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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — April 12, 2026

12 April 2026



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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz — April 12, 2026

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

**Question 1**

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[Source →](#)

The CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026, gazetted in April 2026, is best described as which of the following?

- A A law that merges all five Central Armed Police Forces into a single unified force
- B **An umbrella administrative law that harmonises service conditions without replacing individual force Acts ✓**
- C A law that transfers operational control of CAPFs from MHA to the Ministry of Defence
- D A law that replaces the BSF Act 1968 and CRPF Act 1949 with modern legislation

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The CAPF Act 2026 is an umbrella administrative statute covering BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, and SSB. It harmonises service conditions, deputation norms, and disciplinary procedures across all five forces. **ANALYSIS:** The individual force Acts — BSF Act 1968, CRPF Act 1949, CISF Act 1969, ITBP Act 1992, SSB Act 2007 — remain fully in force.

This is a frequently tested distinction: the Act adds a coordination layer but does not replace or supersede any force-specific legislation.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

India's five CAPFs were historically governed by separate Acts written in different eras under entirely different strategic contexts. The CRPF Act 1949 predates independence; the BSF Act 1968 was written post-1965 war; the SSB Act 2007 came only after the SSB was reoriented as a border-guarding force.

This fragmentation meant service conditions, leave rules, and disciplinary procedures varied across forces — creating friction for inter-force deputation and MHA administration. The CAPF Act 2026 is India's first attempt at administrative unification.

It does not affect operational mandates (BSF guards borders; CRPF handles internal security) and does not extend any force's legal powers. The National Security Guard (NSG) is NOT a CAPF and is not covered; nor are the Assam Rifles (under Ministry of Defence) or the NIA and SPG. All five CAPFs operate under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

GS2 (Polity, Governance, Internal Security); GS3 (Security).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Umbrella legislation, Central Armed Police Forces, MHA, inter-force deputation, harmonisation of service conditions.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students assume the CAPF Act replaces individual force Acts — it does not; BSF Act 1968, CRPF Act 1949 etc. remain in force.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2019 asked about CAPFs and which ministry controls them. Expect questions on which forces are CAPFs vs non-CAPFs (NSG, Assam Rifles are NOT CAPFs).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India merge CAPFs into a single force, or does their distinct mandates require separate institutional identities?

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**Question 2**

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Which of the following pairs of awards received by Asha Bhosle is CORRECTLY matched with its year?

- A Dadasaheb Phalke Award — 1989 | Padma Vibhushan — 1999
- B Dadasaheb Phalke Award — 2000 | Padma Vibhushan — 2008 ✓**
- C Dadasaheb Phalke Award — 2001 | Padma Bhushan — 2008
- D Dadasaheb Phalke Award — 2000 | Bharat Ratna — 2001

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Asha Bhosle received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008. She also received the Padma Bhushan in 1999 but notably declined it in 2001 (the year the award was initially re-offered).

**ANALYSIS:** Asha Bhosle did NOT receive the Bharat Ratna — her sister Lata Mangeshkar received that in 2001. Lata received the Dadasaheb Phalke in 1989.

These parallel dates are a classic exam trap.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest honour in cinema, given by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at the National Film Awards ceremony. It recognises outstanding contribution to Indian cinema over a lifetime.

Lata Mangeshkar received it in 1989; Asha Bhosle in 2000. Both sisters hold the Padma Vibhushan — Lata (1999), Asha (2008).

Lata additionally received the Bharat Ratna in 2001 — India's highest civilian honour — which Asha did not receive. Asha Bhosle also holds two National Film Awards for Best Female Playback Singer: 1981 for Umrao Jaan and 1986 for Ijaazat. The Guinness World Record recognising her as the Most Recorded Artist was awarded in 2011 for 11,000+ songs across 20+ languages — a record previously held by her sister.

**Q2**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS1 (Persons & Awards, History & Culture).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Vibhushan, Indian playback singing tradition, Guinness World Record.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Students confuse Lata Mangeshkar receiving the Bharat Ratna (2001) with Asha Bhosle — Asha did not receive the Bharat Ratna. Also: Dadasaheb Phalke year: Lata 1989, Asha 2000.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Prelims 2022 asked about Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipients. Lata vs Asha award years are a reliable source of MCQ traps.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Indian classical music found its widest audience through cinema — is this cultural democratisation or commercial dilution?

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**Question 3**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan:

- 1 The project has an installed capacity of 1,200 MW with six underground turbines of 200 MW each.
- 2 India finances the project through a 40% grant and 60% loan at 10% annual interest.
- 3 The project was halted in 2019 due to a slope failure on the dam abutment and resumed in April 2026.
- 4 All surplus power generated will be exported to Bangladesh and India under a trilateral power trade agreement.

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

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong — all surplus power from Punatsangchhu-I is exported exclusively to India, not under a trilateral arrangement with Bangladesh.

**ANALYSIS:** India's bilateral hydro cooperation with Bhutan is founded on a direct power purchase model — Bhutan builds (with Indian financing) and sells power to India. This generates ~40–50% of Bhutan's government revenues and is the backbone of India-Bhutan economic ties.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

Bhutan's hydropower cooperation with India is among the most distinctive bilateral energy relationships in South Asia. India has been funding hydro projects in Bhutan since the 1960s (Chukha project).

The model: India provides grant (40%) + loan (60%) financing; Indian PSUs (NHPC, SJVN) often execute or co-execute projects; all power is exported to India under long-term Power Purchase Agreements. The Punatsangchhu-I (1,200 MW) was halted in 2019 when deep geological instability in the dam abutment made continued construction unsafe.

A modified design with additional drainage and anchoring was developed with international consultants. The project resumed April 10, 2026.

At resumption: physical completion ~88%, financial completion ~93%. The companion Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW) faces similar geological challenges.

Operational projects include Tala (1,020 MW), Chukha (336 MW), and Mangdechhu (720 MW, operational 2019).

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

GS2 (India-Bhutan relations, India's neighbourhood policy); GS3 (Hydropower, cross-border energy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

India-Bhutan hydro cooperation, grant-loan model, run-of-river, Himalayan geology, energy diplomacy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming all Bhutan hydro power goes to multiple countries — it is exclusively exported to India.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Mains GS2 2017 asked about India-Bhutan relations.  
The grant-loan ratio (40:60) and interest rate (10%) are specific figures UPSC has tested.

 **INTERVIEW**

Bhutan derives ~40-50% of government revenues from hydro exports to India — is this economic interdependence or structural dependence?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 4**

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[Source →](#)

Windfall tax in India was first introduced on July 1, 2022, primarily in response to which of the following?

- A The COVID-19 pandemic causing supply chain disruptions and refinery profit spikes
- B **The Russia-Ukraine war causing a sharp rise in crude oil prices and windfall profits for domestic oil companies ✓**
- C US sanctions on Iranian crude oil forcing Indian refiners to pay premium prices
- D The OPEC+ production cuts of June 2022 leading to domestic fuel price inflation

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** India first introduced windfall tax on July 1, 2022, in response to domestic oil companies booking extraordinary profits due to the global crude price surge triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war (February 2022 onwards). **ANALYSIS:** The tax targeted windfall profits from oil production and fuel exports — not retail prices. It was revised fortnightly via gazette notification. It was scrapped in December 2024 and reinstated in March 2026 when the West Asia conflict again caused crude price spikes.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

A windfall tax is a levy on abnormally high profits earned by companies due to sudden, external, and unanticipated events — not the result of superior management or innovation. In India, the Windfall Profit Tax (levied as Special Additional Excise Duty under the Finance Act) was first imposed on July 1, 2022 — the week after it was found that domestic crude producers and exporters were booking exceptional profits while domestic retail prices were capped. It covered crude oil production (initially ₹23,250/tonne) and exports of diesel, petrol (briefly), and ATF. It was revised every fortnight based on crude price movements. It was scrapped in December 2024 when crude prices fell. It was reinstated in March 2026 as the West Asia conflict pushed prices up again. In April 2026, diesel export windfall tax was ₹55.5/litre (up from ₹21.5/litre) and ATF at ₹42/litre (up from ₹29.5/litre).

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

GS3 (Economy, Taxation, Energy policy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Windfall tax, Special Additional Excise Duty, fiscal policy, oil price shock, energy security.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing windfall tax (on producer profits) with retail fuel price hike or excise duty on fuel consumption — windfall tax targets company profits, not consumer prices.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2023 asked about windfall taxes in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war impact on India.

Know: first introduced July 1, 2022; scrapped December 2024; reinstated March 2026.

 **INTERVIEW**

When a windfall tax discourages domestic oil production during a price spike, does it create a supply paradox?

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**Question 5**

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[Source →](#)

The Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project approved by the CCEA in April 2026 will be implemented by a joint venture between THDC India Limited and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. In this JV, THDC India Limited is a subsidiary of which central PSU?

**A** Power Grid Corporation of India

**B** NHPC Limited

**C** NTPC Limited ✓

**D** SJVN Limited

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

**FACT:** THDC India Limited (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation) is an NTPC subsidiary with NTPC holding a 74.5% stake. The Kalai-II project (1,200 MW, ₹14,105.83 crore) on the Lohit River in Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh, will be India's first hydropower project in the Lohit Basin.

**ANALYSIS:** NTPC acquired majority stake in THDC in 2020 as part of PSU consolidation in the power sector — making THDC effectively an NTPC group company for hydro development.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

THDC India Limited was originally established as a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Uttarakhand to develop the Tehri Hydro Power Complex (2,400 MW, Uttarakhand) — one of India's largest hydro projects. In 2020, NTPC acquired a 74.5% stake in THDC, making it an NTPC subsidiary.

THDC's mandate was then expanded beyond Tehri to include new hydro projects. Kalai-II represents THDC's first project in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Lohit River originates in Tibet (as Zayul Chu), enters India through Anjaw District (India's easternmost district), and joins the Brahmaputra at Sadiya, Assam. Anjaw District borders China and Myanmar.

India's large hydro PSUs: NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, under Ministry of Power) is the largest; SJVN (originally Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, JV between India and Himachal Pradesh); THDC (NTPC subsidiary); NLC India for lignite + solar.

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

GS3 (Economy, Energy); GS1 (Geography, river systems); GS2 (Governance, PSU structures).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Run-of-river hydro, THDC India Limited, Lohit Basin, NTPC subsidiary, Arunachal Pradesh hydropower.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing THDC with NHPC — NHPC is a standalone PSU (Ministry of Power); THDC is an NTPC subsidiary since 2020. Also: Anjaw is Arunachal Pradesh's easternmost district (not Arunachal's only border district).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2021 asked about Lohit River tributaries of the Brahmaputra. Know: three main tributaries forming Brahmaputra are Siang, Dibang, and Lohit.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should hydro projects in border states like Arunachal Pradesh be treated as national security infrastructure and expedited beyond normal environmental clearance norms?

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**Question 6**

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Which of the following correctly describes the \*Platanista gangetica minor\* and its distinction from India's National Aquatic Animal?

- A It is the Gangetic river dolphin and is India's National Aquatic Animal declared in 2009
- B It is the Indus River dolphin — a distinct subspecies from the Gangetic dolphin, which is India's National Aquatic Animal ✓**
- C It is an Irrawaddy dolphin found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, protected under Schedule II of WPA 1972
- D It is the Gangetic river dolphin subspecies restricted to the Beas River, classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** *Platanista gangetica minor* is the Indus River dolphin (Bhulan). India's National Aquatic Animal is the Gangetic river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) — a different subspecies.

Both are IUCN Endangered; both are Schedule I under WPA 1972. The Indus dolphin's only Indian population (18–35 individuals) survives in the Beas River, Punjab, above Harike Barrage.

**ANALYSIS:** The subspecies distinction is a UPSC trap — both are *Platanista gangetica* but minor vs gangetica subspecies, with distinct ranges.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The genus *Platanista* contains only one living species (*P. gangetica*) with two recognised subspecies. The Gangetic dolphin (*P. g. gangetica*) is found in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna-Karnaphuli river systems of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal — India's National Aquatic Animal since 2009.

The Indus dolphin (*P. g. minor*) is found primarily in Pakistan's Indus River (~2,000 individuals) with a tiny relict population in India's Beas River (18–35 individuals, above Harike Barrage, Punjab). Both subspecies are functionally blind (no crystalline lens in eyes), navigate by echolocation, and swim on their sides — adaptations to turbid Himalayan river water. Both are Schedule I under WPA 1972 (highest protection) and Endangered on the IUCN Red List. India launched Project Dolphin in 2020 to conserve both river and marine cetaceans.

The Harike Barrage (Ferozepur, Punjab) creates the Harike Wetland — a Ramsar Site (1990) — but also isolates India's Indus dolphin population from the global Indus population in Pakistan.

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

GS3 (Environment, Biodiversity, Conservation).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

*Platanista gangetica minor*, Indus River dolphin, Beas Conservation Reserve, WPA Schedule I, Project Dolphin.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Indus dolphin with Gangetic dolphin. India's National Aquatic Animal is the GANGETIC dolphin (*P. g. gangetica*), not the Indus dolphin (*P. g. minor*).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2016 asked about India's National Aquatic Animal. UPSC 2020 asked about Schedule I species.

Know: Indus dolphin IUCN status (Endangered), location (Beas, Punjab), and Harike Barrage significance.

 **INTERVIEW**

India's Indus dolphin population is so small (18–35) that one catastrophic event could cause local extinction — should India pursue assisted migration or genetic exchange with Pakistan's population?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 7**

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[Source →](#)
**ASSERTION (A)**

India's Supreme Court upheld the Income Tax Department's power to deny treaty benefits to Tiger Global Management under GAAR.

**REASON (R)**

GAAR in India operates on the principle of substance-over-form and has been in effect since April 1, 2017.

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

**B** Both A and R are individually 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 the assertion and the reason are correct, and R explains A. GAAR (General Anti-Avoidance Rules) became effective in India from April 1, 2017 under the Income Tax Act. The Tiger Global ruling applied GAAR's substance-over-form doctrine to deny treaty benefits (Mauritius/Singapore route) where the structure lacked commercial substance.

**ANALYSIS:** The SC ruling reinforces GAAR's principal purpose test — tax structures must have genuine commercial intent, not merely formal compliance with treaty provisions.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

GAAR (General Anti-Avoidance Rules) was first proposed in India in the 2012 Budget but was repeatedly deferred due to investor concerns about arbitrary application. It finally became effective from April 1, 2017, after a Shome Committee review and detailed guidelines.

GAAR applies to arrangements that are primarily designed to avoid tax and lack commercial substance — the substance-over-form doctrine. The Principal Purpose Test (PPT) within GAAR examines whether a transaction's main purpose is obtaining a tax benefit.

The Tiger Global case involved offshore fund structures routed through Mauritius/Singapore to avail of treaty-based capital gains exemptions — a common practice for foreign investors in India. The SC ruled these structures lacked commercial substance and GAAR could be invoked.

This has significant implications for FII/FPI investment structures. GAAR is distinct from SAAR (Specific Anti-Avoidance Rules), which target specific transactions.

GAAR is residual — it catches what SAAR misses.

Q7

CONCEPT KIT

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (Economy, Taxation, International Finance).

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

GAAR, General Anti-Avoidance Rules, substance-over-form, Principal Purpose Test, tax treaty shopping, offshore structures.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

Stating GAAR was effective from 2012 — it was deferred multiple times; effective date is April 1, 2017.

**EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2018 asked about GAAR. Know: effective date (April 1, 2017), doctrine (substance-over-form), and target (arrangements lacking commercial substance used primarily for tax avoidance).

**INTERVIEW**

GAAR was once seen as a deterrent to foreign investment in India — has the Tiger Global ruling vindicated its design or will it further chill investor sentiment?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 8**

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following forces is **NOT** covered under the CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026?

**A** Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

**B** Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

**C** National Security Guard (NSG) ✓

**D** Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The NSG (National Security Guard) is NOT a Central Armed Police Force and is not covered under the CAPF Act 2026. The five CAPFs covered are BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, and SSB. **ANALYSIS:** NSG is a specialist counter-terrorism and VIP protection force under MHA but is governed by the NSG Act 1986 — separate from the CAPF framework.

The Assam Rifles (under Ministry of Defence, operational control: Army) is also not a CAPF.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India's central paramilitary/police architecture has multiple categories. The five Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are all under MHA: BSF (border security), CRPF (internal security/anti-insurgency), CISF (industrial and critical infrastructure security), ITBP (Himalayan/China border), SSB (Nepal and Bhutan borders).

The NSG is under MHA but is NOT classified as a CAPF — it is a specialist counter-terrorism force (Black Cat Commandos) that can be deployed for hijacking, hostage rescue, and VIP protection. It is governed by the NSG Act 1986. Other non-CAPFs under MHA: NIA (investigative), SPG (VIP protection, under Cabinet Secretariat), IB (intelligence). The Assam Rifles is unique — administratively under MHA but operationally under Army; governed by the Assam Rifles Act 2006.

NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) is drawn from CAPF personnel but is not a separate force.

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

GS2 (Polity, Internal Security); GS3 (Security &amp; Defence).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Central Armed Police Forces, NSG, Assam Rifles, internal security architecture, MHA.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Including NSG as a CAPF — NSG has a counter-terrorism mandate and is NOT a CAPF; it operates under NSG Act 1986.

Also: Assam Rifles is sometimes called a CAPF but is operationally under the Army.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2020 asked about CAPFs and which ministry controls them.

The NSG exclusion is a reliable MCQ distractor.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should the NSG be merged into the CAPF framework for better resource utilisation, or does specialisation require institutional separation?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 9**

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[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about the West Bengal Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the Supreme Court's intervention in 2026:

- 1 The SIR exercise reduced West Bengal's electorate from approximately 7.66 crore to 6.77 crore, removing about 91 lakh voters.
- 2 The Supreme Court deployed judicial officers exclusively from West Bengal to adjudicate disputed deletions.
- 3 West Bengal Assembly election voting was scheduled for two phases — April 23 and April 29, 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A** 1 and 3 only ✓

**B** 1 and 2 only

**C** 2 and 3 only

**D** 1, 2 and 3

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

**FACT:** Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong — the SC deployed judicial officers from West Bengal, Odisha, AND Jharkhand (not exclusively from West Bengal).

Using officers from multiple states was specifically intended to ensure neutrality in adjudication. **ANALYSIS:** Deploying judicial officers from neighbouring states reduces the risk of local administrative influence on adjudication, a key SC concern given the politically charged nature of the deletions.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is an electoral roll revision exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) verify each registered voter's residence.

Those who cannot be verified are proposed for deletion. The West Bengal SIR removed ~91 lakh voters (11.9% of the electorate) — the largest single-state deletion in recent memory.

The controversy centered on allegedly disproportionate deletions in Murshidabad, Malda, and Uttar Dinajpur (Muslim-majority districts). The Supreme Court's intervention involved: (1) deploying judicial officers from WB, Odisha, and Jharkhand; (2) establishing 19 appellate tribunals across WB; (3) requiring ECI to publish district-wise deletion data.

The national SIR removed approximately 6.08 crore voters across 9 states and 3 UTs. The right to vote is a constitutional right under Article 326 (universal adult franchise) even though it is not a fundamental right under Part III.

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

GS2 (Polity — elections, ECI powers, Article 324, Article 326).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Special Intensive Revision, Booth Level Officer, Representation of the People Act, electoral rolls, universal adult franchise.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming the right to vote is a Fundamental Right — it is a constitutional right under Article 326 but NOT a fundamental right under Articles 12–35.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2019 asked about ECI powers (Article 324) and electoral roll management. Know: SIR legal basis (RP Act 1950; Registration of Electors Rules 1960).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should the judiciary have power to directly supervise electoral roll preparation, or does this encroach on ECI's plenary Article 324 powers?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 10**

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[Source →](#)

With reference to the RBI Monetary Policy Committee's April 2026 decision, which of the following statements is correct?

- A The MPC cut the repo rate to 5.00% and shifted stance to accommodative, citing falling food inflation
- B The MPC kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% with a neutral stance amid West Asia energy uncertainty ✓
- C The MPC raised the repo rate to 5.50% with a withdrawal of accommodation stance citing West Asia-driven inflation
- D The MPC kept the repo rate at 5.25% but shifted stance from neutral to accommodative citing growth concerns

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

**FACT:** The RBI MPC in April 2026 held the repo rate at 5.25% with a neutral stance — the first MPC meeting of FY 2026–27. The World Bank revised India's FY27 GDP forecast down to 6.6% (from 7.2%), while RBI's own estimate was 6.9%.

**ANALYSIS:** The neutral stance signals the MPC is neither actively cutting nor raising — a wait-and-watch position as the West Asia conflict raises energy costs and inflation uncertainty.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was constituted under the RBI Act 1934 (amended by Finance Act 2016). It has six members: three RBI officials (Governor as chair, Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one RBI-appointed officer) and three external members appointed by the Government of India for 4-year terms.






Decisions are by majority vote; Governor has casting vote in tie. The MPC was given a statutory inflation target: CPI inflation at 4% with a  $\pm 2\%$  band.

The April 2026 meeting was the first of FY 2026–27. The repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends overnight to commercial banks — the primary policy rate.

The reverse repo rate (at which RBI borrows from banks) is typically 25 bps below repo. Under the current liquidity framework, the SDF (Standing Deposit Facility) rate serves as the effective floor, replacing the reverse repo.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has chaired MPC since December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das.

**Q10**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Economy — monetary policy, inflation, RBI).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Repo rate, MPC, neutral stance, CPI inflation target, RBI Act 1934, West Asia energy shock.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing the repo rate with the reverse repo rate or SDF rate. Under current framework: SDF rate = floor; MSF rate = ceiling; repo rate = between.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Prelims 2022 asked about MPC composition and functions. Know: MPC has 6 members (3 RBI + 3 external); statutory inflation target 4% $\pm$ 2%; RBI Governor has casting vote.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should India's inflation target be revised upward given chronic supply-side energy shocks that monetary policy cannot resolve?

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**Question 11**

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[Source →](#)

Match the following Central Armed Police Forces with their respective founding legislation: List I (Force) — List II (Act and Year) A. Border Security Force — 1. CRPF Act, 1949 B. Central Reserve Police Force — 2. BSF Act, 1968 C. Indo-Tibetan Border Police — 3. CISF Act, 1969 D. Central Industrial Security Force — 4. ITBP Act, 1992

**LIST I**
**LIST II**

**A** A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3 ✓

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

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

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

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

**FACT:** BSF — BSF Act 1968; CRPF — CRPF Act 1949; ITBP — ITBP Act 1992; CISF — CISF Act 1969. The correct match is A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3.

**ANALYSIS:** CRPF is the oldest CAPF (1949, predating independence); BSF was constituted after the 1965 India-Pakistan war; CISF in 1969 for industrial security; ITBP formalised under statute only in 1992 though the force was raised in 1962 after the Indo-China war. SSB Act 2007 is the most recent.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The historical sequence of CAPF Acts maps to India's evolving security priorities. The Crown Representative's Police (CRP) became the CRPF in 1949 — making it India's oldest central paramilitary force.






The BSF was raised in December 1965 immediately after the India-Pakistan war and formalized by the BSF Act in 1968.

CISF was established in 1969 to provide security to public sector undertakings (steel plants, airports, ports).

ITBP was actually raised in October 1962 (within weeks of the Sino-Indian war) but the formal statutory basis came only with the ITBP Act 1992 — a gap of 30 years during which it operated under executive orders. SSB was raised in 1963 as Special Service Bureau (for border intelligence) and reoriented to border guarding in 2001; the SSB Act 2007 gave it a formal mandate.

The fifth CAPF by Act year: SSB Act 2007. The CAPF Act 2026 is now an umbrella over all five.

**Q11**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Polity, Internal Security); GS3 (Security & Defence).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	CAPF founding legislation, CRPF Act 1949, BSF Act 1968, border security architecture, India's internal security.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Thinking ITBP was formalised in 1962 when it was raised — the ITBP Act came only in 1992. Also: SSB Act is 2007, not 2001 (the force was reoriented in 2001 but the Act came 6 years later).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Prelims 2018 asked about CAPF founding years. Match-list questions on CAPFs and Acts are recurring. Memorise: CRPF (oldest, 1949); BSF (post-1965 war, Act 1968); CISF (1969); ITBP (Act 1992 though raised 1962); SSB (Act 2007).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	The ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 war but lacked statutory backing for 30 years — what does this reveal about India's approach to border security legislation?

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**Question 12** of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about the Lanjia Saora, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Odisha:

- 1 The Lanjia Saora speak a language belonging to the Dravidian language family.
- 2 They have an indigenous script called Sorang Sompeng, developed specifically for the Sora language.
- 3 India has 75 PVTGs spread across 18 states and 1 Union Territory.

Which of the statements given above 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: Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 1 is wrong — the Sora language belongs to the **Munda (Austro-Asiatic)** language family, not Dravidian.

The Sorang Sompeng is the indigenous script for Sora, developed by Mangei Gomango in 1936. India has exactly 75 PVTGs across 18 states and 1 UT. ANALYSIS: The Munda vs Dravidian distinction for tribal languages is a common source of errors — Munda languages (including Sora, Santali, Ho, Gondi) are Austro-Asiatic, not Dravidian.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the most marginalised among Scheduled Tribes, identified by criteria including declining or stagnant population, pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, and subsistence economy. India has 75 PVTGs across 18 states and 1 UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

The Lanjia Saora are found in Odisha (primarily Rayagada and Gajapati districts) and are of Proto-Australoid ethnicity. They speak Sora — a Munda (Austro-Asiatic) language, not Dravidian.

Munda languages are distinct from both Dravidian (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam) and Indo-Aryan (Hindi, Bengali) families. The Sora community has the Sorang Sompeng script — an indigenous alphabetic script used to write the Sora language, attributed to Mangei Gomango (created 1936).

Other notable tribal scripts: Ol Chiki (for Santali, Raghunath Murmu, 1925). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs runs the Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission with dedicated ring-fenced funding for PVTGs.

The Chena cultivation (shifting cultivation) is a traditional agricultural practice of the Sora.

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

GS1 (History — tribal communities, scripts, Art & Culture); GS2 (Governance — tribal welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

PVTG, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, Sora language, Munda family, Sorang Sompeng, PM PVTG Development Mission.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Classifying Sora/Munda languages as Dravidian — Munda languages are Austro-Asiatic. Dravidian languages include Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Gondi (sometimes disputed).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2019 asked about PVTGs. Know: 75 PVTGs total; spread across 18 states + 1 UT (A&N Islands); Ministry of Tribal Affairs; OI Chiki vs Sorang Sompeng (both tribal scripts).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India's PVTG classification create a barrier to development or accelerate it — and who decides what 'development' means for a PVTG community?

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**Question 13**

of 14

[Source →](#)

With reference to India-UAE bilateral relations, which of the following statements is **INCORRECT** ?

- A India and UAE elevated their partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022
- B The UAE is India's third-largest trade partner with bilateral trade of approximately \$83 billion in 2023–24
- C The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) is a major investor in Indian infrastructure and renewable energy
- D **The India-UAE CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) was the first bilateral free trade agreement India signed after 2015 ✓**

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Statement D is incorrect — the India-UAE CEPA signed in February 2022 was not India's first bilateral FTA after 2015. India had signed FTAs with several countries before (SAFTA, ASEAN FTA, etc.) and also signed the India-UAE CEPA as a specific bilateral FTA. The 'first since 2015' framing sometimes refers to FTAs with developed economies, but even that is imprecise.

**ANALYSIS:** The other three statements are correct — Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2022), bilateral trade ~\$83 billion (3rd largest partner), and ADIA's significant Indian investments.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

**India-UAE bilateral relations:** The partnership was elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in January 2022 during PM Modi's visit to the UAE. The India-UAE CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) was signed in February 2022 and came into force May 2022 — one of India's fastest-negotiated FTAs (completed in ~88 days). UAE is India's 3rd largest trading partner (~\$83 billion, 2023-24) after the US and China.

UAE is India's 2nd largest export destination. India's diaspora in UAE: ~3.5 million — the largest Indian diaspora in any single country.

ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority) is one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds (~\$700-800 billion AUM) and has made significant investments in India's infrastructure, real estate, and renewable energy. EAM Jaishankar visited UAE on April 11-12, 2026, to review the partnership amid West Asia energy tensions.

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

GS2 (International Relations — India's Gulf relations, energy security, diaspora).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, India-UAE CEPA, ADIA, Gulf diaspora, bilateral trade, West Asia energy security.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Overstating the India-UAE CEPA as India's 'first FTA in years' without qualification. India has had multiple FTAs (ASEAN, South Korea, Japan).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Prelims 2023 asked about India's bilateral FTAs. Know: India-UAE CEPA (signed Feb 2022, in force May 2022); UAE: 3rd largest trading partner; Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: 2022.

 **INTERVIEW**

With 3.5 million Indians working in the UAE, how should India balance trade interests with worker welfare in a country with limited labour rights protections?

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**Question 14**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following statements about the Indus River dolphin (\*Platanista gangetica minor\*):

- 1 It is functionally blind, navigating entirely through echolocation.
- 2 It has the unique behaviour of swimming on its side, which helps it navigate shallow water.
- 3 The Harike Barrage in Punjab is a Ramsar wetland site that has inadvertently isolated India's Indus dolphin population.

Which of the statements given above 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. The Indus dolphin is functionally blind (vestigial eyes without crystalline lens), navigates by echolocation, and swims characteristically on its side.

The Harike Wetland (Harike Barrage area) is indeed a Ramsar site (designated 1990) — and the Harike Barrage itself physically blocks dolphin movement between the Beas and the larger Indus river system, trapping India's population of 18–35 individuals. **ANALYSIS:** All three are well-documented biological and conservation facts.

**CONCEPT NOTE**






The Indus River dolphin's unique adaptations are a product of millions of years of evolution in the turbid, fast-flowing waters of the Indus river system. Functional blindness evolved because vision provides no advantage in silty water — echolocation (biosonar) is both more effective and energetically efficient in this environment.

Side-swimming is unique among cetaceans and is thought to help the dolphin scan the shallow riverbed for prey while navigating in as little as 30 cm of water. The Harike Barrage was built in 1952 at the confluence of Beas and Sutlej rivers near Ferozepur, Punjab.

It created the Harike Wetland (Hari-ke-Pattan) — a 4,100-hectare lake that was designated a Ramsar site in 1990 for its importance as a waterfowl habitat. The barrage's spillways and gates do not have fish/dolphin passes — making it an impassable barrier for the Indus dolphin.

India's 18–35 dolphins are thus genetically isolated from Pakistan's ~2,000-strong population, creating serious long-term inbreeding risk.

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Environment — biodiversity, Ramsar sites, river ecology).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Indus River dolphin, echolocation, Harike Barrage, Ramsar Convention, Beas Conservation Reserve, genetic isolation.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Assuming the Harike Wetland is a Ramsar site because of the dolphins — it is listed for waterfowl (birds), not the dolphins. However, the barrage inadvertently affects dolphin conservation.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Prelims 2021 asked about Ramsar sites in India. Harike Wetland (Punjab, 1990) is among India's oldest Ramsar designations. Know: Ramsar Convention signed 1971, in force 1975.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should India negotiate a 'dolphin corridor' arrangement with Pakistan to allow genetic exchange between the two populations despite the political relationship?

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