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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — April 19, 2026

19 April 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — April 19, 2026

19 April 2026 · 13 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

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India signed its Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with South Korea in 2010. What is significant about this agreement in the context of India's trade policy with East Asia?

- A It was India's first FTA with a West Asian country
- B It was India's first Free Trade Agreement with an East Asian country, marking a new direction for India's Act East engagement ✓
- C It replaced a pre-existing Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and South Korea
- D It was the first FTA globally to include a dedicated digital services liberalisation chapter

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The India-South Korea CEPA signed in 2010 was India's first Free Trade Agreement with an East Asian country — predating the India-Japan CEPA (2011). India had signed the ASEAN-India FTA (goods) in 2009, but ASEAN is a regional bloc, not a single East Asian country.

ANALYSIS: The Korea CEPA established the template for India's FTA engagement with East Asia. A CEPA review was initiated in 2023 to address India's persistent trade deficit with South Korea and to add digital trade provisions. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's April 2026 state visit to India further deepens the Special Strategic Partnership (established 2015).

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India-South Korea CEPA (2010): India's first FTA with an East Asian nation. India-Japan CEPA (2011): second.

India-Singapore CECA (2005): with a Southeast Asian city-state, often cited separately. Bilateral trade: ~USD 22-25 billion annually; India runs a trade deficit.

South Korean companies in India: Samsung, Hyundai, Kia, LG, POSCO. India's Act East Policy: framework for deepening ties with ASEAN, East Asia, and the Pacific — South Korea is a key pillar. Special Strategic Partnership (2015): India-South Korea's highest diplomatic designation.

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

GS2 (International Relations — FTAs, Act East Policy) + GS3 (Economy — trade agreements, trade deficit).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

CEPA, Act East Policy, trade deficit, Special Strategic Partnership, FTA template.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing the India-South Korea CEPA (2010) with the ASEAN-India FTA (2009) — ASEAN is a bloc, South Korea was the first single East Asian country with which India signed an FTA.

 **EXAM TIP**

Sequence — ASEAN goods FTA 2009, South Korea CEPA 2010, Japan CEPA 2011.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India renegotiate legacy CEPAs to address persistent trade deficits, or do GVC (global value chain) benefits outweigh the headline imbalance?

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Question 2

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Under which constitutional provision has the inter-state distribution of Lok Sabha seats been frozen since the 1971 Census, and what does this freeze mean in practice?

- A** Article 82 — it directs Parliament to enact a fresh delimitation law after each Census, and the freeze is Parliament's failure to comply
- B** Article 81(2)(a) — it provides that seat allocation to each state shall be proportional to population, but a constitutional freeze suspended this requirement until Census figures after 2026 are published ✓
- C** Article 170 — it governs State Assembly composition, and the corresponding Lok Sabha freeze is derived from it by judicial interpretation
- D** Article 83 — it sets the five-year duration of the Lok Sabha and implicitly prevents mid-term seat redistribution

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Article 81(2)(a) mandates that Lok Sabha seats be allocated to each state such that the ratio of seats to population is as nearly equal as practicable. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976) froze this allocation based on the 1971 Census, with subsequent extensions deferring revision until post-2026 Census figures are published (expected late 2027).

Article 82 separately directs Parliament to enact a new delimitation law after each Census — which Parliament has effectively deferred. **ANALYSIS:** The freeze creates a north-south political fault line: high-growth northern states (UP, Bihar) stand to gain seats post- delimitation, while southern states that achieved demographic transition face relative losses.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Two separate freezes: (1) Article 81(2)(a) — inter-state seat distribution frozen since 1971 Census; (2) Article 81(2)(b) — intra-state constituency boundaries frozen since 2001 Census. Article 329 bars courts from questioning Delimitation Commission orders.

Delimitation Commission: statutory body under the Delimitation Act; orders have force of law. The 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill — which sought to link seat redistribution with women's reservation — was defeated in Lok Sabha in April 2026, falling short of the two-thirds special majority threshold.

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

GS2 (Polity — constitutional amendments, Lok Sabha composition, federalism and representation).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Delimitation, Article 81, freeze 1971, federal equity, one-person-one- vote.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Article 81(2)(a) (inter-state seats, frozen 1971) with Article 81(2)(b) (intra-state boundaries, frozen 2001) — different provisions, different freeze dates.

 **EXAM TIP**

Article 81 = seat composition; Article 82 = delimitation law mandate; Article 329 = judicial review bar on Delimitation Commission.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is population-proportional representation consistent with cooperative federalism when smaller, better-governed states lose political weight relative to faster-growing states?

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Question 3

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The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) reserves 33% of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Which explicit condition must be fulfilled before this reservation actually comes into force?

- A Women must already constitute at least 15% of the current Lok Sabha membership as a baseline
- B A delimitation exercise must be conducted after Census figures are officially published — and the reservation applies only to post-delimitation constituencies ✓
- C Parliament must pass a separate implementation statute identifying which constituencies are reserved for women in each election cycle
- D The President must issue a gazette notification on the recommendation of the Election Commission of India

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The 106th Amendment explicitly conditions the commencement of women's reservation on a delimitation exercise being completed after Census data is published. Since the 2026 Census is underway (figures expected late 2027), and the delimitation process itself requires Census data, the reservation cannot be implemented until after delimitation — a structural delay built into the law.

ANALYSIS: Critics argue this conditionality effectively deferred implementation indefinitely, since delimitation is politically contentious and operationally complex. The defeat of the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill (April 2026), which would have triggered delimitation, further extends this delay.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

106th Amendment inserts Articles 330A (Lok Sabha women's reservation) and 332A (State Assembly women's reservation).

Duration: 15 years initially, extendable by Parliament.

The reservation applies within existing SC/ST reserved constituencies too — women's reservation is layered on top. The Women's Reservation Act (1996 bill) was introduced under HD Deve Gowda; it took until 2023 to pass.

Rotation of reserved constituencies: determined after each delimitation, then after each general election within the reservation period.

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

GS2 (Polity — constitutional amendments, gender representation, women in governance).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 106th Amendment, delimitation conditionality, Articles 330A and 332A.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Believing women's reservation in Parliament has already been implemented — it requires delimitation first, which requires Census data.

 **EXAM TIP**

106th Amendment inserts Article 330A (Lok Sabha) and 332A (State Assemblies).

 **INTERVIEW**

Is tying gender representation to a demographic exercise constitutionally sound, or does it subordinate an equality right to a procedural precondition?

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Question 4

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Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in 2000. Which of the following correctly identifies its nodal ministry and primary objective?

- A Ministry of Road Transport and Highways — construct National Highways through rural and semi-urban areas
- B Ministry of Rural Development — provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations ✓
- C Ministry of Panchayati Raj — upgrade panchayat-level roads to state highway standards
- D NITI Aayog — coordinate rural infrastructure investment across central and state government schemes

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: PMGSY is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, with the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) providing technical support. Its primary mandate is all-weather connectivity — ensuring passability year-round, not just road construction.

ANALYSIS: All-weather connectivity enables multiple development outcomes: it improves market access for farmers, reduces maternal and child mortality by enabling emergency transport, and increases school attendance in remote areas. Cabinet extended PMGSY-III to March 2028 with a revised outlay of Rs 83,977 crore in April 2026.

CONCEPT NOTE

PMGSY phases: Phase I (2000) — connect habitations above population thresholds (1,000+ in plains; 500+ in hills/tribal/LWE); Phase II (2013) — road upgradation; RCPLWEA (2016) — Left Wing Extremism affected areas; Phase III (2019) — consolidation, 1.25 lakh km upgradation target. Monitored via OMMAS (Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting System); roads are geo-tagged via GIS. NRRDA: National Rural Roads Development Agency — technical nodal agency under MoRD.

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

GS3 (Infrastructure — rural roads) + GS2 (Governance — Centrally Sponsored Schemes, LWE policy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

PMGSY, all-weather connectivity, NRRDA, OMMAS, RCPLWEA.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing PMGSY under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways — it is under the Ministry of Rural Development.

 **EXAM TIP**

RCPLWEA (2016) is the LWE-specific component of PMGSY — directly links rural infrastructure to internal security policy.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does building roads in LWE-affected areas substitute for or complement political resolution of tribal land grievances?

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Question 5

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Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), what is the Centre- State cost-sharing ratio for North-Eastern states and specified Himalayan states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir?

- A 60:40 — the same as for general states
- B 45:25
- C 90:10 ✓
- D 100:0 — fully funded by the Centre with no state contribution required

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: For North-Eastern states and specified Himalayan states (J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand), the Centre bears 90% and the state 10% of PMGSY costs. For general states, the ratio is 60:40.

This asymmetric funding reflects both the higher construction cost in mountainous terrain and the lower fiscal capacity of these states. **ANALYSIS:** The 90:10 ratio is a standard feature across major Centrally Sponsored Schemes for NE and Himalayan states — PMGSY, PMAY (housing), Jal Jeevan Mission — and is a key mechanism for maintaining fiscal federalism while extending national programmes to fiscally weaker states.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

CSS cost-sharing pattern: General states 60:40; NE + Himalayan states 90:10; UTs without legislature 100:0 (Centre). This pattern applies across PMGSY, PMAY, National Health Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Integrated Child Development Services, and most other major CSS. The 2026 PMGSY-III extension revised the outlay to Rs 83,977 crore (up by Rs 3,727 crore); bridge projects in hilly regions extended to March 2029; 161 Long Span Bridge projects (Rs 961 crore) included.

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

GS3 (Infrastructure — CSS funding) + GS2 (Federalism — asymmetric fiscal arrangements, special-category states).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

CSS cost-sharing, fiscal federalism, 90:10 ratio, special-category states, NE states.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Applying the 60:40 ratio universally — the 90:10 exception for NE and Himalayan states is frequently tested.

 **EXAM TIP**

Memorise: General = 60:40; NE + Himalayan = 90:10; UTs = 100:0 (Centre).
This applies across most major CSS.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should the special-category 90:10 treatment be extended to more states based on fiscal capacity rather than geography alone?

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Question 6

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Which of the following most accurately describes India's crude oil import profile and Russia's role in it as of 2025-26?

- A India imports approximately 50% of its crude, with Iraq as its largest supplier despite Russian discounts
- B India imports over 88% of its crude oil requirements; Russia has become its single largest crude oil supplier since 2022, offering significant price discounts ✓
- C India imports approximately 70% of its crude, with the UAE as its largest supplier and Russia accounting for less than 5%
- D India is self-sufficient in natural gas but imports over 95% of crude, primarily from Saudi Arabia

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: India imports over 88% of its crude oil. Following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine and subsequent Western sanctions, Russia began offering heavily discounted crude — displacing Iraq and Saudi Arabia to become India's single largest crude supplier, with normal import levels at ~2.5 million barrels per day.

The US extended its sanctions waiver to May 16, 2026, allowing Indian refiners to continue these purchases.

ANALYSIS: India's strategic pragmatism — buying Russian crude despite Western pressure — is grounded in the position that India follows UN Security Council sanctions only (Russia has UNSC veto power), while also serving India's energy security and import bill reduction objectives.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

G7 oil price cap on Russian crude: \$60/barrel (December 2022). India's position: follows UN sanctions, not unilateral US/EU sanctions.

Vostro accounts: Indian rupee balances accumulated through Russia crude trade — RBI working on deployment mechanisms. India is the world's third- largest crude oil consumer.

Russian import fluctuations: ~1 million bpd (February 2026), ~2 million bpd (March 2026), ~1.6 million bpd (early April 2026). OFAC (US Office of Foreign Assets Control) issues time-limited waivers on sanctions.

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

GS3 (Energy security, macroeconomics — CAD, forex) + GS2 (IR — sanctions diplomacy, multi-alignment).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Energy security, strategic autonomy, oil price cap, Vostro accounts, UNSC sanctions vs. unilateral sanctions.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming India halted Russian crude imports under Western pressure — India increased purchases for the discount, consistent with its multi-alignment posture.

 **EXAM TIP**

Three-way tension: Russian crude discount (energy security) vs. Western pressure (diplomatic cost) vs. UNSC vs. unilateral sanctions distinction (India's legal position).

 **INTERVIEW**

Does purchasing discounted crude from a country engaged in armed conflict create a moral hazard in India's foreign policy?

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Question 7

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The Strait of Hormuz is described as India's most critical energy chokepoint. Which of the following best explains why it is strategically vital for India's energy security specifically?

- A India maintains a naval base at Oman that gives it strategic control over traffic through the strait
- B **Approximately 20% of global oil trade transits through the strait, including a substantial share of India's crude imports from Persian Gulf producers ✓**
- C The strait connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea, and ONGC has deep-sea production platforms within it
- D The strait is governed by a bilateral India-Iran maritime agreement that guarantees India unimpeded passage rights

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Strait of Hormuz — between Iran and Oman — handles approximately 20% of global oil trade. For India, a substantial share of crude imports from Persian Gulf producers (Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait) transits this route.

Any closure or disruption directly threatens India's energy supply and spikes global oil prices. **ANALYSIS:** West Asian tensions involving Iran — which shares the strait with Oman — make this chokepoint increasingly relevant to India's naval posture in the Arabian Sea, which is one reason India values access to Persian Gulf military logistics agreements and the Chabahar port route.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Critical maritime chokepoints for India: (1) Strait of Hormuz — Persian Gulf exit; (2) Bab-el-Mandeb — Red Sea/Gulf of Aden; (3) Strait of Malacca — SE Asia, India's trade with East Asia; (4) Lombok Strait — Malacca alternative. India's IOR strategy and SAGAR doctrine address free sea lane navigation.

Bab-el-Mandeb: Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping (2024-26) diverted vessels around Africa, adding cost and time — a parallel chokepoint disruption event.

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

GS1 (Geography — maritime chokepoints) + GS2 (IR — India's maritime strategy, IOR, SAGAR).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Strait of Hormuz, maritime chokepoints, SAGAR doctrine, energy security, IOR.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Strait of Hormuz (Persian Gulf) with Strait of Malacca (SE Asia) — two different chokepoints with different geopolitical contexts.

 **EXAM TIP**

Hormuz = Persian Gulf; Malacca = SE Asia; Bab-el-Mandeb = Red Sea. All three are critical for India's trade and energy imports.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India develop Arctic or LNG supply route alternatives to reduce dependence on vulnerable Gulf chokepoints?

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Question 8

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Criminal law is placed in the Concurrent List (List III, Seventh Schedule). When a state law on a Concurrent List subject is inconsistent with an existing Central law on the same subject, which constitutional provision governs the outcome?

LIST I

LIST II

- A** Article 246 — Parliament has exclusive competence over all subjects in the Concurrent List, making any state law automatically void
- B** **Article 254 — the Central law prevails in case of inconsistency; but a state law that has received Presidential assent prevails in that state despite the repugnancy ✓**
- C** Article 256 — states must comply with Central executive directions on Concurrent List matters, and inconsistent state laws lapse automatically
- D** Article 213 — the Governor can promulgate an ordinance to bring state criminal law into conformity with Central law

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Article 254 establishes the doctrine of repugnancy: if a state law on a Concurrent List subject conflicts with a Central law, the Central law prevails and the state law is void to the extent of the conflict — unless the state law has received Presidential assent, in which case it prevails in that state. **ANALYSIS:** The Punjab Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill 2026 received the Governor's assent (not Presidential assent) — suggesting it was drafted as a standalone state addition to criminal law rather than as a modification to the IPC/BNS provision, thereby avoiding the repugnancy trap that caused earlier Punjab sacrilege bills (2016, 2018) to fail to obtain Presidential assent.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Section 295A IPC (now BNS Section 302): outraging religious feelings — up to 3 years (Central general law). Punjab Bill creates specific, higher punishment for Guru Granth Sahib desecration (up to life imprisonment). Governor's assent vs. Presidential assent: if a state bill modifies a Central Concurrent List law, Presidential assent is required; if it is a standalone state enactment on the same subject, Governor's assent suffices. Repugnancy doctrine: state law void to the extent of repugnancy — not entirely void if it has other operative parts.

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

GS2 (Polity — Seventh Schedule, doctrine of repugnancy, Governor's role, religious freedom Articles 25-28).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Article 254, repugnancy doctrine, Concurrent List, Presidential assent, Governor's assent, sacrilege law.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Believing all state laws on Concurrent List subjects are automatically void if Central law exists — they are valid unless actually repugnant; Presidential assent can save an otherwise repugnant state law in that state.

 **EXAM TIP**

Repugnancy rule — Central law prevails UNLESS state law has Presidential assent; then state law prevails in that state.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does allowing states to prescribe religion-specific enhanced punishments risk discriminatory enforcement across different faiths?

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Question 9

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The CPI (Maoist) — India's principal Left Wing Extremist organisation — was formed in 2004. Which organisations merged to create it, and from which region did each primarily operate?

- A CPI (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (Bihar) and the Maoist Communist Centre (West Bengal)
- B People's War Group, PWG (Andhra Pradesh) and Maoist Communist Centre, MCC (Bihar and Jharkhand) ✓
- C Naxalbari Peasants Committee (West Bengal) and People's Liberation Guerrilla Army, PLGA (Chhattisgarh)
- D CPI (Marxist-Leninist) (Bihar) and People's War Group, PWG (Andhra Pradesh)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: CPI (Maoist) was formed in 2004 through the merger of the People's War Group (PWG) — dominant in Andhra Pradesh — and the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) — operating primarily in Bihar and Jharkhand. This merger created a unified national command and the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), enabling the Red Corridor expansion across 180+ districts at its 2013 peak.

ANALYSIS: The 2004 merger was the peak organisational moment of Indian Maoism; its near-collapse in 2025-26 — with the killing of General Secretary Nambala Keshava Rao (May 2025) and the surrender of his successor Thippiri Tirupati (early 2026) — represents a reversal of that consolidation.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Naxalbari uprising: 1967, West Bengal — Charu Majumdar (ideologue), Kanu Sanyal (organiser). CPI (M-L) founded 1969. PWG founded late 1970s by Kondapalli Seetharamaiah in Andhra Pradesh. MCC: Bihar- Jharkhand strand.

Operation Kagar (2024): ~3,840 surrenders, ~2,220 arrests, ~600 deaths. Current status: Central Committee reduced from ~40 to ~2 members; territorial control from ~180 districts (2013) to 2 districts — Bijapur and Sukma, Chhattisgarh.

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

GS3 (Internal Security — Left Wing Extremism, Red Corridor) + GS1 (Society — tribal agrarian conflict, Naxalism).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Naxalism, CPI (Maoist), PWG, MCC, PLGA, Red Corridor.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing PWG (Andhra Pradesh) with MCC (Bihar/Jharkhand) — the 2004 merger brought two distinct geographic strands together.

 **EXAM TIP**

Timeline — 1967 Naxalbari, 1969 CPI(M-L), late 1970s PWG, 2004 CPI(Maoist) merger, 2025-26 near-collapse.

 **INTERVIEW**

Was eliminating the military leadership sufficient to end Maoism, or will unresolved tribal land grievances enable a new cycle?

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Question 10

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The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution primarily deals with which of the following, and why is it directly relevant to understanding Left Wing Extremism in India?

- A Creation of Autonomous District Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram — not directly related to LWE-affected areas
- B Administration and control of Scheduled Areas in states other than the four NE states — Governors have special powers; these are the same tribal regions where Maoist influence has been strongest ✓**
- C Reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and State Assemblies — addresses under-representation but not territorial administration
- D Forest rights of tribal communities under the Forest Rights Act — a statutory enactment separate from the Schedules

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Fifth Schedule (under Article 244) provides for administration of Scheduled Areas — largely tribal-dominated regions in non-NE states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh — the same geography where Maoist influence has been strongest. Governors of these states have special powers including Tribes Advisory Councils and authority over which laws apply in Scheduled Areas.

ANALYSIS: The structural grievance underlying Maoism is dispossession of tribal communities from land and forest resources — the rights the Fifth Schedule was meant to protect. Inadequate enforcement of these protections and of PESA 1996 created the governance vacuum that Maoists exploited for decades.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Sixth Schedule (NE states — Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram) vs Fifth Schedule (remaining Scheduled Areas in other states): a classic exam trap. PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996): extends Panchayati Raj to Fifth Schedule areas with special powers for gram sabhas — over land, minor forest produce, water bodies.

Samatha v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1997 SC): Fifth Schedule lands cannot be transferred to non-tribals. Tribes Advisory Council: mandatory under Fifth Schedule; advises Governor on tribal welfare.

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

GS1 (Society — tribal issues) + GS2 (Polity — Fifth/Sixth Schedule, PESA, Governor's role in Scheduled Areas).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Fifth Schedule, Scheduled Areas, Tribes Advisory Council, PESA, tribal land rights.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Fifth Schedule (most of India's tribal areas) with Sixth Schedule (NE states autonomous district councils) — entirely different governance structures.

 **EXAM TIP**

Fifth Schedule = Scheduled Areas + Tribes Advisory Council + Governor's special powers.
Sixth Schedule = Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) with legislative powers in NE.

 **INTERVIEW**

If Fifth Schedule protections had been fully enforced, would the socioeconomic conditions for Maoism have existed?

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Question 11

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The Bhagirathi River, originating from the Gangotri Glacier, becomes the Ganga after joining which river at Devprayag?

- A Mandakini
- B Pindar
- C Alaknanda ✓
- D Dhauliganga

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION






FACT: The Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers converge at Devprayag in Uttarakhand to form the Ganga. The Bhagirathi originates from the Gangotri Glacier — specifically from Gaumukh (the glacier snout) at 3,892 m, 18 km upstream from Gangotri town (3,048 m).

The Alaknanda is itself fed by the Mandakini (at Rudraprayag), Pindar (at Karnaprayag), and Dhauliganga (at Vishnuprayag). **ANALYSIS:** The Panch Prayag — five sacred confluences in Uttarakhand — culminates at Devprayag where the Ganga officially begins, making this geography simultaneously cultural, ecological, and hydrological.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Panch Prayag (five confluences): 1. Vishnuprayag (Dhauliganga + Alaknanda); 2. Nandaprayag (Nandakini + Alaknanda); 3. Karnaprayag (Pindar + Alaknanda); 4. Rudraprayag (Mandakini + Alaknanda); 5. Devprayag (Bhagirathi + Alaknanda = Ganga).
 Gangotri town: Uttarkashi district, 3,048 m. Gaumukh: 3,892 m, actual glacier snout.
 Gangotri Glacier: ~30 km long, ~143 sq km; retreating ~22 m/year due to climate change.

Q11  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (Geography — Himalayan river systems, Ganga basin).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Bhagirathi, Alaknanda, Devprayag, Panch Prayag, Gangotri Glacier, Gaumukh.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Assuming the Ganga begins at Gangotri — the river at Gangotri is called Bhagirathi; it becomes the Ganga only at Devprayag after joining the Alaknanda.
 EXAM TIP	Devprayag = Bhagirathi + Alaknanda = Ganga. Mandakini joins at Rudraprayag (not Devprayag).
 INTERVIEW	As Gangotri Glacier retreats, what institutional framework should govern the long-term management of the Ganga's headwaters?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following is **INCORRECTLY** stated about Gangotri Glacier?

- A It is approximately 30 km long and covers about 143 sq km in area
- B The geographic source of the Ganga (Gaumukh) is located approximately 18 km upstream from Gangotri town, at an altitude of ~3,892 metres
- C It is retreating at approximately 22 metres per year, threatening the long-term perennial flow of the Bhagirathi-Ganga river system
- D **Gangotri Glacier lies in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand ✓**

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Gangotri Glacier lies in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand — not Chamoli district. Chamoli district is home to Badrinath (Char Dham shrine), the Valley of Flowers National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO WHS).

All other options are correct: the glacier is ~30 km long and ~143 sq km; Gaumukh is at ~3,892 m, 18 km from Gangotri town; the retreat rate is approximately 22 m/year. **ANALYSIS:** Gangotri Glacier retreat threatens the perennial character of the Bhagirathi-Ganga, affecting freshwater availability for hundreds of millions downstream.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Uttarkashi district: Gangotri, Yamunotri (both Char Dham shrines), Gangotri National Park. Chamoli district: Badrinath (Char Dham), Valley of Flowers NP (UNESCO WHS), Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO WHS).

Rudraprayag district: Kedarnath (Char Dham). Himalayan glaciers are classified as critically vulnerable by IPCC. Gangotri Glacier retreat has accelerated through the 20th and 21st centuries.

It supplies the Bhagirathi, which joins the Alaknanda at Devprayag to form the Ganga.

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

GS1 (Geography — Himalayan glaciology) + GS3 (Environment — climate change impacts on freshwater systems).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Gangotri Glacier, Gaumukh, Uttarkashi, glacier retreat, Himalayan cryosphere.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing Gangotri in Chamoli district — Chamoli is for Badrinath and Valley of Flowers; Gangotri and Yamunotri are in Uttarkashi.

 **EXAM TIP**

Uttarkashi = Gangotri + Yamunotri; Chamoli = Badrinath + Valley of Flowers + Nanda Devi; Rudraprayag = Kedarnath.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should Gangotri Glacier and its catchment be declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone under the Environment Protection Act, restricting pilgrimage near the snout?

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Question 13

of 13

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Akshaya Tritiya is considered auspicious in both Hindu and Jain traditions. Which of the following correctly describes its specific significance in Jainism?

- A It marks the day Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, attained nirvana (moksha) at Pavapuri in Bihar
- B It commemorates Varshitap Parana — the breaking of a year-long penance fast by Tirthankara Rishabhadeva, marked as the first act of charitable giving in Jain tradition ✓
- C It is the birth anniversary of Rishabhadeva (Adinatha), the first of the 24 Tirthankaras
- D It marks the day Parshvanatha, the 23rd Tirthankara, attained enlightenment under a kadamba tree

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: In Jain tradition, Akshaya Tritiya marks Varshitap Parana — the occasion when Tirthankara Rishabhadeva (the first of 24 Tirthankaras, also called Adinatha) broke his year-long penance fast (Varshitap) by accepting sugarcane juice (ikkhuras) offered by king Shreyansa Kumar. This is commemorated as the origin of the Jain tradition of Daan (charitable giving).

ANALYSIS: The shared auspiciousness of Akshaya Tritiya across Hindu and Jain traditions illustrates the deep cultural and religious interconnections between the Vedic and Shramana streams of Indian civilisation.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Akshaya Tritiya: 3rd tithi of Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) of Vaishakha month. "Akshaya" = never diminishing (Sanskrit). In Hindu tradition: associated with Parashurama Jayanti, start of Treta Yuga, Ganga's descent to Earth, and Sudama visiting Krishna at Dwarka.

One of four self-illuminated (Swayam Siddha) auspicious days in the Hindu calendar. 2026 muhurat: 10:49 AM April 19 to 7:27 AM April 20. Gold purchases and new ventures are the traditional observances.

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


GS1 (Culture — Hindu and Jain traditions, syncretic religious heritage).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Akshaya Tithiya, Varshitap Parana, Rishabhadeva, Jain tradition, Daan.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Limiting Akshaya Tithiya to Hindu gold-buying tradition — its Jain significance (Varshitap Parana) is equally important for GS1 Culture questions.

 **EXAM TIP**

Rishabhadeva = Adinatha = 1st Tirthankara.
Mahavira = 24th (last) Tirthankara. Parshvanatha = 23rd Tirthankara.

 **INTERVIEW**

What does the shared reverence for Akshaya Tithiya across Hindu and Jain communities reveal about India's syncretic religious heritage and inter-faith cultural bonds?

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“Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.”

— Mother Teresa