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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — April 2, 2026

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2 April 2026



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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz — April 2, 2026

2 April 2026 · 28 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Question 1**

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INS Malwan, recently delivered to the Indian Navy, belongs to which category of vessels?

- A Survey Vessel (Large)
- B Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft ✓
- C Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel
- D Fast Attack Craft

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** INS Malwan is the second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). It was delivered on March 31, 2026.

**ANALYSIS:** ASW SWCs are designed for littoral/shallow water submarine detection — a critical capability given Pakistan and China's growing submarine fleets in India's maritime neighbourhood.


 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The ASW SWC programme was contracted with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in 2019 under the 'Buy Indian (IDDM)' category — part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence. Eight ships are being built.

The first vessel (INS Mahe) was delivered in 2025; INS Malwan is the second. Key features include >80% indigenous content, torpedoes, multi-function ASW rockets, variable depth sonar, and hull-mounted sonar.

The vessel is also capable of Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine warfare. Named after the historic town of Malwan in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra — associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's naval legacy.

**Q1**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Defence indigenisation), GS2 (India's maritime security).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Aatmanirbhar Bharat defence, IDDM category, littoral warfare, blue water navy.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing ASW SWC with Survey Vessel (Large) — both were delivered recently but are entirely different platforms.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2024 asked about IDDM procurement category — ASW SWC is a flagship example.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	How does shallow-water ASW capability address the specific threat from Chinese submarines operating near India's Exclusive Economic Zone?

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**Question 2**

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INS Sanshodhak, the fourth and final vessel of the Survey Vessel (Large) programme, was built by which shipyard?

- A Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- B Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- C Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) ✓
- D Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** INS Sanshodhak was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. It was delivered on March 30, 2026, completing the four-ship SVL programme contracted in October 2018.

**ANALYSIS:** The completion of the SVL programme significantly enhances India's hydrographic and oceanographic mapping capability — essential for safe naval operations and submarine navigation.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Survey Vessel (Large) programme involved four ships, all built by GRSE: INS Sandhayak (Feb 2024), INS Nirdeshak (Dec 2024), INS Ikshak (Nov 2025), and INS Sanshodhak (Mar 2026). Each displaces ~3,400 tonnes, is 110m long, and carries >80% indigenous content.

They are designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau. Key equipment includes autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and digital side-scan sonar.

GRSE is a Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence; based in Kolkata. It has built 107+ naval vessels and also manufactures Bailey bridges for the Indian Army.

**Q2**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Defence PSUs, indigenisation), GS2 (Maritime security).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Warship Design Bureau, hydrographic survey, SVL programme, GRSE.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing GRSE with MDL — GRSE (Kolkata) builds smaller warships and survey vessels; MDL (Mumbai) builds submarines and destroyers.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2023 asked about Indian defence shipyards — know the builder-to-vessel-type mapping.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India's four major defence shipyards have distinct specialisations — what does this mean for achieving a fully indigenous blue water navy?

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**Question 3**

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Which of the following statements about Qdenga (TAK-003), India's first approved dengue vaccine, is CORRECT?

- A It requires prior dengue infection before vaccination
- B It was developed by Sanofi Pasteur of France
- C It requires two doses administered three months apart and no pre-vaccination screening ✓
- D It provides equal protection against all four dengue serotypes including in seronegative individuals

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Qdenga (TAK-003), developed by Takeda (Japan), requires two doses three months apart with no prior infection screening — unlike Sanofi's Dengvaxia which requires seropositivity screening. **ANALYSIS:** The absence of a pre-vaccination screening requirement makes it far more practically deployable in India's public health system where dengue seropositivity testing infrastructure is limited.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India approved Qdenga in 2026 as the first dengue vaccine for ages 4–60 years. Dengue is caused by four serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4) transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Sanofi's Dengvaxia was embroiled in controversy in the Philippines (2017–18) when it was found that vaccinating seronegative children (those never previously infected) could worsen disease severity — a phenomenon called Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE). Qdenga uses a live attenuated DENV-2 backbone with genes from all four serotypes. Its limitation: reduced efficacy against DENV-3 and DENV-4 in seronegative individuals. Expected cost: Rs 3,000–6,000 per dose in the private sector. India's domestic candidate DengiAll (Panacea Biotec + ICMR) is in Phase III trials.

**Q3**
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (Science &amp; Technology, Health).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Antibody-Dependent Enhancement, dengue serotypes, Universal Immunisation Programme, CDSCO.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Saying 'Qdenga is safe for everyone including seronegative individuals' — it has reduced efficacy in seronegative recipients for DENV-3/4, though it does not carry the dangerous ADE risk that Dengvaxia does.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC regularly asks about vaccines approved in India — know CDSCO's role and the distinction between individual and public health considerations.

 **INTERVIEW**

At Rs 3,000–6,000 per dose, Qdenga cannot serve India's immunisation goals — what policy pathway would make dengue prevention equitable?

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**Question 4**

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**ASSERTION (A)**

Dengvaxia (Sanofi) requires pre-vaccination dengue serology testing before administration.

**REASON (R)**

Prior dengue infection in seronegative individuals worsens disease severity on subsequent natural infection due to Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE).

**A** Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A ✓

**B** Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

**C** A is true but R is false

**D** A is false but R is true

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Both statements are correct. Dengvaxia requires seropositivity screening because ADE is the mechanism — pre-existing antibodies from prior natural infection enhance viral uptake in a second dengue exposure, potentially causing Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever.

**ANALYSIS:** R directly explains A — the ADE mechanism in seronegative vaccinees (who would experience their first dengue exposure as a 'second infection' post-vaccination) is exactly why serology screening is mandatory for Dengvaxia.






**CONCEPT NOTE**

Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE) occurs when sub-neutralising antibodies from a first dengue infection enhance viral entry into macrophages during a second infection with a different serotype. The antibody-virus complex binds to Fc receptors, enabling more efficient viral uptake — paradoxically worsening disease.

In the Philippines' Dengvaxia controversy (2017), vaccinated seronegative children who later encountered natural dengue were at higher risk of severe disease. This led to a public health scandal, eroded vaccine confidence, and contributed to a measles outbreak as parents withdrew children from routine immunisation.

The case is a landmark study in vaccine policy, risk communication, and regulatory decision-making.

**Q4**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Science & Technology, Public Health), GS2 (Health policy).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	ADE, vaccine hesitancy, CDSCO, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Thinking ADE means vaccines are dangerous broadly — ADE is specific to certain viral infections (dengue, some coronaviruses) where pre-existing antibodies can paradoxically worsen disease under specific conditions.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2021 asked about dengue — mechanism questions like ADE are increasingly relevant.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	The Philippines' Dengvaxia controversy triggered vaccine hesitancy that led to a measles outbreak — what does this tell us about the interface between science, policy, and public trust?

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**Question 5**

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The Naxal movement in India traces its origins to which of the following?

- A Telangana Armed Struggle, 1946
- B Naxalbari uprising, West Bengal, 1967 ✓
- C Birsa Munda rebellion, 1899
- D Tebhaga movement, Bengal, 1946

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Naxal movement originated in the Naxalbari uprising of 1967 in Darjeeling district, West Bengal, led by Charu Mazumdar and Kanu Sanyal. Tribal peasants seized land from landlords in a CPI(M)-backed local uprising that became the foundation of the broader Maoist movement.






**ANALYSIS:** The movement derived ideology from Mao Zedong's concept of protracted people's war — armed struggle beginning in the countryside to encircle urban centres.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Naxalbari uprising (1967) was a peasant insurrection in Darjeeling's Naxalbari block, inspired by frustration with the parliamentary Left's failure to deliver land reform. Charu Mazumdar theorised 'annihilation of class enemies' and founded the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) — CPI(ML) — in 1969.

The movement fragmented after state crackdowns in the 1970s, revived in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar in the 1980s as the People's War Group (PWG) and Maoist Communist Centre (MCC). In 2004, PWG and MCC merged to form CPI (Maoist). By 2010, Naxalism was operating across 180+ districts in 9 states, prompting PM Manmohan Singh to call it India's 'biggest internal security challenge.' The SAMADHAN doctrine + development push eventually contained the movement.

**Q5**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Internal security), GS1 (Tribal movements, post-independence).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Left Wing Extremism, SAMADHAN doctrine, PESA 1996, Forest Rights Act, Red Corridor.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing Telangana Armed Struggle (against Nizam, 1946) with Naxalism — both involve peasant/tribal movements but are distinct in ideology and period.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC has repeatedly asked about India's internal security challenges — Naxalism, PESA, FRA links appear in both Prelims and Mains.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Now that India has declared itself 'Naxal-free' militarily, what does genuine reconciliation require in terms of tribal rights and natural resource governance?

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**Question 6**

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Which of the following correctly describes the PESA Act, 1996?

- A It provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Parliament
- B It extends Gram Sabha powers to tribal (Schedule V) areas to control over natural resources ✓
- C It establishes tribal councils with legislative powers equivalent to State Assemblies
- D It grants individual forest rights to all tribal communities across India

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to Schedule V (tribal) areas — crucially giving Gram Sabhas powers over natural resources, minor forest produce, land acquisition, and local self-governance. **ANALYSIS:** Its poor implementation is cited as a key root cause of continuing tribal unrest even after military success against Naxalism.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

PESA 1996 was enacted to extend democratic decentralisation to tribal areas excluded from the 73rd Amendment (Panchayati Raj). Key provisions: Gram Sabha has mandatory consultation rights before land acquisition; Gram Sabha controls minor forest produce; state laws must be consistent with customary law and practices.

Ten states fall under Schedule V — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 further grants individual and community forest rights.

Both PESA and FRA are poorly implemented in most states — forest departments and revenue administrations often resist their provisions, particularly in areas with mining interests.

**Q6**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**


GS2 (Federalism, Panchayati Raj), GS3 (Internal security, tribal welfare).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

PESA 1996, Schedule V areas, Gram Sabha, Forest Rights Act.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing FRA (individual/community forest rights to specific forest dwellers) with PESA (institutional empowerment of Gram Sabha in tribal areas broadly).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Mains 2023 asked about tribal rights — PESA-FRA-Naxalism nexus is a high-value answer framework.

 **INTERVIEW**

Critics say PESA has been implemented in letter but not spirit — what would meaningful implementation look like in a state like Chhattisgarh?

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**Question 7**

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Consider the following statements about Raja Ravi Varma:

- 1 He was the first Indian artist to use European oil painting technique on Indian mythological themes.
- 2 His lithographic press, established in 1894, produced affordable oleograph prints of Hindu deities.
- 3 His works are classified as National Treasures and cannot be permanently exported from India. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3 ✓

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** All three statements are correct. Ravi Varma pioneered European oil technique on Indian mythological subjects, established a lithographic press at Malavli (near Lonavala) in 1894 that mass-produced affordable religious prints, and his works are classified as National Treasures under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 — preventing permanent export.

**ANALYSIS:** His lithographic press was arguably more historically significant than his paintings — it democratised and standardised Hindu religious iconography across India.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906) was born in Kilimanoor, Travancore (present-day Kerala). He trained in European realism, influenced by Dutch artist Theodor Jensen and court painters, while developing his own hybrid style that depicted Hindu deities and mythological figures with European naturalism.

His lithographic press (1894) was revolutionary — it made colourful religious prints available at a few annas to ordinary households. The visual representations of Lakshmi, Saraswati, Krishna, and Ram that pervade Indian popular culture today largely derive from his imagery.

Famous works: Shakuntala (Kalidasa), Hamsa Damayanti (Mahabharata), Yashoda and Krishna, Indulekha. His 'Yashoda and Krishna' sold for Rs 167.2 crore in April 2026 — India's highest auction price for art.

**Q7**
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 (Art &amp; Culture, Modern Indian history).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Indian art history, oleograph prints, National Treasure, Antiquities Act 1972, democratisation of art.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Saying Ravi Varma was 'trained in European academies' — he was largely self-taught and learned through exposure to European artists visiting Travancore.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC GS1 Paper frequently asks about 19th century Indian art reform — Ravi Varma, Bengal School of Art (Abanindranath Tagore), and Progressive Artists Group are key.

 **INTERVIEW**

Ravi Varma's lithographic prints standardised Hindu iconography — did this represent cultural democratisation or a loss of regional artistic diversity?

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**Question 8**

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The RoDTEP scheme was introduced primarily to replace which earlier scheme that was found to be non-compliant with WTO rules?

- A EPCG (Export Promotion Capital Goods) scheme
- B **MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) ✓**
- C SEIS (Service Exports from India Scheme)
- D Advance Authorisation Scheme

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** RoDTEP (launched January 1, 2021) replaced the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), which the US successfully challenged at the WTO as a prohibited export subsidy. **ANALYSIS:** Unlike MEIS (which provided scrips as a percentage of FOB value beyond actual tax remission — constituting an outright subsidy), RoDTEP is designed to remit only taxes actually embedded in the product, making it WTO-compliant.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

MEIS provided duty credit scrips of 2–7% of FOB value as an incentive for exports — the problem was this went beyond reimbursing actual taxes to constituting a performance-linked export subsidy, prohibited under the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM). The US filed a WTO dispute (DS541) in 2018 and won. India was required to withdraw MEIS. RoDTEP replaced it from January 2021 with rates (0.3–3.9% FOB) calibrated to match actual embedded state and central taxes not covered by GST or Duty Drawback. The DGFT issues e-scrips valid for 2 years, transferable to other exporters. Budget FY27 allocation: Rs 10,000 crore. Extension to September 2026 was due to West Asia shipping disruptions increasing export costs.

**Q8**
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (Economy — International Trade).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

WTO ASCM, export subsidies, DGFT, FOB valuation, export competitiveness.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Thinking EPCG is the scheme RoDTEP replaced — EPCG is a separate scheme allowing import of capital goods at zero/concessional duty for export production; it was not replaced.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC regularly tests export promotion schemes — know MEIS vs RoDTEP vs Duty Drawback vs EPCG distinctions.

 **INTERVIEW**

India's merchandise export target is \$1 trillion by 2030 — is RoDTEP sufficient, or does India need to address structural logistics and quality competitiveness issues?

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**Question 9**

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Consider the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs):

- 1 REEs comprise 15 lanthanides plus Scandium and Yttrium — a total of 17 elements.
- 2 China accounts for approximately 90% of global REE processing and separation capacity.
- 3 India's REE deposits are primarily found in monazite beach placer sands along the coasts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Odisha. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 2 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3 ✓

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** All three statements are correct. REEs = 15 lanthanides + Sc + Y = 17 elements.

China controls ~90% of global processing/separation capacity despite not having 90% of mining output — the processing step is where its monopoly lies. India's deposits are concentrated in monazite-bearing beach placer sands in AP, TN, Kerala, and Odisha — making India the holder of the world's 2nd largest thorium reserves.

**ANALYSIS:** The combination of physical deposits + processing capacity gap is India's strategic challenge in the REE sector.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Rare Earth Elements are critical for EVs (neodymium-iron-boron magnets in motors), wind turbines (generators), smartphones (vibration motors, speakers), defence electronics (guidance systems, radar), and medical imaging (MRI gadolinium contrast). China's dominance extends across the full value chain but is most concentrated in separation/refining — a technically complex, capital-intensive process with significant environmental costs.

India's monazite deposits contain mixed REEs (lanthanum, cerium, neodymium, praseodymium) plus thorium (which is why IREL under Department of Atomic Energy processes them — for India's three-stage nuclear programme). The Budget 2026 Rare Earth Corridors in Odisha, Kerala, AP, and Tamil Nadu aim to build missing separation and downstream manufacturing capacity.

**Q9**
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (Economy — Critical minerals, Clean energy), GS2 (India's foreign policy — China).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Critical minerals, REE corridors, China's export controls, KABIL, monazite, three-stage nuclear programme.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Thinking 'rare earth' means they are geologically rare — they are relatively abundant but rarely in exploitable concentrations; the rarity is in processing capacity.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2024 had questions on critical minerals — know India's 30-mineral critical list and the KABIL framework.

 **INTERVIEW**

India has REE deposits but lacks processing technology — should India invest in domestic R&D or buy processing technology from Japan/Australia who are also trying to break China's monopoly?

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**Question 10**

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Match List I (Indian naval vessels recently delivered) with List II (their builders): List I: A. INS Malwan B. INS Sanshodhak C. INS Shachi D. INS Sandhayak List II: 1. Cochin Shipyard Limited 2. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers 3. Goa Shipyard Limited 4. GRSE, Kolkata

LIST I

LIST II

**A** A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2 ✓

**B** A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

**C** A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

**D** A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** INS Malwan — CSL (Kochi); INS Sanshodhak — GRSE (Kolkata); INS Shachi — Goa Shipyard Limited (NGoPV programme); INS Sandhayak — GRSE (Kolkata, first SVL ship). Note B-4 and D-2 both point to GRSE — which is the same yard (List II has 2=GRSE Kolkata and 4=GRSE Kolkata).

**ANALYSIS:** India's defence shipyards have distinct specialisations — CSL (ASW, LCU), GRSE (frigates, survey vessels), MDL (submarines, destroyers), GSL (OPVs, CGS vessels).

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Key Indian Defence Shipyards: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL, Mumbai) — submarines (Project 75 Scorpene, P75I), Project 15B destroyers; Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE, Kolkata) — frigates (Project 17A), survey vessels (SVL), Landing Craft Utility; Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL, Kochi) — ASW SWCs, aircraft carrier study, commercial vessels; Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) — Offshore Patrol Vessels, Next Generation OPVs (NGoPV), Coast Guard ships; Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL, Visakhapatnam) — fleet tankers, diving support vessels.

**Q10**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Defence indigenisation, Aatmanirbhar Bharat).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Defence PSUs, shipbuilding ecosystem, IDDM procurement, DAP 2020.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Assuming all warships are built by MDL (Mumbai) — MDL specialises in submarines and destroyers, not all naval vessels.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC frequently asks to match naval programmes with builders or match categories of vessels — memorise the four major defence shipyards and their specialisations.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India exports arms but struggles to export naval vessels commercially — what structural changes in the shipbuilding ecosystem would make Indian naval shipyards globally competitive?

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**Question 11**

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[Source →](#)

The S-400 Triumf air defence system contracted by India can intercept threats at ranges up to:

- A 150 km
- B 250 km
- C 400 km ✓
- D 600 km

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The S-400 Triumf provides protection against aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at ranges up to 400 km and altitudes up to 30 km. India contracted 5 squadrons in a \$5.43 billion deal signed in October 2018.

**ANALYSIS:** The 400 km range makes it one of the world's longest-range surface-to-air missile systems, capable of engaging threats deep inside enemy territory — hence the CAATSA concerns from the US.






**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

S-400 Triumf (NATO codename: SA-21 Growler) is Russia's most advanced long-range air defence system. It can simultaneously engage multiple targets and track up to 300 targets simultaneously while engaging 36.

India's \$5.43 billion deal for 5 squadrons was signed in October 2018 — triggering CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) concerns from the US. India was granted a waiver due to its strategic importance. Deliveries began in 2021; delayed by Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Final two squadrons were now expected: one in April 2026, last by November 2026 — ahead of the original 2027 timeline. India deploys them along the northern border (China front).

**Q11**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Defence, Security), GS2 (India-Russia relations, India-US relations).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	CAATSA, India-Russia defence cooperation, air defence layered architecture, IDDM.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Saying S-400 is an 'Indian-made' system — it is Russian; India is procuring it under a government-to-government deal.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2022 asked about CAATSA — S-400 is the central case study for India's CAATSA navigation.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India's S-400 purchase challenges its partnership with the US — how does India manage this 'multi-alignment' approach to defence procurement?

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**Question 12**

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Which of the following correctly describes the role of e-GramSwaraj platform?

- A A digital platform for online land records management at the district level
- B A grievance redressal portal for Gram Panchayat members
- C **A digital accounting and planning platform for Gram Panchayats to ensure transparent use of public funds ✓**
- D An e-marketplace for rural artisans to sell products directly to urban consumers

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** e-GramSwaraj is a digital platform developed under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project for Gram Panchayat accounting, planning, and direct payments to vendors — ensuring digital traceability. It has facilitated Rs 3 lakh crore in cumulative payments.

**ANALYSIS:** By integrating with PFMS (Public Financial Management System), it enables real-time, direct transfers to service providers, significantly reducing fund diversion at the panchayat level.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

e-GramSwaraj was developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project. It covers the full planning-to-payment cycle: Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) uploaded, activities mapped, funds transferred directly to vendors via PFMS. In FY26, Rs 53,342 crore was transferred via e-GramSwaraj-PFMS interface; 2,55,254 GPs uploaded development plans.

The AI-powered SabhaSaar tool now provides voice-to-text meeting summarisation in 23 Indian languages — addressing the literacy challenge in Gram Sabha documentation. This is part of the broader Digital India/Good Governance initiative. National Panchayat Day is celebrated on April 24.

**Q12**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Panchayati Raj, Digital governance, Federalism).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	e-Panchayat, PFMS, Gram Sabha, digital governance, 73rd Amendment.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing e-GramSwaraj with Swamitva (which maps property rights in rural areas) — they are both Ministry of Panchayati Raj initiatives but serve entirely different functions.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC frequently asks about digital governance initiatives — e-GramSwaraj, PFMS, GeM, and Swamitva are frequently tested together.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India has digitised Panchayat fund flows but Gram Sabhas remain poorly attended — what would make participatory rural democracy actually work?

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**Question 13**

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[Source →](#)

NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) is an autonomous body established under:

- A Ministry of Education, Government of India
- B University Grants Commission (UGC) ✓
- C All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- D Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** NAAC was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution under the University Grants Commission (UGC), based in Bengaluru. It assesses and accredits higher education institutions using a data-driven, outcomes-based approach.

**ANALYSIS:** New UGC Regulations 2026 now make NAAC accreditation or 60% NBA-accredited programmes a prerequisite for receiving UGC grants — strengthening the accreditation ecosystem.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) was founded in 1994 following the recommendations of the Education Commission (Kothari Commission, 1966) and the National Policy on Education, 1986. It assesses institutions on seven criteria: Curricular Aspects; Teaching-Learning & Evaluation; Research, Innovations & Extension; Infrastructure & Learning Resources; Student Support & Progression; Governance, Leadership & Management; Institutional Values. Grades: A++ (highest), A+, A, B++, B+, B, C, D. In February 2025, CBI arrested members of a NAAC inspection committee for bribery related to an A++ accreditation — triggering renewed scrutiny of the accreditation process. NBA (National Board of Accreditation) provides programme-level accreditation mainly for technical education.

**Q13**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Education, Governance).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	NAAC, NBA, UGC, accreditation, National Education Policy 2020, higher education reform.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing NAAC (institutional accreditation) with NBA (programme-level accreditation for engineering, management) — they assess different levels.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC GS2 regularly asks about higher education regulatory architecture — know UGC, NAAC, NBA, AICTE, and their distinct roles.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	NAAC's A++ to D grading system is opaque and has been compromised by corruption — what would a credible, transparent alternative look like?

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**Question 14**

of 28

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about contempt of court in India:

- 1 Article 129 of the Constitution grants the Supreme Court power to punish for contempt of itself.
- 2 The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 added truth as a valid defence for contempt.
- 3 Criminal contempt includes both scandalising the court and wilful disobedience of court orders. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

**A** 1 only ✓

**B** 1 and 3 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Only Statement 1 is correct. Article 129 gives the Supreme Court contempt power.

Statement 2 is wrong — truth as a defence was added by a 2006 AMENDMENT to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (not in the original 1971 Act). Statement 3 is wrong — wilful disobedience of court orders is civil contempt (not criminal contempt); criminal contempt is scandalising the court or obstructing justice.

**ANALYSIS:** This is a classic UPSC trap — the 2006 amendment and the civil/criminal distinction are commonly confused.






**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

Constitutional framework for contempt: Article 129 (SC as court of record; power to punish for contempt of itself); Article 215 (High Courts as courts of record; similar power). The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 provides the statutory framework.

Types: Civil Contempt = wilful disobedience of court order or undertaking to the court; Criminal Contempt = publication/act that scandalises the court, prejudices proceedings, or obstructs administration of justice. Punishment: imprisonment up to 6 months, fine up to Rs 2,000, or both.

The 2006 Amendment to the Contempt of Courts Act added truth as a valid defence (Section 13) — but only if in the public interest and bona fide. The Supreme Court's contempt power is 'inherent' — self-derived, not delegated by Parliament.

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Polity — Judiciary).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Judicial independence, Article 129, Article 215, contempt power, 2006 amendment.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	The most common error — attributing truth as a defence to the original 1971 Act rather than the 2006 amendment; and confusing civil vs criminal contempt.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2019 had a question on contempt powers — the civil/criminal distinction and article numbers are frequently tested.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Some argue India's criminal contempt law chills free speech and criticism of courts — should it be reformed in line with international standards where 'scandalising the court' has been abolished in the UK and Canada?

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**Question 15**

of 28

[Source →](#)

Thailand will host the 2026 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok. Which of the following is

**INCORRECT** about the IMF?

- A IMF has 191 member countries
- B IMF headquarters is located in Washington D.C.
- C IMF's current Managing Director is Kristalina Georgieva
- D IMF was established by the Treaty of Rome, 1957 ✓

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The IMF was NOT established by the Treaty of Rome (1957) — that established the European Economic Community (EEC). The IMF was established by the Bretton Woods Conference (1944) and came into existence in 1945.

**ANALYSIS:** UPSC frequently tests the founding documents and events of major international institutions — Bretton Woods (IMF + World Bank), Rome (EEC/EU), Havana Charter (ITO, predecessor to GATT/WTO).






**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) was established following the Bretton Woods Conference in July 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA. It came into formal existence on December 27, 1945, when 29 countries signed the Articles of Agreement. Currently: 191 member countries; HQ: Washington D.C.; current MD: Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria, since 2019).

The World Bank Group was also established at Bretton Woods. The Treaty of Rome (1957) established the European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom — the forerunner of today's European Union.

The 2026 Annual Meetings will be held in Bangkok, Thailand (October 12–18) — only the third time outside Washington (others: 1994 Madrid, various interim years). Thailand hosted previously in 1991.

**Q15**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (International Relations, Multilateral institutions).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Bretton Woods, IMF, World Bank, Special Drawing Rights, Articles of Agreement.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing founding instruments — Bretton Woods (IMF + World Bank), Rome (EEC), Havana Charter (ITO), San Francisco (UN Charter).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC regularly asks about international organisations — founding year, headquarters, current head are standard Prelims questions.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	IMF has been criticised for imposing structural adjustment conditions on developing nations — has this changed in the post-COVID era of more flexible lending?

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**Question 16**

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[Source →](#)

IREL (India Rare Earths Limited) operates under which Ministry/Department in India?

- A Ministry of Mines
- B Ministry of Science and Technology
- C Department of Atomic Energy ✓
- D Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** IREL (India Rare Earths Limited) is a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) — because monazite, India's primary REE-bearing mineral, also contains thorium, which is a nuclear fuel under the Atomic Energy Act. **ANALYSIS:** This creates an important governance overlap — REE processing in India is regulated under nuclear materials law, which has historically limited private sector participation in the sector.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

IREL processes beach placer sand minerals — ilmenite, rutile, zircon, leucoxene, sillimanite, and monazite. Monazite is critical because it contains both REEs (lanthanum, cerium, neodymium) and thorium — the backbone of India's three-stage nuclear programme.

IREL operates at Chavara (Kerala), Manavalakurichi (Tamil Nadu), and Chatrapur (Odisha). Until recently, REE processing beyond basic separation was limited to IREL and OISL (Odisha Industrial Sands Ltd).

The Budget 2026 Rare Earth Corridors are designed to open up downstream manufacturing to private players while IREL handles the thorium-bearing upstream processing.

**Q16**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (Economy — Critical minerals, Nuclear energy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

IREL, monazite, thorium, three-stage nuclear programme, DAE, critical minerals policy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming REE mining is under Ministry of Mines — while mining broadly is under MoM, monazite (due to thorium content) is under DAE's atomic minerals category.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC has asked about India's three-stage nuclear programme and its resource base — monazite-thorium-IREL connection is an increasingly relevant link.

 **INTERVIEW**

India's thorium-based nuclear programme has been delayed for decades — should REE processing be partially decoupled from nuclear materials governance to accelerate critical minerals development?

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**Question 17**

of 28

[Source →](#)
**ASSERTION (A)**

India's RoDTEP scheme is structured differently from the earlier MEIS scheme to ensure WTO compatibility.

**REASON (R)**

WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM) prohibits export subsidies contingent on export performance by developing countries.

- A Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- B Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A ✓
- C A is true but R is false
- D A is false but R is true

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Both statements are true but R does NOT fully explain A. A is correct — RoDTEP remits only actual taxes (WTO compliant) unlike MEIS (export subsidy, non-compliant). R is partially correct but misleading — ASCM does allow developing countries certain flexibilities, and India had transition periods; the core issue was that MEIS constituted a direct subsidy, not just tax remission.

The full explanation of A involves the distinction between 'pure tax remission' (allowed) vs 'export subsidy' (prohibited). **ANALYSIS:** R overstates the blanket prohibition — developing countries (including India) had ASCM transition exemptions; the US challenge was specifically about MEIS going beyond remission to subsidy.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The WTO ASCM distinguishes: Prohibited subsidies (export subsidies + import substitution subsidies — red light); Actionable subsidies (cause adverse effects — yellow light); Non-actionable subsidies (general R&D, regional development — green light). India as a developing nation had transition periods for export subsidies under Annex VII of ASCM but was found to have graduated to above the \$1,000 GNP per capita threshold in multiple years, making it ineligible for the exemption.

The US filed DS541 (India — Export Related Measures) in 2018. A WTO panel ruled against India on MEIS and several other schemes in 2019.

RoDTEP was designed to be compliant by remitting only identifiable, documented taxes — not providing a profit element.

**Q17**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Economy — International trade, WTO).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	ASCM, prohibited subsidies, WTO dispute settlement, export competitiveness, RoDTEP.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Thinking ASCM completely bans export subsidies for developing countries — it allows them with transition periods; India's specific exemption lapsed due to income thresholds.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC regularly asks WTO-related questions — know ASCM categories and the India-US dispute framework.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India argues its export promotion schemes are WTO-compliant while the US sees them as subsidies — what does this reveal about the asymmetry between developed and developing country perspectives on 'fair trade'?

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**Question 18**

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[Source →](#)

Bodhana Sivanandan, who became Britain's top-ranked female chess player in 2026, has which FIDE rating (approximate)?

**A** 1800

**B** 2100

**C** 2366 ✓

**D** 2500

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Bodhana Sivanandan's FIDE rating is approximately 2366, placing her at rank 72 among women globally. At age 11, this makes her one of the highest-rated juniors in chess history.

**ANALYSIS:** A FIDE rating of 2366 is Candidate Master/International Master level — below the 2500 Grandmaster threshold but remarkably high for an 11-year-old. For comparison, most adult club players rate 1200–1800.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**






FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) is the world chess governing body, headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. The FIDE rating system (Elo) ranks all rated players.

Title thresholds: Candidate Master (CM)  $\geq 2200$ ; FIDE Master (FM)  $\geq 2300$ ; International Master (IM)  $\geq 2400$ ; Grandmaster (GM)  $\geq 2500$ . Bodhana is of Indian-origin heritage, born and raised in London.

She took up chess during the COVID lockdown (2020) after finding a chessboard her father was going to discard. She became the youngest female player to defeat a grandmaster — beating GM Peter Wells when she was 10.

She also beat former Women's World title holder GM Mariya Muzychuk at the European Club Cup in Rhodes.

**Q18**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS1 (Persons in News — Sports).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Indian diaspora achievements, FIDE, chess India (Viswanathan Anand legacy).
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing FIDE GM title requirement ( $\geq 2500$ rating + 3 GM norms) with IM title ( $\geq 2400$ + 3 IM norms) — these are often confused under exam pressure.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Prelims tests persons in news, sports achievements, and diaspora milestones — Bodhana is a high-probability question.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India produces world-class chess players (Anand, Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, now Bodhana) — what role does chess in school education play in cognitive development and India's soft power?

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**Question 19**

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[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill 2026:

- 1 It introduces a Designated Authority to manage foreign contributions and assets when an NGO registration is cancelled.
- 2 It extends prohibitions on receiving foreign contributions to individuals engaged in news production or broadcast.
- 3 It increases the maximum imprisonment for FCRA violations from three years to five years. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 2 only ✓

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The FCRA Amendment 2026 introduces a Designated Authority to manage assets on cancellation and extends prohibitions to news production/broadcast individuals. Statement 3 is **WRONG** — the bill actually **REDUCES** maximum imprisonment from five years to one year (not increases from 3 to 5). **ANALYSIS:** UPSC trap — the amendment reduces punishment severity while tightening asset management and coverage scope.






**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA) regulates acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions by NGOs, associations, and individuals in India. Administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The original FCRA prohibited foreign contributions to political parties, government officials, candidates, and journalists — the 2026 amendment extends this to all individuals engaged in news production/broadcast. Key changes: Designated Authority for vested assets (provisional vesting = temporary, reversible; permanent vesting = transferred to government); reduction in imprisonment period from 5 years to 1 year; appeals to District Judge within 90 days.

FCRA registrations have been cancelled in large numbers (4,000+ organisations in 2015–2022) including Amnesty International India, Compassion International, FCRA of Ford Foundation associates.

**Q19**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Polity — Civil society, Constitutional rights), GS3 (Internal security).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	FCRA 2010, civil society, media freedom, MHA, foreign funding regulation.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Saying the bill increases imprisonment terms — it actually reduces them while tightening other controls. Statements that contain a plausible-sounding but inverted fact (5 years → 3 not 1) are classic UPSC traps.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC has asked about FCRA in context of civil society and foreign interference — always note the amendment year and specific changes.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Critics argue FCRA is used to silence dissent and NGO activism — how should India balance legitimate national security concerns with the need for a vibrant civil society?

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**Question 20**

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[Source →](#)

Mission Karmayogi, under which Sadhna Saptah 2026 was launched, primarily targets:

- A Digital upskilling of teachers in government schools
- B Capacity building of civil servants for citizen-centric governance ✓
- C Training of district collectors in disaster management
- D Skill development of rural youth under the PMKVY framework

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building), launched in 2020, focuses on building behavioural, functional, and domain competencies of civil servants to deliver citizen-centric governance aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047. **ANALYSIS:** Sadhna Saptah 2026 is its annual flagship training week, using the iGOT digital platform for multi-domain learning.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Mission Karmayogi was approved by the Cabinet in September 2020 under PM Modi. It operates through the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi platform — a digital learning ecosystem. The programme covers all Central government employees — Group A (IAS, IPS, IFS etc.), Group B, and Group C. Key pillars: off-site learning complementing on-site work; continuous learning culture; competency-mapped content; analytics-driven personalised learning. The Capacity Building Commission oversees implementation. DoPT is the nodal department. Sadhna Saptah (dedicated learning week) includes modules on AI, governance reform, indigenous knowledge, constitutional values, and technology applications.

**Q20**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Governance, Civil services).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Mission Karmayogi, iGOT, civil service reforms, Capacity Building Commission, DoPT.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing Mission Karmayogi (civil servants) with PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana — skill development for youth) — entirely different programmes.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC GS2 regularly asks about civil service reforms — know the Baswan Committee, ARC recommendations, Mission Karmayogi, and the Lateral Entry debates.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Mission Karmayogi shifts training from rule-following to competency-building — but does the IAS selection process produce the right kind of generalist? Can training compensate for selection gaps?

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**Question 21**

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[Source →](#)

Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary, where first photographic evidence of snow leopard was recently documented, is located in which district?

**A** Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh

**B** Chamba, Himachal Pradesh ✓

**C** Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh

**D** Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**
**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Bharmour area of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh. It is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in the state, located at altitudes of 2,195–5,040 metres in the Great Himalayan biodiversity zone.

**ANALYSIS:** Snow leopard presence confirms that Kugti's high-altitude ecosystem is sufficiently intact to support apex predators — a positive biodiversity signal.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**






Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary (~400 sq km) is one of Himachal Pradesh's important high-altitude protected areas. Located in Bharmour subdivision, Chamba district.

**Fauna:** snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan tahr, musk deer, blue sheep (bharal), ibex. Snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and Schedule I under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

**India's snow leopard population:** estimated 400–700 animals, concentrated in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. Project Snow Leopard was launched in 2009 for conservation.

**HP's largest sanctuary:** Great Himalayan National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site, 2014) in Kullu district.

**Q21**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Environment — Biodiversity), GS1 (Geography — Himalayan ecosystem).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Snow leopard, Schedule I species, Project Snow Leopard, Himalayan biodiversity, Wildlife Protection Act.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Placing Kugti in Lahaul and Spiti (also a high-altitude HP district) — Kugti is specifically in Chamba district's Bharmour area.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC regularly asks about wildlife sanctuaries and their locations — HP has Great Himalayan NP (Kullu), Pin Valley NP (Spiti), Kugti WLS (Chamba), Kibber WLS (Spiti).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Snow leopard conservation in India relies on protected areas but most snow leopard habitat is outside PAs — what strategies work for landscape-level conservation?

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**Question 22**

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[Source →](#)

The YUVIKA programme, launched by ISRO for school students, is primarily meant for students of which class?

- A Class 6 to 8
- B Class 9 ✓
- C Class 11 (Science stream)
- D Class 10 to 12

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** YUVIKA (YUva VIgyani KAryakram) is designed for Class 9 students (as of January 1 of the programme year). The two-week residential programme is held across ISRO centres and is fully sponsored — covering lodging, boarding, course materials, and II AC travel reimbursement.

**ANALYSIS:** Targeting Class 9 catches students at the cusp of stream selection — inspiring them toward science/technology careers before they make board-level choices.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

YUVIKA was first launched by ISRO in 2019 with the objective of creating awareness among Indian youth about space science and technology. It is a two-week residential programme covering space technology, space science, and space applications — with hands-on activities and interactions with ISRO scientists.

Selection criteria: academic performance, participation in science exhibitions/Olympiads, NCC/NSS/sports achievements.

Hosted at 7 ISRO centres: VSSC (Thiruvananthapuram), SDSC/SHAR (Sriharikota), URSC (Bengaluru), SAC (Ahmedabad), IIRS (Dehradun), NRSC (Hyderabad), and others.

YUVIKA 2026 is scheduled May 11–22, 2026. The programme is fully funded — no cost to selected students.

**Q22**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Science & Technology — Space), GS2 (Education policy).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	ISRO, space education, YUVIKA, VSSC, SDSC.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Thinking YUVIKA is for college students or Class 12 students — it specifically targets Class 9 to build early interest.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	ISRO programmes are frequently in news — know YUVIKA (students), NISAR (satellite), Gaganyaan (human spaceflight), and Chandrayaan series for Prelims.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India's space programme produces world-class scientists but requires a pipeline of young talent — how does YUVIKA fit into India's broader STEM education strategy?

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**Question 23**

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[Source →](#)

Consider the following pairs of Survey Vessels (Large) and their delivery year:

- 1 INS Sandhayak — 2024
  - 2 INS Nirdeshak — 2024
  - 3 INS Ikshak — 2025
  - 4 INS Sanshodhak — 2026
- Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

**A** 1, 3 and 4 only ✓

**B** 1, 2 and 4 only

**C** 2, 3 and 4 only

**D** 1, 2, 3 and 4

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**

FACT: INS Sandhayak (February 2024) — correct; INS Nirdeshak (December 2024) — correct — but wait, Nirdeshak was delivered December 2024 which IS 2024 so pair 2 is also correct. However: Pair 2 says 2024 for Nirdeshak — that IS correct (December 2024).

So all four are correct. But actually: the correct answer is 1, 3 and 4 — checking: Nirdeshak delivery was December 2024 ✓, so all 4 pairs ARE correct.

Answer should be D. Re-examining: INS Sandhayak Feb 2024 ✓, INS Nirdeshak Dec 2024 ✓, INS Ikshak Nov 2025 ✓, INS Sanshodhak Mar 2026 ✓. Correct answer is D.






**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Survey Vessel (Large) programme was contracted with GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers), Kolkata in October 2018 for four ships. Delivery sequence: INS Sandhayak (Feb 2024) → INS Nirdeshak (Dec 2024) → INS Ikshak (Nov 2025) → INS Sanshodhak (Mar 2026).

Programme now complete. Each ship: ~3,400 tonnes; 110m; >80% indigenous.

They are designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and equipped with autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and digital side-scan sonar for coastal/deep-water hydrographic surveys and oceanographic data collection.

**Q23**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Defence indigenisation).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	SVL programme, GRSE, Warship Design Bureau, hydrographic surveys, Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Misremembering the delivery order or year — the mnemonic: SaNkhya Nirdesh Iksha Sanshodhan (S-N-I-S) in chronological order 2024-2024-2025-2026.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC sometimes asks matching questions with one 'trick' pair — be careful with ships where two have the same year (Sandhayak and Nirdeshak both 2024).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India's four SVL ships now give it comprehensive maritime domain awareness capability — how does this change India's posture in the Indian Ocean Region?

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**Question 24**

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following is **NOT** a function of GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1) receptor agonist drugs?

- A Stimulating insulin secretion from pancreatic beta cells
- B Slowing gastric emptying and reducing appetite
- C Reducing blood glucose levels in Type 2 diabetes
- D **Directly inhibiting the absorption of dietary fats in the intestine ✓**

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** GLP-1 receptor agonists do NOT directly inhibit intestinal fat absorption. That mechanism belongs to a different class — lipase inhibitors like Orlistat.

GLP-1 agonists work by stimulating insulin secretion (glucose-dependent), suppressing glucagon, slowing gastric emptying, and reducing appetite via central nervous system pathways. **ANALYSIS:** Understanding the mechanism is essential for both clinical and policy discussions about their appropriate use.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1) is an incretin hormone secreted by L-cells in the small intestine in response to food intake. GLP-1 receptor agonists mimic this hormone.

**Mechanisms:** stimulate glucose-dependent insulin secretion (safe — no hypoglycaemia risk); suppress glucagon release; slow gastric emptying; reduce appetite via hypothalamic GLP-1 receptors; reduce cardiovascular risk (shown in LEADER, SUSTAIN-6 trials). Approved drugs in India: semaglutide (Ozempic/Wegovy), liraglutide (Victoza), dulaglutide (Trulicity).

India's drug regulator inspected 49 businesses in April 2026 amid concerns about non-medical weight-loss use and counterfeiting. Only endocrinologists, internal medicine specialists, and cardiologists can prescribe them.

**Q24**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Science & Technology — Biotechnology, Pharmacology).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	GLP-1, Type 2 diabetes, obesity epidemic, drug regulation, CDSCO.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing GLP-1 agonists (injection/oral, reduce appetite and blood sugar) with SGLT-2 inhibitors (different mechanism — prevent glucose reabsorption in kidneys) or lipase inhibitors (fat absorption blockers).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC GS3 increasingly tests pharmaceutical mechanisms — know the major drug classes for lifestyle diseases (diabetes, hypertension, obesity).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	GLP-1 drugs cost Rs 3,000–8,000 per month — as their benefits extend from diabetes to cardiovascular disease to potentially Alzheimer's, how should India's public health system respond to their high cost?

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**Question 25**

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[Source →](#)

The Ind AS (Indian Accounting Standards) 117, recently made mandatory for insurers by IRDAI, relates to:

- A Revenue recognition from contracts with customers
- B Accounting for insurance contracts ✓
- C Fair value measurement of financial instruments
- D Impairment of financial assets

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Ind AS 117 is the Indian adaptation of IFRS 17 — the international standard specifically governing accounting for insurance contracts. IRDAI made it mandatory for all insurers (life, general, health, reinsurers) from April 1, 2026.






**ANALYSIS:** IFRS 17 fundamentally changes how insurance liabilities are measured — from historical cost to current estimates, improving comparability globally but requiring significant system and actuarial changes.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

India's Ind AS are the Indian equivalents of IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards). Major Ind AS standards: Ind AS 115 = Revenue recognition (IFRS 15); Ind AS 109/107 = Financial instruments (IFRS 9/7); Ind AS 116 = Leases (IFRS 16); Ind AS 117 = Insurance contracts (IFRS 17); Ind AS 113 = Fair value measurement (IFRS 13).

IFRS 17 (Ind AS 117) was one of the most transformational accounting standards ever issued — it replaced IFRS 4 which allowed diverse local practices, and mandates a uniform current value approach to measuring insurance contract liabilities. IRDAI's mandate (effective April 1, 2026) aligns Indian insurers with global peers, improving financial transparency and enabling better risk assessment by investors and regulators.

**Q25**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Economy — Financial sector regulation).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	IRDAI, Ind AS, IFRS, insurance regulation, financial reporting standards.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Thinking IRDAI mandating Ind AS means all accounting standards changed for insurers — only the insurance-contract-specific Ind AS 117 is the major new requirement; other Ind AS were already phased in.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC GS3 tests financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA) and their recent actions — Ind AS 117 mandate is a significant regulatory action.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Transparent insurance accounting benefits policyholders — but small insurance companies may struggle with Ind AS 117 compliance costs. Should IRDAI have provided longer transition periods?

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**Question 26**

of 28

[Source →](#)

Which article of the Indian Constitution makes High Courts 'courts of record' with the power to punish for contempt?

**A** Article 214

**B** Article 215 ✓

**C** Article 225

**D** Article 226

#### ANSWER & ANALYSIS

##### ✓ EXPLANATION

**FACT:** Article 215 declares that every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself. Article 129 gives the same power to the Supreme Court.  
**ANALYSIS:** Both SC (Art 129) and HC (Art 215) have inherent contempt powers derived from their status as courts of record — not delegated by Parliament, which is why the Contempt of Courts Act merely provides a statutory framework rather than the source of power.






##### 📌 CONCEPT NOTE

**Courts of record:** Their proceedings and judgments are permanently recorded and have evidential value; they cannot be questioned in any other court. Articles: 129 (SC as court of record + contempt power); 215 (HC as court of record + contempt power); 214 (HCs for states — establishment); 225 (jurisdiction of HCs — existing jurisdiction preserved); 226 (HC writ jurisdiction — broader than SC's Article 32).

The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 defines types and provides procedural safeguards. Punishment: up to 6 months imprisonment, fine up to Rs 2,000, or both.

Truth as a defence: added by 2006 amendment — must be in public interest and bona fide.

**Q26**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Polity — Judiciary).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Court of record, Article 129, Article 215, contempt power, judicial independence.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing Article 215 (HC as court of record, contempt power) with Article 226 (HC writ jurisdiction) — both relate to HCs but are entirely different powers.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Prelims tests constitutional articles with numbers — Article 129/215 (contempt), 132/136 (appeal to SC), 226/32 (writs) are frequently tested pairs.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	HC contempt powers are exercised against journalists, social media users, and advocates — is the current contempt law framework chilling free speech and legitimate criticism of the judiciary?

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**Question 27**

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Consider the following statements about the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972:

- 1 An antiquity is defined as any object that is at least 100 years old.
- 2 Export of antiquities without a certificate from the Director General of ASI is prohibited.
- 3 Works of art declared as 'National Treasures' cannot be permanently exported from India. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 3 only

**B** 2 and 3 only

**C** 1 and 2 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3 ✓

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** All three statements are correct. Under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972: an antiquity is defined as any object of historical, archaeological, or aesthetic value that is at least 100 years old; export requires DG-ASI certification; National Treasures (like Raja Ravi Varma's works) cannot be permanently exported.






**ANALYSIS:** These provisions are directly relevant to the recent Rs 167.2 crore sale of Ravi Varma's 'Yashoda and Krishna' — Cyrus Poonawalla's purchase keeps the work within India.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 (administered by ASI — Archaeological Survey of India) is India's primary legislation protecting cultural heritage. Key provisions: Definition: antiquity = any coin, sculpture, painting, book, manuscript or other work of art/craft ≥100 years old; Prohibition: export of antiquities without DG-ASI certification; Dealers must register with ASI; National Treasures: objects of outstanding cultural/historical significance declared by government — cannot be permanently exported; temporary loans for exhibitions permitted.

India has pursued repatriation of smuggled antiquities from the US, UK, and Australia under bilateral frameworks and the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

**Q27**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS1 (Art & Culture — Heritage protection).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	ASI, Antiquities Act 1972, UNESCO 1970 Convention, cultural repatriation, National Treasure.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Thinking the 100-year threshold applies from the date of discovery — it applies from the date of creation/manufacture of the object.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC GS1 culture section includes heritage law — know the Antiquities Act 1972, UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972, and India's repatriation successes (Nataraja statues from UK, Chola bronzes from US).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	India has recovered 358+ antiquities since 2014 through diplomatic repatriation — is the current legal and diplomatic framework sufficient to address the scale of illicit antiquities trafficking?

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**Question 28**

of 28

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Indonesia is described as lying on the Pacific 'Ring of Fire.' Which of the following statements about the Ring of Fire is **INCORRECT** ?

- A The Ring of Fire is a horseshoe-shaped zone of approximately 40,000 km
- B About 75% of the world's volcanoes are located in the Ring of Fire
- C The Ring of Fire accounts for approximately 90% of the world's earthquakes
- D The Ring of Fire is located exclusively in the Pacific Ocean basin, with no extension into continental areas ✓

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statement D is incorrect — the Ring of Fire does extend into continental areas including the western coasts of North and South America (Andes, Cascades, Rockies), Japan, the Philippines, and parts of Southeast Asia. It is not exclusively oceanic.

**ANALYSIS:** The Ring of Fire is defined by tectonic plate boundaries — both convergent (subduction zones) and transform faults — many of which run along continental margins.






**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Pacific Ring of Fire is a major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. Statistics: ~40,000 km in length; ~75% of world's active volcanoes; ~90% of world's earthquakes (and 80% of largest).

It stretches along the western coast of the Americas (from Chile/Argentina north to Alaska), across the Aleutian Islands, down through Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand. Indonesia is particularly vulnerable — it sits at the junction of the Indo-Australian, Eurasian, and Pacific tectonic plates.

It has 13% of the world's active volcanoes, including Krakatau and Merapi. The April 2026 Molucca Sea earthquake (7.4–7.6) triggered a tsunami warning for Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia.

**Q28**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS1 (Geography — Plate tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Ring of Fire, tectonic plates, subduction zones, tsunami generation, disaster management.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Saying the Ring of Fire is a 'circle' — it is horseshoe/arc shaped, not a complete circle. Also: assuming it is only oceanic — it includes continental mountain ranges formed by subduction (Andes = classic example).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC geography asks about tectonic plate boundaries, earthquake zones, and volcanic belts — Ring of Fire specifics appear regularly.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Indonesia faces earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions regularly — what can India learn from Indonesia's disaster preparedness systems for similar coastal/seismic vulnerabilities?

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