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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — April 20, 2026

20 April 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — April 20, 2026

20 April 2026 · 10 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 10

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India and Russia operationalised the RELOS agreement in 2026. Which of the following correctly describes the key provisions of RELOS?

- A India can deploy up to 5,000 troops and 10 warships in Russian territory at any time
- B Both nations can use each other's military bases with up to 3,000 personnel and 5 warships simultaneously, with costs settled through exchange of goods and services ✓
- C RELOS grants India permanent basing rights at Vladivostok in exchange for Russian access to Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- D The pact is limited to naval cooperation only and excludes air and ground forces

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

RELOS permits up to 3,000 military personnel and 5 warships + 10 aircraft simultaneously in each other's territory. Costs are settled through exchange of goods and services rather than direct monetary payment — aligning with India-Russia de-dollarisation frameworks. India gains access to Russian Arctic facilities; Russia strengthens Indo-Pacific presence via Indian ports.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Compare RELOS with LEMOA (India-USA, 2016), MLSA (India-France/Australia, 2018/2020). India now has logistics pacts with all five P5 members — a unique position reflecting multi-alignment. RELOS does not trigger CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) as it is a logistics-sharing, not a procurement, agreement.

Q1

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

RELOS, LEMOA, multi-alignment, Arctic access, BrahMos, S-400.

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Question 2

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With reference to the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. OCI card grants the holder dual citizenship of India and their country of residence.
2. OCI holders cannot vote in Indian elections or hold constitutional offices.
3. India recently extended OCI eligibility to the sixth generation of Indian-origin persons in Sri Lanka.

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only ✓

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2, and 3

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

Statement 1 is INCORRECT — OCI is NOT dual citizenship. Article 9 of the Indian Constitution prohibits dual citizenship.

OCI is a lifelong multipurpose visa providing parity with NRIs in economic and educational fields. Statements 2 and 3 are correct — OCI holders cannot vote or hold constitutional offices, and India extended eligibility to the 6th generation in Sri Lanka (from the previous 4th generation limit).

CONCEPT NOTE

OCI introduced via Citizenship Act 1955 amendment in 2005. PIO (Person of Indian Origin) scheme merged into OCI in 2015.

OCI holders cannot purchase agricultural land or plantation property in India. VP Radhakrishnan announced the 6th generation expansion during a bilateral visit; India also announced a \$450 million cyclone recovery package for Sri Lanka.

Q2

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

OCI, dual citizenship, Citizenship Act, Neighbourhood First, Hambantota, India-Sri Lanka.

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Question 3

of 10

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The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) was approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2026. Which of the following correctly describes the strategic objective of BMIP?

- A To provide life insurance coverage for Indian seafarers working on foreign vessels
- B To create a domestic maritime insurance pool reducing dependence on International Group P&I Clubs, retaining premium income onshore, and providing war risk sovereignty ✓
- C To replace the Directorate General of Shipping as the regulatory authority for maritime safety
- D To provide crop insurance to coastal fishermen under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana framework

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

BMIP covers hull and machinery, cargo, war risk, and P&I (Protection and Indemnity) risks for Indian-flagged vessels and cargo transiting to/from Indian ports. Sovereign guarantee: Rs 12,980 crore.

The pool reduces dependence on foreign P&I Clubs, retains premium income domestically (reducing CAD), and provides war risk coverage independent of Western insurance infrastructure — critical during sanctions or geopolitical crises.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

International Group P&I Clubs (13 clubs, London-headquartered) cover ~90% of world shipping tonnage. After 2022 Ukraine sanctions, Western clubs refused to cover Russian-flagged vessels — demonstrating India's vulnerability.

GIC Re (India's national reinsurer) will be the primary reinsurer for BMIP. India's maritime trade: ~95% of trade by value is seaborne. Sagarmala Programme (2015): port-led development framework.

Q3

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

BMIP, P&I Club, sovereign guarantee, war risk, GIC Re, Sagarmala, Houthi attacks, maritime sovereignty.

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Question 4

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Gene drives using CRISPR-Cas9 technology are being tested for malaria control. Which of the following best explains how a gene drive achieves rapid population spread?

- A It inserts a vaccine-producing gene that gets passed to 50% of offspring through normal Mendelian inheritance
- B It uses radioactive sterilisation to prevent mosquitoes from reproducing without genetic modification
- C It biases inheritance so that approximately 90% of offspring carry the modified gene instead of the normal 50%, causing the trait to spread exponentially through the population ✓
- D It introduces a virus that selectively kills only female Anopheles mosquitoes upon contact

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

Gene drives override normal Mendelian inheritance (50/50 probability) — CRISPR-Cas9 machinery inserted into the mosquito ensures that ~90% of offspring inherit the drive gene. Over generations, the trait spreads exponentially across the entire wild population.

Tanzania studies achieved "transmission zero" — no malaria parasite transmission — in caged trials using population suppression drives. No gene-drive mosquitoes have yet been released into wild ecosystems.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

CRISPR-Cas9 Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 — Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier. Two strategies: (1) Population suppression — spread female infertility; (2) Population modification — spread anti-parasite genes.

Target Malaria (Gates Foundation-funded) is the leading research programme. Regulatory framework: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under CBD); India's Environment Protection Act 1986 and Rules 1989.

Q4

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

gene drive, CRISPR, population suppression, transmission zero, Cartagena Protocol, malaria elimination, Target Malaria.

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Question 5

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The Jonnagiri gold mine in Andhra Pradesh is significant for which of the following reasons?

- A It is the deepest gold mine in Asia and revives Kolar Gold Fields as India's primary production hub
- B It is India's first large-scale private gold mine since independence, located in Kurnool district with approximately 13.1 tonnes certified gold resources ✓
- C It is a joint venture between the Andhra Pradesh government and Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited
- D It is the first mine globally to use in-situ leaching technology, eliminating conventional open-cast mining

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

Jonnagiri in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh is India's first large-scale private gold mine since independence. Developer: Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd (Thriveni Earthmovers + Deccan Gold Mines). Resources: 13.1 tonnes certified; potential up to 42.5 tonnes; production capacity ~1,000 kg/year for 15 years; investment ₹400+ crore. India imports 800+ tonnes of gold annually — domestic production was only ~1.5 tonnes/year before this.

CONCEPT NOTE

Only existing gold mine before Jonnagiri: Hutti Gold Mines, Raichur district, Karnataka (state PSU; ~1.5 t/year). Kolar Gold Fields (KGF, Karnataka) closed in 2001 — operations had reached 3.2 km depth. Largest undeveloped gold deposit: Bhukia, Rajasthan (200+ tonnes, Vedanta subsidiary). Sovereign Gold Bond (2015): investment alternative earning 2.5% annual interest. MMDR Amendment Act 2021: enabled private sector expansion in mining.

Q5

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Jonnagiri, Kolar, Hutti, MMDR Amendment, District Mineral Foundation, Sovereign Gold Bond, Bhukia, gold import dependency.

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Question 6

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[Source →](#)

India's female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) rose to 40% in 2025. Which of the following statements about female LFPR in India is **INCORRECT** ?

- A India's female LFPR remains below the global average of approximately 49%
- B Vietnam's female LFPR of 69% is significantly higher than India's
- C **The rise in female LFPR primarily reflects an increase in formal high-skill employment in urban areas ✓**
- D Women hold approximately 13 per 100 high-level manager positions relative to men in similar positions

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

Statement C is INCORRECT. The rise in India's female LFPR from 33.9% (2022) to 40% (2025) is largely driven by rural self-employment and agricultural participation — not by formal high-skill urban employment. The leadership gap remains severe: only 14% of IIT faculty are women; 77% of top firms have only 1-2 female directors. Quality of employment — not just quantity — is the critical measure.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Global female LFPR average: 49%. Brazil: 53%; Vietnam: 69%; India: 40%.
 Companies Act 2013, S.149: mandates minimum 1 woman director (far below the 30% critical mass threshold). Maternity Benefit Amendment Act 2017: 26 weeks paid maternity leave.
 Gender pay gap in India: ~20-25%. World Bank: India needs ~8% annual growth to achieve Viksit Bharat — female LFPR is a key enabler.

Q6

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

LFPR, gender pay gap, glass ceiling, critical mass theory, care economy, Companies Act S.149.

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Question 7

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India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park was inaugurated in Ladakh on World Heritage Day 2026. Which of the following correctly distinguishes petroglyphs from pictographs?

- A Petroglyphs are prehistoric paintings applied to rock surfaces using natural pigments like ochre; pictographs are carvings
- B Petroglyphs are images carved or engraved directly onto rock surfaces; pictographs are images painted onto rock ✓
- C Petroglyphs are found only in cold, high-altitude environments; pictographs are found in tropical regions
- D Petroglyphs always depict animal figures; pictographs always depict human figures

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Petroglyphs = carved/etched onto rock. Pictographs = painted onto rock.

Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (Madhya Pradesh, UNESCO WHS 2003) — India's most famous prehistoric rock art site — primarily features pictographs (painted images), not petroglyphs. Ladakh has ~400 petroglyph sites depicting ibex, snow leopards, hunting scenes, and Buddhist symbols.

The park was inaugurated on April 19, 2026 under an MoU between the Ladakh Dept of Archives and ASI.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

World Heritage Day: April 18 (ICOMOS/UNESCO; since 1983). India's UNESCO WHSs: 42 total (34 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed — Khangchendzonga NP).

AMASR Act 1958: governs protection of ancient monuments; ASI is the enforcement body. Major Ladakh petroglyph sites: Domkhar, Alchi, Chilling, Dah Hanu, Tangtse.

Dating: ~10,000 BCE (Neolithic) to medieval Buddhist.

Q7

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

petroglyph, Bhimbetka, ASI, AMASR Act 1958, ICOMOS, World Heritage Day, Ladakh rock art, Domkhar.

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Question 8

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[Source →](#)

India's Startup India initiative reported record growth in FY 2025-26. Which of the following statements about the startup ecosystem is correct?

- A The Fund of Funds for Startups has a corpus of Rs 50,000 crore, managed directly by DPIIT
- B **Startup India was launched on January 16, 2016, and recognised over 2.23 lakh startups cumulatively by 2026, generating 23.36 lakh jobs ✓**
- C The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme provides equity funding to Series B and later-stage startups only
- D India's startup ecosystem is ranked first globally by total number of recognised startups

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Startup India was launched on January 16, 2016 by PM Modi. By FY2025-26, over 2.23 lakh startups are recognised, with 55,200+ added in FY26 alone (51.6% YoY growth), generating 23.36 lakh direct jobs.

The Fund of Funds corpus is Rs 10,000 crore (not Rs 50,000 crore), managed by SIDBI with DPIIT oversight. The Seed Fund Scheme (Rs 945 crore) targets early-stage startups — not Series B.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

DPIIT (Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) under Ministry of Commerce administers Startup India.

Recognition provides tax benefits under Section 80-IAC and 80-IC of the Income Tax Act.

India is 3rd globally in startup numbers (after USA and China). SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) manages the Fund of Funds, which invests in SEBI-registered AIFs (Alternative Investment Funds).

Q8

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Startup India, Fund of Funds, Seed Fund Scheme, DPIIT, SIDBI, AIF, Section 80-IAC.

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Question 9

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India's Home Ministry introduced a new deportation policy for illegal migrants in 2026. Which of the following statements is **INCORRECT** ?

- A The policy prescribes a 90-day verification timeline for suspected foreign nationals
- B District-level special task forces are mandated under the policy
- C **Deportees are whitelisted by the Bureau of Immigration after successful repatriation to prevent future documentation errors ✓**
- D The Foreigners Identification Portal captures biometric data of suspected illegal migrants

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Statement C is INCORRECT. Deportees are BLACKLISTED (not whitelisted) by the Bureau of Immigration to prevent re-entry into India. The policy establishes a 90-day verification timeline, district-level task forces, holding centres with 10-foot barbed-wire boundaries, and biometric capture via the Foreigners Identification Portal. Focus: illegal migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964 govern detection and deportation of illegal foreigners in India. Key challenge: identification is difficult without birth certificates. Diplomatic complications arise when Bangladesh or Myanmar deny citizenship of deportees. NRC (National Register of Citizens) in Assam is a related policy mechanism for identifying illegal migrants.

Q9

 CONCEPT KIT**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Foreigners Act, Foreigners Identification Portal, Bureau of Immigration, NRC Assam, illegal migration, Bangladesh, Myanmar.

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Question 10

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following correctly describes the "Yellow Line" established by Israel in the context of the April 2026 ceasefire with Lebanon?

- A A UN-demarcated ceasefire line along the Blue Line separating Israel from Lebanon, maintained by UNIFIL forces
- B **An Israeli military boundary extending to the Litani River in southern Lebanon, restricting civilian return and maintained by two IDF divisions as a permanent security buffer ✓**
- C A proposed Israeli-Palestinian border in Gaza giving Palestinians sovereignty over 42% of the territory
- D A maritime boundary demarcation in the Mediterranean between Israel and Lebanon over offshore gas fields

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

The Yellow Line is an Israeli military boundary extending to the Litani River in southern Lebanon (~30 km north of the Israel-Lebanon border), established during a ceasefire beginning April 16, 2026. It restricts civilian return to southern Lebanon and is maintained by two full IDF divisions.

Approximately 58% of Gaza is under direct Israeli military control. Critics draw parallels with the costly South Lebanon Security Zone (1985-2000), which Israel eventually withdrew from.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon): deployed under UN Resolution 1701 (2006); monitors the Blue Line (existing Israel-Lebanon border). The Yellow Line exceeds UNIFIL's mandate area.

Litani River was also the boundary during Israel's 1978 and 1982 invasions of Lebanon. Houthi attacks on Red Sea (2023-25) and Gaza war (2023-ongoing) are the broader West Asia context for UPSC.

Q10  **CONCEPT KIT****MAINS KEYWORDS**

Yellow Line, Litani River, UNIFIL, Blue Line, Gaza, ceasefire, IDF, UN Resolution 1701.

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“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

— Aristotle

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