only to the authorised users.
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- The Union government is pushing tech giants to make smartphones compatible with its home-grown navigation system within months, worrying the likes of Samsung, Xiaomi and Apple who fear elevated costs and disruptions as the move requires hardware changes,

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### **IRNSS**

- The IRNSS System is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.

**Some applications of IRNSS are:**

- Terrestrial, Aerial and Marine Navigation
- Disaster Management
- Vehicle tracking and fleet management
- Integration with mobile phones
- Precise Timing
- Mapping and Geodetic data capture
- Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers
- Visual and voice navigation for drivers.

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