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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — April 11, 2026

11 April 2026



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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz — April 11, 2026

11 April 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Question 1**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Jyotirao Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in which year?

A 1848

B 1857

**C 1873 ✓**

D 1885

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Jyotirao Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth-Seekers' Society) on September 24, 1873 in Pune.

**ANALYSIS:** This was a formal organisation to liberate Shudra-Dalit communities from Brahminical domination — distinct from his earlier education work (first girls' school, 1848).

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Satyashodhak Samaj challenged both the priestly class's monopoly on religious rituals and the caste hierarchy's lock on education and economic mobility. Phule promoted marriages without Brahmin priests — a radical economic and social act.

The organisation spread across Maharashtra and influenced later Dalit and OBC movements. Phule's key work *Gulamgiri* (1873 — same year) directly compared caste oppression to American slavery, dedicating the book to freed Black Americans.

He was conferred the title 'Mahatma' in 1888 by Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar. B.R. Ambedkar acknowledged Phule as one of his three principal intellectual mentors (alongside Kabir and the Buddha).

Constitutional provisions most traceable to Phule's legacy include Article 17 (abolition of untouchability) and Article 46 (promotion of educational interests of SCs and STs).

**Q1**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 — 19th century social reform movements; GS4 — ethics of social courage and resistance; GS2 — Article 17, Article 46, DPSP.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students confuse 1848 (first girls' school) with 1873 (Satyashodhak Samaj founding) — these are two separate milestones.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Satyashodhak Samaj, social reform, anti-caste, dalit emancipation, Gulamgiri.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2016 GS1 asked about 19th century social reform movements — Phule is frequently paired with Ambedkar in this context.

 **INTERVIEW**

How did Phule's reform strategy differ from Brahma Samaj's approach — which was more radical and why?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 2**

of 14

[Source →](#)

As of March 31, 2026, India ranks 3rd globally in installed renewable energy capacity. Which country ranks 2nd?

- A Germany
- B Brazil
- C United States ✓
- D Japan

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

**FACT:** India (283.46 GW non-fossil capacity) ranks 3rd globally — behind China (1st) and the United States (2nd). India surpassed Brazil to reach this position.

**ANALYSIS:** India's achievement is notable given its per-capita income level — it is the lowest-income country in the global RE top 5.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India added a record 55.3 GW in FY 2025–26 and renewables now meet 51.5% of peak electricity demand. India's 2030 NDC target is 500 GW non-fossil capacity and 50% electricity from non-fossil sources.

The key policy instruments driving this growth include the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO), ISTS waiver for inter-state renewable power transmission, PM-KUSUM for agricultural solar, and PLI for solar PV manufacturing (to reduce China import dependence for modules). India's net-zero commitment is 2070 (announced COP26, Glasgow).

The Green Energy Corridor addresses transmission constraints between renewable-rich western states (Rajasthan, Gujarat) and consumption centres in the north and east.

**Q2**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 — environment, energy policy, NDC; GS2 — MNRE governance; GS1 — spatial distribution of renewable resources.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students confuse India's 2030 target (500 GW) with India's current capacity (283 GW) — the gap of ~215 GW needs to be added in 4 years.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

NDC, RPO, ISTS waiver, Green Energy Corridor, PLI solar PV, net zero 2070.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2022 GS3 asked about India's renewable energy targets — know the 500 GW/50% combination.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can India realistically reach 500 GW by 2030 given grid storage and land acquisition constraints?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 3**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The VBSA Bill 2025 proposes to replace three higher education regulatory bodies. Which of the following is **NOT** among the bodies proposed to be replaced?

- A University Grants Commission (UGC)
- B All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- C National Medical Commission (NMC) ✓
- D National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The VBSA Bill replaces UGC, AICTE, and NCTE — not the National Medical Commission (NMC). Medical education remains under NMC, and legal education remains under the Bar Council of India (BCI).

**ANALYSIS:** Excluding NMC and BCI reflects the specialised regulatory traditions in medicine and law that Parliament chose to preserve.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhithan (VBSA) Bill, 2025 is the legislative implementation of the NEP 2020 recommendation to create a single Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). Key features: separates funding from regulation (addressing UGC's structural conflict of interest), creates three operational councils (Regulatory, Accreditation, Standards), and sets penalties of ₹10 lakh to ₹2 crore for violations.

UGC was established under the UGC Act, 1956; AICTE became statutory in 1987; NCTE under NCTE Act, 1993. Education is a Concurrent List subject (List III, Seventh Schedule) — both Centre and States can legislate.

Critics raise federalism concerns: Centre-appointed regulatory body may not adequately represent regional educational diversity.

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

GS2 — governance of higher education, federalism (Concurrent List); GS2 — polity (Parliament's legislative competence).

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students think VBSA also replaces NMC — it does not. NMC (replaced MCI in 2020) remains the medical education regulator.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

HECI, NEP 2020, regulatory consolidation, Concurrent List, graded autonomy, NAAC, AICTE.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2021 asked about UGC's dual role of funding + regulation — the VBSA Bill directly resolves this tension.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is centralising higher education regulation through a Centre-appointed body consistent with India's federal structure?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 4**

of 14

[Source →](#)

According to the NITI Aayog–TransUnion CIBIL–MicroSave Consulting report (2025), what share of India's total financial system credit is held by women borrowers?

A 14%

B 19%

C 26% ✓

D 36%

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

**FACT:** Women borrowers hold ₹76 lakh crore in credit, representing 26% of India's total financial system credit (2025). The 36% figure refers to the share of credit-active women among all women borrowers — not the share of system credit.

**ANALYSIS:** Women default 30% less than the market average, challenging historical risk premium assumptions applied to women borrowers.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

Key data from the report *'From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market'*: credit-active women doubled from 19% (2017) to 36% (2025); 16 crore credit-active women; business loan CAGR of 59% in Bihar and 42% in Uttar Pradesh. The growth is largely driven by PMJDY (banking access), MUDRA Yojana (₹32 lakh crore disbursed, ~68% women borrowers), and the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme.

Despite the progress, only 4.3% of women-owned enterprises access complex commercial products like cash credit or overdraft — indicating that formal credit access remains shallow for business-scale needs. The account aggregator framework and digital credit underwriting have improved same-day loan approval from 34% (2022) to 45% (2025).

**Q4**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 — financial inclusion, MSME credit; GS2 — women's economic rights, Jan Dhan governance; GS1 — society, women's agency.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing the 36% (share of credit-active women among all women) with the 26% (women's share of total system credit) — read the denominator carefully.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Financial inclusion, SHG-bank linkage, MUDRA, account aggregator, credit bureau, gender credit gap.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2019 GS2 asked about financial inclusion schemes — know PMJDY-MUDRA-SHG as a connected ecosystem.

 **INTERVIEW**

If women default 30% less than men, why do women-owned enterprises still face higher collateral requirements?

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**Question 5**

of 14

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KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) is a joint venture of which three organisations?

- A ONGC, IOCL, and GAIL
- B NALCO, HCL, and MECL ✓
- C SAIL, NMDC, and MOIL
- D NTPC, NHPC, and BHEL

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** KABIL is a joint venture of NALCO (40%), HCL (30%), and MECL (30%), incorporated on August 8, 2019, under the Ministry of Mines. **ANALYSIS:** All three partners are PSUs under the Ministry of Mines — making KABIL entirely within a single ministry's portfolio for streamlined coordination.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

NALCO = National Aluminium Company Limited; HCL = Hindustan Copper Limited; MECL = Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited. KABIL's mandate is to identify, acquire, develop, and process strategic mineral assets overseas — targeting lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements.

Operations span Argentina's Catamarca province (Lithium Triangle — Argentina, Bolivia, Chile hold ~60% of global lithium), Australia (hard rock lithium spodumene), and the DRC (~70% of world cobalt). India's 2023 Critical Minerals List identifies 30 strategic minerals.

The 2023 MMDR Amendment opened lithium blocks for private sector auction. KABIL is modelled on China's overseas mineral acquisition strategy, which began in the early 2000s — India is approximately 15–20 years behind that curve.

**Q5**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 — critical minerals, EV policy, PLI scheme; GS2 — mineral diplomacy (India-Australia, India-Argentina bilateral relations).

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing KABIL (critical minerals overseas) with NMDC (domestic iron ore mining) — they serve completely different purposes.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Critical Minerals Mission, Lithium Triangle, MMDR Act, PLI battery storage, FAME scheme, supply chain security.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2023 GS3 asked about critical minerals and India's import dependence — know KABIL as the institutional answer.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is India's mineral acquisition strategy sustainable given China's established presence in DRC and the Lithium Triangle?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 6**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) functions under which Ministry?

- A Ministry of Home Affairs
- B Ministry of Finance ✓
- C Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D Ministry of Corporate Affairs

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** FIU-IND operates under the **Ministry of Finance** (Department of Revenue) — not Ministry of Home Affairs. It is India's central national agency for receiving, processing, and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.

**ANALYSIS:** The MHA houses I4C (cybercrime coordination), which is a separate body — the two recently signed an MoU for joint financial cybercrime intelligence sharing.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

FIU-IND was established in 2004 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. It receives Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) and Cash Transaction Reports (CTRs) from banks and financial institutions.

I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) is an attached office of the Ministry of Home Affairs — it runs the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal ([cybercrime.gov.in](https://cybercrime.gov.in)), the National Cyber Forensic Laboratory, and maintains a Suspect Registry. The April 2026 FIU-IND–I4C MoU enables real-time intelligence sharing between Finance Ministry and Home Ministry to combat cyber-enabled financial fraud.

This is an example of 'Whole of Government' approach where two ministries coordinate on overlapping threats.

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

GS3 — money laundering, financial intelligence; GS2 — governance, inter-ministerial coordination; GS3 — cybersecurity.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students assume FIU-IND is under MHA because it deals with crime — it is under Finance Ministry because it processes financial transactions.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

PMLA 2002, FIU-IND, I4C, cybercrime, Suspicious Transaction Report (STR), Whole of Government.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2020 GS3 had a question on money laundering institutions — know FIU-IND (Finance), ED (Finance), and I4C (MHA) as three separate entities.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should financial intelligence functions be merged with cybercrime coordination under a unified agency?

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**Question 7**

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The ICJ advisory opinion of February 2019 regarding the Chagos Archipelago concluded that:

- A The UK has valid sovereignty over Chagos under the 1965 Lancaster House Agreement
- B Diego Garcia should be jointly administered by the UK, USA, and Mauritius
- C **The decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed without Chagos, and the UK must end its administration ✓**
- D The Chagossian people have a right to compensation but not to return

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The ICJ advisory opinion (February 25, 2019) concluded that the UK's detachment of Chagos from Mauritius in 1965 was unlawful, the decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed, and the UK has an obligation to end its administration of Chagos as rapidly as possible. **ANALYSIS:** The UN General Assembly subsequently endorsed this opinion (116–6 vote), though advisory opinions are not legally binding.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territory — BIOT) was excised from Mauritius in 1965 — three years before Mauritius's independence in 1968 — to create space for the US-UK military base at Diego Garcia. The approximately 2,000 Chagossian people were forcibly displaced between 1968 and 1973.

The UK High Court in 2000 found their removal unlawful, but the government issued Orders in Council in 2004 blocking their return. Diego Garcia is a critical strategic asset: it was used for Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq operations.

The UK-Mauritius deal agreed in 2024 would have transferred sovereignty to Mauritius with a 99-year Diego Garcia base lease — but this was suspended in 2026 under US (Trump administration) pressure. China's potential influence over Mauritius was cited as a security concern.

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

GS2 — IR, decolonisation, ICJ; GS3 — IOR security, maritime chokepoints, Diego Garcia.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students think ICJ advisory opinions are legally binding — they are not, though they carry significant political weight.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

BIOT, ICJ advisory opinion, decolonisation, IOR, Diego Garcia, Indo-Pacific, Chagossian people, self-determination.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2021 GS2 asked about the Indian Ocean Region — Diego Garcia is a key strategic node to know.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does the suspension of the Chagos deal signal that US strategic interests will routinely override international law in the Indo-Pacific?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 8**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about Mahatma Jyotirao Phule:

- 1 He established India's first school for girls on January 1, 1848 at Bhide Wada, Pune.
- 2 His wife, Savitribai Phule, was India's first female teacher.
- 3 He was the first Indian to be conferred the title 'Mahatma' — in 1888, 27 years before Gandhi received it.
- 4 The Satyashodhak Samaj was founded in 1857 during the Sepoy Mutiny uprising.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

**B 1, 2 and 3 only ✓**

C 2, 3 and 4 only

D 1, 2, 3 and 4

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is **WRONG** — the Satyashodhak Samaj was founded on September 24, 1873, not 1857.

Phule was conferred the title 'Mahatma' on May 11, 1888 by Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar; Gandhi received the same title from Tagore in 1915 — making Phule's conferral 27 years earlier. **ANALYSIS:** The 1857 conflation is a common distractor.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Jyotirao Phule's life spanned 1827–1890. He opened India's first girls' school on January 1, 1848 at Bhide Wada, Pune — an act that invited social ostracism and physical threats.

Savitribai faced stone-throwing on her way to school and carried extra saris. The Satyashodhak Samaj (September 24, 1873) had a broader institutional mandate: advocating for widow remarriage, opposing priestly monopoly on rituals, running the first Satyashodhak-style marriages without Brahmin priests, and founding orphanages.

Phule's *Gulamgiri* (1873) was dedicated to the freed Black Americans of the US Civil War, drawing an explicit moral parallel between American slavery and India's caste system. B.R. Ambedkar acknowledged Phule as one of his three principal intellectual mentors.

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

GS1 — 19th century social reform; GS4 — ethics of social resistance; GS2 — Article 17 (untouchability abolition) traces to Phule's activism.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Conflating 1848 (girls' school) and 1873 (Satyashodhak Samaj) — both are different milestones. 1857 is a red herring introduced to test this.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Satyashodhak Samaj, social reform movement, anti-caste, Gulamgiri, Phule-Ambedkar continuum.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2014 GS1 asked about role of women in social reform movements — Savitribai Phule is the canonical answer.

 **INTERVIEW**

If Phule received the 'Mahatma' title 27 years before Gandhi, why does popular memory associate the title primarily with Gandhi?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 9**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about India's renewable energy sector (as of March 2026):

- 1 India's total non-fossil fuel capacity has crossed 283 GW.
- 2 Renewables contributed more than 50% of India's peak electricity demand.
- 3 India ranks 2nd globally in installed renewable energy capacity.
- 4 India added more than 50 GW of renewable capacity in FY 2025–26.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

**A** 1, 2 and 4 only ✓

**B** 1 and 4 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

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

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. Statement 3 is WRONG — India ranks **3rd** (not 2nd) globally; the USA is 2nd and China is 1st.

India's capacity is 283.46 GW, renewables met 51.5% of peak demand, and 55.3 GW was added in FY26.

**ANALYSIS:** The 2nd/3rd conflation is a common exam distractor for this topic.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India surpassed Brazil to reach the 3rd position. The key 2030 NDC targets are: 500 GW non-fossil capacity and 50% electricity from non-fossil sources.

India's long-term net-zero commitment is 2070. The Green Energy Corridor connects RE-rich states (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu) to consumption centres.

Major challenges: grid storage (battery/pumped hydro needed for intermittency), transmission constraints, land acquisition for solar parks, and reducing China import dependence for solar modules. PLI scheme for solar PV and production-linked incentives aim to make India a solar manufacturing hub by 2030.

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

GS3 — energy policy, climate commitments; GS2 — MNRE governance; GS1 — resource geography.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Stating India is 2nd (behind China) — the USA is 2nd; India is 3rd.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

500 GW NDC, RPO, ISTS waiver, Green Energy Corridor, PLI solar, net-zero 2070.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC frequently tests precise global rankings — verify India's exact rank in RE, not just the region.

 **INTERVIEW**

India ranks 3rd in RE capacity but emits 3rd most CO<sub>2</sub> — does RE growth automatically translate into decarbonisation?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 10**

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[Source →](#)

Match the following reformers with their key works: List I (Work) — List II (Reformer/Context) A. \*Gulamgiri\* (1873) — 1. Jyotirao Phule B. \*Anand Math\* (1882) — 2. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay C. \*Gita Rahasya\* (1915) — 3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak D. \*The Discovery of India\* (1946) — 4. Jawaharlal Nehru Select the correct answer:

LIST I

LIST II

**A** A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 ✓

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

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

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

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** All four matchings are correct — A-1 (*Gulamgiri* by Phule, 1873), B-2 (*Anand Math* by Bankim Chandra, 1882 — contains 'Vande Mataram'), C-3 (*Gita Rahasya* by Tilak, written in Mandalay jail 1915), D-4 (*The Discovery of India* by Nehru, written in Ahmadnagar Fort 1944, published 1946). **ANALYSIS:** These are four foundational texts of Indian intellectual and political history — frequently tested as a match pair in UPSC.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

*Anand Math* by Bankim Chandra contains the national song 'Vande Mataram' — set during the fictional Sannyasi Revolt of the 1770s. *Gita Rahasya* was Tilak's commentary on the Bhagavad Gita arguing for 'karmayoga' (action) as the path — written during his 6-year imprisonment in Mandalay (1908–14).

*The Discovery of India* by Nehru was written during his 1942–46 imprisonment at Ahmadnagar Fort — it traces India's civilisational history. *Gulamgiri* was Phule's anti-caste manifesto comparing caste oppression to slavery.

All four authors were imprisoned by British authorities at some point — a connecting thread across these texts.

**Q10**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 — literary contributions to national movement; GS4 — ethical frameworks in Indian thought.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing *Gita Rahasya* (Tilak) with *Gitanjali* (Tagore, 1910 Nobel) — similar-sounding names, completely different works.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Vande Mataram, karmayoga, Indian civilisation, Phule-Ambedkar tradition, colonial imprisonment and intellectual production.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2018 GS1 match list included *Anand Math* and *Vande Mataram* — the Bankim Chandra connection is a reliable exam item.

 **INTERVIEW**

Why did colonial imprisonment paradoxically produce some of India's most important intellectual works?

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**Question 11**

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[Source →](#)

Match the following institutions with their parent ministries: List I (Institution) — List II (Ministry) A. FIU-IND — 1. Ministry of Finance B. I4C — 2. Ministry of Home Affairs C. KABIL — 3. Ministry of Mines D. NHRC — 4. Ministry of Law and Justice Select the correct answer:

LIST I

LIST II

**A** A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 ✓

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

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

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

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** A-1 (FIU-IND: Ministry of Finance, Dept. of Revenue); B-2 (I4C: Ministry of Home Affairs); C-3 (KABIL: Ministry of Mines); D-4 (NHRC: functions under Ministry of Law and Justice for administrative purposes). **ANALYSIS:** FIU-IND–MHA confusion is a classic distractor since both deal with crime, but FIU-IND processes financial transactions under PMLA.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

FIU-IND (Financial Intelligence Unit-India) was established in 2004 under PMLA, 2002 — it processes Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) from banks. I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) runs [cybercrime.gov.in](https://cybercrime.gov.in) and is under MHA. KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) is a JV of NALCO (40%) + HCL (30%) + MECL (30%), incorporated August 8, 2019, under Ministry of Mines.

NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) was established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 — it functions independently but is administratively linked to the Ministry of Law and Justice. NHRC issued a notice to MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and IT) regarding app safety in April 2026.

**Q11**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 — institutional architecture, governance; GS3 — financial intelligence, cybercrime, critical minerals.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing FIU-IND under MHA (because it sounds like a crime-fighting body) — it is specifically under Finance Ministry as a financial intelligence unit.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

PMLA 2002, FIU-IND, I4C, KABIL, NHRC, Protection of Human Rights Act 1993.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2020 directly tested ministry affiliations of financial institutions — this pattern repeats.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should financial crime intelligence (FIU-IND) and cybercrime coordination (I4C) be merged into a single agency?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 12**

of 14

[Source →](#)
**ASSERTION (A)**

India is pursuing overseas acquisition of critical minerals like lithium and cobalt through KABIL.

**REASON (R)**

India holds no domestic reserves of lithium or cobalt and is nearly 100% import-dependent for battery-grade minerals. Choose the correct answer:

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

**B** Both A and R are correct, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A

**C** A is correct, but R is incorrect

**D** A is incorrect, but R is correct

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

**FACT:** Both statements are factually accurate. India has negligible commercially exploitable lithium/cobalt reserves (small lithium deposits were found in J&K in 2023 but are not yet commercially viable at scale), and KABIL's overseas mandate is directly driven by this import dependence.

R is indeed the correct explanation of A. **ANALYSIS:** India's EV and battery storage ambitions cannot be met without securing critical mineral supply chains abroad.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India's Geological Survey identified lithium reserves of ~5.9 million tonnes in Salal-Haimana, Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir in February 2023 — a significant discovery but exploration and commercial production are still years away. KABIL was incorporated in 2019, before this discovery.

Even with the J&K reserves, India would still need overseas supply for cobalt, nickel, and graphite. The Critical Minerals Mission (2024) and the 2023 MMDR Amendment (opening lithium blocks for private sector auction) work alongside KABIL for a dual domestic-overseas strategy.

China's dominance in DRC cobalt mines and Lithium Triangle assets (via SOEs) is the strategic competitive context for KABIL's work.

**Q12**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 — critical minerals, EV policy, PLI scheme; GS2 — mineral diplomacy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

In assertion-reason questions, always verify both the factual correctness of A and R AND whether R explains A — two separate tests.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Critical Minerals Mission, MMDR Act, PLI battery, FAME scheme, Lithium Triangle, supply chain security.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2023 GS3 directly asked about India's critical mineral dependence — the J&K lithium discovery and KABIL are the two institutional answers.

 **INTERVIEW**

India discovered lithium in J&K in 2023 — does that reduce the strategic rationale for KABIL?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 13**

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following CORRECTLY describes the 'Womaniya' initiative on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)?

- A A scheme to provide subsidised loans to women entrepreneurs under MUDRA Yojana
- B A dedicated GeM portal enabling women-led MSEs to access government procurement markets directly ✓
- C A Ministry of Women and Child Development programme for self-help group registration
- D An export promotion initiative for women artisans under PM Vishwakarma

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

**FACT:** Womaniya is a dedicated initiative on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) — the government's digital procurement portal — that enables women-led micro and small enterprises to register and access government procurement contracts directly. By FY 2025–26, 2.1 lakh women MSEs had secured ₹28,000 crore in contracts.

**ANALYSIS:** Women's orders reached 5.6% of total GeM orders — exceeding the 3% target.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

GeM (Government e-Marketplace) was launched in 2016 under Ministry of Commerce and Industry as India's online procurement platform for government departments. Womaniya was added in 2019.

Key data: 2.1 lakh women MSEs registered; ₹28,000 crore in contracts; 13.7 lakh orders in FY26; 27.6% YoY growth; 5.6% share of total GeM orders (target was 3%). GeM's total procurement exceeded ₹4 lakh crore in FY26.

GeM features include fully digital processes, direct market access without middlemen, and a GeM Sahay programme for working capital financing to sellers. Womaniya benefits from GeM's mandatory 25% MSE procurement clause in government purchasing — DPIIT's Public Procurement Policy for MSEs (2012) mandates central government entities to procure 25% from MSMEs, of which 3% is reserved for SC/ST enterprises.

**Q13**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 — public procurement, MSME policy; GS2 — governance (digital platforms, paperless processes); GS1 — women's economic agency.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Womaniya (GeM procurement) with Lakhpati Didi (SHG skill+income programme) — both target women entrepreneurs but through completely different mechanisms.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

GeM, public procurement, MSME policy, digital governance, women entrepreneurship.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2022 GS2 asked about digital governance platforms — GeM and Womaniya is a frequently cited example.

 **INTERVIEW**

GeM has reduced procurement corruption — can its architecture be extended to state government procurement effectively?

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**Question 14** of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about the Chagos Archipelago:

- 1 The Chagos Archipelago is officially designated the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).
- 2 Diego Garcia hosts a major US-UK joint military base used in operations in the Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
- 3 The ICJ's 2019 advisory opinion declared that the UK must withdraw from Chagos immediately, with legal effect equivalent to a binding judgment.
- 4 The Chagossian people were displaced from the islands between 1968 and 1973 to enable construction of the military base.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

**A** 1, 2 and 4 only ✓

**B** 1 and 2 only

**C** 2, 3 and 4 only

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

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. Statement 3 is **WRONG** — ICJ advisory opinions are **NOT** legally binding; they are authoritative legal opinions but cannot be enforced like judgments.

The ICJ said the UK must end its administration 'as rapidly as possible' — but this carries political, not legal, compulsion. **ANALYSIS:** This is a high-value UPSC distractor: students often treat ICJ advisory opinions as binding rulings.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Chagos Archipelago was excised from Mauritius in 1965 (3 years before its independence in 1968) through the Lancaster House Agreement. The Chagossians — approximately 2,000 people — were deported to Mauritius and the Seychelles between 1968 and 1973.

The UK High Court (2000) found their removal unlawful. The UN General Assembly endorsed the ICJ opinion with 116 votes in favour (2019).

The UK-Mauritius deal agreed in 2024 provided for sovereignty transfer + 99-year Diego Garcia lease. This deal was suspended in 2026 under US pressure from the Trump administration, citing concerns about Mauritius's potential susceptibility to Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean Region.

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 — IR, ICJ, decolonisation, Indo-Pacific; GS3 — IOR security, Diego Garcia.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

ICJ advisory opinions ≠ binding judgments — this distinction is tested frequently in UPSC IR questions.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

BIOT, ICJ advisory opinion, decolonisation, self-determination, IOR, Diego Garcia, Indo-Pacific.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2022 GS2 asked about the difference between ICJ contentious jurisdiction (binding) and advisory jurisdiction (non-binding) — know this distinction.

 **INTERVIEW**

If ICJ advisory opinions are non-binding, what practical diplomatic value do they hold for countries like Mauritius?

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